

# Practice Test 1

## Reading and Use of English

1 hour 15 minutes

### PART 1

For questions 1 – 8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

#### Example:

0    A falls                      B puts                      C goes                      D breaks

0	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>
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### THE IDEAL JOB INTERVIEW

When you are being interviewed, 80 per cent of your mental effort (0) ..... into thinking about what to say and about 20 per cent into how to say it. However, the interviewer measures you the (1) ..... way round. According to one expert, you need to (2) ..... your role before the interview.

(3) ..... of confidence at an interview puts employers off, so sit on a chair in front of a mirror before the interview and take a critical look at yourself. Make sure you sit up (4) ..... and do everything in a (5) ..... way. If you think you may look (6) ..... , you will feel tense. Get someone to listen to your voice. If you are nervous, you are (7) ..... to talk in a dull tone. But if you talk faster than you normally do, what comes out might not make sense. A good interviewer will (8) ..... open-ended questions, so try and give answers which are clear and precise.

- 1 A next B other C wrong D best
- 2 A train B practise C try D repeat
- 3 A Lack B Scarcity C Failure D Absence
- 4 A direct B regular C neat D straight
- 5 A loose B simple C relaxed D gentle
- 6 A unnatural B irregular C false D artificial
- 7 A possibly B really C likely D probably
- 8 A say B give C ask D reply

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**PART 2**

For questions **9 – 16**, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only **one** word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning **(0)**.

Write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

**Example:**

<b>0</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>E</b>														
----------	----------	----------	----------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

## Northern lights

*Aurora borealis* – the northern lights – is one of **(0)** ..... world's most magical firework displays. These displays of light are most intense around the North Pole, so in **(9)** ..... to experience them fully on a dark winter's night, you should ideally be in the Arctic Circle. **(10)** ..... the displays occur all year round, the number varies in any one year, depending **(11)** ..... the sunspot cycle.

You need to be far from the glow of the city on a cloudless night to see the northern lights properly, and people **(12)** ..... have witnessed them say they are unforgettable. At **(13)** ..... brightest, it's possible to read a book in the middle of the countryside as the whole area is lit up. Great sheets of light move across the sky in constantly changing patterns, just **(14)** ..... huge colourful curtains. **(15)** ..... fact, you don't really have to go to the Arctic Circle to get a good view of the lights. According **(16)** ..... many people, it's possible to see the effect on dark nights from the far north of Scotland.

**PART 3**

For questions **17 – 24**, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the space **in the same line**. There is an example at the beginning **(0)**.

Write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

**Example:**

<b>0</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>R</b>											
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**ERNO RUBIK**

Erno Rubik is the **(0)** ..... of the well-known Rubik's Cube, which sold over 100 million in its first ten years. He is one of the **(17)** ..... men in Hungary and says that his most important tools are his **(18)** ..... and his brain. He enjoys geometry and the problems of construction. He says that he has many **(19)** ..... , who bring their dreams to him and want him to turn them into **(20)** ..... , but it's his own dreams that really excite him.

Before he invented his famous Cube, he was a **(21)** ..... in interior design. Now he runs his own organisation from an office in Budapest, but is rarely seen in public. He is usually **(22)** ..... to go on television or make guest **(23)** ..... anywhere, although one year he did agree to attend an **(24)** ..... stunning exhibition of Hungarian design in London.

**INVENT****WEALTHY****IMAGINE****VISIT****REAL****LECTURE****WILL****APPEAR****EXCEPT**

**PART 4**

For questions **25 – 30**, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. **Do not change the word given.** You must use between two and five words, including the word given. Here is an example (**0**).

**Example:**

**0** The suitcase is not light enough for me to carry.

**TOO**

The suitcase ..... for me to carry.

The gap can be filled by the words 'is too heavy', so you write:

**Example:**

**0**

**IS TOO HEAVY**

Write **only** the missing words **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

**25** Despite the heat Sam kept his jacket on.

**OF**

In ..... Sam did not take his jacket off.

**26** Swimming in the river is forbidden.

**ALLOWED**

You ..... in the river.

**27** I'm really sorry I didn't see you when you were in Paris.

**REGRET**

I ..... you when you were in Paris.

28 The apples were too sour to eat.

**SWEET**

The apples were ..... to eat.

