

Listening and Reading answer key

TEST 1 Listening

Section 1 Questions 1–10

- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| 1 A | 6 558997 |
| 2 A | 7 257 |
| 3 B | 8 C |
| 4 Upton | 9 B |
| 5 Allesley Road | 10 B |

Section 2 Questions 11–20

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 11, 12 & 13 IN ANY ORDER | 16 Ask the Author |
| C | 17 B |
| D | 18 B |
| F | 19 & 20 IN ANY ORDER |
| 14 (local) history society | B |
| 15 book club | E |

Section 3 Questions 21–30

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 21 Tuesday and Wednesday | 27 A |
| 22 career paths | 28, 29 & 30 IN ANY ORDER |
| 23 company websites | ORDER |
| 24 B | B |
| 25 A | E |
| 26 B | F |

Section 4 Questions 31–40

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| 31 C | 37 domestic (land) animals |
| 32 A | |
| 33 C | 38 & 39 IN ANY ORDER |
| 34 signature | B |
| 35 land or water | C |
| 36 ancient | 40 C |

TEST 1 Reading

Passage 1 Questions 1–14

- | | |
|--------|----------------------|
| 1 v | 8 A |
| 2 vii | 9 A |
| 3 ix | 10 bred |
| 4 viii | 11 agricultural crop |
| 5 iv | 12 man-made |
| 6 C | 13 cautious |
| 7 C | 14 long time |

Passage 2 Questions 15–26

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| 15 TRUE | 17 NOT GIVEN |
| 16 FALSE | 18 TRUE |

- | | |
|--------------|------|
| 19 NOT GIVEN | 23 A |
| 20 C | 24 B |
| 21 A | 25 A |
| 22 B | 26 C |

Passage 3 Questions 27–40

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 27 B | 34 macula |
| 28 E | 35 optic nerve |
| 29 D | 36 (industrialised) world |
| 30 C | 37 younger people |
| 31 F | 38 central vision |
| 32 A | 39 photoreceptor |
| 33 cornea | 40 injecting |

TEST 2 Listening

Section 1 Questions 1–10

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 A | 7 Foxwell Road |
| 2 A | 8 430 |
| 3 C | 9 one / 1 month's |
| 4, 5 & 6 IN ANY ORDER | 10 445328 |
| B | |
| C | |
| G | |

Section 2 Questions 11–20

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 11 B | A |
| 12 C | D |
| 13 C | E |
| 14 ice pack | 19 days |
| 15 bandage | 20 a / one / 1 week |
| 16, 17 & 18 IN ANY ORDER | |

Section 3 Questions 21–30

- | | |
|------|---------------------|
| 21 C | 26 application form |
| 22 C | 27 topics |
| 23 B | 28 available |
| 24 B | 29 a / one / 1 week |
| 25 A | 30 term |

Section 4 Questions 31–40

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 31 B | 36 feedback |
| 32 C | 37 awareness |
| 33 time | 38 cancelled |
| 34 film credits | 39 rewards |
| 35 large number | 40 new |

TEST 2 Reading

Passage 1 Questions 1-13

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 1 TRUE | 8 visible |
| 2 NOT GIVEN | 9 trees dying/dying trees |
| 3 TRUE | 10 root disease |
| 4 FALSE | 11 genetic tests |
| 5 TRUE | 12 underground |
| 6 FALSE | 13 normal |
| 7 NOT GIVEN | |

Passage 2 Questions 14-26

- | | |
|--------------|------|
| 14 FALSE | 21 B |
| 15 FALSE | 22 A |
| 16 TRUE | 23 C |
| 17 TRUE | 24 A |
| 18 NOT GIVEN | 25 B |
| 19 TRUE | 26 A |
| 20 A | |

Passage 3 Questions 27-40

- | | |
|------|------|
| 27 C | 34 C |
| 28 C | 35 A |
| 29 A | 36 C |
| 30 B | 37 B |
| 31 C | 38 A |
| 32 B | 39 B |
| 33 C | 40 C |

TEST 3 Listening

Section 1 Questions 1-10

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 C | 6 Sinclair |
| 2 B | 7 year |
| 3 A | 8 family |
| 4 20 | 9 monthly / every month |
| 5 24 / twenty-four | 10 membership |

Section 2 Questions 11-20

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 11 C | 16 A |
| 12 & 13 IN ANY ORDER | 17 C |
| B | 18 booked |
| E | 19 materials |
| 14 B | 20 12.30 / twelve thirty |
| 15 D | |

Section 3 Questions 21-30

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 21 B | 27 qualifications / entry requirements |
| 22 C | 28 funding |
| 23 A | 29 internal transfer |
| 24, 25 & 26 IN ANY ORDER | 30 Head of Department |
| A | |
| C | |
| F | |

