



Student Name _____

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH EMPOWER

B2 READING / USE OF ENGLISH COMPETENCY TEST

Mid-Course Test

Time 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

Do not open this question paper until you are told to do so.

Write your name on this question paper.

Read the instructions for each part of the paper carefully.

Answer all the questions.

Write your answers on the question paper.

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

There are four parts to this test.

Each question carries one mark.

Part 1

Questions 1 – 10

Read the text below and choose the correct answer for each gap.

Robin Knox-Johnson

It's 45 years since Sir Robin Knox-Johnson became the first person to sail non-stop around the world on his own. This November, aged 75, he will once again be competing alone in a 3,500-mile transatlantic race. Sir Robin talks about his feelings and experiences as he prepares to sail again:

I can't get **(1)** how excited I am about this race. Everything's changed since I started out. These days, unlike 45 years ago, technology means you can check how everyone else is doing in the race, and this **(2)** the choices you make. I keep a close eye on the race and, if I see a competitor has done better than me in the last six hours, it makes me more **(3)** to succeed. If I have done better than them, it **(4)** a positive effect on my attitude and my **(5)** during the race. It's important not to get **(6)** away, though, as the situation can change quickly.

Sailing alone is **(7)** – it really stretches you. You have to have the strength of mind and body to **(8)** to do everything on your own. There's always luck when you are racing but, in many ways, you are responsible **(9)** your own luck. With ocean racing, it's all about the weather: if you make a mistake with the wind patterns, for example, you can soon **(10)** into trouble.

- 1 **A** off **B** out **C** back **D** over
- 2 **A** affects **B** causes **C** results **D** leads
- 3 **A** stubborn **B** determined **C** ambitious **D** passionate
- 4 **A** has **B** puts **C** makes **D** does
- 5 **A** profession **B** training **C** activity **D** performance
- 6 **A** taken **B** carried **C** moved **D** lifted
- 7 **A** awkward **B** delicate **C** demanding **D** tricky
- 8 **A** manage **B** get **C** achieve **D** reach
- 9 **A** of **B** to **C** for **D** by
- 10 **A** find **B** get **C** lead **D** become

Part 2

Questions 11 – 15

Read the text. Think of the word which best fits each gap. Write **ONE** word for each gap.

People often ask me why I try to live an environmentally friendly life. My answer's always the same: unless we change the way we live, we'll destroy the world forever. Before I changed my lifestyle I **(11)** never thought how everything we do affects the world around us. Before I **(12)** to throw so much away. Now I stop and ask myself **(13)** I actually need something before I buy it. I **(14)** also made other simple changes, like using less plastic and supporting local businesses. I **(15)** not be able to save the world on my own, but I am glad I'm doing what I can. Why don't you join me?

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Part 3**Questions 16 – 20**

Read the text and questions below.

For each question, circle the correct letter **A, B, C** or **D**.

Butterflies: My rediscovered hobby

I spent most of my 20s working in cities and had little time for wildlife. And then, when I was in my 30s, I felt increasingly distant from nature, but anxious to return to it. So I decided to go back to doing something I had enjoyed as a teenager – butterfly spotting. I think butterfly spotting – looking for and recognising different kinds of butterflies – is a wonderful hobby, but as a sensitive teenager, butterfly spotting was a hobby that I kept secret from my friends – it was not exactly cool! But I love butterflies and the way they fly. They are such beautiful insects, of so many colours and sizes and one advantage of getting older is having the confidence to ignore what other people think and, after years living in cities, I wanted to experience the pleasures of this simple activity once again.

It's not such an unusual thing to do. With just 59 butterfly species in Britain it's ideal for a beginner, even one – like me – who set himself the challenging goal of finding and recognising them all. Over the following weeks, this goal guided where and when I walked, forcing me to explore new areas.

At first, I was a little out of practice. It took me ages to identify even a common butterfly and I was close to giving up. Soon, however, the frustration of having to explain to people what I was doing was beaten by my happiness at just being out in the countryside.

There's quite a community of people who share my hobby, but I found being alone out there was far more important. Before too long, I'd found all 59 butterflies, which was very satisfying, but the real point was that I felt so much more comfortable surrounded by nature.

After completing my daytime butterfly search. I decided to do something quite different: to explore the countryside in the evenings and at night and watch night animals properly for the first time. During one of my first nights out, I had a strange feeling that I was being watched. I turned around and saw an owl staring at me with huge, bright, round eyes. It was as still as a statue, but scary! It reminded me that, not so long ago, being aware of other creatures was essential for our survival.