29 Why did she change her plans?

**REASON**

What ..... her change of plans?

30 I am not very interested in sport.

**INTEREST**

Sport ..... me.

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**PART 5**

You are going to read an article about a musician. For questions **31 – 36**, choose the answer (**A, B, C** or **D**) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

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## Good vibrations

line 2 There is nothing to suggest that Evelyn Glennie is profoundly deaf. She insists that her deafness is irrelevant to her musicianship, but there is no doubt that her obvious handicap has turned a remarkable career into a miraculous one.

She was eight when her hearing began to fail; by twelve she had lost it completely and feared she would have to give up the music she loved. But a doctor's suggestion that she should become an accountant rather than follow a hopeless musical career strengthened her will to succeed.

She grew up on a farm in Scotland. From an early age her great love was the piano, and after enjoying the audience applause at a prize-winning performance she decided on a career as a soloist. By then, however, her love of the piano had been overtaken by her passion for playing percussion instruments like the drums, an almost impossible task for a deaf person. 'You need to be very sensitive because you are dealing with literally thousands of instruments,' she says. 'Anyone can strike something and get a sound but you have to learn to control it and that can take a lifetime's work.'

As it turned out, music was one of the most suitable careers she could have chosen and this is nothing to do with how well-known she has become. It is one reason why her speech remains so extraordinarily correct, despite her deafness. 'You can relate a lot of what you feel through the instruments onto your own voice box, so you know how to pitch, how to adjust your voice,' she says.

Occasionally she listens to recordings by holding a CD player between her knees, interpreting the vibrations and the shaking movements. Her deafness is one of the reasons for her unique style, for she can't listen to and be influenced by other performances or audiences' reactions. She has often declared that getting her hearing back would be the worst thing that could happen to her. 'It would be like giving sight to a blind person who had fitted their life to what they saw through their hands. Quite apart from that, I am so critical of what I do anyway that I wouldn't want to be comparing myself to others.'

As a result of her devotion to her music and her determination to succeed, she has doubled the range of works available for percussion music in Europe and introduced instruments previously unheard of in the west. She has also asked composers to write more than fifty new pieces of music for these instruments, and has set up a library of three hundred works for other musicians to use.

- 31 What do you think the phrase 'obvious handicap' (line 2) means in this context?
- A a potential emotional disadvantage
  - B a remarkable physical achievement
  - C a clear musical advantage
  - D an apparent physical disability
- 32 Why did Glennie want to be a solo performer?
- A Not many people played the drums.
  - B It was easier if you were deaf.
  - C She liked praise and attention.
  - D She knew she was a good pianist.
- 33 Why was music such a good choice of career?
- A It enables her to speak well.
  - B It has made her voice softer.
  - C It helps with her deafness.
  - D It has made her famous.
- 34 Glennie thinks that being deaf is an advantage because it means
- A her audience is sympathetic.
  - B her interpretation is her own.
  - C her style is better than others.
  - D her performance is influential.
- 35 Why does Glennie dislike the idea of comparison with others?
- A She is too critical of other people.
  - B She criticises herself already.
  - C She is afraid of harsh criticism.
  - D She thinks her critics are unfair.
- 36 What would be the most suitable title for this extract?
- A How to be a successful musician
  - B The disadvantages of deafness
  - C Developing one's musical skills
  - D Overcoming an enormous challenge



## PART 6

You are going to read a newspaper article about students who take a year off after leaving university, before looking for a job. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A – G** the one which fits each gap (37 – 42). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

## Just the ticket

Travel requires time, money and a desire to see beyond the supermarket on the edge of town. Despite financial limits, students have always been great travellers, as the vacations offer opportunities for long-distance travel, expeditions or just doing very little on a faraway beach.

37  They are now regarded by industry and commerce as an exercise in independence and learning how to rely on oneself. Ten years ago, employers looked on gap years with suspicion but now they have a more positive attitude towards them. As a result of this change, many travel agencies, including Campus Travel, have seen a huge increase in demand for round-the-world tickets in the last few years.

There are basically three ways of spending a gap year. 38  Most of these trips are short enough to be fitted into the summer vacation, but some can last up to six months. Unfortunately, many of the organisations only offer such projects for 18- and 19-year-olds, although a few encourage adults of all ages to apply. 39  The cost of these trips can be fairly high, but people usually pay for some if not all of it through raising money from supporters.

