

--

**Singapore Polytechnic  
Specimen English Language Entrance Test**

**Time: 2 hours (120 minutes)**

**Name (in English):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name (in Chinese characters):** \_\_\_\_\_

**ID No.:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions to Candidates**

1. This test consists of **four sections**. You have two hours to complete the test. Answer all the questions. Read quickly through the test paper from the beginning to the end to know what is in the different sections before you start.
2. Try to keep within the time given for each section.

Section I	- Structures	(20 marks)	( 15 minutes )
Section II	- Reading Comprehension	(20 marks)	( 35 minutes )
Section III	- Cloze Test	(20 marks)	( 30 minutes )
Section IV	- Free Writing	(20 marks)	( 40 minutes )

3. Sections I and II  
For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer from the four alternatives given as “a”, “b”, “c”, and “d” and write the letter in the brackets provided. For example:

Students \_\_\_\_\_ lectures from Monday to Friday.

- |    |              |    |         |       |
|----|--------------|----|---------|-------|
| a. | attending    | c. | attend  |       |
| b. | are attended | d. | attends | ( c ) |

For other types of questions, follow the instructions given in each section.

4. Section III  
Write your answer in the space provided. .
5. Section IV  
Write your answer in the space provided.
6. After the test, hand in the question paper to the invigilator.

**DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE OR LOOK AT THE QUESTIONS  
UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.**

**SECTION I – STRUCTURES** (20 marks)

**Questions 1 – 10** (10 marks)

Choose the most suitable option for each blank in the passage, and write the letter in the brackets provided.

Dear Mr Froyd

I 1 to you for advice on how to persuade my husband 2 a family. There is nothing physically wrong with either of us that would prevent us 3 having children. My husband assures me that he loves me and that he really does want to start a family eventually. 4 , as I see it, my husband is a perfectionist in his way, and he says that we will not have children until we can afford it financially.

When I point 5 to him that we both earn high salaries and 6 our own house and car, he says that it is a question of 7 sure of the deeper security that only money and social respect can bring. He argues that he would not want his children to suffer hardships or 8 socially acceptable 9 the lack of money.

What can I do? I'm thirty years old. I'm afraid I'll soon be 10 to enjoy being a mother. I know that for me, money is no substitute for the happiness of having a child.

Yours sincerely  
Anguished

- |                       |                   |     |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----|
| 1. a. have written    | c. am writing     |     |
| b. wrote              | d. was writing    | ( ) |
| 2. a. for starting    | c. that starts    |     |
| b. to start           | d. with starting  | ( ) |
| 3. a. from            | c. with           |     |
| b. to                 | d. for            | ( ) |
| 4. a. On the contrary | c. In other words |     |
| b. Nevertheless       | d. Hence          | ( ) |
| 5. a. this            | c. down           |     |
| b. at                 | d. out            | ( ) |
| 6. a. have            | c. are having     |     |
| b. have had           | d. had            | ( ) |
| 7. a. he wants to be  | c. we are         |     |
| b. his being          | d. we will be     | ( ) |
| 8. a. would not be    | c. not have to be |     |
| b. will not be        | d. not be         | ( ) |
| 9. a. because they    | c. because of     |     |
| b. because for        | d. because        | ( ) |
| 10. a. too old        | c. very old       |     |
| b. quite old          | d. old            | ( ) |





Questions 21 - 30

Choose the most suitable option for each question, and write the letter in the brackets provided.

21. People from different countries often misunderstand each other because they \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. do not like to learn each other's language
  - b. fear foreign influence and domination
  - c. do not share a common language
  - d. are unable to master a common language ( )
22. Many linguists have tried to invent artificial languages because \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. they think existing languages are too difficult to learn
  - b. it is part of their work to do so
  - c. they want to construct a language as beautiful as Latin
  - d. they believe that only an artificial language will be accepted as a common language by everybody ( )
23. The words "this problem" in Line 6 refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. the communication problem among people of differing nationalities
  - b. the problem of international travel
  - c. the problem of constructing a new language
  - d. the fear of foreign domination ( )
24. The words "Aware of this difficulty" in Line 8 refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. the difficulty of making people accept an existing language as a common language
  - b. the difficulty of reintroducing Latin in schools
  - c. the difficulty of learning a new language
  - d. the difficulty of finding enough teachers to teach an artificial language ( )
25. The words "language of this sort" in Line 10 refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. a language as old as Latin
  - b. a language with very simple grammar
  - c. a neutral language with no political overtones
  - d. any of the major existing languages ( )
26. Which one of the following statements is true?
- a. No linguist has succeeded in constructing an artificial language.
  - b. Artificial languages were popular at first but died out like Latin later.
  - c. Although artificial languages are easy to learn, few people are interested in learning them.
  - d. Many linguists use artificial languages among themselves today. ( )
27. The main reason why all artificial languages have failed is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. they do not have any literature of their own
  - b. they are all too childish for intelligent adults
  - c. people cannot decide which one to choose
  - d. English already serves as an international language ( )

