

ENGLISH ENTRANCE TEST SAMPLE PAPER

Instructions to candidates

1. This is a closed-book test. The time allowed is 90 minutes.
 2. Latecomers will not be allowed extra time to complete the paper.
 3. Alert the invigilator if you are facing technical difficulties.
 4. This paper comprises 5 sections (Total 100 Marks)
Section A - Grammar = 30 Marks (Multiple Choice Questions)
Section B - Vocabulary = 30 Marks (Multiple Choice Questions)
Section C - Cloze Passage = 10 Marks (Fill-in-the-Blanks)
Section D - Editing = 20 Marks (Fill-in-the-Blanks)
Section E - Comprehension = 10 Marks (Multiple Choice Questions)
 5. You are to ensure that:
 - a) your devices used for this test are in good functioning condition, sufficiently charged with internet connection throughout the duration of the test
 - b) you are in a conducive environment throughout the duration of the test
 - c) your answers are correctly saved by the end of the test
 6. No calculators, blank rough paper and stationery are allowed for this English paper.
 7. You are not allowed to:
 - a) leave the test or leave your devices throughout the duration of the test
 - b) use the washroom throughout the duration of the test
 - c) communicate with any person, either face-to-face or through any communication device, other than the invigilator
 - d) refer to any materials, example: textbooks, resources from a laptop or smart devices, etc.
 - e) use any communication devices such as mobile phones, tablets or smart watches (except if it is used to log in to Zoom during the test)
 - f) use any electronic calculators, blank paper for rough work and stationery
-

Section A - Grammar (30 marks)

Choose the correct answer and indicate in the brackets provided.

1.	Many aborigines still live in isolated areas and are untouched _____ modern civilisation. (a) by (b) for (c) at (d) about	()
----	---	-----

2.	The Maldives is a country _____ thousands of islands, and it is one of _____ most dispersed countries in the world. (a) made of, a (b) made of, the (c) made up of, a (d) made up of, the	()
----	---	-----

3.	She is not willing to reveal the identity of her _____. (a) inform (b) informal (c) informant (d) information	()
----	---	-----

4.	_____ are the terms the members have to fulfill to renew their membership cards? (a) What (b) Whose (c) Which (d) Where	()
----	---	-----

5.	The post office is open _____ 8 am to 6 pm. (a) by (b) from (c) about (d) till	()
----	--	-----

6.	The judge ruled that the defendant was innocent after _____ into account all the evidence. (a) take (b) took (c) taken (d) taking	()
----	---	-----

7.	The organizer failed _____ the large number of tourists _____ the exhibition. (a) to anticipate, to visit (b) anticipating, visiting (c) anticipating, to visit (d) to anticipate, visiting	()
----	---	-----

8.	Fishing is a good example of a relaxing activity _____ offers us a respite from the hectic world that we live in. (a) whose (b) whom (c) which (d) who	()
----	--	-----

9.	This polytechnic _____ the best course on aerospace engineering as it has a robust curriculum. (a) offer (b) offers (c) offered (d) offering	()
----	--	-----

10.	_____ such circumstances, it is better that we postpone our plans for the time being. (a) In (b) With (c) Over (d) Under	()
-----	--	-----

11.	Either the bus driver or the motorcycle rider _____ responsible for the accident. (a) is (b) are (c) am (d) were	()
-----	--	-----

12.	The Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur are the _____ towers in the world. (a) tall (b) tallest (c) taller (d) as tall as	()
-----	--	-----

13.	The foundation is raising money for children who are visually _____. (a) impaired (b) as impaired as (c) most impaired (d) more impaired	()
-----	--	-----

14.	The condominium is situated _____ to the beach and has beautiful sea views. (a) by (b) on (c) along (d) next	()
-----	--	-----

15.	The businessman _____ the deal with his client yesterday. (a) will close (b) closed (c) was closed (d) were closing	()
-----	---	-----

Section B – Vocabulary (30 marks)

Choose the correct answer and indicate in the brackets provided.

