



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. Yes, it's very difficult.  
b. Yes, I often use it.  
c. No, but she used to.
2. a. Yes, it's fascinating.  
b. Yes, it's out of date.  
c. Yes, it's very informative.
3. a. She asked me to handle it.  
b. Sorry, I forgot.  
c. He didn't need a hand.
4. a. Yes, of course.  
b. You're welcome.  
c. Thanks a lot.
5. a. I like that!  
b. I am!  
c. I'd love to!
6. a. What else would you like to know?  
b. What else would you like to do?  
c. What else did you want?
7. a. He is taking the train to the airport.  
b. How many hours left till arrival?  
c. Finally! That took a while.
8. a. I definitely didn't do it.  
b. I've just heard some shocking news.  
c. I like pale blue.
9. a. How can we pay for this?  
b. Why should they suspect me?  
c. How can he get away with it?
10. a. Yes, I've been abroad several times.  
b. I often travel by sea.  
c. My friend went to Italy.

## 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. Apart from attending the wedding, what else will the Johnson family do?

- a. go shopping
- b. go sightseeing
- c. visit relatives

2. How many people is he making the booking for?

- a. 4
- b. 6
- c. 8

3. What does Mr Johnson book?

- a. a double room and two twin rooms
- b. a double room and a family room
- c. a suite for everyone

4. When will the wedding ceremony take place?

- a. Saturday
- b. Sunday
- c. Monday

5. How many nights is the booking for?

- a. 2
- b. 3
- c. 4

Listen to the conversation again and check your answers.

Now listen to **Conversation 2**.

1. What does Joanne say about Andy's idea?

- a. It is the wrong time period.
- b. It is not general enough.
- c. It needs to be narrowed down.

2. What will they use in their presentation?

- a. the program *PowerPoint*
- b. an overhead projector
- c. printed images and handouts

3. Why does Andy not want them to meet tomorrow?

- a. He is going out with Lindsey.
- b. He wants to watch a sporting event.
- c. He is playing in an important game.

4. What does Joanne say will get them a better grade?

- a. Not presenting too many details.
- b. Presenting information that is not very well known.
- c. Asking the audience to join in the presentation.

5. What will they organise on Friday?

- a. their social lives
- b. what books they need to read
- c. a programme of study

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 is the issue of teaching art history in schools being discussed?**
  - a. Its funding may be cut.
  - b. Its funding has been cut.
  - c. Its funding may be increased.
  
2. **What does the presenter say about the government's announcement?**
  - a. It was completely unexpected.
  - b. It did not give enough information.
  - c. It was done secretly.
  
3. **What benefit of art history is not mentioned?**
  - a. improved critical thinking
  - b. improved problem-solving skills
  - c. improved painting skills
  
4. **What does Janet say about art history?**
  - a. It is not challenging mentally.
  - b. It has no practical applications.
  - c. It is preventing the study of science.
  
5. **Why does Chris criticise modern society?**
  - a. It is overly focused on technology.
  - b. It is too concerned with history.
  - c. It no longer encourages new artists.
  
6. **What is Chris's overall opinion on the teaching of art history?**
  - a. He is in favour.
  - b. He is against it.
  - c. He is indifferent.

Listen to the debate again and check your answers.

Now listen to **the discussion**.

1. **What does Sydney say space exploration may allow us to discover?**
  - a. Advanced technology on other planets.
  - b. Cures for diseases on other planets.
  - c. Living creatures on other planets.
  
2. **What does Madison say is a great worry?**
  - a. People dreaming of space.
  - b. The difficulties of finding another planet.
  - c. Poverty on earth.
  
3. **According to Sydney, what could space research prevent?**
  - a. people not being educated
  - b. a devastating asteroid strike
  - c. the extinction of endangered species
  
4. **What does Madison say about scientific research?**
  - a. It has been influenced by science fiction.
  - b. It should focus on current problems on earth.
  - c. It must not be used to pollute the atmosphere.
  
5. **What does Sydney say about the benefits of space research?**
  - a. They can be seen in our everyday lives.
  - b. People in the future will appreciate them.
  - c. They will solve all the world's problems.

Listen to the discussion again and check your answers.

