



First Certificate in English

Placement Test

Time allowed: 2 hours

QUESTION PAPER

DO NOT write on this paper

Instructions:

Please answer all questions

DO NOT USE a dictionary

Write all answers on the separate answer sheet

Section A – Use of English

Part 1

For questions 1-15, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Mark your answers *on the separate answer sheet*.

Example:

0 A far **B** distant C remote D distinct

TWO CREATURES OF THE PAST- MAMMOTHS AND MASTODONS

The elephant has some (0) B relatives called mammoths, which lived in the Stone Age. More than 15,000 years ago people painted pictures of them on cave walls. Then, astonishingly, in 1799, a man walking along the banks of the River Lena in Siberia (1) _____ a startling discovery. Peering into a wall of ice, he could (2) _____ see the shape of a massive, hairy mammoth, apparently (3) _____ at him. He immediately ran (4) _____ in terror, but several days later he (5) _____ the courage to return and cut the mammoth's tusks – its two enormous teeth – out of the ice to sell them. Mammoth tusks are the biggest teeth of any known creature, some (6) _____ a length of five metres. These tusks were (7) _____ to good use, protecting the mammoths' young from other animals, and brushing away snow.

To most of us, mammoths are probably the most (8) _____ of the elephant's extinct relatives, but thousands of years earlier, in the woodlands of eastern North America, lived another of the elephant's relatives called the mastodon. Like mammoths, mastodons may also have had a hairy coat, but (9) _____ mammoths mainly ate grass on the plains, mastodons (10) _____ to eat twigs and leaves.

We do not know why mastodons (11) _____ extinct. However, computer studies of the decrease in mammoth (12) _____ suggest that it was a particular (13) _____ of over-hunting by humans, and (14) _____ in the climate at that time which (15) _____ to their disappearance.

- | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | A made | B took | C did | D had |
| 2 | A rather | B quite | C well | D just |
| 3 | A watching out | B looking out | C looking after | D watching over |
| 4 | A across | B out | C away | D past |
| 5 | A grew | B felt | C experienced | D found |
| 6 | A reaching | B increasing | C expanding | D completing |
| 7 | A held | B put | C set | D kept |
| 8 | A usual | B frequent | C regular | D familiar |
| 9 | A when | B while | C as | D even |
| 10 | A preferred | B enjoyed | C desired | D selected |
| 11 | A turned | B went | C became | D came |
| 12 | A quantities | B amounts | C totals | D numbers |
| 13 | A addition | B combination | C attachment | D connection |
| 14 | A transformations | B adjustments | C diversions | D changes |
| 15 | A led | B caused | C guided | D influenced |

Part 2

For questions **16-30**, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only **one** word in each space. There is an example at the beginning **(0)**.

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

Example: **0** **since**

DEVELOPMENTS IN UNDERWATER DIVING

People have been diving without mechanical aids **(0)** since ancient times. In those days, divers mainly went underwater to search **(16)** ____ pearls or sponges. Various ways of supplying divers with air, and so permitting them to stay underwater for long periods of time, have been tried for well **(17)** ____ two thousand years. Alexander the Great **(18)** ____ said to have gone underwater in an early **(19)** ____ of diving machine, and Aristotle talked about apparatus **(20)** ____ permitted divers to breathe underwater.

It was not **(21)** ____ the beginning of the 18th century that more advanced equipment was developed. In 1717, the first practical diving machine, or 'diving bell' **(22)** ____ it was called, was invented. This was a small wooden room with an open bottom, glass windows at the top to **(23)** ____ in light, and a supply of air coming through leather tubes. Something similar, made of steel, is **(24)** ____ use today for underwater work, **(25)** ____ as building the foundations of bridges.

However, **(26)** ____ divers want to move freely underwater, they require a suit. Early suits were made up **(27)** ____ a leather jacket with a metal helmet over the head into which air was pumped down from the surface through tubes. Divers gained even **(28)** ____ freedom of movement when they could **(29)** ____ rid of these tubes and carry **(30)** ____ own air with them in cylinders.

Part 3

For questions 31-35, 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. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example: 0 You must do exactly what the manager tells you.

carry

Answer: You must **carry out the manager's** instructions exactly.

Write **only** the missing words **on the separate answer sheet.**

31 My daughter regrets spending all her savings on that car.

she

My daughter wishes _____ all her savings on that car.

