

B2 prototype for TEST OUT 2014

This is an example test. There is no listening section in this example.

The time allowed: Grammar 20 minutes, Reading 40 minutes, *Listening 20 minutes*, Writing 55 minutes, *Speaking 15 minutes*.

Part 1. GRAMMAR

1. Multiple choice Cloze (lexis)

Decide which word (A, B, C) best fits each gap.

There is an example given (0).

Tea plants are native to East and South Asia, and probably originated in northeast India, north Burma and southwest China. Statistical analysis (0) that there is likely to be a single place of origin for *Camellia sinensis*. Tea drinking (1) began during the Shang Dynasty, when it was used for medicinal purposes. It is believed that soon after " people began to boil tea leaves for consumption into a concentrated liquid without the (2) of other leaves or herbs, thereby using tea as a bitter (3) stimulating drink, rather than as a medicinal concoction." In 1750, tea experts travelled from China to the Azores, and planted tea. Both green and black tea continue to grow in the islands, which are the main suppliers to continental Portugal. Catherine of Braganza, wife of Charles II, took the tea habit to Great Britain around 1660, but tea was not (4) consumed in Britain until the 18th century, and remained expensive. In Britain and Ireland, tea had become an everyday beverage for all levels of society by the late 19th century, but it was first consumed as a luxury (5) on special occasions, (6) religious festivals, wakes, and domestic work gatherings. The price in Europe fell steadily during the 19th century. The first European to successfully transplant tea to the Himalayas, Robert Fortune, was sent by the East India Company on a mission to China in 1848 to bring the tea plant back to Great Britain. He began his journey in (7) secrecy as his mission occurred in the gap between the two Anglo-Chinese Wars or opium wars, and westerners were not in high regard at the time.

Tea was first introduced into India by the British, in a/an (8) to break the Chinese monopoly on tea. The British brought in Chinese seeds to Northeast India but the plants failed and they (9) discovered that a variety of tea was endemic to the Northeast region of India and used by local tribes. Using the Chinese planting and cultivating techniques, the British (10) a tea industry by offering land in Assam to any European who agreed to cultivate tea for export.

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|------|----|-----------|--------------|---------------------|
| (0) | A. | expresses | B. conveys | C. indicates |
| (1) | A. | probably | B. often | C. early |
| (2) | A. | additive | B. addiction | C. addition |
| (3) | A. | yet | B. still | C. already |
| (4) | A. | largely | B. widely | C. absolutely |
| (5) | A. | element | B. aspect | C. item |
| (6) | A. | such | B. such as | C. as |
| (7) | A. | tall | B. high | C. low |
| (8) | A. | tentative | B. try | C. attempt |
| (9) | A. | after | B. later | C. presently |
| (10) | A. | launched | B. lured | C. landed |

2. Multiple Choice Cloze (grammar)

Decide which word (A, B, C) best fits each gap.

There is an example given (0).

The history of the modern computer begins with two separate technologies, automated calculation and programmability. However no single device (0) identified as the earliest computer. A few devices (1) mentioning though, such as some mechanical aids to computing, which were very successful and survived for centuries until the electronic calculator was invented. Slide rules, were invented in the 1620s, and were carried (2)..... five Apollo space missions, including the one to the moon. The Greek mathematician Hero of Alexandria (c. 10–70 AD) built a mechanical theater which performed a play and was operated by a complex system of ropes and drums that (3) considered a way of deciding which parts of a mechanism performed which actions and when. This is the essence of programmability.

Blaise Pascal invented the mechanical calculator in 1642, known as Pascal's calculator, it was the first machine to better human intelligence in performing arithmetical computations and (4) turn out to be the only functional mechanical calculator in the 17th century. Two hundred years later, in 1851, Thomas de Colmar released, after thirty years of development, his simplified arithmometer; it (5) the first machine to be commercialized because it was strong enough and reliable enough to be used daily in an office environment. The mechanical calculator is thought to be at the root of the development of computers. Initially, it was when trying to develop (6)..... powerful and more flexible calculators that the computer was first theorized by Charles Babbage.