# Practice Test 9 | 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

When we think of history our thoughts may turn to the proud achievements and struggles of past generations. We might recall great leaders and inventors or certain places and buildings of historic significance, however, as a school subject it may evoke memories of dull textbooks and the memorising of endless dates and names. Similarly, museums, despite their educational function, are hardly designed to appeal to the young mind.

How can we ..... history alive and truly capture people's imaginations? The use of established forms of entertainment, like novels and TV shows, certainly has potential.

Many readers sing the praises of historical novels, which present the past in an engaging way – in our minds the characters become life-size figures who readers can relate to, watch develop and care about. These books can even provide an opportunity to correct misconceptions or take a deeper look at a people, society or era. Any medium that provokes curiosity about the past is surely something worthy.

Literature is one thing, but on the other hand, the value of TV series causes a lot more debate. It helps that special effects are no longer restricted to the big screen; technological advances have given producers the capacity to recreate ancient cities and great battles. It is therefore no surprise that historical drama series, full of visual spectacles, has grown in popularity nowadays.

Those who value historical accuracy often have much to say about these shows. This is understandable when the need to entertain dominates and historical accuracy is not a priority. Does that automatically make these productions unworthy? That may be the case if history is so loosely presented that there is nothing of value for the viewer but falsehoods. But if there are just a few minor inaccuracies, which do not ruin the spirit of the production, viewers might acquire knowledge or, better yet, a curiosity about the past. In such instances these productions must surely be given some credit. Take the recent series, *Vikings*, for example. It was produced in association with the History Channel. Still, it contained various inaccuracies in detail and costume design, while liberally combining myths and characters to enhance the story. However, it did try to present a deeper picture of the lifestyle, society and beliefs of the Vikings, without leaving out the innate brutality of the age, to produce a thrilling and often informative show.

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1. **How does the author describe the teaching of history in school?**
  - a. Overly focused on leaders and battles.
  - b. Uninteresting and unimaginative.
  - c. Effective if museum visits are included.
  
2. **Historical novels are described as**
  - a. boring.
  - b. informative.
  - c. philosophical.
  
3. **Historical series**
  - a. will never be as spectacular as films.
  - b. are unable to recreate ancient battles.
  - c. have recently increased in popularity.
  
4. **The writer says shows are unworthy if they**
  - a. do not have a big budget.
  - b. present history in a completely false way.
  - c. prioritise historical accuracy.
  
5. **What is the writer's opinion of the show *Vikings*?**
  - a. He is in favour of it.
  - b. He is against it.
  - c. He is undecided.
  
6. **A word has been omitted from line 7. It should be:**
  - a. take
  - b. bring
  - c. create
  
7. **The phrase 'sing the praises of' in line 10 can be best replaced by:**
  - a. applaud
  - b. discuss
  - c. shout
  
8. **There is a spelling mistake on:**
  - a. line 24
  - b. line 27
  - c. line 29
  
9. **The word 'acquire' as used in the text on line 24 can be best replaced by:**
  - a. buy
  - b. gain
  - c. teach
  
10. **There is a grammatical error on:**
  - a. line 7
  - b. line 10
  - c. line 18

## TEXT 2

*Snapchat* is a firm favourite with today's teens, but what exactly is it and what makes it different from the likes of *Facebook* and *Instagram*?

To begin with, *Snapchat* is a social app and its founders would prefer it not to be labelled as social media. *Snapchat* operates in the here and now and encourages a far more natural flow of interaction. It allows its users to capture pictures and videos to share only with people of their choosing – no one else can see their images – and they also get to decide how long those images will live for, anywhere between 1-10 seconds, after which time the image will self-destruct, so to speak – it will literally cease to exist. It's sort of like texting with pictures or videos. *Snapchat* also has a stories feature that enables users to post a series of photos or videos that are viewed by their friends as a story clip rather than a private ..... . These clips will remain for 24 hours before they disappear.

The app is a great way to have some fun, with many users sharing photos of weird faces they pull or a meal they are just about to eat. Its ideal for sharing a moment with a special friend, safe in the knowledge that it will only last for a moment and not hang around for other people to negatively comment on – it will become totally inaccessible. As such, it provides a lot more privacy than most other social media. It effectively does away with the anxiety that often comes along with posting on, say, *Facebook*. Users don't have to worry about whether they have posted the perfect photo or concern them with how many likes or comments their photo will receive. The only interaction will either be a photo or chat reply in return.

