

THEMES

1. Green living
2. Urbanization
3. The world of work

A. STRUCTURE OF THE TEST: format GCSE 2025**I. VOCABULARY AND GRAMMAR**

1. VOCABULARY : Words and phrases related to the themes

2. GRAMMAR :

Review: Comparison, Relative clauses and compound and complex sentences

Adverts/Instructions

Read the following advertisement and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct option that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 1 to 6.

City Living Guide – Tips for a Healthier Urban Lifestyle

Living in big cities can be exciting, but it also requires smart habits to maintain well-being. When walking through crowded streets or using public transport, keep your personal belongings secure and stay aware of your (1) _____.

To reduce stress caused by city noise, try finding a quiet corner in a park or library where you can (2) _____ and relax. Staying active is essential, so consider joining a gym close to your workplace to avoid wasting time (3) _____ long distances.

If you live in an apartment, remember to sort your waste properly. Many urban areas now offer recycling stations that help residents reduce the (4) _____ of trash sent to landfills. Also, avoid using private vehicles during rush hours; public buses and metro lines are often (5) _____ and more environmentally friendly.

Lastly, try connecting with your neighbors. Even a simple greeting can foster a sense of community and make the big city feel more (6) _____.

Question 1: A. behaviors B. surroundings C. equipment D. decisions

Question 2: A. slow down B. carry out C. pick up D. set up

Question 3: A. travelling B. to travel C. travel D. travelled

Question 4: A. amount B. level C. quality D. number

Question 5: A. quicker B. cleanest C. safer D. cheapest

Question 6: A. approachable B. familiar C. local D. peaceful

Read the following announcement and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct option that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 7 to 12.

Workplace Wellness Notice

To help employees stay healthy and productive, our company is introducing new guidelines this month. First, all staff should take short breaks every two hours to reduce the (7) _____ of eye strain from working with computers for too long.

We encourage workers to use the outdoor seating area for fresh air, (8) _____ the weather is unsuitable. Team leaders are advised to schedule meetings more efficiently to avoid (9) _____ unnecessary overtime. In addition, a new cafeteria menu offers balanced meals with reduced sugar and fat. Employees should choose dishes that provide the right (10) _____ of nutrients for an active working day. Water stations have also been placed throughout the building so that everyone can stay (11) _____ during busy hours.

Finally, we hope all staff will maintain a positive attitude and support one another to create a more (12) _____ working environment.

Question 7: A. risk B. factor C. chance D. reason

Question 8: A. because B. unless C. although D. if

Question 9: A. taking in B. putting off C. bringing about D. carrying out

Question 10: A. amount B. balance C. set D. supply

Question 11: A. connected B. hydrated C. motivated D. relaxed

Question 12: A. cooperative B. temporary C. competitive D. convenient

Read the following brochure and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct option that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 13 to 18.

Smart City Careers – Opportunities for Young Professionals

Modern urban areas are rapidly adopting digital technologies, creating thousands of new job opportunities. Young workers who wish to build a career in a smart city should first understand the basic (13) _____ required for positions related to data management, transportation planning, and green energy. Most companies now provide online training platforms so employees can learn new skills at their own pace, (14) _____ helps them keep up with fast-changing urban demands. Applicants are encouraged to prepare digital portfolios that clearly (15) _____ their strengths and past achievements. Living in a large city also means dealing with high living costs, so workers must manage their monthly budgets carefully. It's advisable to share accommodation to reduce the (16) _____ of rent and utilities. Public transport passes are often more economical than driving, especially during (17) _____ hours. With the right preparation and mindset, young professionals can enjoy both stable employment and a vibrant lifestyle in today's rapidly (18) _____ cities.

- Question 13:** A. qualifications B. influences C. experiences D. solutions
Question 14: A. what B. which C. who D. where
Question 15: A. demonstrate B. combine C. operate D. replace
Question 16: A. payment B. price C. cost D. value
Question 17: A. early B. peak C. sudden D. limited
Question 18: A. expanding B. exhausting C. declining D. damaging

Read the following leaflet and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct option that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 19 to 24.

Green Home Guide – Simple Ways to Live More Sustainably

Making your home greener does not require major changes. Even small steps can greatly reduce your environmental (19) _____. One of the easiest habits is to sort your household waste into recycling bins. Many items such as paper, glass, and plastic can be reused, which helps decrease the (20) _____ of natural resources needed for production.

Another effective method is choosing energy-efficient appliances. Look for labels that indicate lower electricity usage, as these devices can save both money and energy in the long (21) _____. When shopping, bring your own fabric bag instead of relying on single-use plastic ones.