Section 4 Questions 31-40

- | | |
|------|------|
| 31 B | 36 A |
| 32 A | 37A |
| 33 B | 38 A |
| 34 C | 39 C |
| 35 B | 40 B |

TEST 3 Reading

Passage 1 Questions 1-12

- | | |
|-----------|------------------|
| 1 vi | 7 hypersensitive |
| 2 iii | 8 sensory cortex |
| 3 ix | 9 neurons |
| 4 viii | 10 trimester |
| 5 ii | 11 functions |
| 6 stimuli | 12 B |

Passage 2 Questions 13-26

- | | |
|--------------|------|
| 13 TRUE | 20 B |
| 14 TRUE | 21 A |
| 15 FALSE | 22 A |
| 16 FALSE | 23 C |
| 17 NOT GIVEN | 24 C |
| 18 FALSE | 25 A |
| 19 TRUE | 26 B |

Passage 3 Questions 27-40

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 27 86 / eighty-six billion | 34 G |
| 28 did not grow | 35 F |
| 29 shift (brain) functions | 36 D |
| 30 long-term (memories) | 37 TRUE |
| 31 spatial navigation | 38 NOT GIVEN |
| 32 more developed / better developed | 39 TRUE |
| 33 B | 40 FALSE |

TEST 4 Listening

Section 1 Questions 1-10

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1 1.15 / one fifteen / quarter past one | 6 damaged |
| 2 three / 3 | 7 BYW |
| 3 bicycle / bike | 8 Stansfield |
| 4 town centre | 9 Althorpe Road |
| 5 traffic lights | 10 889772 |

Section 2 Questions 11-20

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 11 A | 17 cooker |
| 12 C | 18 [colder] winter (months) |
| 13 older / old | 19 defrost |
| 14 standby | 20 thirty / 30 |
| 15 more water | |
| 16 a lid on / lids on | |

Section 3 Questions 21–30

- | | |
|------|------|
| 21 B | 26 C |
| 22 A | 27 B |
| 23 A | 28 A |
| 24 C | 29 A |
| 25 C | 30 C |

Section 4 Questions 31–40

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 31 confused | 36 September |
| 32 population(s) | 37 food / feeding |
| 33 location | 38 shipping |
| 34 website | 39 wider |
| 35 west coast | 40 subtropical |

TEST 4 Reading

Passage 1 Questions 1–13

- | | |
|---------------------|------|
| 1 50 | 8 G |
| 2 29.7 kilometres | 9 A |
| 3 20 to 30 / 20–30 | 10 E |
| 4 36.5 | 11 C |
| 5 54,000 kilometres | 12 D |
| 6 1,200 | 13 F |
| 7 B | |

Passage 2 Questions 14–26

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 14 A | 20 high-tech |
| 15 B | 21 range of punishments |
| 16 D | 22 waste collection |
| 17 D | 23 fine |
| 18 best (environmental) option | 24 landfill sites |
| 19 coherent strategy | 25 burning |
| | 26 D |

Passage 3 Questions 27–40

- | | |
|------|------|
| 27 E | 34 C |
| 28 A | 35 B |
| 29 D | 36 A |
| 30 B | 37 C |
| 31 F | 38 C |
| 32 C | 39 B |
| 33 C | 40 A |

GENERAL TRAINING TEST A Reading

Section 1 Questions 1–14

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1 FALSE | 5 NOT GIVEN |
| 2 TRUE | 6 TRUE |
| 3 NOT GIVEN | 7 FALSE |
| 4 TRUE | 8 TRUE |

- | | |
|------|------|
| 9 D | 12 A |
| 10 H | 13 E |
| 11 F | 14 C |

Section 2 Questions 15–26

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 15 FALSE | 22 coin toss |
| 16 NOT GIVEN | 23 rotation |
| 17 TRUE | 24 sweeping |
| 18 NOT GIVEN | 25 centre circle |
| 19 FALSE | 26 strategy |
| 20 TRUE | |
| 21 two / 2 hours | |

Section 3 Questions 27–40

- | | |
|--------------|---------|
| 27 NOT GIVEN | 34 TRUE |
| 28 FALSE | 35 A |
| 29 NOT GIVEN | 36 B |
| 30 FALSE | 37 A |
| 31 FALSE | 38 C |
| 32 TRUE | 39 B |
| 33 TRUE | 40 B |

GENERAL TRAINING TEST B Reading

Section 1 Questions 1–14

- | | |
|---------|--------------|
| 1 vii | 8 NOT GIVEN |
| 2 ii | 9 TRUE |
| 3 vi | 10 NOT GIVEN |
| 4 i | 11 TRUE |
| 5 ix | 12 FALSE |
| 6 iii | 13 TRUE |
| 7 FALSE | 14 FALSE |

Section 2 Questions 15–25

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 15 ii | 21 NOT GIVEN |
| 16 i | 22 TRUE |
| 17 viii | 23 staff development form |
| 18 iv | 24 purchase request |
| 19 iii | 25 expense claim |
| 20 FALSE | |

Section 3 Questions 26–40

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 26 TRUE | 34 pits |
| 27 TRUE | 35 one / 1 mile |
| 28 NOT GIVEN | 36 sealed |
| 29 TRUE | 37 earthquakes |
| 30 TRUE | 38 over-reliance |
| 31 FALSE | 39 (real) issue |
| 32 FALSE | 40 bridge |
| 33 high pressure | |

Writing: model answers

Test 1 Task 1

These two graphs offer an interesting comparison of the growth in wages in G7 nations between two different time periods.

