

SKILLS TEST 10

Standard

READING

1 Read the article. Match the paragraphs (1–8) with the sentences (A–H).

Universal basic income

1 Imagine a future where everyone can have enough money for what they really need. No-one will be poor. We will all be living comfortable lives, without worrying about being able to afford basic food or housing. We will have created the perfect society. Or will we?

2 The idea that governments should give each person a universal basic income – enough money for their basic needs – has been around for a long time. The theory is that every person would get money from the government each month.

3 Many people predict that this will be valuable for society. The economy will improve, too, as people will be spending more. Happiness levels will increase.

4 There are, of course, possible disadvantages. Many people, if they

are given money for free, will simply choose not to work. Some young people will realise that there is no need to study hard and get good qualifications in order to get job, because the government will take care of their financial needs.

5 In short, we will have created a society where no-one really needs to work. Employers won't be able to find good employees, and governments won't get the taxes they need to spend on education or healthcare. One argument is that society, as a whole, will get lazier.

6 Some countries have tried experimenting with a universal basic income, to find out what really happens when people are given free money. In Finland, a group of 2,000 people were given €560 a month for two years.

7 The experiment found that many people became more active, and

started to work more, especially by starting their own businesses. One reason for this was that people were less stressed about money problems than before, and had more time and energy to focus on what they really wanted to do.

8 Many business experts now believe that a universal basic income will become necessary in the near future. It is predicted that by 2030, robots will have taken over 30–40% of jobs. This means that millions of us will risk losing our jobs, or that there will be no need for humans to do them. We will be seeing robots driving our trucks or trains, or communicating with computers whenever we buy something. With more traditional jobs being increasingly done by robots, we humans will need to create a new kind of society. A universal basic income may be the answer.

0 Paragraph 1

D

1 Paragraph 2

2 Paragraph 3

3 Paragraph 4

4 Paragraph 5

5 Paragraph 6

6 Paragraph 7

7 Paragraph 8

A Why some people will decide not to work.

B Where research has been carried out into 'universal basic income'.

C How society might change for the worse.

D A possible future, where no-one is poor.

E An explanation of 'universal basic income'.

F Why some people think we will need a 'universal basic income'.

G The results of research into 'universal basic income'.

H Predictions of why a 'universal basic income' will benefit society.

7

2 Read the article again. Mark the sentences T (true), F (false), or DS (the article doesn't say).

0 The article begins by describing a possible future.

T

5 Finland has conducted an experiment on 2,000 people.

1 With universal basic income, people would pay the government more money each month.

6 In Finland, universal basic income has had a positive impact.

2 It's possible that society could benefit from this, as people become happier.

7 Robots will be doing most of the jobs in the future.

3 Most young people now do not have good qualifications.

8 A universal basic income will stop robots from taking people's jobs.

4 Governments spend most of their money on education and healthcare.

8

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LISTENING

3  Listen to a conversation. Match the information (1–7) with the numbers (a–g).

- 1 How much it costs to make a \$0.01 coin.
- 2 How much it costs to make a \$1 banknote.
- 3 The percentage of the world's money that is coins and banknotes.
- 4 The number of trees used to make banknotes.
- 5 The number of countries which use plastic banknotes.
- 6 The percentage of banknotes that have some kind of bacteria on them.
- 7 The number of days that one type of virus can exist on a banknote.

- a 2.4
- b 7
- c 94
- d 8
- e 17
- f 0
- g 5.7

☐ 7

4  Listen again and complete the notes with one word or number in each gap. Use words or numbers that the speakers use.

- 1 The smallest American _____ is the cent, which costs \$0.024 to produce.
- 2 A US dollar costs _____ as much to make as a cent.
- 3 Most of our money is just _____ on a computer.
- 4 People are using bank _____ more than cash, and this will increase in the future.
- 5 According to the quiz, money isn't made from _____, but from cotton and linen.
- 6 More people will be using money made from _____ in the future.
- 7 One British banknote passes between _____ different people over nine years.
- 8 The _____ virus can stay on a banknote for more than two weeks.

☐ 8

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WRITING

5 Write an email to a friend (around 150–180 words) telling them about your future plans. Think about these areas:

- Job
- Education
- Travel
- Family
- Future hobbies

20

SPEAKING

6 Work in pairs. Look at the photos below. They show people buying things. Take turns to describe your photo, and say what you think is happening. Then, decide why people go shopping in situations like these.



7 Work in pairs. Imagine that these things happened to you. Take turns to tell your partner, deduce what might have happened, and sympathise with each other. Use the useful phrases below.

- **Student A:** You were on a bus yesterday. When you got off, you checked your pocket/bag, and realised that your purse/wallet was missing!
- **Student B:** A friend borrowed some money from you last week. Now, you need it back. You have tried to phone and email your friend, but your friend never answers!

That's a shame.
Never mind.
How awful.
What a pity.
I'm really sorry.

It could have been ...
He/She must be ...
Someone might have ...
You should/shouldn't have ...

20

TOTAL SCORE

70