



Total marks available: 31  
You have **35 minutes** to finish the examination.

## PART 1

You will hear 10 sentences twice. Choose the best answer in each situation.

Now look at the answers. You have two minutes to read the answers.

Now listen to the sentences and select the best answer.

1. **a.** My brother just went to Greece.  
**b.** After my graduation.  
**c.** I really need a holiday!
2. **a.** I have a problem.  
**b.** There's plenty of time, don't worry.  
**c.** I don't know what I'm supposed to do.
3. **a.** If not, there could be serious consequences.  
**b.** If not, they should follow my advice.  
**c.** If not, how do we explain the new rules?
4. **a.** That's OK.  
**b.** Definitely.  
**c.** It's Tuesday.
5. **a.** Right now.  
**b.** No, you won't.  
**c.** Half an hour, at least.
6. **a.** How long does that take?  
**b.** Where is that?  
**c.** That sounds like good exercise.
7. **a.** It was about an alien invasion.  
**b.** No, I have too much to do.  
**c.** Yes, he is at the cinema.
8. **a.** No, I won't be driving there.  
**b.** Yes, it still won't start properly.  
**c.** Yes, but I'm not looking forward to it.
9. **a.** I can't give you a lift today.  
**b.** We'll have to use the stairs.  
**c.** I might use the lift.
10. **a.** It's been wonderful.  
**b.** It's too far to travel.  
**c.** I didn't mean to trip over.

## PART 2

You will hear two conversations. You will hear them twice.

You have two minutes to look at the questions for both conversations.

Now listen to **Conversation 1**.

1. **What does the man ask to see first?**
  - a. the bonnet
  - b. the engine
  - c. the keys
  
2. **Why does the car have a low mileage?**
  - a. His wife has another car.
  - b. He only drives it around the block.
  - c. He does not use it every day.
  
3. **Why is the car dirty?**
  - a. The man has been too busy to clean it.
  - b. The man did not notice it needed cleaning.
  - c. It has not been used for months.
  
4. **Why is the man selling the car?**
  - a. He has already found a newer one.
  - b. He is in need of money.
  - c. His wife doesn't like it.
  
5. **What will happen next?**
  - a. The seller will clean the car.
  - b. The buyer will take the car for a drive.
  - c. They will both take the car for a drive.

**Listen to the conversation again and check your answers.**

Now listen to **Conversation 2**.

1. **What does Paul advise about a new phone's operating system?**
  - a. It should not be an android.
  - b. An *iPhone* has the best performance.
  - c. The choice of system is the buyer's first decision.
  
2. **How can you make a phone's storage space larger?**
  - a. by downloading special apps
  - b. by adding a memory card
  - c. by connecting it to your PC
  
3. **What is said about a phone's camera?**
  - a. It is the same as a digital camera.
  - b. It will cost more if it is of high quality.
  - c. It rarely allows quality pictures to be taken.
  
4. **What is true about a phone's battery life?**
  - a. It depends on usage.
  - b. It is not a major concern.
  - c. It should always last at least three days.
  
5. **How does the speaker recommend comparing phones?**
  - a. by visiting his site
  - b. on the Internet
  - c. in a local shop

**Listen to the conversation again and check your answers.**

**PART 3**

You will hear a debate and discussion. Read the questions and answers for both the debate and the discussion.

Now listen to **the debate**.

1. **Why does the presenter say a degree is considered necessary?**
  - a. to prevent competitiveness
  - b. to get a good job
  - c. to avoid debts
  
2. **Why have online courses become popular?**
  - a. to make profits for universities
  - b. to reduce the cost of studying
  - c. to allow more students to enter university
  
3. **What does Paul say an online course cannot provide?**
  - a. interaction with other students
  - b. advanced post graduate study
  - c. good quality education
  
4. **What does Paul say is required for an online course?**
  - a. isolation from peers
  - b. costly computer software
  - c. strong discipline
  
5. **George says that Paul**
  - a. made some good points.
  - b. did not use logical arguments.
  - c. did not overlook any points.
  