Water conservation is also important. Try taking shorter showers and fixing leaking taps immediately to reduce unnecessary water (22) _____. If possible, install plants that require less watering in your garden, as they are more suitable for local (23) _____.

By adopting these simple habits, you can create a more eco-friendly home while contributing to a (24) _____ future for the planet.

- Question 19:** A. effect B. pressure C. impact D. result
Question 20: A. amount B. quality C. number D. source
Question 21: A. distance B. area C. run D. term
Question 22: A. loss B. waste C. damage D. use
Question 23: A. culture B. climate C. habitat D. nature
Question 24: A. safer B. brighter C. nearer D. deeper

ARRANGEMENTS

Mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the best arrangement of utterances or sentences to make a meaningful exchange or text in each of the following questions.

Question 1.

- a. Anna: Right. Especially the traffic jams and the rising cost of living.
 b. Tom: True, but there are also disadvantages.
 c. Tom: Do you think urbanization has improved life for most people?
 d. Anna: Well, in many ways yes. There are more job opportunities and better services.

- A. c – d – b – a B. d – b – a – c
 C. b – a – d – c D. c – b – a – d

Question 2.

- a. Jonh: Yeah, overcrowding is a huge issue too. Housing is becoming more expensive.
 b. John: But don't you think cities also bring many conveniences?
 c. Mai: Honestly, I think rapid urbanization creates both opportunities and challenges.
 d. Mai: I feel pollution is. Globally, it is getting worse and worse every year.
 e. Mai: Absolutely. Public transport helps, but it's still not enough.
 f. John: So what do you think is the biggest problem?

- A. c – f – a – d – e – b B. c – f – d – e – a – b
 C. c – b – d – f – a – e D. c – f – d – a – b – e

Question 3.

- a. Sarah: I'm thinking about becoming a graphic designer.
- b. Mark: That sounds interesting! Why did you choose that career?
- c. Sarah: Well, I love art and creating digital products. It feels meaningful to me.
- d. Mark: Hey Sarah, have you decided what job you want to pursue in the future?

Options:

- A. d – a – b – c
- B. a – d – b – c
- C. d – b – a – c
- D. b – d – a – c

Question 4.

- a. David: Exactly. I used to work just for money, but now I focus more on what makes me happy.
- b. David: So, do you think job satisfaction is more important than salary?
- c. Linh: Honestly, both matter, but I believe enjoying your work keeps you motivated.
- d. Linh: You do the right thing. A stressful job can affect your health in the long run.
- e. David: And a positive work environment helps you grow.
- f. Linh: I totally agree. People perform better when they feel valued.

- A. b – c – d – e – a – f
- B. b – c – a – d – e – f
- C. b – d – c – e – f – a
- D. c – b – d – a – e – f

Question 5.

Subject: Moving to the City

Hi Liam,

- a. Still, if you feel the city fits your goals, I think it's worth giving it a try.
- b. Sure, there are great opportunities there, especially in technology and design.
- c. Let me know if you need any help preparing for the move!
- d. I've been thinking a lot about your plan to move to the city for work.
- e. But remember, urban life can also be stressful because of traffic and living expenses.

Best,

Mason

- A. d – b – e – a – c
- B. b – d – e – c – a
- C. d – e – b – a – c
- D. d – b – a – e – c

Question 6.

Subject: My Neighborhood Is Changing Too Fast

Hi Daniel,

- a. The construction sites are everywhere, and the noise starts early in the morning and lasts all day.
- b. I know urbanization brings development, but honestly, the neighborhood doesn't feel peaceful anymore.
- c. Lately, my area has been going through rapid urbanization, and it's been really stressful for me.
- d. I hope things will get better once the projects are finished, but right now it's hard to stay focused on work.
- e. Write back when you can—I'd love to hear how things are going for you.

Best,

Kevin

- A. c – a – b – d – e
- B. a – c – b – d – e
- C. c – b – a – d – e
- D. c – a – d – b – e

Question 7

- a. As cities grow rapidly, many people move to urban areas hoping for better jobs and higher living standards.
- b. Because living costs in large cities keep rising, some families struggle to maintain a stable life.
- c. Urbanization has become one of the most significant trends shaping modern societies.
- d. While urban life offers convenience, it also creates challenges such as pollution and overcrowding.
- e. Therefore, governments should focus on sustainable planning to ensure that cities remain livable for everyone.

- A. c – d – a – b – e
- B. a – c – d – e – b
- C. c – a – d – b – e
- D. c – a – b – d – e

Question 8.