The first graph looks at the years 2000–2007. For several countries, wages fluctuated year by year with small increases followed by equally small falls in income. For example, Italy saw slight increases of just below 0.5% in 2000 and 2001, followed by falls of a similar amount in 2002 and 2003, before picking up again in 2005, 2006 and 2007 with rises of around 2%, 1% and 0.5% respectively. In comparison, the UK, the USA and Canada witnessed wage growth in most years, with the UK hitting almost 5% in 2000. 2005 was the only year when a slight fall was registered. These figures contrast sharply with those shown in the graph for 2008–2012, particularly for the UK and the USA. During this period in the UK, four of the five years witnessed wage decreases of between 1.5% to over 2%. Similarly, wage increases in the USA were smaller, with two years showing slight falls.

The figures seem to reflect the changing economic conditions that emerged following the financial crisis of 2007 and suggest that this had a significant impact on wages, particularly in the UK and USA.

Test 1 Task 2

It goes without saying that the car has become an essential mode of transport both for commuting and leisure purposes. We have become dependent on it precisely because of its convenience. With no need to wait at cold bus stops or train stations, motorists can start their journey a few steps from their front door.

However, this convenience has had serious consequences. As people have become more affluent, the number of cars on the road has increased year on year. As a result, traffic congestion has led to huge sums of money being spent on road building programmes, which in turn has had an impact on the natural environment. Moreover, despite the introduction of cleaner, lead-free fuel and the promise of electric cars, air quality in major cities continues to suffer from air pollution caused by toxic fumes from cars. Add to this the injuries and deaths caused by road traffic accidents, and it quickly becomes apparent that policy-makers need to address these negative consequences.

There are steps governments could and should take to alleviate these problems. Firstly, public transport should be improved to such an extent that catching a bus or train becomes almost as convenient as travelling by car. Secondly, commuters should be encouraged to car-share with people who make the same journey. Fuel costs are a major drain on household incomes and motorists would hopefully appreciate the benefit of sharing these costs.

Clearly, measures like these will not lead to a major decline in the use of the car but they may help us reduce the number of car journeys made.

Test 2 Task 1

The graph shows the various reasons the business community made use of social media during 2012. Businesses are categorised in terms of size of the organisation, ranging from those with over 1,000 employees down to small companies with 10–49 workers.

Firstly, it would appear that the bigger a business is, the more likely it is to have a social media presence. Whether the purpose is to exchange information within the business itself, to recruit employees or to promote

the organisation or its products, large businesses make a greater use of this technology. Secondly, while small businesses make use of social media for a wide range of reasons, they use them particularly for promotional purposes or to interact with customers. Over 30 per cent of small businesses will use them to promote their products or services, whereas nearly 70 per cent of larger companies will do the same.

The results perhaps indicate that while all companies make use of this technology for a variety of reasons, larger companies have greater resources available to maintain a social media presence or are more aware of the benefits it can bring.

Test 2 Task 2

We are currently living in an era when job opportunities are limited and there is a high level of competition for any vacancies that become available. As a result, employers can demand more in the way of skills and experience from applicants, which can lead to young people being turned down in favour of people with more experience.

There is certainly evidence in my own country to support this situation. When employment statistics are published, youth unemployment is always a particular concern, with numbers remaining stubbornly high. In addition, young people who are fortunate enough to find work are often in short-term jobs that offer little in the way of career progression. This situation is aggravated by the fact that older people who have been made redundant or who have only semi-retired are also actively seeking employment. Indeed, several major businesses, particularly those in the service sector, are keen to employ more mature people since they feel the older generation have better customer service skills as well as years of experience behind them.

Clearly, it is necessary that society should provide work for all who need it and it would be wrong to discriminate against someone on the basis of their age. However, I do feel that younger people need to be given the opportunity to develop the skills and experience they need to get them started in the field of work. For this reason, I believe companies should be encouraged not only to employ younger people but also to provide appropriate training and career progression so that youngsters do not find themselves trapped in dead-end jobs.

Test 3 Task 1

This line graph shows the amount of money in billions of pounds spent by people from the UK on visits abroad from 1993–2013.