The second way is the long holiday in which students travel the world or a large part of it, perhaps working occasionally to add to spending money and pay for a new pair of trainers.

40

Overall, however, it seems risky to expect to find work once you are abroad and it is much better to arrange it beforehand. Student travel specialists such as Campus Travel arrange special student conditions with airlines that allow customers to change their ticket date and route. 41

The final type of gap year involves choosing a part of the world in order to study or work in a particular area. 42  In this way people can develop skills and experience at an early age, which can lead to a permanent position in a company after a few years when they return to their own country.

- A** Indeed, students over 25 with the right qualities might be able to work as a leader on certain projects.
- B** The type of thing students are looking for, casual work, is reasonably easy to find in some of the typical destinations.
- C** According to the marketing manager of Campus Travel, a travel agency which specialises in student travel, gap years may even make students more attractive to future employers.
- D** One advantage is that employers will often pay for the work that is done even if people are not fully qualified, so raising extra funds is not necessary.
- E** Because of that flexibility, this is the choice which offers the greatest freedom and is by far the most popular.
- F** The first is to join one of the expeditions or projects run by organisations or international charities.
- G** The opportunities for linking a student's future employment with a work placement scheme or industrial training are on the increase.

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**PART 7**

You are going to read a newspaper article about activities for young people in the UK. For questions **43 – 52**, choose from the activities described under the titles (**A – D**). The titles may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

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**Which section of the article recommends an activity for**

someone who enjoys acting?

43

children who are very young?

44

someone who wants to know about recycling?

45

someone who enjoys using their IT skills?

46

teenagers who like getting involved?

47

people who enjoy feeling frightened?

48

people who want to develop their character?

49

only someone who doesn't mind crowds?

50

people who want to try a new hobby?

51

people who are interested in the transport of the future?

52

## There's no need to be bored

*Are your children hanging around and complaining they have nothing to do in the holidays?*

*Here are some suggestions to help you keep them happy.*

### A Bad-weather sport

Anyone can learn to climb on indoor walls and you don't need any special equipment to get started. Young people gain a sense of responsibility and team skills through climbing, which they really appreciate, and at the same time they may discover a real liking for a pastime which they've never tried before. Some of the indoor climbing centres have been established inside old buildings, and even experienced climbers find the artificial walls really exciting. The trick in learning to climb is to keep your weight on your feet and to keep looking down in order to see where to put your feet next. It's normal to feel frightened when you first start. But you just have to enjoy what you're doing and not think about falling. For further information contact your local sports centre.

### B Virtual world

There is no point in trying to push youngsters into the fresh air if all they want to do is stay indoors and play with a computer. And, according to a recent report, there is no need to feel guilty when they do so – such games can help improve co-ordination skills and problem-solving abilities. The Trocadero in central London claims to be Europe's biggest indoor entertainment complex and is packed with high-tech excitement. The star attraction uses computer technology to fool you into thinking you are steering a small plane through an imaginary city in 2050. There is also a state-of-the-art electronic ride called Aqua Planet. Passengers are strapped into chairs, given special glasses and sent into a magical underwater world.

### C Hands-on museums

Not all museums are boring. Many have interactive exhibits, that is, exhibits which allow you to take part in various activities. For example, visitors can work on a production line in a factory or talk into a video-phone to find out what happens to the rubbish we throw out. If you want to learn about the solar system you can do that in a space workshop, and in another museum you can experience what an earthquake feels like – the ground really moves under your feet. There is even a theatre museum which holds workshops where teenagers can play the great romantic parts like Romeo or Juliet. Costumes are provided and the workshops are run by professional actors. This kind of activity is only suitable for 16- to 18-year-olds, and there is one hands-on museum in the north of England which is especially suited to 13- to 14-year-olds.

### D Great outdoors

You don't have to wait for a fine day if you want to visit a theme park. Not far from London is a theme park full of exciting and adventurous rides. The main attraction is a new indoor ride which is suitable for anyone over the age of eight. This is the first ride of its kind in the world and involves a backward drop of 15 metres in total darkness! Perfect for thrill-seekers. You can book tickets for the theme park in advance, which is a good idea as it can get very busy. Even if you arrive early, there can be long queues for the rides which build up during the day. Another popular activity is a visit to a wild animal park. In most cases, the parks offer far more than just watching animals in the wild; very young children especially enjoy taking part in the feeding times for animals, which are usually advertised at the entrance to the park.

