

Level 6

FFProficiency119

Practice Test

Section W1 (25 marks)

These essay options are for General English Proficiency candidates

Write a composition of about 300 words on ONE of the following topics:

5.	What are the advantages and disadvantages of taking a year off between studying and starting paid work?	☐
6.	Describe your holiday destination of choice.	☐
7.	Write an account of a time when you made a terrible mistake.	☐
8.	'Reading fictional stories is a waste of time.' Discuss.	☐
	Have you ticked a box yet? Write your essay here.	

Section W2 (15 marks)

You must do both Task 1 *and* Task 2
They both relate to the situation below:

You recently organised a party for your sister's 18th birthday at a local hotel.
Unfortunately, you found the experience very disappointing.

Task 1- Write a formal letter of 110-130 words to the hotel manager.

In your letter, you should:

- explain why you are unhappy
- suggest a solution to the problem

(Include the addresses in the letter but do not include them in the number of words.)

Section W2 (continued)

You recently organised a party for your sister's 18th birthday at a local hotel.
Unfortunately, you found the experience very disappointing.

Task 2- Write an informal email of about 70 words to a friend. In your

email, you should:

- tell your friend about the party
- ask for your friend's help to organise another celebration for your sister

Section R1 (10 marks)

Read the following passage and answer all the questions.

Marks
Awarded

Building Super Tall

Skyscrapers and other tall buildings used to be one reason why tourists chose to visit capital cities. Paris' Eiffel Tower, is a case in point: its enduring visual appeal has made it the world's most photographed building. However, to meet the demands of a growing global population, the urban landscape is now being *filled* with tall buildings. Now they are not merely a statement of beauty and design skill, as was often the case, but fully operational residential, office and retail spaces.

At a time when loneliness has become an epidemic, city and country dwellers are looking for opportunities to build communities. These opportunities are being considered in the planning of tall, vertical housing with shared eating and socialising facilities, and an easy work commute. The Tianfu New Area in China is such a concept, which should reach completion within two decades. It will be made up of several skyscrapers on the edge of urban centres. The plan is to implement the model in similar areas across the country.

As the architectural appearance of our towns and cities changes, what goes on beneath the surface of the ground to ensure these structures have proper foundations, requires advanced engineering technology. Generally, a third of the construction period is devoted to ensuring solid support. This may involve more prolonged effort if the ground is not naturally suitable for the building of high structures. For instance, unlike the naturally rocky ground of New York's Manhattan, London sits on a softer clay which is an unsuitable surface for building on.

The process of building the Shard, one of London's landmark skyscrapers, involved a complex process of digging through layers of clay to get to the bedrock beneath. The iconic Empire State Building in New York, at 381 metres tall, has foundations that are only 16 metres deep. However, the Shard's go 53 metres into the ground and required 700 truck-loads of cement to make a stable base for the 310-metre structure. The Willis Tower in Chicago, once the tallest building in the world stretches up 442 metres above ground level. This huge structure is supported on foundations 60 metres below ground. The depth of foundations is clearly not related directly to the height of the building.

The building of the Shard was further complicated by the existing foundations of a 1970s building, Southwark Towers. It would have cost too much money to remove the old foundations, so new ones had to be especially designed to build around these. The London Underground's Jubilee Line tunnels are located metres away from the Shard basement and nearby streets also contain Victorian drains. Architects had to consider this existing infrastructure when drilling down into the earth.

Taking environmental issues into account is a priority for architects and local town planners. It is essential to avoid demolishing structures if possible. Instead, adapting structures that are already in place is the goal of the 'green' architect. Super-tall structures are natural wind generators and another feat of architectural design involves taking advantage of this potential and harnessing this form of energy. This may serve to reassure those who oppose such developments and calm their fears about environmental impact.

For questions 1-8, tick (✓) the box. (1 mark each)

1. Designs used to prioritise visual appeal over functional purpose.

True ☐ False ☐ Doesn't say ☐

2. Loneliness is more common in urban than countryside areas.

True ☐ False ☐ Doesn't say ☐

3. New York ground is more suitable for tall buildings than that in London.

True ☐ False ☐ Doesn't say ☐

4. On average, half the scheduled construction time is spent on foundations.

True ☐ False ☐ Doesn't say ☐

5. Environmentally-aware architects prefer to modify existing buildings.

True ☐ False ☐ Doesn't say ☐

6. What is the purpose of Tianfu New Area?

- A a demonstration of community living in urban areas.
B a means of developing sparsely populated areas.
C a model which will be replicated in rural areas.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐

7. Which of the following has the deepest foundations?

- A the Shard in London
B the Willis Tower in Chicago
C the Empire State Building in New York

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐

8. Super-tall buildings can help to

- A create a barrier against erosion.
B regulate wind speed in the area.
C increase wind energy.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐

Write the words in the box. (½ a mark each)

9. Find the word in the passage which means the **SAME** as:

lasting (paragraph 1)

achievement (paragraph 6)

10. Find the word in the passage which means the **OPPOSITE** of:

shortened (paragraph 3)

simple (paragraph 4)

Section R2 - Summary (10 marks - 8 marks for summary and 2 marks for style)
 Read paragraphs 3, 4 and 5. With the information you find, write a summary in your own words on **the challenges in laying the Shard's foundations**. Do not use fewer than 50 words or more than 75 words.

Marks
Awarded

Title:

10

Section R3 - Reading (10 marks)

Read the passage about the French designer Coco Chanel. Six sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the extracts A - H, the one which fits each gap. There are two extracts you do not need to use. One of them has been done for you as an example.