Oscar Wilde once said 'imitation is the sincerest form of flattery'; in 2016, *Instagram* introduced its very own stories feature and many users were shocked by how similar it was to *Snapchat*. Many said it was almost like *Snapchat* had suddenly materialised in *Instagram* and become an integral part of it. This new *Instagram* feature has been quite successful but, as yet, it has failed to convince users to give up *Snapchat*.

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11. What do the founders of *Snapchat* say about it?
- It is a form of social media.
  - It is a certain type of app.
  - It allows new social media apps.
12. How long do pictures and videos appear on *Snapchat*?
- up to one minute
  - between 10 seconds and a minute
  - no more than 10 seconds
13. How long do posts on the stories feature last?
- an hour
  - one day
  - 24 days
14. What is an advantage of *Snapchat* posts compared to *Facebook* posts?
- A greater number of people will see them.
  - Nobody will leave negative comments.
  - It is impossible for your account to be hacked.
15. Ever since *Instagram* introduced its own stories feature,
- people have stopped using *Snapchat*.
  - users of *Snapchat* have not switched their loyalty.
  - it has become the most popular social media site.
16. There is a spelling mistake on:
- line 4
  - line 7
  - line 9
17. There is a grammatical mistake on:
- line 18
  - line 22
  - line 24
18. There is a punctuation error on:
- line 8
  - line 14
  - line 22
19. A word has been omitted on line 10. It should be:
- account
  - meeting
  - message
20. The word 'integral' in line 23 can be best replaced with:
- dramatic
  - unfamiliar
  - essential

## TEXT 3

The standard working day in Britain and several other countries in the Western world has always been from 9 o'clock in the morning until 5 o'clock in the evening. But according to new figures, the British might actually prefer to start earlier. A poll which was carried out by *YouGov*, an international Internet-based market research firm, shows that two-thirds of workers would prefer their day to start (and therefore finish) earlier than the established working day. The most popular choice was for a day that started at 8 and finished at 4. This option was selected by one quarter of the 1,965 people polled. A further 13 per cent of people would prefer 8.30 as their start time, thus finishing at 4.30pm, and 10 per cent wanted a 7am until 3pm day.

Surprisingly, people's choices did not appear to relate to whether or not the person surveyed was a parent. Those with school-age children were just as likely to indicate a ..... for an earlier working day as those who had no children or grown-up children.

However, a distinct change in the pattern is noticeable for people in their late teens and early twenties. These two groups do not favour earlier starts to such an extent, with 19 per cent of 18-24 year olds saying they would like to start work after 9am. Londoners are also more likely to prefer a later start, with 27 per cent saying they would like their day to start later than 9am. That is in stark contrast to 12 per cent in the rest of the south and 13 per cent in the north preferring a later start to their day. According to the report, an explanation may be due to both London's younger population and the effects of Londoners experiencing the city's overcrowded transport system during rush hour.

Taking this information into consideration, it is perhaps unsurprising that a previous survey found that 90 per cent of adults disliked the traditional 9-5 day. However, it is still unlikely that standard working hours will be changing in the near future as these hours are strongly ingrained in business practices and our own way of thinking.

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21. Who conducted the poll on the working day?
- a British university
  - the British government
  - a market research company
22. When did most people say they would like to finish work?
- 4pm
  - 4.30pm
  - 5pm
23. A word has been omitted from line 11. It should be:
- concern
  - preference
  - question
24. How many young people wanted a later start?
- 12 per cent
  - 19 per cent
  - 27 per cent
25. The writer says that the views of some Londoners are because they
- find the transport system very busy during rush hour.
  - live in the city and are close to where they work.
  - are used to the streets being very crowded.
26. The writer says that standard working hours
- will change soon.
  - will not change soon.
  - might change soon.

## TEXT 4

When planning a holiday, it's nice to find out some information about your destination before you make a final decision and one of the best places to find out all you need is *TripAdvisor*.

TripAdvisor is the world's largest travel site and is instantly recognisable by its owl logo. It helps travellers choose where to stay based on the millions of reviews left on its website. Not only can you read reviews of hotels all over the world, but you can also search for the lowest prices on hotels that are suitable for you, compare flight prices, find the best attractions to visit and check out the quality of the food at restaurants close to where you will be staying.