6. **What does George say is an online course's biggest advantage?**
  - a. Much less study is required.
  - b. You can choose when to study.
  - c. You do not have to be disciplined.

**Listen to the debate again and check your answers.**

Now listen to **the discussion**.

1. **What does the first caller say about famous people?**
  - a. They should avoid the paparazzi.
  - b. They often desire attention from the press.
  - c. Celebrities always want their picture taken.
  
2. **What does Neil believe is most important?**
  - a. not promoting a glamorous lifestyle
  - b. the public's right to know
  - c. an individual's right to privacy
  
3. **When does Debbie suggest photos should be printed?**
  - a. When they feature famous people.
  - b. When they have been taken by a professional.
  - c. When the person photographed grants permission.
  
4. **According to Harry, why do the paparazzi invade privacy?**
  - a. public interest in celebrities
  - b. a lack of interesting news stories
  - c. people's dislike of celebrities
  
5. **How does the last speaker feel about the issue?**
  - a. We must judge those people who are public figures.
  - b. Nobody would want to have their secrets exposed.
  - c. Only celebrities behave poorly in public.

**Listen to the discussion again and check your answers.**

# Practice Test 7 | Reading

There are 31 questions in this examination.

You must attempt all the questions.

Total marks available: 31

You have **75 minutes** to finish the examination.

## TEXT 1

*Rotten Tomatoes* is a website dedicated solely to the review of films and television programmes. It was launched in August 1998 by Senh Duong as a hobby. He'd always taken a keen interest in films and had come up with the idea while searching for reviews of Jackie Chan films. The name *Rotten Tomatoes* stems from the days of open theatres. If the audience thought a particular play or performance by an actor was awful, they would express their displeasure by not only booing and hissing but also by throwing rotten fruit at the stage, predominantly tomatoes.

The site was originally intended for the review of films. However, this has now grown to include reviews of DVDs, detailed biographies of celebrities, information on the films they have appeared in and news related to current and upcoming films.

One of the most popular features that *Rotten Tomatoes* has to offer is its unique rating system, the 'Tomatometer', which is based on reviews by official film critics. It represents the percentage of reviews that are positive for a particular film or television show. For a critic to be accepted on the website, their original reviews must acquire a specific number of 'likes' from users. Those who become ranked as 'Top Critics' usually write for major news publications.

**Certified Fresh:** Films on general release that are reviewed by at least 80 critics, 5 of whom must be 'Top Critics' and which receive an overall score of 75% or higher are 'Certified Fresh' and will remain so until their score drops below 70%.

**Fresh:** Films with a score of 60% or higher that do not meet the requirements for 'Certified Fresh' are classed as 'Fresh'.

**Rotten:** Films which receive a score between 0 and 59% are classified as 'Rotten'.

Films are also given an audience rating which is indicated by a popcorn bucket. If the popcorn bucket is full, it means the film acquired 3.5 stars or higher. If the popcorn bucket is tipped over, it signifies that the film received less than 3.5 stars from users.

As the site has become more popular, people within the film industry, especially Hollywood executives, have accused the site of hurting box-office returns. They say the site's rating system hurts films that might be flawed but which does not deserve to be written off due to a bad *Rotten Tomato* score.

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1. **What is the main purpose of the text?**
  - a. to highlight how important Internet reviews have become
  - b. to inform about the growth and role of the website
  - c. to criticise the rating systems used on the website
2. **What were tomatoes used for in the days of open theatre?**
  - a. to show respect
  - b. to show displeasure
  - c. to show approval
3. **What does the website not feature?**
  - a. film reviews
  - b. profiles of actors
  - c. interviews with actors
4. **How are films rated on the website?**
  - a. by looking at their box-office sales
  - b. by the percentage of positive reviews
  - c. by copying reviews from major news publications
5. **A film will be classified as rotten if**
  - a. its score drops by 5%.
  - b. it scores below 65%.
  - c. it scores under 60%.
6. **Who has been most critical of the website?**
  - a. actors
  - b. Hollywood executives
  - c. cinema-goers
7. **The word 'predominantly' in line 6 can best be replaced by**
  - a. mainly
  - b. cruelly
  - c. deliberately
8. **There is a grammatical error on:**
  - a. line 12
  - b. line 19
  - c. line 31
9. **There is a spelling mistake in:**
  - a. line 15
  - b. line 26
  - c. line 29
10. **There is a punctuation error on:**
  - a. line 15
  - b. line 23
  - c. line 30