By far and away the largest sum of money was spent on travel, which has experienced a huge growth and reflects the growing popularity of overseas holidays. In fact, between 1993 and 2008, expenditure on travel almost tripled from nine billion to almost 27 billion pounds. There was a sharp fall in 2009 to just over 21 billion, with figures stabilising over the next few years. However, there were signs of growth again in 2013 to 24 billion pounds.

Expenditure in other areas has been far more stable during this twenty-year period. Money spent on visiting friends or relatives rose gradually from around one billion pounds in 1993 to approximately five billion in 2013. The amount spent on business since 2000 has had a gradual increase with minor fluctuations, but since 2008 has remained fairly steady at around five billion pounds.

Test 3 Task 2

Huge efforts are made by national bodies to be selected as the host of a sporting event like the Olympics as this is seen by many as an opportunity for economic growth. However, opponents argue that this can be a waste of money that could be better spent on much needed public services.

Hosting a major sporting event certainly offers the chance for huge investment in the transport and general infrastructure that large-scale events require, and these can have real long-term benefits for the country concerned. In addition, there are significant opportunities for job creation, and in the case of the 2012 London Olympics, for example, a deprived area of the city was regenerated. It is also claimed that hosting an event can lead to increased tourism and can give the country the chance to show off its organisational and creative talent, which in turn may lead to future business and investment opportunities.

However, opponents argue that similar outcomes could be achieved for far less cost. They argue that investment in infrastructure should not depend on whether or not the country hosts a major event, and improvements should be carried out as and where needed. They also point to the huge costs of laying on security as well as the disruption such an event can cause to businesses. Moreover, opponents also question the benefits to tourism, arguing that people uninterested in the event can actually be put off from visiting the country.

In my opinion, hosting an event of this size does seem to be very popular with local people, and if long-term benefits can be gained, then it would appear to be a project worth participating in.

Test 4 Task 1

The infographics examine the numbers of people in employment in the UK in 2013, categorised by their proficiency in English.

Almost 28 million people between the ages of 16 to 64 are employed. Being in employment is heavily dependent upon a person's ability to use English proficiently. For example, nearly 72 per cent of native speakers will have jobs compared to 65 per cent of those who are proficient in English, and as low as 48 per cent for people who do not use English well. Men are far more likely to be employed than women, particularly amongst the non-proficient group, where twice as many men will be in paid work.

In terms of entering a professional occupation, people proficient in English have almost the same opportunities as native speakers, with around 17 per cent of these people featuring in this category. In contrast, the majority of non-proficient English speakers enter work defined as elementary, which is presumably unskilled work, but with a sizable minority (21 per cent) having a skilled trade.

Test 4 Task 2

Taxation is and always has been a major issue that divides people and is often what distinguishes one political party and ideology from another. Since few people enjoy having a significant chunk of their income stopped at source, the electorate will consequently often look favourably on politicians who promise to keep taxes low. Indeed, it is a brave political leader who proposes to raise taxes when standing for election.

In my view, taxation is essential if key services are to be provided but it is also something that needs to be more transparent. For example, there are certain services we all use to a greater or lesser extent. These services include everything from street cleaning to social services, from education to crime prevention. We all need the local council to remove our garbage and the police to keep our streets and ourselves safe. Taxation would appear to be the most effective way of paying for these services.

However, it is clearly a challenge to make people feel that the tax system is fair and works for the benefit of individuals and society in general. I feel that the answer lies in accountability. Technology is such today that we should be able to keep track of how governments and local councils are spending the money they raise from taxation and we should be able to hold them to account if money is not spent properly. This will not stop the debate over high or low taxation, but it will at least make what happens to the money we pay more transparent.

General Training Test A Task 1

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in connection with some problems I have had regarding the leather sofa I recently ordered from your store.

To begin with, I was informed that the sofa would be delivered on Thursday between 9 and 12 a.m. However, the sofa did not arrive until 7.00 p.m., with the result that I had taken a day off work unnecessarily.

When the sofa finally arrived, I noticed several marks on the leather and pointed these out to the delivery man. He claimed these were just marks left by the packaging and would come out if I rubbed them with some cream for leather. However, I have not attempted to remove these marks as I feel this is not something I should be required to do with a new item of furniture.

I would therefore appreciate it if you would send someone to remove these blemishes as soon as possible. I also suggest you introduce a system to inform your customers as soon as possible when a delivery is likely to be delayed.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully,
Ana Boczek

General Training Test A Task 2

In my experience anti-vivisectionists tend to regard animals as having the same rights as human beings and believe they are entitled to be treated equally with ourselves. Not surprisingly, people with this view regard animal experimentation as cruel and exploitative. In addition to these moral arguments, anti-vivisectionists also point to evidence that such research is often worthless. As animals differ from us biologically, they argue that medical research based on animal experimentation will often have limited value.