Subject: Application for the Marketing Assistant Position

Dear Mr. Carter,

- a. I am writing to express my strong interest in the Marketing Assistant position at BrightWave Media.
- b. Throughout my internship, I developed skills in content creation, social media analytics, and campaign

planning.

c. I believe these experiences make me a suitable candidate for your dynamic team.

d. Thank you for considering my application.

e. I recently graduated with a degree in Business Communication and completed a six-month internship at Nova Creative Agency.

Sincerely,

Hannah Lee

A. a – e – b – c – d

B. e – a – b – d – c

C. a – b – e – c – d

D. a – e – c – b – d

Question 9.

a. As more people become aware of environmental problems, green lifestyles are gaining popularity around the world.

b. A green lifestyle encourages individuals to reduce waste and conserve natural resources so that the environment can be protected for future generations.

c. Although many people find it challenging at first, small daily actions like recycling or saving electricity can make a significant difference.

d. Living more sustainably has become an important goal for many communities today.

e. Therefore, adopting eco-friendly habits not only benefits the planet but also improves our personal well-being.

A. a – d – b – e – c

B. d – b – a – c – e

C. d – a – c – b – e

D. d – a – b – c – e

Question 10.

a. While some students choose to work immediately to support their families, others prefer to continue their studies to pursue long-term career goals.

b. As a result, students need to think carefully about what suits their abilities, interests, and financial situations.

c. Choosing a job after finishing high school is a major decision that can shape one's future.

d. Because the job market is becoming more competitive, practical skills and work experience are increasingly important.

e. However, no matter which path students take, good planning will help them achieve success more effectively.

A. c – d – a – b – e

B. c – a – d – b – e

C. a – c – d – b – e

D. c – a – b – d – e

READING 1

Read the following passage about artificial intelligence and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the option that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 1 to 5.

Urbanization is transforming many cities around the world at a rapid pace. In some places, new shopping malls and apartments appear almost overnight. However, not everyone feels comfortable with these changes. Many long-time residents complain that their once-quiet neighborhoods are now crowded and noisy.

(1) _____ often feel torn between the convenience of city life and the loss of familiar surroundings. They enjoy having more services nearby, such as hospitals and schools, but they also worry about pollution and higher living costs.

In many large cities today, (2) _____. Because of this, people spend more time commuting and less time with their families.

During rush hour, (3) _____.

To reduce these negative effects, city planners are trying new solutions. Some governments invest in public transport and green spaces so that residents can enjoy cleaner air and safer streets. Others encourage the construction of energy-efficient buildings (4) _____.

Ultimately, experts argue that urbanization can be positive if it is managed responsibly. They believe that cities should grow in a way (5) _____.

Question 1

A. People live near the city center

B. Residents in rapidly changing urban areas

C. The old houses in the neighborhood

D. The new high-rise buildings

Question (2)

- A. traffic jams are so severe that buses and cars move extremely slowly
- B. the air becomes cleaner and fresher every single year
- C. people decide to move back to the countryside immediately
- D. nobody wants to use public transport at all

Question (3)

- A. many office workers try to leave the city as fast as they can
- B. the streets are empty and everyone stays at home to avoid traffic
- C. drivers must pay attention because the roads are completely closed
- D. cars, buses, and motorbikes fill the streets, creating noise and stress

Question (4)

- A. designing to reduce all forms of traditional culture
- B. that use less electricity and produce fewer emissions
- C. which completely destroys the natural environment
- D. to make residents leave the city permanently

Question (5)

- A. makes rural communities disappear entirely
- B. that protects both economic development and quality of life
- C. which forces everyone to accept the same lifestyle
- D. allowing pollution to grow without any clear limits

READING 2

Read the following passage about artificial intelligence and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the option that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 1 to 5.

The world of work is changing quickly, and young people often feel confused about which path to follow after high school. Some choose to go straight to university, while others decide to work, travel, or join vocational training programs.

(1) _____ needs to think carefully before making a final decision. They must consider their interests, financial situation, and long-term goals.

For many students, choosing a career is difficult because they have limited real-life experience. (2) _____. This helps them understand what different jobs are really like, instead of relying only on what they see on social media.

In today's competitive job market, (3) _____.

Employers are not only interested in academic results. They also look for communication skills, creativity, and the ability to solve problems. That is why schools are starting to include more project-based learning and group activities.

Some companies provide mentoring programs (4) _____. Through these programs, young workers receive guidance from experienced colleagues and learn how to adapt to professional environments.

In the end, career counselors often remind students to choose a path (5) _____.

