



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. That is not right.
b. They are not watching TV right now.
c. It might be the antenna.
2. a. No, he didn't tell me anything.
b. No, it was rather interesting.
c. Yes, it only took me a few minutes.
3. a. He must have warmed it up.
b. He didn't bring the wrong dish.
c. He must have made a mistake.
4. a. It really suits you.
b. I don't like getting dressed.
c. Yes, it's the same as mine.
5. a. Then try again later.
b. I'll give you a call.
c. I didn't know she was getting engaged.
6. a. Yes, that is a wonder.
b. Yes, that was wonderful.
c. Yes, that would be wonderful.
7. a. They are a nice couple.
b. OK, let's go take a look.
c. Those jeans are expensive.
8. a. Yes, I ran over her at the mall yesterday.
b. Yes, I ran into her at the mall yesterday.
c. Yes, I ran up to her at the mall yesterday.
9. a. You should learn to take it easy.
b. I like drinking tea in the morning.
c. There's a nice place just around the corner.
10. a. He is absent quite often.
b. He attends three times a week.
c. He got here in record time.

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. **At the moment, Brad**
 - a. is unemployed.
 - b. already has a job.
 - c. is working with Jenny.

2. **What does Brad think about the job he has now?**
 - a. It pays more than other jobs.
 - b. It won't help him advance in his career.
 - c. His prospects for promotion are good.

3. **What does Brad think about the job he has applied for?**
 - a. He thinks he will get it.
 - b. He is unsure if he wants it.
 - c. He will be there for forty years.

4. **Jenny thinks that Brad**
 - a. would be tired by the time he arrives at work.
 - b. would be too tired to go to work.
 - c. wouldn't be able to stand the bus journey.

5. **What does Jenny point out about travelling by train?**
 - a. It is not fast.
 - b. It is not cheap.
 - c. It is convenient.

6. **What does Brad say would be the long-term solution to getting to work?**
 - a. working from home
 - b. getting used to public transport
 - c. getting a car of his own

Listen to the conversation again and check your answers.

Now listen to **Conversation 2**.

1. **Why did Lauren buy an e-book?**
 - a. She bought it as a gift.
 - b. She wants to download digital books.
 - c. She reads a lot.

2. **What is true about Richard?**
 - a. He never reads.
 - b. He does not trust technology.
 - c. He thinks paper books are special.

3. **What advantage of e-books does Richard accept?**
 - a. They are lighter than paper books.
 - b. The letters can be enlarged.
 - c. They require special glasses.

4. **Why is it convenient to buy books online?**
 - a. It only takes a few days to receive a book.
 - b. It can be done with one click.
 - c. Credit cards details are easy to fill in.

5. **What is Richard surprised about?**
 - a. Lauren has a large collection of paper books.
 - b. Lauren knows a lot about e-books.
 - c. Lauren is reading less than she used to.

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. **What does Mr Henderson say about children missing school?**
 - a. Head teachers were not taking the problem seriously.
 - b. More and more pupils were not going to school.
 - c. Schools were in danger of closing down.

2. **What does Molly say about the statistics?**
 - a. They could mean different things.
 - b. They show that fines are unfair.
 - c. They are not relevant to the issue.

3. **What does Molly say about parents of poor families?**
 - a. They suffer unfairly.
 - b. They work too much.
 - c. They should talk to their children.

4. **What does Molly say about children missing school?**
 - a. It is only because of bullying.
 - b. It is a new problem.
 - c. It is a complex issue.

5. **Mr Henderson says fines are appropriate when**
 - a. children break any new school rule.
 - b. families take holidays during school time.
 - c. more than one day's absence is taken.

Listen to the debate again and check your answers.

Now listen to **the discussion**.

1. **What does Diana say about video game violence?**
 - a. It causes more violent thoughts.
 - b. It involves saving heroes.
 - c. It attracts people who are mentally ill.

2. **How does Jack show that he is unaffected by playing video games?**
 - a. He prefers non-violent games.
 - b. He dislikes hearing about real violence.
 - c. He cannot tell the difference between reality and fantasy.

3. **What psychological effect concerns Diana?**
 - a. Games showing violence as fun.
 - b. People becoming desensitised to violence.
 - c. The risk of addiction to video games.

4. **What does Jack say about people who are influenced by video games?**
 - a. They know the difference between fact and fiction.
 - b. They have serious problems if they cannot separate reality and fantasy.
 - c. They try to make themselves like the heroes in the games.

5. **What do the two speakers agree on?**
 - a. Video games should be banned for under-18s.
 - b. Violence is often because of video games.
 - c. Parents must take responsibility on this issue.

Listen to the discussion again and check your answers.