On the other hand, many people accept such research as a necessary evil and argue that the benefits far outweigh the moral arguments against vivisection. Those holding this view no doubt feel that though animals have a right to be treated well, they do not have equal rights. They would argue that if we value human life more, we have to accept that medical research is dependent on using animals in this way. Without such practices, people would have exposure to drugs and chemicals that have not been tested beforehand.

This is a very emotive subject, but in my view, experimentation on animals, if carried out responsibly, is necessary for medical progress. As a society, if we are happy to eat meat, fish and poultry, it is difficult to argue against exploiting animals in other ways. With strict laws in place to control animal experimentation, I would hope animals are treated humanely and suffering is kept to an absolute minimum. I would also hope that researchers share their findings widely and avoid replicating experiments unnecessarily.

General Training Test B Task 1

Dear Marc,

I hope you and your family are well. It's fantastic news to hear you're going to be visiting the UK!

You didn't say where you were planning to stay but if you're anywhere near the Midlands, I'd recommend paying a visit to Birmingham. It's my hometown, of course, and also the UK's second city. We have lots of places of interest – museums, art galleries, a fantastic shopping centre and a brand-new central library that will take your breath away!

October and November can be a little chilly, so I'd advise you to bring something warm to wear. We also get a fair bit of rain at that time of year, so you might want to bear that in mind when packing your suitcase.

It would be great to meet up if you do decide to visit Birmingham. But even if you are thinking of another city, perhaps I could travel to meet you wherever you're staying. Let me know what you think.

Best wishes,
Geirant

General Training Test B Task 2

For many, the internet is their first port of call when they are looking for that special new pair of jeans or when they want to book the family holiday. The web not only offers the shopper a huge choice of products from numerous online stores but also the chance to take advantage of the best offers available at prices that will often be much cheaper than on the high street. Perhaps one of the biggest advantages is the opportunity to read feedback from other people who have already purchased the item you are interested in. Whether it is a book you are keen to read, an electrical item or a hotel you are thinking of booking, reviews are a very useful way of making sure you spend your money wisely.

However, shopping online means you forgo the personal touch you get at a high street shop. Moreover, it is not possible to physically handle products, which can be a big disadvantage. For example, shopping for food means you are unable to select the best fruit or vegetables available or check the sell-by or use-by dates. When buying clothes, you can't feel the quality of the material or try an item of clothing on before buying it. Finally, there is the issue of online security, which is a major concern for some people.

The high street offers us the chance to get out of the house and mingle with other people, and I think it would be a great loss if the internet led to the demise of this traditional way of shopping. However, the retail industry will need to adapt if the high street is to survive the revolution brought about by the internet.

Speaking: model answers

Track 29

Test 1 Part 1

In this first part of the exam I'd like to ask you some general questions about yourself. Have you got any hobbies?

Not really, no. But there are things I'd like to do if I had more time, like painting and sketching. I enjoy doing that when I get the chance.

What kind of hobbies did you have when you were younger?

Well, like a lot of young people I used to collect things. I remember being very proud of my stamp collection – and I was obsessed with watching football for a while.

Which hobbies are popular with young people in your country?

To be honest, I don't think we really differ from young people anywhere. We like playing computer games – if you can call that a hobby. Lots of people do sport, but nothing in particular.

Let's talk about your leisure time. How do you usually spend your weekends?

My weekends always start on Friday night, when I go out with my friends to dance. That usually means I get up late on Saturday. I'll often go shopping in the afternoon, and Sundays are usually spent relaxing and getting ready for college the next day.

What's your favourite day of the week?

Friday, definitely. I have quite an easy day at college, so I'm often home by early afternoon, as I said before. I always let my hair down on a Friday night and it's something I look forward to all week.

What do you like to do to relax?

I like to read novels. I find I can get lost in a good story and forget about all the work I've got to do for college. And I always enjoy having my friends round to watch a film.

Test 1 Part 2

I'm going to give you a topic and I'd like you to talk about it for one or two minutes. Before you talk, you have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes if you wish. Here is your topic.

...

OK, well, there are several moments I can think of. But I'd like to talk about something that happened recently as it's still fresh in my mind. This was about six months ago. It was a Saturday afternoon and I remember that it was raining heavily. That was important because it meant Dad didn't go to his football match. Instead, he came into the living room and announced that we should all get our coats on and go to the dog rescue centre to see if there was a dog we liked the look of. I couldn't believe my ears! My sister and I had been trying to persuade Mum and Dad to let us have a pet, and especially a dog, for months. I'd almost given up. It turned out they'd been secretly discussing this and had decided to give it a try. Anyway, you can imagine how exciting it was driving to the centre to pick our new pet. When we arrived, I couldn't believe how many dogs there were to choose from ... all different sizes and breeds ... But the strange thing was ... and what made it so special was that my sister and I both fell in love with one dog in particular. She was very small and was so pleased to see us. Her tail was wagging like mad, and we both fell for her instantly. To cut a long story short, we decided to get Bonnie – that's her name. We had to wait two weeks before we could bring her home, but now she's part of the family.