After a while, I realised that I was not really animal watching; I was watching day turn into night, listening to the animals of the day as they were replaced by the creatures of the night, with their strange noises and signals, which I did not understand, but could still enjoy.

Like me, people often feel nervous about nature simply because they don't understand it. Just like running or walking, however, it's easy to learn by doing, without needing formal instruction. I do wish I'd arranged a few trips with local experts just to get me started, though – self-taught knowledge always takes a bit longer to gain!

- 16 The writer now believes looking for butterflies is
- A embarrassing.
 - B sociable.
 - C strange.
 - D enjoyable.
- 17 At the start, the writer set himself a goal which
- A made him discover different places.
 - B took up a lot of time.
 - C was impossible to achieve.
 - D involved a little walking.
- 18 The writer found butterfly spotting difficult at first, because he
- A was lazy.
 - B wasn't used to it.
 - C was stubborn.
 - D wasn't motivated.
- 19 Watching night animals made the writer realise that people
- A are still close to animals in the wild.
 - B needed to know that animals can be dangerous.
 - C are interesting to other animals.
 - D frightened other animals.
- 20 What advice would the writer give to other people who want to do this hobby?
- A study a good butterfly book
 - B take your time
 - C just explore by yourself
 - D go out with a guide

Part 4

Read the texts about five people working with animals and the questions below. For each question choose the correct person. The people may be chosen more than once.

Which person

- | | | |
|--|----|----------------------|
| is pleased with their schedule at work? | 21 | <input type="text"/> |
| says their job was a childhood ambition? | 22 | <input type="text"/> |
| does a job in which the amount of work varies? | 23 | <input type="text"/> |
| always looks forward to going to work? | 24 | <input type="text"/> |
| says communication is an essential skill for their work? | 25 | <input type="text"/> |
| is disappointed by some people's opinion of their work? | 26 | <input type="text"/> |
| says their job is affected by its location? | 27 | <input type="text"/> |
| is afraid of something in their job? | 28 | <input type="text"/> |
| prefers working with a certain kind of animal? | 29 | <input type="text"/> |
| finds it hard to forget about their work? | 30 | <input type="text"/> |

Working with animals

A Veterinary surgeon – Seb Prior

Seb sees a huge variety of creatures in his role as a veterinary surgeon. He says, “Anything can come through the door; you just wouldn’t believe it. We do general pet care and, because the clinic’s so close to a road, I spend lots of time dealing with animals who’ve been hit by cars.

I spend half my day in the clinic and half doing operations, which is a nice mix. I like being able to get out and reach people – being able to talk to them and answer their questions is a huge part of the job. You can be the best surgeon in the world but if you can’t talk to the clients, that’s a huge problem. You need patience and understanding for the people and the animals.”

B Wildlife assistant – Wendy Burrows

Wendy sees all sorts of animals, from garden birds to tiny hedgehogs and fully-grown swans and every day is different, but Wendy’s wildlife centre is particularly busy during the summer months. She looks after up to 500 hedgehogs and their young, who have to reach a certain weight before they can be let go into the wild. Wendy says, “It’s always a lovely moment when this happens, one of the most satisfying parts of the job”, but if this isn’t achieved by September, the hedgehogs have to be kept at the centre over the winter period.”

C Animal care assistant – Anna Lindley

Anna Lindley cares for a wide range of animals, from dogs and cats to birds and mice and it is these smaller animals that give her the greatest satisfaction.

“Ever since I was a child, I’ve loved animals and I hate it that we often don’t pay attention to the small ones.”

Caring for such a range of animals provides an interesting challenge and plenty of work! “With so much to do, I find myself rushing from job to job and never quite keeping up. I love the fact that you never know what you’re going to get, although unfortunately that does mean I sometimes have to deal with a snake, which I find a bit scary!”

D Inspector – Justin Stubbs

“Becoming an animal inspector was something I’d always wanted – along with being a policeman. At first, I had no idea what it involved but actually the job is better than I ever imagined. There’s never a day when I don’t want to go to work. The job is a lot harder than people realise and it can get me down at times. Over the years I’ve had to learn to put it to the back of my mind when I leave at the end of the day, but that’s easier said than done and it’s true to say that a bit of the job always comes home with me. It’s the nature of the job.”

E Vet nurse – Naomi Killingsworth

Naomi works with people as much as animals but not everyone who comes through the hospital doors is as grateful as you might think, as Naomi explains: “Sometimes I wish more people appreciated what we do. We work hard here, but not everyone realises that. Of course there are also many people who couldn’t be more grateful for what we’ve done to help their animals – they make it all worthwhile.”