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

The London Eye

London has long been a favourite city for the sightseer, with its vast number of places of interest. Should you find yourself pressed for time, there are various ways to take in a number of Londons sights, like open-top bus tours or river cruises on the Thames, but The London Eye 'tops' them all.

A giant Ferris wheel located on the south bank of the Thames, just a stone's throw from the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, The London Eye offers you a chance to enter a glass capsule, which is slowly rotated to the top of the wheel before descending again. This gives unsurpassed panoramic views of the entire city, while you can even make out the countryside beyond.

It is a little known fact that over a century ago there were a predecessor to the London Eye: 'The Great Wheel' was opened to the public in July 1895. Modelled on the original Chicago Ferris Wheel, it was 94 metres tall and 82.3 metres in diameter. It stayed in service until 1906, by which time it had carried over 2.5 million passengers. The Great Wheel was demolished in 1907.

The modern-day structure is 135 metres tall and the wheel has a diameter of 120 metres. When it opened to the public in 2000 it was the world's tallest Ferris wheel until it was surpassed by the 160-metre *Star of Nanchang* in 2006. It is Europe's tallest Ferris wheel, and offered the highest public viewing point in London until 2013 when *The Shard* opened a 245-metre-high observation deck on the 72nd floor.

Steel cables support the rim of the Eye, so it resembles a massive bicycle wheel. The construction of the wheel occurred in sections, which were each floated up the Thames and assembled while lying flat on platforms in the river. Upon completion, the wheel was gradually lifted into an upright position at only 2 degrees per hour. It was left at an angle of 65 degrees for a week while engineers prepared for the final phase of the lift.

The London Eye was formally opened on 31st December 1999 by Prime Minister Tony Blair, although it only opened to the paying public on 9th March 2000 because of technical problems. On 5th June 2008 it was announced that over 30 million people had ridden the London Eye since it opened. It remains the most popular paid tourist attraction in the United Kingdom with over 3.75 million visitors annually.

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1. **The purpose of this text is to**
 - a. persuade people to go on the London Eye.
 - b. inform people about the London Eye.
 - c. describe the technical problems of the London Eye.

2. **What does the writer claim about sightseeing in London?**
 - a. You can see all the sights on a bus tour.
 - b. All the sights are close together.
 - c. The London Eye is the best option.

3. **What does the London Eye allow you to do?**
 - a. Rotate a massive wheel.
 - b. Visit the Houses of Parliament.
 - c. Get an impressive view of the city.

4. **According to the text, The Great Wheel**
 - a. was in service for eleven years.
 - b. had been built before the Chicago Ferris Wheel.
 - c. carried 2.5 million passengers a year.

5. **The text states that the London Eye**
 - a. is Europe's highest viewing point.
 - b. is the second highest viewing point in London.
 - c. is taller than the Star of Nanchang.

6. **What does the text say about the construction of the wheel?**
 - a. It was pieced together on site.
 - b. It was floated up the river in one piece.
 - c. It was assembled on the banks of the Thames.

7. **The word 'unsurpassed' on line 9 can be best replaced by:**
 - a. overrated
 - b. unbeatable
 - c. uninspiring

8. **There is a grammatical error in:**
 - a. line 7
 - b. line 9
 - c. line 12

9. **There is a punctuation error in:**
 - a. line 4
 - b. line 10
 - c. line 14

10. **Which word should always be spelt with a capital letter?**
 - a. Prime
 - b. March
 - c. London

TEXT 2

Do you prefer to read the book or watch the film? This is an age-old question that has a multitude of answers, the most common of which is usually 'Well, it depends on ...' and any number of reasons. Personally, I prefer to read the book, however, this can lead to the film being rather disappointing as the characters and settings do not always live up to that which my own imagination created.

Why does the film industry rely so much on adaptation? The answer to this is actually quite simple – books come with a ready-made audience; anyone who has read and enjoyed the book will undoubtedly want to see the film. The *Harry Potter* novels are a prime example of this. After reading the books, millions of children and adults alike waited in eager anticipation of the films. This virtually guarantees a box-office hit, which equates to lots of money for the film studio. A further reason is that the story has already been written so the material needed to create a film is there; it just needs to be adapted for the screen.

The adaption process is often where the problems start. Screenwriters are employed to adapt the novel and their main aim is to create something that will make a good story, something that will draw people in. But how does a screenwriter cover all the subplots that most novels contain? Quite simply, they don't. A screenwriter will read the novel to get a general understanding of the story and a feel for the characters, their relationships and goals. Then, he will probably select what he considers to be the best five to ten sections of the book and these will form the basis of his script. He will then to write the script. Bare in mind that each minute of screen time is approximately one page of script. A good novel is often in the region of 300 pages and a film is, on average, around 90-120 minutes in length. Can you see the problem?