Test 1 Part 3

We've been talking about the kind of things that get us excited in life. I'd like to discuss this subject with you with some more questions. In general, what gets people excited in their daily lives?

I suppose it depends on your interests, really. I know my friends and I get excited about important sporting events – cup finals, that kind of thing. Getting together with your friends or family on special occasions can be exciting. Maybe it's an event that stands out from the daily routine that can get us excited.

In what ways can sport create thrilling moments for us?

Well, in football, for example, you never know how it's going to end until the whistle goes, so when your team scores near the end of the match and wins the game, it's probably one of the most thrilling moments I can think of, especially if it's an important game. And the fact that you're sharing the moment with others makes it special.

Some people are thrill seekers. What is it that makes them crave excitement?

I'm not a thrill seeker myself, so it's difficult to say. If you mean the kind of people that do extreme sports like bungee jumping or parachuting, I suppose it's about the adrenaline rush you get doing things like that. Perhaps if you've done something like that once, you become addicted to the feeling.

How would you advise someone to get more excitement into their life?

Hmm. That's a tricky question. As I said earlier, perhaps it's about doing different things. We all have our daily routines, and perhaps at the end of the day some people just like to relax and take it easy. Personally, I'd advise them to spend a Saturday at a football match. I'm sure that would work.

Do we get less excited about things as we get older?

Perhaps, yes. When you're young, everything is new or feels fresh – like birthdays, for example. Certainly, the older I get, the less excited I am about my birthday. Again, I think it's about doing something new and different. That can create excitement at any age.

It's often said that it's better to travel than to arrive. What does this mean to you?

Yes, we have a similar expression in my language. It means that the anticipation of something is often better than the thing itself. For example, people often get excited about a new gadget they're saving up for but as soon as they have it in their hands, it feels like a bit of an anti-climax.

Track 30

Test 2 Part 1

In this first part of the exam I'd like to ask you some general questions about yourself. What kind of books do you like to read?

To be honest, I'm not a big reader. I do read but usually when I've got plenty of time to relax. When I go on holiday, for example, then I tend to choose something that's popular at the time – something you find on the shelves in the shops.

Which do you prefer to read, e-books or traditional books?

I haven't bought myself an e-reader yet but I've used my mum's now and again. I can see why they're popular – my mum always says they're great for reading in bed as they're easier to hold.

Have you read any books written in English?

Well, in my English class we've been reading some English short stories, which I've really enjoyed. I think they're made simpler for non-native speakers but they're still interesting and a great way to learn new vocabulary.

Let's talk about your friends. How often do you meet up with your friends?

There are two different groups of people I like to call my friends, some of the people I study with here in the UK ... I see them all the time, of course, and some of us go out in the evening ... and my friends back home. When I'm there, we usually meet up at weekends.

Have you got a best friend?

Yes, I have. I've known Miguel for a long time. We went to primary school together and we've been good friends ever since. We live in the same street as well, so even though we've both left school, we still see each other regularly.

Which qualities do you value most in your friends?

I think the most important thing is that they're honest. If I ask them for advice or for their opinion, I like them to tell me the truth. It's also great if we share some interests so that we can do things together.

Test 2 Part 2

I'm going to give you a topic and I'd like you to talk about it for one or two minutes. Before you talk, you have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes if you wish. Here is your topic.

...

I don't know if this is the most important letter I've ever received but it was so I think it must be significant. It was the letter I received from the education authority to tell me which school I was going to go to when I was eleven years old. I'd finished junior school earlier that summer and I'd chosen the secondary school I wanted to go to. It was a good school and most of my friends had chosen the same place. Obviously, we all wanted to stay together but there was no guarantee that it would turn out that way. My family and I were on holiday when the letters were sent out, so most of my friends knew which school they were going to before I got home. I remember phoning one of them to find out if they'd heard anything and she told me that they'd all got into the same school. I had to wait until we got home to find out if I'd got in too. It was terrible. What made it even worse was that this all happened towards the beginning of the holiday, so I had to wait a whole week until we got back. I can still see the post box when we arrived home. It was full of letters and it took a while to find the one we were looking for. My mum opened it ... I was too nervous to do it myself ... and I remember the big smile she had on her face when she read it. I'd got into the same school as my friends! I was so happy! I think I left my parents to unpack while I went to see my friends to celebrate.

Test 2 Part 3

We've been talking about the subject of letters and communication. I'd like to discuss this subject with you with some more questions. Do you think letters will eventually be completely replaced by electronic mail?

I think they probably will, yes. The only letters I ever receive are official ones. I always communicate with my friends with email or texting. Some of my older relatives occasionally send letters but I don't think it'll be something my generation will do when we get older.

Why might a handwritten letter feel more special to the receiver?