- ~~A~~ - With no money or proper lodging, his daughters were admitted to an orphanage, a kind of home for poor, abandoned children, where Coco spent the next six years.
- B - The packaging is the result of Chanel's desire to break with tradition.
- C - It grossed over 50 million dollars at the box office and earned a nomination for Best Foreign Film in the BAFTA movie awards.
- D - She also achieved success as a cabaret performer in concert halls, theatres and cafés in the towns of Moulin and Vichy.
- E - Television audiences were treated to a veritable celebration of French fashion.
- F - Those who had previously taken luxury for granted now had to deprive themselves.
- G - This was a move away from the corseted restricted outfits in vogue in the 1920s.
- H - Instead, she now introduced a trend of putting *real* diamonds in women's hair as an accessory, or attaching them to a scarf tied around the waist.

Coco Chanel

Marks
Awarded

Known throughout the world for her eye-catching clothing, French fashion designer, Coco Chanel, came from relatively humble origins. After the tragic death of her mother at the age of 12, her father was left having to care for five children. Unable to cope with the burden, he sent his boys away to work as farm labourers. **example** 1. A Life there may have been harsh, but it was probably the best for Coco, as it was during this time that she learned to sew. When she turned 18, she began working for a local tailor. Her passion for designing clothes had begun.

Film directors have always been fascinated by rags to riches real-life stories. The rise to fame of such an unlikely heroine overcoming obstacles to launch a successful career in the fashion world, caught the interest of director, Anne Fontaine. The story of Chanel became the subject of the 2009 French film '*Coco Before Chanel*', starring French actress, Audrey Tatou, and directed by Fontaine. 2. Despite not winning, the film intrigued viewers of all ages with its autobiographical content, and the film was considered a major success.

Chanel was never a conventional figure. Born in 1883, she later asserted that she was really born in 1893 to make herself ten years younger. Her original name was Gabrielle Bonheur Chanel, but she took on 'Coco' which was the name she was called affectionately by those who knew her well. The name has become synonymous with style and elegance. As a fashion pioneer, Chanel became the first designer to create a new form of loose jersey for women. 3. This look became very popular among women who had lived through the hardship of World War One and for whom tight clothing seemed old fashioned and irrelevant.

Her lack of respect for establishment rules meant that she began creating 'fakes' or costume jewellery at the beginning of her career, in response to the obvious, flashy displays of wealth she saw at that time. Her unwillingness to follow the norm was again in evidence following the 1929 Wall Street Crash, which began a period of financial depression. 4. Some even had to sell valuable family pieces to buy essentials and opt instead for cheap, fake jewellery instead of the authentic pieces they once flaunted. At this time of hardship, Chanel once again proved that she would never follow patterns set by others. 5. Such an extravagant look at a time of austerity totally contradicted her previous designs but was certainly in keeping with her desire to court controversy.

The distinctive scent of her best-selling perfume, Chanel No.5 was conceived by a French-Russian chemist called Ernest Beaux. 6. While others were making ornate crystal bottles, Chanel designed hers with simplicity in mind. She wanted to create 'an invisible bottle and pure transparency'. The initial design underwent various changes before giving rise to the square-top bottle that still lies at the top of perfumes sales charts every year and is a favourite choice of gift.

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Section W3 (10 marks)

Rewrite the sentences to give the same meaning as the original, using the word or words given. Do not change the given word or words in any way at all.
Rewrite all direct speech as reported speech.

Example:

Although she didn't like heights, she chose to climb the mountain. (despite)

She chose to climb the mountain, despite not liking heights.

1. As soon as they got home the storm started. (No sooner)

2. I didn't arrive on time as I had forgotten to set my alarm. (If)

3. We don't go to the theatre very much. (Rarely)

4. A company is cleaning our swimming pool on Saturday. (having)

5. 'You should start training for the race, Will,' said Toby. (suggested)

6. I wanted to be able to go on holiday, so I saved all year. (order)

7. Andrea is more sociable than Mary. (as)

8. You really must get a job. (high time)

9. The company is organising a party for 50 children. (organised)

10. He plays so well he should easily win the match. (such)

Section R4 (10 marks)

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets.

Marks
Awarded

Example

It was such an enjoyable holiday. I'll always remember it fondly. (enjoy)

1. Hannah always adds honey to _____ her tea. (sweet)
2. The manager values employees who work hard and show _____ . (loyal)
3. Only well-behaved, _____ dogs are allowed in the restaurant. (obey)
4. He spoke _____ and caused offence. (sensitive)
5. The shop is offering _____ discounts. (substance)
6. This work has not been completed _____ and needs to be redone. (adequate)
7. She tried hard to _____ with John. (sympathy)
8. Love and acceptance are _____ human needs. (base)
9. Should you require any _____ with your bags, please ask at reception. (assist)
10. I'm not sure whether she'll come or not. It is very _____ at the moment. (certain)

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Section R5 (10 marks)

Write the missing words on the lines. Write only one word in each space. There is an example.

Part-time Work for Teenagers

Teenagers mostly enjoy spending money and they often welcome being able (example) to earn it. Jobs such ⁽¹⁾ _____ gardening, babysitting and cleaning are popular choices for those who ⁽²⁾ _____ still at school. Some parents think revision should take priority. They often end up arguing ⁽³⁾ _____ their children about their jobs. Generally, from a teacher's point of ⁽⁴⁾ _____, part-time work can be positive. In ⁽⁵⁾ _____ to reassure parents, they say that it is a good way for students to gain valuable work experience while still in education. It ⁽⁶⁾ _____ also improve social skills and raise financial awareness, both of ⁽⁷⁾ _____ are important life skills. Many people agree that as ⁽⁸⁾ _____ as a student's schoolwork is not negatively affected, getting a part-time job can be very beneficial. Employers are often ⁽⁹⁾ _____ impressed with the student's performance at work that they offer them a permanent job after they ⁽¹⁰⁾ _____ school.

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extra space