In 1801, Joseph Marie Jacquard made an improvement to the textile loom by (7) a series of punched paper cards which allowed his loom to weave patterns automatically. The resulting Jacquard loom was an important step (8)..... the development of computers because the use of punched cards to define patterns (9) be viewed as an early, albeit limited, form of programmability. It was the fusion of automatic calculation with programmability that produced the first recognizable computers. In 1837, Charles Babbage was the first to design a fully programmable mechanical computer, his analytical engine. However it was only after his son, Henry Babbage, (10)..... a successful demonstration of it computing tables in 1906 that it was put to use. This machine was given to the Science museum in South Kensington in 1910.

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|------|----|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| (0) | A. | is able | B. can be | C. might be |
| (1) | A. | are worth | B. are worthy | C. worth |
| (2) | A. | on | B. at | C. among |
| (3) | A. | might | B. can | C. might be |
| (4) | A. | will | B. would | C. should |
| (5) | A. | became | B. began | C. become |
| (6) | A. | the most | B. more | C. much |
| (7) | A. | introducing | B. introduce | C. introduced |
| (8) | A. | in | B. off | C. on |
| (9) | A. | could | B. will | C. ought |
| (10) | A. | had given | B. has given | C. had been given |

Part 2. READING

3. Multiple matching

Match the sentences (1-8) to the following paragraphs (A, B, C, D).

- A. Renoir's paintings are notable for their vibrant light and colour, most often focusing on people in intimate compositions. In characteristic Impressionist style, Renoir's paintings show the influence of Eugène Delacroix and the luminosity of Camille Corot. He also admired the realism of Gustave Courbet and Édouard Manet, and his early work resembles theirs. Renoir also admired Edgar Degas' sense of movement. In 1862, he began studying art under Charles Gleyre in Paris where he met Claude Monet. At times during the 1860s, he did not have enough money to buy paint. Although Renoir first started exhibiting paintings at the Paris Salon in 1864, recognition did not come for another ten years, due, in part, to the turmoil of the Franco-Prussian War. In the late 1860s, through the practice of painting light and water outdoors, he discovered that the colour of shadows is not brown or black, but the reflected color of the objects surrounding them, an effect today known as diffuse reflection.
- B. Monet traveled to Paris to visit the art galleries, he witnessed painters copying from the old masters. Having brought his paints and other tools with him, he would instead go and sit by a window and paint what he saw. In 1861, he joined the Army, but, contracted typhoid fever, so his aunt intervened to get him out if he agreed to complete an art course at an art school. In 1862 Monet became a student and met other artists in Paris. Together they shared new approaches to painting, the effects of light with broken color and rapid brushstrokes, in what later came to be known as Impressionism. Monet's ambition of documenting the French countryside led him to paint the same scene many times in order to capture the changing of light and the passing of the seasons. From 1883 Monet began a vast project which included lily ponds that would become the subjects of his best known works and was to occupy him continuously for the next 20 years.
- C. At the beginning of his career Degas, wanted to be a history painter. He was well prepared for this by his rigorous academic training and close study of classic art. In his early thirties, he changed course, and by using the traditional methods of a history painter with contemporary subject matter, he became a classical painter of modern life. Degas began to paint early in life. By the time he graduated at the age of 18, he had turned a room in his home into an artist's studio. After the war and following a classical career he joined a group of young artists who were organizing an independent exhibiting society. The group soon became known as the Impressionists. Between 1874 and 1886, they mounted eight art shows. Degas took a leading role in organizing the exhibitions, and showed his work in all but one of them. He had little in common with Monet and the other landscape painters in the group, whom he mocked for painting outdoors.
- D. Toulouse-Lautrec was a painter, printmaker and illustrator whose immersion in the colorful and theatrical life of Paris in the late 1800s yielded a collection of exciting, elegant and provocative images of the modern and sometimes decadent life of those times. Together with Cézanne, Van Gogh and Gauguin he is among the most well-known painters of the Post-Impressionist period. Toulouse-Lautrec was drawn to Montmartre where he lived for many years. It is the area of Paris famous for its bohemian lifestyle and is the haunt of artists, writers, and philosophers. From 1889 until 1894, he took part in the "Independent Artists' Salon". He made several landscapes of Montmartre. When the Moulin Rouge cabaret opened, Toulouse-Lautrec was commissioned to produce a series of posters. Other artists looked down on his work, but he did not care about their opinions. The cabaret reserved a seat for him and displayed his paintings; among the well-known works that he

painted for the Moulin Rouge and other Parisian nightclubs are depictions of the dancer Louise Weber who created the "French Can-Can.