## TEXT 2

For the second year running, Highways England and The Deer Initiative have joined forces to warn motorists about the heightened risk of deer-vehicle collisions during the autumn. Across the UK it is estimated that there could be up to 74,000 deer-related motor vehicle accidents this year alone, resulting in 400 to 700 human injuries and 20 deaths. October through to December is considered a high-risk period as deer will be on the move for the autumn mating season, also known as the rut. The highest risk of a deer-vehicle collision is between sunset and midnight, and the hours shortly before and after sunrise. Senior principle environmental advisor at Highways England, Tony Sangwine said, 'Safety is our top priority, which is why we care about people's journeys. We are working with The Deer Initiative to warn motorists about the risks caused by deer, when they suddenly appear on the road, particularly at both dawn and dusk. With most deer movement coinciding with key commuting hours, we are urging drivers to be more aware during this time of year so that they can complete their journeys safely and without incident.'

With some 2 million deer living wild in the UK, newly qualified and city drivers are asked to take extra precaution when venturing onto unfamiliar roads, especially those in more rural areas.

Highways England's advice on staying safe is:

- when you see deer warning signs or are travelling through a heavily wooded or forested stretch of road, check your speed and stay alert
- if your headlights are on, use full-beam when you can; but dip them if you see deer, as they may 'freeze'
- more deer may follow the first one you see
- be prepared to stop – try not to suddenly swerve to avoid a deer. Hitting oncoming traffic or another obstacle could be even worse
- if you have to stop, use your hazard warning lights
- do not approach an injured deer – it could be dangerous

Deer Aware will be running a safety campaign on social media for drivers throughout October and into November. Drivers are encouraged to follow DeerAware on *Twitter* or *Facebook*, for hotspot notifications during this period.

If you are involved in a deer vehicle collision and require assistance please contact the police. If you need to report a deer vehicle collision or to find out more on safety advice, please visit the Deer Aware website? The website exists to offer basic advice on how to avoid a collision and to collect data on the number of accidents.

Our research is the only national effort to collect data that could be used to save lives - the information you submit is an essential part of this important effort.

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11. What is the main purpose of the text?
- to shock
  - to warn
  - to entertain
12. What does 'the rut' refer to in line 5?
- when deer mate
  - when deer migrate
  - when deer are hit by cars
13. When is a collision more likely?
- between midnight and dawn
  - between sunset and midnight
  - from dawn till dusk
14. According to Highways England, where should you be particularly careful?
- in the countryside
  - in small towns
  - in cities near forests
15. How else are the two organisations trying to raise awareness about the issue?
- at driving schools
  - on television
  - on the Internet
16. The phrase 'join forces' in line 1 means:
- exchange ideas
  - work together
  - become stronger
17. The word 'heightened' as used in line 2 can be best replaced with:
- increased
  - strengthened
  - imposing
18. There is a punctuation mistake on:
- line 19
  - line 28
  - line 32
19. The word 'dip' as used on line 19, can be best replaced with:
- reduce
  - lower
  - decline
20. Which word is always spelt with a capital letter?
- Initiative
  - Highways
  - England

**TEXT 3**

Writer's block is a condition that can affect just about anyone who has to write something. It sneaks up suddenly and can be completely overwhelming. Take students, for instance. They look at their assignment over and over but cannot manage to put pen to paper. Throughout their education, they receive little or no advice on how to come up with ideas or how to express their thoughts in a logical and cohesive manner. They stumble through the writing process receiving little or no feedback from their teachers until the final grading of their paper, where they receive comments and criticism that would have been much more useful earlier in the whole process. Much the same thing happens to authors; they too have to write according to a certain logic in order to produce a decent piece of work, yet they also end up staring at a blank piece of paper, or page on a screen, with absolutely no idea either how to start or how to proceed.