Question (1)

- A. Every school leaver
- B. The final decision
- C. All kinds of jobs in the market
- D. The university entrance exam

Question (2)

- A. Many of them join clubs to relax on weekends
- B. They sometimes try internships or part-time jobs to explore different fields
- C. Most of them prefer not to think about their future at all
- D. Teachers usually choose a job for each student

Question (3)

- A. employers no longer care about skills or experience
- B. young people can easily find a job without any preparation
- C. candidates who show motivation and flexibility are more likely to succeed
- D. companies refuse to hire anyone under the age of twenty-five

Question (4)

- A. which help new employees feel supported and confident
- B. to force young employees to work unpaid overtime
- C. that prevent workers from asking questions about their tasks
- D. designed only to replace formal education completely

Question (5)

- A. which guarantees they will become rich very quickly
- B. that matches their values and personal strengths
- C. making their parents proud but ignoring their own feelings
- D. which allows them to avoid learning new skills

READING 3

Read the following passage about artificial intelligence and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the option that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 1 to 5.

Cultural diversity is a valuable part of modern societies. When people from different backgrounds live and work together, they have the chance to share traditions, languages, and ideas. However, living in a multicultural environment is not always easy. Misunderstandings can occur when people are not familiar with one another's customs.

In many big cities, (1) _____ help create a colorful social atmosphere. Restaurants, festivals, and community events allow residents to experience different cultures without leaving their own country.

For newcomers, adapting to a new culture can be challenging at first. *During the first few months*, (2) _____. They may struggle with the local language, feel homesick, or be unsure about social rules.

Schools and workplaces play an important role in promoting respect. Many institutions organize workshops and activities (3) _____ so that everyone feels included.

In such environments, mutual understanding (4) _____, especially when people are willing to listen and learn from each other.

Ultimately, governments and community leaders aim to build societies (5) _____.

Question (1)

- A. cultural events and immigrant communities
- B. the noise and traffic from vehicles
- C. old buildings and broken roads
- D. a lack of communication skills

Question (2)

- A. newcomers often face culture shock and need time to adjust
- B. people decide to return to their home country immediately
- C. students refuse to talk to anyone from another culture
- D. everyone behaves exactly the same as in their hometown

Question (3)

- A. that ignore the differences between students
- B. designed to increase competition and conflict
- C. which encourage dialogue and celebrate diversity
- D. to make minority groups feel isolated

Question (4)

- A. can grow stronger over time
- B. are becoming the main problem of modern life
- C. must protect only the majority group
- D. was ignored by most people

Question (5)

- A. making it impossible for cultures to coexist
- B. that welcome different backgrounds and treat all citizens fairly
- C. which remove all traditional practices from public spaces
- D. allowing prejudice to spread without any control

READING 4

Read the following passage about career paths and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the best answer to each of the following questions from 23 to 30.

Choosing a career path is a significant decision that can impact an individual's life in various ways. Many factors influence this decision, including personal interests, skills, and market demand. It's essential to find a career that aligns with one's passions and strengths to ensure long-term satisfaction and success.

One popular career path is in the field of technology. With the rapid advancement of technology, there is a growing demand for professionals with expertise in areas such as software development, cybersecurity, and data analysis. These careers not only offer high salaries but also opportunities for continuous learning and growth.

Another promising field is healthcare. Careers in healthcare, such as nursing, medical research, and healthcare administration, provide a chance to make a meaningful impact on people's lives. The healthcare industry is also known for its job stability and growth potential.

Education is another vital sector that offers rewarding career paths. Teachers, school administrators, and education consultants play a crucial role in shaping the future by educating the next generation. Despite the challenges, careers in education are fulfilling and offer opportunities for professional development.

Entrepreneurship is an alternative career path that attracts many individuals. Starting a business involves risks but also offers the potential for significant rewards. Entrepreneurs have the freedom to innovate and create solutions that can benefit society.

Question 23. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a factor influencing career choice?

- A. Personal interests B. Market demand C. Job location D. Skills

Question 24. The word "rapid" in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to:

- A. slow B. fast C. steady D. brief

Question 25. The word "its" in paragraph 3 refers to:

- A. career paths B. healthcare industry
C. meaningful impacts D. opportunities

Question 26. The word "vital" in paragraph 4 could be best replaced by:

- A. insignificant B. minor C. essential D. optional

Question 27. Which of the following best paraphrases the underlined sentence in paragraph 5?

- A. Entrepreneurship is the only viable career path.
B. Starting a business is risk-free and always successful.
C. Entrepreneurship offers the potential for significant rewards despite the risks.
D. Entrepreneurs cannot create solutions that benefit society.

Question 28. Which of the following is TRUE according to the passage?