The fact that so much is often cut from a book in order to make it work on the screen is what annoys readers the most. As far as they are concerned, every word and action contained within the books pages is essential to the overall understanding of the story. What they fail to understand, though, is that films are a completely different art form; something totally independent from the book.

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11. **What problem does the writer have with reading the book before watching the film?**
- The characters in the book aren't as good.
 - The film might not live up to expectations.
 - The book will spoil the ending of the film.
12. **Why are film adaptations of books so common?**
- The film studios always need new material.
 - Many people don't finish reading the book.
 - The book assures a ready audience for the film.
13. **What is a problem with adapting a book for the screen?**
- The subplots are lost.
 - Screenwriters are needed.
 - Characters need to be added.
14. **What is used to write the script?**
- Just the pages which contain dialogue.
 - The whole book, slightly rewritten.
 - Only the best parts of the novel.
15. **According to the text, what do readers find most annoying about films?**
- Every little detail is portrayed.
 - Many details are omitted.
 - They are an independent art form.
16. **The word 'multitude' on line 1 can be best replaced by:**
- large number
 - small possibility
 - varied amount
17. **There is a punctuation mistake on:**
- Line 17
 - Line 20
 - Line 24
18. **There is a spelling mistake on:**
- Line 7
 - Line 14
 - Line 23
19. **A word has been omitted from line 18. It should be:**
- consider
 - proceed
 - advance
20. **A word has been spelt correctly but used incorrectly on:**
- Line 1
 - Line 8
 - Line 19

TEXT 3

You've undoubtedly heard and probably even used the expression 'laughter is the best medicine', but can laughter really make you feel better? Apparently, it can. Much research has been done into the reasons why we laugh and the benefits that we can gain from it.

So, why is laughter good for your health? Well, for starters, laughter makes your whole body relax by relieving physical tension and stress. It decreases your stress hormones but increases the number of antibodies that fight infection, which effectively improves your resistance to illnesses. Laughter has also been known to improve your tolerance to pain. In an experiment by British and Dutch researchers, a group of people were given a pain test. The group was then split into two. One of the smaller groups watched comedy sketches on TV, while the others watched a factual documentary. Each person then retook the pain test. It was noted that the pain tolerance in those who watched the documentary decreased. However, the pain tolerance of those who watched the comedy went up, sometimes by as much as 50%. You will also be pleased to hear that laughter burns calories – laughing for around 10 minutes a day will use up around 40 calories.

There are also a number of other interesting facts about the benefits of laughter. For instance, were you aware that humans laughed millions of years before they ever learnt to use words? In fact, laughter is such an ingrained part of us that babies as young as 17 days old are capable of doing it. Even children who are born blind and deaf still has the ability to laugh. Laughter also stimulates positive feelings in people which aid their capacity to learn new things. Just think about children when they play – they are always laughing and it is well known that fun activities are an excellent way to help young children learn new skills. Laughter in this kind of situation is almost like a signal that lets the children know that they are in a safe environment where they can freely play and learn.

Laughter also brings people together and can actually make them closer. It is an especially great and effective way to relieve tension between people and unite them during difficult times.

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21. Which is not mentioned as a health benefit of laughter?
- It boosts your immune system.
 - It reduces depression.
 - It reduces stress.
22. The experiment by British and Dutch researchers showed that
- people have little tolerance to pain.
 - people who laugh feel more pain.
 - watching comedies helps you tolerate pain.
23. The text states that children
- can learn new skills when having fun.
 - learn to laugh and speak simultaneously.
 - need a signal to begin playing freely.
24. According to the text, what else can laughter do?
- It creates tension.
 - It creates closer relationships.
 - It increases your confidence.
25. There is a grammatical mistake on:
- Line 2
 - Line 19
 - Line 20

TEXT 4

NASA

President Dwight D. Eisenhower established NASA (the National Aeronautics and Space Administration) in 1958, partially in response to the Soviet Union's launch of the first artificial satellite the previous year. NASA grew out of the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics (NACA), which had been researching flight technology for more than 40 years.

President John F. Kennedy focused NASA and the nation on sending astronauts to the moon by the end of the 1960s. Through the *Mercury* and *Gemini* projects, NASA developed the technology and skills it needed for the journey. On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first of 12 men to walk on the moon, meeting Kennedy's challenge.

Meanwhile, NASA was continuing the aeronautics research pioneered by NACA. It also conducted purely scientific research and worked on developing applications for space technology, combining both pursuits in developing the first weather and communications satellites.