# Writing

1 hour 20 minutes

## PART 1

You **must** answer this question. Write your answer in **140 – 190** words in an appropriate style.

- 1 In your English class you have been talking about the advantages and disadvantages of owning a car or using public transport.

Now your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using **all** the notes and give reasons for your point of view.

### Essay question

Is it better to own a car or to use public transport?

### Notes

Things to write about

1. which is more convenient
2. which is better for the environment
3. your own idea

Write your **essay**. You must use grammatically correct sentences with accurate spelling and punctuation in a style appropriate for the situation.

**PART 2**

Write an answer to **one** of the questions **2 – 4** in this part. Write your answer in **140 – 190** words in an appropriate style.

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- 2** An international magazine is asking young people to send in articles which will be published in a special edition. The title of the article is:

What I hope to be doing in ten years' time

Write your **article**.

- 3** You have received a letter from your Canadian friend, Sam. Read this part of the letter and then write your letter to Sam.

*I've just finished school for the summer holidays. I want to do some sport to get really fit and to meet some new people. Can you suggest some sports that I can do with other people and tell me how good the sports are for getting healthier?*

Thanks

Sam

Write your **letter**.

- 4** You have been on a trip (for example, to a museum, an exhibition or a festival). Your teacher has asked you to write a report for the rest of the class about your visit, giving your reasons as to whether the visit was worthwhile or not.

Write your **report**.

# Listening

40 minutes

## PART 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1 – 8, choose the best answer, (A, B or C).

---

- 1 You hear a woman talking to a supermarket manager.

What is she complaining about?

- A soft pears and lemons
- B rotten oranges and apples
- C brown lemons and grapes

- 2 You hear a man cancelling a hotel booking.

The man has cancelled his booking because

- A his wife has to go into hospital.
- B his wife has to go away suddenly.
- C his wife has been in an accident.

- 3 You are visiting an art exhibition.

What does your friend say about it?

- A It's expensive.
- B It's too modern.
- C It's meaningless.

- 4 You overhear two people talking.

What are they discussing?

- A a car
- B a bike
- C a fridge

5 You hear a teacher talking to some students.

What is he telling them to do?

- A write down some information
- B look at a new film
- C copy out some information

6 You hear a radio advertisement.

What is being advertised?

- A package tours
- B home exchanges
- C luxury holidays

7 You hear a man talking about why he decided to lose weight.

What is the reason he gives?

- A He felt overweight.
- B His clothes were very tight.
- C He couldn't stop eating.

8 You overhear two people talking about a woman on their staff.

What is the problem?

- A She complains all the time.
- B She gets upset very easily.
- C She's always late for work.



**PART 2**

You will hear a girl called Silvia talking about her love of writing. For questions **9 – 18**, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

---

**A CAREER IN WRITING**

As a child, Silvia preferred to listen to stories about **(9)** ..... at bedtime.

When Silvia was a young girl, her parents expected her to study **(10)** ..... at college.

At the age of twelve, Silvia wrote a **(11)** ..... for a competition.

Silvia found writing an article for a competition in a magazine difficult because of the **(12)** .....

Silvia spent her prize money for winning the Young Writer's Award on a **(13)** .....

Silvia believes that having a good **(14)** ..... is the most important part of writing a novel.

The writer Silvia most admires comes from **(15)** .....

In Silvia's opinion, writing a **(16)** ..... must be the most challenging sort of novel to write.

Eventually, Silvia would like to work as a **(17)** .....

Silvia uses the word **(18)** ..... to describe what is most important in her life.