16.	The company didn't have any _____ opening shops in Paris and Marseilles so they closed after only three months. (a) profit (b) success (c) victory (d) winnings	()
-----	---	-----

17.	If you were a more _____ person, you would not have left me waiting for you in the rain for an hour. (a) polite (b) considerate (c) kind (d) humourous	()
-----	--	-----

18.	Many people have died during a prolonged _____ in India. The temperatures were extremely high. (a) autumn (b) heatwave (c) blizzard (d) avalanche	()
-----	---	-----

19.	The fan was _____ with his favourite football player and hoarded all of the player's memorabilia. (a) beholden (b) indebted (c) obligated (d) obsessed	()
-----	--	-----

20.	If you often exaggerate a problem you are facing, you are making a mountain out of a _____. (a) nose (b) horse (c) molehill (d) park	()
-----	--	-----

21.	Let's all work together as _____. (a) still waters run deep (b) many hands make light work (c) a stitch in time saves nine (d) too many cooks spoil the soup	()
22.	The organizer was pleased when an overwhelming number of people _____ for the event. (a) called up (b) flocked around (c) signed up (d) spoke out	()

23.	The dental surgeon seemed to be very _____ judging from the long list of his credentials. (a) adequate (b) certified (c) licensed (d) qualified	()
-----	---	-----

24.	Horace has _____ the status of master coach after many years of conducting seminars. (a) attained (b) actualised (c) amassed (d) accomplished	()
-----	---	-----

25.	The ruby bracelet that the duchess is wearing has been her family _____ for centuries. (a) heritage (b) legacy (c) bequest (d) heirloom	()
-----	---	-----

26.	Health _____ customers can opt for a grilled burger on wholegrain bun with a generous topping of salad. (a) aware (b) mindful (c) conscious (d) discerning	()
-----	--	-----

27.	No matter how well you manage your business, you will still encounter some _____ along the way. (a) trial and error (b) ups and downs (c) rack and ruin	()
-----	--	-----

	(d) haves and have-nots	()
--	-------------------------	-----

28.	The utility provider is under pressure to quickly _____ services after a power outage. (a) rebuild (b) recall (c) restore (d) reconnect	()
-----	---	-----

29.	Harsh prison sentences for violent offenders are intended to act as a _____ to crime. (a) avoidance (b) deterrence (c) dissuasion (d) prevention	()
-----	--	-----

30.	This expensive watch cost me _____. I regret buying it. (a) two left feet (b) donkey work (c) an arm and a leg (d) my bread and butter	()
-----	--	-----

Section C – Cloze Passage (10 marks)

Fill in each blank with a suitable word from the list of given words below.

The great white shark is also known as the white shark. Together with the killer whale and the sperm whale, it is at the (31) _____ of the marine food chain. In the shark (32) _____, it is the king, the Super-shark. It will eat anything – fish, dolphins and even other sharks. But as it gets older, bigger and slower, it develops a (33) _____ for seals, penguins and carrion – especially dead whales. In (34) _____ their food, most sharks use all their senses, including excellent vision.

The ears of the shark are aided by pressure-sensitive cells along each (35) _____ of its body. Nothing escapes this eavesdropping system, which is especially (36) _____ to the vibrations of struggle - a fish thrashing at the end of a spear, for example. Thus, it is wise for underwater spear fishermen to get bleeding, thrashing fish out of the water, as soon as possible. Though it is (37) _____ the great white shark, only its underside is white or pale. Its back is normally a dark (38) _____ of grey. The two (39) _____ go along the side of the fish in a ragged line. This varies from shark to shark. This (40) _____ enhances camouflage but it also helps scientists to recognize individual sharks.

- | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| (a) feature | (d) takes | (g) called | (j) family | (m) locating |
| (b) small | (e) top | (h) fixing | (k) preference | (n) food |
| (c) side | (f) joined | (i) colours | (l) attuned | (o) shade |

Section D – Editing (20 marks)

Carefully read the two texts below.

The first text is about the history of the Olympics. For eight of the lines, there is one grammatical error in each line. There are two more lines with no errors.