Well, I suppose a handwritten letter is more personal. An email is just a collection of characters; there's nothing special about it. But each word in a letter is unique, if you know what I mean. The letter has been crafted by someone and that makes it of more value or gives it more meaning to the receiver.

Are there some situations where we should still try to write letters with pen and paper?

I think it depends. It's a thoughtful thing to do if you're thanking a relative for a present, for example, an elderly relative who might not use email. They'd appreciate a handwritten letter rather than something typed. But apart from that, I don't think so, really.

Does email make our lives easier?

For social purposes, perhaps yes, and because it's so immediate, it's a useful way to communicate at work. Although having said that, email can also be the cause of stress at work. People expect a reply to an email almost immediately, so if you have lots of emails in your inbox, it can be quite demanding.

In which ways is the written word more powerful than the spoken word?

I think it's because the written word is permanent. Once it's on paper, it kind of exists. The spoken word is gone as soon as it's uttered. Also, we have more time to think about what we write, so that can make it more powerful.

Do you think technological advances mean we have too much communication now?

Yes, I think that's absolutely true. There are so many ways to communicate with people – TV ... online newspapers or blogs ... email and text messaging ... I think we're bombarded with messages now, and a lot of us probably suffer from information overload.

Track 31

Test 3 Part 1

In this first part of the exam I'd like to ask you some general questions about yourself. What kind of music do you like to listen to?

I tend to listen to lots of different types of music, but my favourite is alternative music. I like to listen to tracks that you have to work hard to appreciate.

Do you ever go to concerts or music festivals?

I've been to a couple of festivals with my friends. They took place over two or three days and we all slept in a tent. It was really good – cooking food over a camp fire and staying up late listening to music.

Do you play any instruments yourself?

Unfortunately not. I've often thought about learning to play the guitar, and I've got friends who play who've offered to teach me, so I might take it up one day.

Let's talk about your English studies. Do you enjoy learning another language?

Yes, I do. It's hard work, though, and sometimes I feel like I'm not making progress. But it's also quite exciting when I listen to English or read an English newspaper and find myself understanding most of it.

How long have you been learning English?

For about two years. We started learning it at school long before that but I didn't really take it seriously. However, once I knew I wanted to go to university, I set myself a target of passing an advanced exam.

Are there any languages you would like to learn?

If I had the time and the ability, I'd like to learn a few languages. I was watching a man on the internet who could speak something like ten languages! I might try Chinese next – once I pass my English exams, of course.

Test 3 Part 2

I'm going to give you a topic and I'd like you to talk about it for one or two minutes. Before you talk, you have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes if you wish. Here is your topic.

...

At first, I couldn't think of what to talk about as I'm not the type of person that gets excited about clothes. But then I realised I have a coat that I've been wearing for about two years. It's a three-quarter length coat ... it doesn't quite reach down to my knees. My girlfriend persuaded me to get it when I was going on a trip to Edinburgh and I needed something warm to wear. I'm quite tall, so short jackets don't really suit me and although I'd never owned a coat like this, she promised me I'd fall in love with it. It's really comfortable and keeps me warm on cold winter days. It's dark grey and what I really like about it is it goes with almost anything. If I'm dressed casually in jeans and trainers, it looks good, but if I ever need to dress in something smarter, I can wear it over a suit, for

example. Now, when do I tend to wear it ...? Well, I often put it on when I go shopping but you'll also see me in it if I visit friends or when I go out for the evening. I have to admit my girlfriend was right; whenever I go window shopping for clothes now, I'm always on the lookout for similar coats. Unfortunately, I don't think they're as fashionable as they were two years ago – you don't see quite so many of them around. Anyway, I suppose it's my favourite item of clothing because it was recommended by someone I care about and it's something I like now, but would never have chosen it myself.

Test 3 Part 3

We've been talking about clothes and fashion. I'd like to discuss this subject with you with some more questions. Is it natural that young people should want to dress differently from their parents?

Of course, yes. Part of being a teenager is rebelling against what you see as boring adulthood, and fashion is one way of doing that. The problem is that adults nowadays quickly adopt the style of clothes young people wear, so unless the fashion is outrageous, we all end up looking the same.

What pressures are there on young people to follow the latest fashion?

A lot of pressure! There's the effect of the media and the fashion industry itself. If you go into clothes shops, you can see that they all stock clothes that are in fashion. But more importantly, there's peer group pressure. People tend to fall into line with their friends and end up wearing the same style as their mates.

Are men less concerned about their appearance than women?

Er, possibly, yes ... But I think this is changing. My dad's generation and even more so my granddad's generation weren't that interested in what they wore. When I look at family photos, the men all seem to be wearing similar clothes, but men are much more fashion conscious now.

Is it true that the clothes we wear can make us feel more confident?

Definitely. I think we all have an outfit or an item of clothing we feel good in. It's not just that we think it makes us look good, but that we feel comfortable in it. I have clothes that I like to wear if I have an interview to go to, and other clothes that I'll wear if I'm going out somewhere special.