32 They are extending this motorway by 100 kilometres.

being

This motorway _____ 100 kilometres.

33 It was a mistake for the company to install the new computer system.

should

The company _____ the new computer system.

34 We mended the roof to prevent the birds from making nests in it.

so

We mended the roof _____ not make nests in it.

35 I'm afraid I don't have time to go shopping this morning.

too

I'm afraid _____ to go shopping this morning.

Part 4

For questions 36-50, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct, and some have a word which should not be there.

If a line is correct put a (✓) by the number **on the separate answer sheet**. If a line has a word which should **not** be there, write the word **on the separate answer sheet**. There are two examples at the beginning (0 and 00).

Example: 0 ✓

00 been

WHERE I GREW UP

0 When I was young, I lived in a place called Coromandel in
 00 New Zealand. I was **been** taken there by my parents when I was a few
 36 weeks old, and lived there until I was fourteen years. I still think
 37 of that period as the happiest time of my life. My life was much
 38 uncomplicated then and Coromandel was a magical place. It
 39 had been a busy gold-mining town, but that was long before
 40 my family have arrived. By then it had become a very run-down
 41 place. My father was a doctor, and people would pay to him
 42 in sheep, pigs, hens and, occasionally, the pieces of gold. He would
 43 have preferred paying money, of course, but they simply didn't have
 44 any. My sister and I had no many cares at all. We went to the village
 45 school, which together was attended by just twenty children of all ages.
 46 Out of school hours, we looked after lots animals on the farms
 47 around the town, although we didn't really have a clue how
 48 long to do it. Coromandel is a large and busy tourist resort now,
 49 but it was peaceful town when I was a child, and I would
 50 like doing nothing better than to go back to relive my memories.

Part 5

For questions **51-60**, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the **same** line.

There is an example at the beginning **(0)**. Write your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Example: 0 lover

BREAD

I'm a great **(0) lover** of bread. Whenever I smell freshly baked bread, it reminds me of my early **(51)** _____ when I used to visit the little bakery that my grandfather owned.

LOVE

CHILD

And, of course, there are **(52)** _____ good medical reasons why we should not forget the **(53)** _____ of eating plenty of bread. Bread contains nearly all the protein needed for children's **(54)** _____ and for adults to stay fit and well. We can get a **(55)** _____ of our daily protein **(56)** _____ from just six slices of bread.

VARY

IMPORTANT

GROW

THREE

REQUIRE

Bread, **(57)** _____ some popular foods which are not particularly good for you, gives **(58)** _____ to bones and teeth when they are developing and keeps them healthy as we get older. **(59)** _____, bread helps us to feel **(60)** _____ as it contains iron as well as several essential vitamins.

LIKE

STRONG

ADDITION

ENERGY

Section B – Writing

Write an answer to **one** of the questions below. Write your answer in **120-180** words in appropriate style on the answer sheet.

Put the question number on the line at the top of your answer sheet.

1 You have decided to do the same summer job that you did last year. You want to persuade your English-speaking friend, Jan, to do the job as well.

Read the advertisement for the job and also read your notes. Then, using all your notes, write your letter persuading Jan to join you.

HELP NEEDED THIS SUMMER

Every summer we run an International Camp for 8 to 12-year-old children.

You will help with:

- outdoor activities
- entertainment
- sports competitions
- children’s games

Free accommodation

Free food

Only 5 hours’ work a day!

Beautiful place...

Explain why the work was fun last year!

Not wonderful, but...

Tents!

Enough free time for us to...

- 2 The school where you learn English has decided to buy some DVDs in English. You have been asked to write a report for the Director of Studies, suggesting what kinds of DVDs the school should buy. In your report, you should also explain why students at the school will enjoy these DVDs.

Write your **report**.

- 3 You have seen this advertisement in *The Traveller* magazine and have decided to apply.

THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

WE ARE LOOKING FOR EIGHT PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES TO SPEND THREE MONTHS ON A SAILING TRIP AROUND THE WORLD. FREE OF CHARGE. NO SAILING EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED. TRAINING WILL BE GIVEN.

WRITE AND TELL US WHY YOU ARE THE PERSON WE ARE LOOKING FOR AND EXPLAIN HOW YOU WOULD BENEFIT FROM THIS EXPERIENCE.

APPLY TO OCEAN WORLD NOW!

Write your **letter of application**. Do not write any postal addresses.