**PART 3**

You will hear five different people apologising about something. For questions **19 – 23**, choose from the list **A – H** the reason for each speaker's apology. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

- |          |                              |                  |                          |           |
|----------|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| <b>A</b> | disturbing someone           | <b>Speaker 1</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>19</b> |
| <b>B</b> | not leaving a message        |                  |                          |           |
| <b>C</b> | cancelling a theatre booking | <b>Speaker 2</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>20</b> |
| <b>D</b> | missing an appointment       |                  |                          |           |
| <b>E</b> | not paying a debt            | <b>Speaker 3</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>21</b> |
| <b>F</b> | spending too much money      | <b>Speaker 4</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>22</b> |
| <b>G</b> | arriving very late           |                  |                          |           |
| <b>H</b> | breaking something           | <b>Speaker 5</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>23</b> |

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**PART 4**

You will hear a conversation which takes place in a café between three friends, Anna, Peter and Miriam, who used to be at school together. For questions **24 – 30**, choose the best answer (**A, B or C**).

---

**24** What does Peter say about Miriam joining them?

- A** He feels she may not turn up.
- B** He hopes she will ring them.
- C** He expects she will not arrive on time.

**25** According to Anna, her Business Studies course is

- A** very interesting.
- B** quite challenging.
- C** too repetitive.

**26** What is Peter's opinion of his first job?

- A** He found it very varied.
- B** He found the training hard.
- C** He thought it was very dull.

**27** What are Peter's plans for the future?

- A** He hopes to find a new job.
- B** He wants to work for his father.
- C** He will apply for a course.

- 28 How does Miriam feel about her job?
- A She dislikes travelling around.
  - B She has a positive attitude.
  - C She says each day is the same.
- 29 How does Peter feel about Miriam's job?
- A envious
  - B surprised
  - C undecided
- 30 What do Miriam and Anna agree about getting jobs?
- A It is difficult to change direction.
  - B Parents are usually understanding.
  - C It is worth waiting and being patient.

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## Speaking

14 minutes

**PART 1** (2 minutes)

The teacher (interlocutor) invites each candidate to speak in turn and give personal information about themselves.

Candidates can expect a variety of questions, some of which will require short answers, and some requiring longer answers about their present circumstances, past experiences and future plans, such as:

*Where do you come from?*

*Have you always lived there / here? Can you tell us what it's like?*

*What do you usually do in your spare time?*

*What are you hoping to do when you leave school / college? What are your plans for the future?*

Candidates talk to each other and the interlocutor.

**PART 2** (4 minutes)

**Teacher** In this part of the test, I'm going to give each of you two photographs. I'd like you to talk about your photographs on your own for about a minute, and also to answer a question about your partner's photographs.

**X**, it's your turn first. Here are your photographs. They show street entertainers.

*(Show photos 1 and 2 on page 121 to X.)*

I'd like you to compare the photographs and say why each kind of entertainment is popular with different groups of people.

All right?

*(Allow about a minute for X to talk without interruption.)*

Thank you.

**Y**, which of these entertainers would you prefer to watch? ... Why?

*(Allow Y about 30 seconds.)*

Thank you. Now **Y**, here are your photographs. They show people on their own.

*(Show photos 3 and 4 on page 122 to Y.)*

I'd like you to compare the photographs and say why you think the people sometimes choose to be alone.

All right?

*(Allow about a minute for Y to talk without interruption.)*

Thank you.

**X**, do you enjoy being on your own? Why?

*(Allow X about 30 seconds.)*

Thank you.

**PART 3** (4 minutes)

**Teacher** Now, I'd like you to talk about something together for about two minutes.  
I'd like you to imagine that you have to prepare some information for a website for tourists who visit your town or city. Here are some types of information that could appear on the website and a question for you to discuss. First you have some time to look at the task.  
*(Show the diagram on page 123 to X and Y. Allow 15 seconds.)*  
Now, talk to each other about how useful this information might be for tourists visiting your town or city.  
*(Allow two minutes.)*  
Thank you.  
Now you have about a minute to decide which two pieces of information you think would be most useful.  
*(Allow one minute.)*  
Thank you.

**PART 4** (4 minutes)

**Teacher** Do you think this kind of information is useful for tourists? Why? / Why not?  
Do you think tourists prefer to look for information on a website or in a guide book?  
Is there anything else which you think should be included in this website?  
Do you think tourists of different ages prefer to do different things on holiday?  
Why? / Why not?  
Do you think that visiting a town or city is more interesting than going to the countryside?  
Why? / Why not?  
Some people say the most important thing to do on holiday is relax. What's your opinion?  
Thank you. That is the end of the test.