If there is NO error in the line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided. The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

Example,

He set off at his journey last night.

_____ on _____

My father left for his business trip.

_____ ✓ _____

The first Olympic Games was recorded as being held in 776 BCE.	
However, it is general believed that the games had been going on	41. _____
for many years before that. The Olympics Games then was held	42. _____
every four years until the Roman emperor, Theodosius I, abolish the	43. _____
Games. It was only approximate after 1500 years that a Frenchman	44. _____
named Pierre de Coubertin tried to revived the Olympic Games by	45. _____
attempt to invoke France’s interest in sports. He saw the Games as	46. _____
a vehicle to promote understand among cultures. Coubertin	47. _____
eventually found success as a conference was set up in which	48. _____
delegates voted unanimously of the Olympic Games to be held.	49. _____
Coubertin’s effort was pivot in the founding of the modern Olympic	50. _____
Games.	

The second text is about computer games. For eight of the lines, there is one grammatical error in each line. There are two more lines with no errors.

If there is NO error in the line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided. The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

Example,

He set off at his journey last night.

_____ on _____

My father left for his business trip.

_____ ✓ _____

Parents are cautious about allowing their children to play computer games. Like any other activity, there should be the limit as to how long	51. _____
the activity should continue. However, placing a limit on an activity	52. _____
does not implied that the activity has a negative impact on the player.	53. _____
Arguments for or against computer games have been taking place for	54. _____
several years albeit without a firm concluding. No one is completely	55. _____
convinced that computer games bring nothing or negative effects since	56. _____
they can improve hand-eye coordinating, memory and problem-solving	57. _____
ability. But use time must be monitored for the players are young and	58. _____
impressionable. Guidelines will guide these children on how is right and	59. _____
wrong behavior and it is only when such guidelines were enforced can	60. _____
the children truly benefit from playing computer games.	

Section E – Reading Comprehension (10 marks)

The text below is about water scarcity.

Read it carefully and answer questions 31 – 35.

1	Half a century ago, the city of Mo'ynoq in Uzbekistan was located on the shores of the Aral Sea, formerly one of the four largest lakes in the world, and sustained a large fishing community. Today, the Aral Sea has receded 150 kilometres, converting a once thriving port city into a desert and ship graveyard where boats rust. It is now known as the city of dead ships. What happened? Could this man-made disaster have been averted?	5
2	In the 1960s, Uzbekistan was under the control of the Soviet Union. Due to industrialisation, the Soviet Union divert much of the water in the Aral Sea to irrigation projects and the cotton industry. The water flowing into the lake decreased, and the shoreline receded more and more until finally the lake literally disappeared. The Aral Sea in 1960 had an area of 68000 square kilometres. This ecological disaster is considered one of the worst created by humans. This devastating tragedy has resulted in many of Mo'ynoq's residents losing their livelihoods and being forced to leave the area as it has become inhospitable. The summers became excessively hot, the winters bitterly cold, and dust storms cause serious chronic health problems.	10 15
3	Without a doubt, fresh water is the world's most precious resource that needs to be protected. Only 2.5 per cent of the world's water is fresh water, and only 1 per cent of the world's water is easily accessible. With an exploding world population of 7 billion and ever increasing, the need for clean water is of immense importance. Consequently, disputes over water have broken out in many countries. In 2013, a land and water dispute occurred in Central Asia where Kyrgyz villagers in Kyrgyzstan blocked a canal to prevent water flowing to farmers in Kazakhstan. In the Middle East, Syria experienced many droughts which affected the crops and this exacerbated its political situation, leading to more political unrest and violence.	20 25
4	Scientists have come up with a way to measure water scarcity. Water stress occurs when annual water supplies decrease to less than 1700 cubic metres per person, while water scarcity occurs when annual water supplies drop to less than 1000 cubic metres per person. Countries in arid regions such as the Middle East are more likely to experience water scarcity as the geography and landscape of these regions lead to little rain and high levels of evaporation.	30
5	Water scarcity can be categorised into physical water scarcity, economic water scarcity and little or no water scarcity. Countries with heavy rainfall or located in regions with mountains and rivers usually do not have a problem with water scarcity. Some examples of these countries are the United States of America, Canada, Indonesia and Thailand.	35
6	But even in areas where water is abundant, physical scarcity can occur because of overuse. The Colorado river basin in the USA is experiencing water stress because of damming. This has resulted in water shortages downstream in the lower basins of Arizona, Nevada and California. The depletion is so severe that the river dries up in Mexico and does not even reach the ocean. Physical scarcity therefore occurs when the quantity of water is insufficient to meet the demand. According to the United Nations, this phenomenon affects around 1.2 billion people, with 500 million more at risk.	40
7	Economic scarcity of water occurs when people or countries lack the human, economic, institutional and political capabilities to access water, even when there is a sufficient natural supply. Currently, 1.6 billion people suffer from economic	45