Here are a few little-known facts about one of the world's most visited websites:

- ▶ The site was originally designed as a tool for businesses, but once the travel community started to use it to leave reviews for some of the businesses that were using it, the site evolved to meet their needs.
- ▶ The site does not use stars, the industry standard, to rate each review – it uses bubbles instead.
- ▶ Millions of people see the owl logo when they visit the site, but very few of them actually know why it has one green eye and one red eye. Quite simply, the colours symbolise the places travellers approve of (green) and those they would avoid (red).
- ▶ The majority of the reviews posted on TripAdvisor are positive, with the average bubble rating being higher than 4 out of 5.
- ▶ The city with the most reviews is London. There are close to two million reviews for the city's hotels, restaurants and attractions.
- ▶ The majority of people associate TripAdvisor with hotels, but there are actually more reviews for restaurants.
- ▶ Reviews on TripAdvisor cover every country in the world.
- ▶ The total number of words used in all the reviews on the site is in excess of 10 billion. This is the equivalent of the number of words in the complete works of Shakespeare multiplied by 12,000.

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27. What is true about TripAdvisor?

- a. It is the largest business in the world.
- b. It is the biggest travel site in the world.
- c. It only shows positive reviews from tourists.

28. Apart from reading reviews, what else can you do on the site?

- a. Compare the prices of different hotels.
- b. Comment on the website's usefulness.
- c. Book meals at restaurants close to a hotel.

29. The word 'evolved' in line 12 can best be replaced with:

- a. reacted
- b. developed
- c. supported

30. What do many people not realise about the site?

- a. Why it does not use stars for ratings.
- b. The owl is its logo.
- c. What the owl's eye colours represent.

31. What does TripAdvisor have the most reviews on?

- a. tourist attractions
- b. hotels
- c. restaurants

# Practice Test 9 | 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 recently moved to a new area and have been finding it difficult to meet people of a similar age. You think it would be a good idea for the local community centre to offer activities for young people. Write a letter to the manager of the community centre to offer some suggestions.

You could write about:

- what new activities the centre could offer
- how your suggestions would benefit young people in the area
- why the community as a whole would benefit

**OR**

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

You recently attended a Halloween fancy dress party at your school, organised by the PTA (Parent-Teacher Association). You have been asked to write an article for your school magazine, reviewing your experience of the event.

You could write about:

- how the school hall was decorated
- what food and drinks were available
- what the music was like
- the costumes people wore

Write 200-250 words.

(12 Marks)

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

You have been asked to attend a charity event at a hotel in central London in aid of underprivileged children. It is a very formal occasion. Write an email to a friend inviting them to attend the event with you.

You could write about:

- when and where the event is being held
- what the charity does
- what he / she should wear
- why he / she should 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 9 | 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:** Your friend has been working very hard recently and has not had any time off for quite a while. You want to convince them to go away with you for a few days so they can relax. What would you say?
- Situation 2:** Your friend is going to study in England and can't decide whether to find accommodation on the university campus or to rent a flat nearby. He / She has asked you for advice. What advice would you give?
- Situation 3:** You are enjoying a meal in a restaurant with your friends. A person at the next table has been talking very loudly on his / her mobile phone for about ten minutes. You decide to ask the person politely if they could speak more quietly or go outside. What would you say?
- Situation 4:** You recently bought a new DVD player. Unfortunately, it won't play any of your DVDs and keeps switching itself off. You would like the shop to exchange it for another one. Complain to the manager of the shop. Describe the problem and say what you would like to happen.

**PART 3** (Approximately 6 minutes)

Follow your teacher's instructions.

**Scenario 1:** Your head teacher has decided to replace written exams with continuous assessment of students' work throughout the year. You don't agree with this and would prefer to continue taking exams. Try to convince your head teacher to retain written exams. You will have two minutes to prepare your arguments. You may make notes. I will take the place of the head teacher.

**Scenario 2:** You have started doing all your shopping online and believe that online shopping will soon replace traditional shopping. Your friend prefers to visit the shops to do his / her shopping. Try to convince your friend to do his / her shopping online. You will have two minutes to prepare your arguments. You may make notes. I will take the place of your friend.

**Scenario 3:** Your train was delayed and as a consequence you arrived late for an important exam at college. You phone the train company to complain and to ask for a refund of the cost of the ticket or some other form of compensation. You will have two minutes to prepare your arguments. You may make notes. I will take the role of the train company employee.

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