No one knows for sure what actually causes writer's block, but many feel that stress plays a major role in it. The longer a writer goes without starting or moving his story forward, the more stressed he is likely to become, thus creating a vicious circle.

One of the most common forms of writer's block is that you just can't come up with an idea. You write a sentence or two and then erase it. You write another and delete that too, and so it continues. Basically, you've stopped before you've even started. There could be a number of reasons for this, such as fear – many writers are actually afraid to put their ideas down on paper for everyone to see and criticise – or perhaps it's just not the right time.

However, there are some solutions that may help you overcome your block. It may just require something as simple as going for a walk or eliminating all the distractions around you. Maybe a change of scenery may help, or you could even try relaxation – make yourself a cup of coffee, put your feet up and listen to some music (classical seems to work for a lot of people). The trick is to find something that works for you.

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21. What criticism is made of teachers giving feedback on students' essays?
- It should not come with a grade.
  - It causes low confidence.
  - It comes too late.
22. There is a punctuation mistake on:
- line 3
  - line 15
  - line 23
23. What is believed to be the main cause of writer's block?
- stress
  - a lack of imagination
  - a lack of sleep
24. What is a common symptom of writer's block?
- being unable to erase a bad sentence
  - being unable to think of an idea
  - being afraid the work is poor
25. The word 'overcome' in line 21 can be best replaced with:
- understand
  - avoid
  - beat
26. What is not mentioned as a possible solution to writer's block?
- relaxing
  - socialising
  - walking

## TEXT 4

**Does the ‘five-second rule’ really work?**

We’ve all done it – dropped some food on the floor, picked it up, given it a quick wipe and put it in our mouth. The theory is that if food dropped on the floor is picked up quickly enough, it’s safe to eat.

While some people are firm believers, others use the rule to convince themselves that it’s OK to eat a fallen morsel. Some call it the “five-second rule”, others know it as the “three-second rule”. Whichever you’re familiar with, it certainly isn’t based on science says Dr Ronald Cutler, a microbiologist from Queen Mary, University of London.

To prove what he said Dr Cutler subjected the five-second rule to the rigours of scientific testing. His trial involved dropping pieces of pizza, apple and buttered toast on different surfaces artificially contaminated with *E. Coli* to emulate what would happen if you dropped food onto a heavily contaminated surface. The study was to determine if the time the sample was left on the surface affected the degree of contamination picked up.

**Food poisoning**

The idea that dirt is “good” and hygiene somehow “unnatural” has been popularised in the media. For those who believe that a little dirt never hurt anyone, here’s a sobering statistic – each year in the UK around a million people suffer a food-related illness. Of these, about 20,000 people require hospital treatment and up to 500 may die as a result. Many of these cases could have been avoided through basic hygiene such as hand-washing, and preparing and cooking food properly.

Back in the lab, Dr Cutler analysed the food samples and found that they were all covered in germs compared with control samples that had not been dropped. The samples were dropped on the contaminated surfaces and picked up either immediately, or after five or 10 seconds. Each sample tested was heavily contaminated.

“The five-second rule has little effect on the amount of bacteria you would pick up from a heavily contaminated surface,” says Dr Cutler. “Think about this, if you drop food on a floor, it’s better to put it in the bin rather than your mouth. No matter if it’s at home on the carpet, the kitchen floor or in the street, my advice is if you drop it, chuck it.”

Dr Cutler’s simple test is backed up by other research performed in recent years proving that the five-second rule is a complete myth.