	scarcity of water and they are mainly located in developing countries, specifically in Africa, Asia and South America. The lack of access to water is often accompanied by a similar lack of access to sanitation, creating a vicious cycle of disease, poverty and death.	50
8	The relationship between water and economic growth of a country cannot be underestimated. Water is important not just for life, but for creation of energy. Many countries build dams to generate electricity for their industries. The benefits of dams are that they can be used to create a constant supply of electricity and the water can be used for irrigation purposes for farming. In flood-prone areas, a dam can actually be used to manage excessive water build-up. Dams can also provide drinking water to the public. In addition, the dams themselves usually become tourist attractions.	55
9	However, there is a cost to building dams. Because the water is forcibly withheld and controlled by humans, low lying areas that depend on the river for water may suffer. Native plants, birds and fish may die off due to the irregular water flow. In the case of the Three Gorges dam in China, 1.3 million people were displaced. An estimated one hundred over towns were “drowned” by the river when the dam was created. Many farmers were forced to leave their farms and move to less fertile lands. The dam is one and a half miles wide and six hundred feet high and the reservoir is 400 miles long. It is a remarkable feat of engineering that has brought electricity and hence economic growth to many towns and cities in China. However, whether the dam will have more advantages or disadvantages in the long run remains to be seen. Water scarcity is a serious issue that governments will need to address in the years to come.	60 65 70

61.	What caused the once thriving port city in the Aral Sea to turn into a desert? (a) The boats started to rust, leaving the fishermen jobless. (b) The Mo'ynoq residents moved to another city. (c) There was political unrest and violence in the region. (d) The water from the sea was used for irrigation and other industrial purposes.	()
-----	--	-----

62.	Why does the author state that the “need for clean water is of immense importance”? (line 20) (a) Disputes over water have resulted in wars and the loss of lives. (b) Clean water is easily available to most people around the world. (c) The world’s population is increasing and the amount of clean fresh water is limited. (d) Dust storms have emerged as a serious threat to the lives of people.	()
-----	---	-----

63.	How is water essential to the economic growth of a country? (a) The Colorado river basin in the USA is experiencing water stress. (b) Without water, sanitation can be a big problem for people. (c) Water is essential for plants and animals to survive. (d) Water is used to generate electricity to meet the residential and commercial needs.	()
-----	--	-----

64.	<p>Which one of the following statements is true?</p> <p>(a) The current water supply is sufficient to meet the demand of the world's population.</p> <p>(b) Countries in the Middle East do not suffer from water scarcity.</p> <p>(c) Physical scarcity will not occur in places where water is abundant.</p> <p>(d) Building dams is one of the more effective ways to generate electricity.</p>	()
-----	---	-----

65.	<p>Which one of the following is a negative implication that could occur with the construction of dams?</p> <p>(a) Water for farming is limited due to the construction of dams.</p> <p>(b) Dams become tourist attractions.</p> <p>(c) People can be displaced from their homes due to the abnormal river flow.</p> <p>(d) Political unrest and violence always happen as a result of the construction of dams.</p>	()
-----	--	-----

End of Paper