After *Apollo*, NASA focused on creating a reusable ship to provide regular access to space: the space shuttle. First launched in 1981, the *space shuttle* flew more than 130 successful missions before being retired in 2011. In 2000, the United States and Russia established permanent human presence in space aboard the *International Space Station*, a multinational project representing the work of 15 nations.

NASA also has continued its scientific research. In 1997, *Mars Pathfinder* became the first in a fleet of spacecraft that have been exploring Mars, as we try to determine whether life ever existed there. The *Terra*, *Aqua* and *Aura* Earth Observing System satellites are flagships of a different fleet, this one in Earth orbit, designed to help us understand how our home world is changing. NASA's aeronautics teams are focused on improving aviation, so it meets the explosive growth in global demand for air services.

Throughout its history, NASA has conducted or funded research that has led to numerous improvements to life here on Earth.

NASA conducts its work in four principal organizations, called mission directorates:

Aeronautics: manages research focused on meeting global demand for air mobility in ways that are more environmentally friendly and sustainable, while also embracing revolutionary technology from outside aviation.

Human Exploration and Operations: focuses on International Space Station operations, development of commercial spaceflight capabilities and human exploration beyond low-Earth orbit.

Science: explores the Earth, solar system and universe beyond; charts the best route of discovery; and reaps the benefits of Earth and space exploration for society.

Space Technology: rapidly develops, innovates, demonstrates, and infuses revolutionary, high-payoff technologies that enable NASA's future missions while providing economic benefit to the nation.

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26. **What was President Kennedy's aim for NASA?**
- to continue the work of NACA
 - to keep up with the Soviet Union
 - to accomplish a moon landing
27. **What became NASA's main focus immediately after Apollo?**
- Developing a reusable space shuttle.
 - Building an international space station.
 - Performing as many missions as possible.
28. **What else is NASA involved in?**
- Designing ships that will observe Earth.
 - Searching for signs of life on Mars.
 - Operating an airline service.
29. **Which mission directorate is responsible for travel to outer space?**
- Human Exploration and Operations
 - Science
 - Aeronautics
30. **The word 'determine' as used on line 22, can be best replaced by**
- focus
 - dictate
 - establish
31. **The word 'principal' as used on line 30, can be best replaced by**
- separate
 - main
 - detailed

Practice Test 8 | 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 decided to order some Christmas presents for your family and friends online. However, when your order arrived, some of the items you ordered were missing and one item was damaged. Write an email to the company complaining about their service.

You could write about:

- what was missing from your order
- what item was damaged and in what way
- what action you expect, and why

OR

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

People are often judged by the clothes that they wear. Do you think this is right? Write an argument to support your opinion.

You could write about:

- people often express themselves through their clothes
- everyone has their own style
- get to know a person before you judge them

Write 200-250 words.

(12 Marks)

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

You recently went to Africa and spent a month in a school there, helping out as a volunteer. Write a letter to a friend telling them about the amazing experience that you had.

You could write about:

- the area where you stayed
- what you did each day
- some of the children you met
- how you felt about the whole experience

Write 250-300 words.

(12 Marks)

You will be assessed on:

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

Practice Test 8 | Speaking

PART 1 (Approximately 2 minutes)

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

PART 2 (Approximately 6 minutes)

Follow your teacher's instructions.

Situation 1: You want your friend to go on holiday abroad but he / she has never flown before and is scared. You want to convince him / her to go with you. What would you say?

Situation 2: Some of your friends are waiting for you in a restaurant but you couldn't find your purse / wallet and will be late. You need to call them to explain and apologise. What do you say?

Situation 3: Your friend is a full-time student at university. He / She has decided that they would like a part-time job in order to earn some money. He / She has asked you for some advice. What would you say?

Situation 4: You want to put your name down for an extra class that will help you with your course of study, but the class is already full. You have arranged to see the professor who takes the class to try and persuade him / her to allow you to join the class. What would you say?

PART 3 (Approximately 6 minutes)

Follow your teacher's instructions.

Scenario 1: There is a new reality show starting on TV and your friend wants you to watch it with him / her. You think these shows are awful and should be stopped. Convince your friend not to watch the show. You will have two minutes to prepare your arguments. You may make notes. I will take the place of your friend.

Scenario 2: Your grandad does not want to learn about smartphones. He thinks he is too old to learn new things. Convince him that having a smartphone will make his life easier. You will have two minutes to prepare your arguments. You may make notes. I will take the role of your grandad.

Scenario 3: You are with your friend in his / her new car when someone drives into the back of you. The accident is not your friend's fault and he / she is very upset. The other driver says your friend is to blame. Try to explain to the other driver that the accident was not your friend's fault. You will have two minutes to prepare your arguments. You may make notes. I will take the role of the other driver.

You may use this space to make notes.