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27. **What did Dr Cutler's experiment involve?**
- dropping food onto dirty surfaces
  - leaving food uncovered for five seconds
  - finding a food resistant to E. Coli
28. **What do statistics show about food-related illnesses each year?**
- Very few people are affected.
  - Thousands of people die.
  - Several hundred people die.
29. **What was the control sample in the test?**
- the contaminated surface
  - food that had been dropped
  - food that had not been dropped
30. **According to the text, it is wrong to believe that food dropped on the floor**
- shouldn't be eaten.
  - could collect germs.
  - is safe to eat if picked up fast.
31. **The phrase 'chuck it' as used on line 31 means:**
- keep the food far away
  - put the food in the bin
  - eat the food as quickly as you can

# Practice Test 7 | Writing

There are two tasks. You must attempt both Tasks.  
Formal Writing Task 1, you must complete **either** Option 1 **OR** Option 2.  
Informal Writing Task 2, you must complete the set Task.  
Total marks available: 24  
You have **75 minutes** to finish the examination.

## **Option 1 Formal Writing Task 1** – Allow around 35 minutes for this task

You work for a company that produces guides for tourists visiting your area. Your manager has asked you to visit a theme park that has recently opened and write a report on what it has to offer.

You could write about:

- what rides it has
- what facilities it has such as toilets, cafés, etc.
- what age group it mainly caters to

**OR**

## **Option 2 Formal Writing Task 1** – Allow around 35 minutes for this task

The town where you live is very popular with tourists. Lately, the town has had a problem with litter, not only on the streets but also on the beach. Write a letter to your local council with solutions to the problem.

You could write about:

- providing more bins
- organising clean-up days
- putting up notices to remind people not to drop litter

Write 200-250 words.

(12 Marks)

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## **Informal Writing Task 2** – Allow around 35 minutes for this task

You are planning a holiday to a European destination. Write a letter to a friend inviting him / her to go with you.

You could write about:

- when and where you intend to go
- where you will stay
- what you can do while you are there
- why you want him / her to go with you

Write 250-300 words.

(12 Marks)

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**You will be assessed on:**

- content
- use of conjunctions, adjectives and vocabulary
- use of appropriate tenses
- legibility of writing
- word order

# Practice Test 7 | Speaking

## PART 1 (Approximately 2 minutes)

Your teacher will ask you some questions. Answer in full sentences.

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## PART 2 (Approximately 6 minutes)

Follow your teacher's instructions.

- Situation 1:** There is a long queue in the local bakery. You notice that a new member of staff is working and there is no one helping him. You decide to go and find the manager to explain the situation and offer a solution. What do you say?
- Situation 2:** Your school is putting on a play in aid of a local charity. You are selling tickets for the event. You have to persuade your friends to buy a ticket as they are quite expensive. What would you say?
- Situation 3:** Your friend has just passed their driving test and wants to buy a new car. He / She asks you for advice. What would you say?
- Situation 4:** You have been asked to arrange a film evening for the local drama group. You have to suggest a film that you think will be suitable for everyone. What would you say?

**PART 3** (Approximately 6 minutes)

Follow your teacher's instructions.

**Scenario 1:** You think that the local gym and swimming pool should be free of charge to all residents. Your friend, however, is not convinced that this is a good idea. Try to convince your friend that it would be an ideal way to get people to do more exercise. You will have two minutes to prepare your arguments. You may make notes. I will take the place of your friend.

**Scenario 2:** It has recently been announced that the shops in your area will be allowed to open on Sundays. You don't agree with this but your friend thinks it is a great idea. Explain to your friend why you think this is a bad idea. You will have two minutes to prepare your arguments. You may make notes. I will take the place of your friend.

**Scenario 3:** Your friend wants you to go on a package holiday with him / her. You don't fancy the idea of staying in one place and would prefer to go camping so that you can stay in different places. Persuade your friend to go camping instead. You will have two minutes to prepare your arguments. You may make notes. I will take the role of your friend.

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**You may use this space to make notes.**