1. preferred to paint landscapes
2. closely associated with the theatre
3. discovered that shadows are not black or brown
4. was not always able to buy paint
5. organised exhibitions
6. lived for many years in Montmartre
7. had a studio in his house
8. was particularly interested in light and seasons

4. Traditional Reading Comprehension

Read the text and answer the questions.

Facebook has met with controversies. It has been blocked intermittently in several countries including the People's Republic of China, Iran, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. For example, it was banned in many countries of the world on the basis of allowed content judged as containing religious discrimination. It has also been banned at many workplaces to prevent employees from using it during work hours. The privacy of Facebook users has also been an issue, and the safety of user accounts has been compromised several times. Facebook has settled a lawsuit regarding claims over source code and intellectual property. In May 2011 emails were sent to journalists and bloggers making critical allegations about Google's privacy policies. In 2007, it was reported British office workers were blocked from accessing Facebook at work, due to concerns including reduced productivity and the potential for industrial espionage. A 2011 study in the online journal *First Monday*, "Why Parents Help Their Children Lie to Facebook About Age: Unintended Consequences of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act," examines how parents enable children as young as 10 years old to sign up for accounts, directly violating Facebook's policy. This policy technically allows Facebook to avoid conflicts with a United States federal law which requires minors aged 13 or younger to gain parental consent to access commercial websites. Of the more than 1,000 households surveyed, more than three-quarters of parents reported that their child joined Facebook when she was younger than 13, the minimum age in the site's terms of service. The study notes that, in response to widespread reports of underage users, a Facebook executive has said that "Facebook removes 20,000 underage people a day." The study's authors also note, "Indeed, Facebook takes various measures both to restrict access to children and delete their accounts if they join." The findings of the study raise questions primarily about the shortcomings of United States federal law, but also continue to raise questions about whether or not Facebook does enough to publicize its terms of service with respect to minors.

1. Facebook has
 - a) been uniformly accepted throughout the world
 - b) met with some difficulties in some countries
 - c) been restricted to people 16 years of age or older

2. Where was Facebook use limited due to work related issues?
 - a) China
 - b) America
 - c) Britain

3. In what percentage of American families did children younger than 13 join Facebook?
 - a) 75%
 - b) 50%
 - c) 25%

5. Word Formation

Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the gap.

There is an example given (0).

It was a warm (0) **sunny** (SUN) October morning in 1593 and in front of the palace in Mexico City there was the usual bustling crowd of people moving (1) _____ (NOISE) across the plaza. One soldier stood out from the rest. Unlike the (2) _____ (TRADITION) grey uniform of the other palace guards his was a bright colourful one and he carried a different kind of gun. (3) _____ (SURPRISE), the strange soldier said his orders that day were to guard the governor's palace in Manila, in the Philippines. "(4) _____ (EVIDENCE), I am not in Manila," he said, "but this is a palace so I am doing my duty." By now, officers were (5) _____ (SUSPICION) of the man and his amazing tale of overnight transportation thousands of miles from Manila to Mexico City. And when he told them that the governor of Manila had been killed the night before he was (6) _____ (PRISON).

Shortly afterwards a ship arrived from the Philippines. It brought news that the governor had been murdered – on the night before the soldier appeared. The soldier was released and sent back to Manila. Over 400 years later his mysterious journey remains unexplained.

Part 3. LISTENING

There is no listening section in this example.

Part 4. WRITING

6. Writing

1. Write the letter. Write between 100-150 words.

You have just returned from a holiday in London. When you unpack your suitcase you discover that you have lost a pair of sunglasses and a camera. Write a letter to the hotel asking them if they were found in your room. Include dates of visit, and offer to pay postage.

2. Write between 200 and 250 words. Choose only **ONE** topic (a, b or c).

- a) How important is fashion and the fashion industry to you, and what determines how you choose your clothes?
- b) After your studies, do you think it would be better to stay in your country and look for work, or go to a foreign country where the economic situation might be better?
- c) Do you think that people should be freely allowed to download films and other material from the internet?