Is there an age at which people become less interested in keeping up with the latest fashion?

Well, as I said earlier, I think people today are generally more aware of what they look like than previous generations. They say sixty is the new forty, which means people of sixty have the same attitudes that people of forty had years ago. So perhaps it's only very elderly people who feel free to dress how they want.

Does the fashion industry place undue pressure on young people?

In some ways ... Certainly, girls suffer from this, and not just in terms of clothes. I think it's something that affects boys as well, but girls have the added pressure of having a good figure ... having perfect features ... That's why plastic surgery is so popular now. Women are under pressure to look just right.

Track 32

Test 4 Part 1

In this first part of the exam I'd like to ask you some general questions about yourself. Do you live in a busy area?

Yes, yes, I do. My apartment is only a few minutes from a shopping centre, so there are always lots of people walking past my apartment, and the traffic can sometimes be a problem, especially during rush hour.

Do you have all the facilities you need close by?

Yes, I do. As I've just mentioned, we have all the shops we need close by. Not big stores, but food shops, banks ... the kind of shops you need on a daily basis. There's also a great sports centre down the road.

Is it the kind of place where it's easy to get to know your neighbours?

Well, we know our neighbours on one side of our apartment. We always say hello and have a chat if we see each other ... But it's not a close-knit community, so people don't have much to do with each other in general.

Let's talk about your future plans. Do you have any idea of what you will be doing in ten years' time?

Not really. I'll be going to university this summer, so the next four years will be spent studying. After that, who knows? I haven't got any firm career plans yet.

Do you like to make plans for the future?

Definitely not. I think there's a time for that when you're older and you have more responsibility. I suppose I'm planning for my education, but apart from that I'd just like to see what happens.

Are there any big changes about to take place in your life?

Well, I'm sure university will be a big change for me. I'll be moving away from my parents, so I'll be independent for the first time. I'm really excited about that – and a little nervous.

Test 4 Part 2

I'm going to give you a topic and I'd like you to talk about it for one or two minutes. Before you talk, you have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes if you wish. Here is your topic.

...

This is quite a difficult question as there isn't anyone who stands out as having had a big influence – apart from my parents, of course, who've been great. But there was a teacher at secondary school ... I have very fond memories of her and I think she influenced me positively. I lost interest in school when I was about thirteen. I don't know why but I became more interested in music and sport and didn't really pay attention to my studies. My teachers realised this was happening and a lot of them seemed to give up on me, but Mrs Thomas – she taught me Art – really made an effort to get me back on track. To start with, she always insisted I sit at the front of the class, right in front of her desk. You see, one of the things I'd started to do was to sit at the back of the class with my friends and spend the lesson talking and mucking about, so making me sit at the front put a stop to that. She was also really kind. I could see she was on my side, if you know what I mean. She wanted to see me achieve my potential and was prepared to spend time getting me to focus on my studies. I don't know if it was just down to Mrs Thomas, but I did get through that period OK in the end and I got down to work in time to pass my exams. Some of it was down to me but Mrs Thomas helped me make the right decisions.

Test 4 Part 3

We've been talking about the impact that people can have on our lives. I'd like to discuss this subject with you with some more questions. People often say teachers had the biggest impact on their outlook on life. Why might this be?

Well, in my experience the classroom was always somewhere you could discuss issues that you probably wouldn't be bothered to talk about at home, like politics ... the environment ... the subjects you're studying ... And the teacher usually has interesting things to say. So if you respect your teacher, you take them seriously and you're likely to take on board some of the things they say.

In which ways can other people inspire or motivate us?

Hmm. On the one hand, there are high profile people like sportsmen and women who can have a big impact on us, but sometimes it's local people. People you see doing good things in your community. I think they can motivate us even more because they're ordinary people just like us ... If they can serve the community, then so can I.

Who tend to be positive role models, family members or media figures?

I think members of the family are by far the most important, especially close family – your mum and dad most of all. If your parents set a good example in terms of how to behave ... how to treat other people, you can't help but learn these habits yourself. Media figures have an impact for sure but not as much as your family.

Which historical figures do you think have had the most positive influence on the generations that came after them?

I can't think of any individuals but it would be people who lived recently rather than centuries ago ... and they're probably going to be leaders of some kind, otherwise they wouldn't feature in our history books. People like Ghandi, perhaps, who was a great example of a man who believed in peaceful protest.

Do people in the public eye have a responsibility to be good role models?

We talked about this at school once and there were two different views. I think if you're in the media spotlight, especially if you have a young fan base, you need to act responsibly. But I know some people disagree and think celebrities are no different to anyone else really, that we all need to be good role models.

Which values would you like to pass on to your children?

I think it's important to be sensitive to other people's feelings, to be kind rather than cruel. Basically, to treat other people as you would like to be.