28. What would happen to an artificially constructed language after constant use over a long period of time?
- It would develop into a scientific language.
  - It would become a dead language like Latin.
  - It would become a truly world language.
  - It would develop many different variations. ( )
29. Which one of the following statements is NOT true about an artificial language?
- Its words have fixed meanings.
  - It is simple but has richness and depth.
  - It is good for scientific publications.
  - It is easy to learn. ( )
30. A suitable title for the passage would be \_\_\_\_\_.
- Linguists are Strange Creatures
  - The History of Artificial Languages
  - Latin and the Middle Ages
  - Why All Artificial Languages Have Failed ( )

Reading Text 2 (10 marks)

**Self-Access (SA) Programme Briefing Guide**

**Scheduled Briefings**

The City Polytechnic offers a Self Access (SA) programme for all its Full-time students. Briefing sessions are conducted to inform all first-year students about the programme, but logistical constraints do not allow for all classes to be scheduled for briefings. Thus, only 130 classes have been timetabled for a half-hour briefing each. The briefings usually spread over two weeks. The briefing schedule is available at the Self Access Centre (SAC) for students' reference. The briefing covers two main areas:

*Self Access Facilities*  
*The Self Access Programme*

**1. Self Access Facilities**

- The Self Access Facilities consist of two rooms: the Self-access Centre (SAC) and the Self-access Interactive Language Learning Laboratory (SAIL).
- At the Self Access facilities, students are encouraged to learn language and communication skills on their own, in their own time, and at their own pace.
- What's available at the SAC:
  - SA worksheets
  - GCE "O" Level Package
  - Reading Corner
  - Multi-purpose room

- What's available at SAIL:
  - Personal computers (PCs)/ CD-ROMs/Internet
  - TV sets and Video Players (for training and entertainment videotapes)
  - Tape recorders

## **2. The SA Programme**

### Who Is Eligible

All students are encouraged to participate in the programme. Students who are taking an English Language module in Year 1 and feel they need more help or practice in English Language are strongly recommended to do SA work. International students are especially welcome to enrol in the programme.

### How Long It Takes

Students can take two semesters to complete a module, if they are not able to do it in one. Each module comprises about 20 hours of work.

### What Students Can Do There

Students may choose to work on any one of the following modules:

- **Learn Better** (for developing study skills)
- **Write Better** (for developing writing skills)
- **Read Better** (for developing reading skills)
- **Better Grammar** (for developing a knowledge and understanding of essential grammar rules)
- **Listen Better** (for developing listening comprehension skills)
- **Better Vocabulary** (for developing vocabulary)

Students on the SA Programme are required to make appointments to meet teacher helpers once a fortnight to discuss their work. When they complete the SA module, they will be awarded with two co-curriculum activity points. They will also be given a Certificate of Completion.

### Questions 31 - 35

Say whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F). Write your answers (T) or (F) in the brackets provided.

31. At the Self-Access Centre, each class is briefed for half an hour each day for a period of two weeks. ( )
32. Students can find out when these briefings take place at the Self-Access Centre. ( )
33. At the Self-Access Centre students can do language worksheets to improve their English Language. ( )
34. Students may take three semesters to complete a module if they cannot finish it in time. ( )
35. Students are not allowed to watch a movie or musical show at the Self-Access Centre. ( )

### Questions 36- 40

Based on what you have read in the text above, complete the sentences in Section A with the most suitable option from Section B. Write the letter in the brackets provided.

#### Section A

36. If you are a second or third year student \_\_\_\_\_ ( )
37. Classes are not scheduled for students at the Self Access Centre because \_\_\_\_\_ ( )
38. At the Self-Access Centre, you can improve on your areas of weakness.  
This is because \_\_\_\_\_ ( )
39. You must meet with the teacher helper regularly because \_\_\_\_\_ ( )
40. A certificate of completion shows that \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

#### Section B

- a. you need someone to advise and help you.
- b. you can go to Self-access Interactive Language Learning Laboratory and use the computers there any time.
- c. you have enrolled in the programme and done the required amount of work.
- d. you are supposed to work on the programme whenever you have some free time.
- e. the Self-Access Centre cannot schedule you for the programme.
- f. you can choose the module that suits you.
- g. you can complete the work and get a certificate.
- h. you are also eligible to enrol for the Self-Access programme.