- A. Technology careers offer limited opportunities for growth.
B. Healthcare careers lack job stability.
C. Careers in education are fulfilling and offer professional development.
D. Entrepreneurship is a risk-free career path.

Question 29. In which paragraph does the writer mention the importance of continuous learning?

- A. Paragraph 1 B. Paragraph 2 C. Paragraph 3 D. Paragraph 4

Question 30. In which paragraph does the writer explore the role of educators?

- A. Paragraph 1 B. Paragraph 2 C. Paragraph 3 D. Paragraph 4

READING 5

Read the following passage about the benefits and challenges of remote work and mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the best answer to each of the following questions from 31 to 40.

[I] The rise of remote work has transformed the modern workplace, offering flexibility and a better work-life balance for employees around the world (Bloom et al., 2015). [II] This trend, accelerated by technological advancements and the COVID-19 pandemic, allows employees to work from home or any location with internet access (Gajendran & Harrison, 2007). [III] While remote work provides numerous benefits, it also presents challenges that organizations and employees must address to remain productive and engaged. [IV] One of the main benefits of remote work is increased flexibility. Employees can manage their time more effectively, which often leads to higher job satisfaction and reduced stress. Furthermore, remote work eliminates the need for daily commutes, saving time and reducing transportation expenses. Many employees report feeling more empowered to control their schedules, allowing them to better balance personal and professional responsibilities.

However, remote work also comes with significant challenges. Isolation is a common issue, as employees miss out on face-to-face interactions and team bonding, which are important for mental well-being and collaboration. Studies have shown that prolonged isolation can lead to feelings of loneliness, reducing job satisfaction and affecting mental health (Ozcelik & Barsade, 2018). Additionally, remote workers may struggle to maintain boundaries between work and personal life, leading to overwork and burnout.

To make remote work successful, companies need to implement strategies that support employee well-being and productivity. Providing tools for virtual collaboration, setting clear work-life boundaries, and encouraging regular team check-ins can help *mitigate* the challenges of remote work. By balancing flexibility with structured support, organizations can create a sustainable remote work environment that benefits both employers and employees (Larson & DeChurch, 2020).

(Adapted from *Remote Work and Employee Well-being* by Bloom, Ozcelik, and others)

Question 31. Where in paragraph 1 does the following sentence best fit?

Remote work has become more popular due to advancements in digital communication tools.

- A. [I] B. [II] C. [III] D. [IV]

Question 32. The phrase "work-life balance" in paragraph 1 could be best replaced by ____.

- A. career advancement B. professional success
C. equilibrium between work and personal life D. job security

Question 33. The word "their" in paragraph 2 refers to ____.

- A. employees B. responsibilities C. schedules D. expenses

Question 34. According to paragraph 2, which of the following is NOT a benefit of remote work?

- A. Increased flexibility B. Higher transportation costs
C. Improved work-life balance D. Reduced stress

Question 35. Which of the following best summarizes paragraph 3?

- A. Remote work challenges employees with isolation and blurred boundaries, leading to potential overwork and mental health concerns.
B. The advantages of remote work significantly outweigh any challenges employees might face.
C. Isolation is easily managed by virtual collaboration tools in a remote work setting.
D. Remote work eliminates work-related stress and improves collaboration.

Question 36. The word "mitigate" in paragraph 4 is CLOSEST in meaning to ____.

- A. worsen B. intensify C. reduce D. acknowledge

Question 37. Which of the following is TRUE according to the passage?

- A. Remote work reduces social interactions, which can lead to feelings of loneliness.
B. Daily commuting is essential for remote workers to maintain productivity.
C. Companies are not responsible for supporting remote employees' well-being.
D. Remote work always leads to overwork and burnout.

Question 38. Which of the following best paraphrases the underlined sentence in paragraph 4?

- A. Companies must avoid setting boundaries for employees' work-life balance.
B. Employers should support remote work by providing resources and encouraging a structured environment.
C. Employees need minimal guidance from companies to manage remote work challenges.
D. Employers should prevent remote employees from accessing collaboration tools.

Question 39. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- A. Remote work completely eliminates the need for personal life boundaries.
B. The lack of face-to-face interaction is a minor issue in remote work.
C. Effective remote work requires a combination of flexibility and organizational support.
D. Remote work only benefits employees, not organizations.

Question 40. Which of the following best summarizes the passage?

- A. Remote work offers flexibility and convenience but can cause isolation and work-life imbalance, which companies must address to ensure employee well-being.
B. Remote work requires employees to spend more time commuting to improve productivity.
C. Companies benefit from remote work as employees are more isolated and less engaged.
D. Remote work allows complete freedom for employees without any challenges.