### **SECTION III – CLOZE TEST** (20 marks)

Fill each blank in the passage with the most suitable word.

A daughter complained to her father about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved a new one arose.

Her father, a chef, (41) \_\_\_\_\_ her to the kitchen. He filled three pots (42) \_\_\_\_\_ water and placed each on a high fire. (43) \_\_\_\_\_ the pots came to a boil. In one (44) \_\_\_\_\_, he placed carrots, in the second he placed eggs, (45) \_\_\_\_\_ the last he placed ground coffee beans. He (46) \_\_\_\_\_ them sit and boil, without saying a word.

(47) \_\_\_\_\_ daughter sucked her teeth and impatiently waited, wondering (48) \_\_\_\_\_ he was doing. In about twenty minutes he (49) \_\_\_\_\_ off the burners. He fished the carrots out (50) \_\_\_\_\_ placed them in a bowl. He took the (51) \_\_\_\_\_ out and placed them in a bowl. Then he (52) \_\_\_\_\_ the coffee out and placed it in a (53) \_\_\_\_\_.

Turning to his daughter, he asked, "Darling, what do (54) \_\_\_\_\_ see. "Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied. He (55) \_\_\_\_\_ her closer and asked her to feel the (56) \_\_\_\_\_. She did and noted that they were soft. (57) \_\_\_\_\_ then asked her to take an egg and (58) \_\_\_\_\_ it. After peeling off the shell, she observed (59) \_\_\_\_\_ hard-boiled egg inside. Finally, he asked her to (60) \_\_\_\_\_ the coffee. She smiled as she tasted its (61) \_\_\_\_\_ aroma.

She humbly asked, "What does it mean, (62) \_\_\_\_\_?" He explained that each of them had faced (63) \_\_\_\_\_ same adversity, boiling water, but each reacted differently.

(64) \_\_\_\_\_ carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. But (65) \_\_\_\_\_ being subjected to the boiling water, it softened (66) \_\_\_\_\_ became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its (67) \_\_\_\_\_ outer shell had protected its liquid interior. But (68) \_\_\_\_\_ sitting through the boiling water, its inside became (69) \_\_\_\_\_. The ground coffee beans were unique however. After (70) \_\_\_\_\_ had been in the boiling water, they had changed the (71) \_\_\_\_\_.

"Which are you," he asked his daughter. "When (72) \_\_\_\_\_ knocks on your door, how do you respond? (73) \_\_\_\_\_ you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee (74) \_\_\_\_\_?"

Are you the carrot that seems hard, but (75) \_\_\_\_\_ pain and adversity it wilts, becomes soft and loses (76) \_\_\_\_\_ strength? Are you the egg which starts off (77) \_\_\_\_\_ a

soft heart, but having experienced suffering, becomes (78) \_\_\_\_\_ and stiff? Your shell looks the same, but (79) \_\_\_\_\_ you bitter and tough with a stiff spirit (80) \_\_\_\_\_ heart? Or are you like the coffee beans which change the hot water, the thing that is bringing the pain. When the water gets the hottest, the coffee just tastes better. If you are like the beans, when things are at their worst, you get better and make things better around you. So, how do you handle adversity and what are you?

**SECTION IV – FREE WRITING** ( 20 marks )

In the past two years, there have been many rumours and stories about your Government building a dam. Yesterday, the Minister of Water and Power announced that his Ministry had finalised plans to build a huge dam in the valley you live. The hope is that the dam will be able to generate electricity for the farming communities that live nearby and for the cities within the state. The Minister has said that the new dam will supply power to three million homes. In fact, the World Bank has loaned your country US\$ 2 billion for this project.

Although you understand the benefits that a dam will have, you are very worried about the project. As a leader of the community, write a letter to your local newspaper expressing your views and concern. You may use any or all of the points given below. Remember that your tone must be formal.

- damage to the surrounding forests and wild-life
- loss of farming land
- loss of villages in the valley
- relocation of many families from the valley
- advantages – too far in the future

The length of your writing should be about 200 words. Write in the space provided below.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

