CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH
Language Assessment
Part of the University of Cambridge

Das Cle Language Center

First Certificate Sample Test

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LIVEWORKSHEETS
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READING AND USE OF ENGLISH

Part 1

For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).



Example:

0 **A** taste **B** appeal **C** interest **D** attraction

Example answer: *B*

The joy of photography

Photography is a hobby with wide **(0)** ..... . And I don't mean taking photos on your mobile phone, though it cannot be **(1)** ..... that such pictures can be surprisingly good these days. Serious photography means taking the **(2)** ..... to do some research, exploring the technical **(3)** ..... of the subject and investing in what might be quite expensive equipment. So why take up photography? Firstly, it allows you to **(4)** ..... special moments that you want to remember forever. In addition, it **(5)** ..... your imagination because you are always in search of ideas for original and out of the ordinary photos. However, a lot of practice is required before you **(6)** ..... to take really good pictures on a regular basis. When you finally do it, it will be a **(7)** ..... of great satisfaction for you. Photography can also transform the way you look at the world. You start to see details that in the past you used to miss **(8)** ..... . All in all, it's a highly absorbing hobby.

1	**A** rejected	**B** contradicted	**C** denied	**D** refused
2	**A** trouble	**B** care	**C** effort	**D** concern
3	**A** characteristics	**B** forms	**C** qualities	**D** aspects
4	**A** seize	**B** capture	**C** grab	**D** catch
5	**A** motivates	**B** renews	**C** stimulates	**D** reacts
6	**A** manage	**B** succeed	**C** achieve	**D** reach
7	**A** reason	**B** cause	**C** source	**D** means
8	**A** utterly	**B** completely	**C** fully	**D** absolutely

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Part 2

2 **For questions 1–8, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).**

Example: (0) *NO*

Running a marathon



So you want to run a marathon? There is **(0)** ..... doubt that running 42 kilometres is a great achievement. Many training plans involve running four times a week for at **(1)** ..... three months, and sometimes longer. Experts strongly recommend that you should **(2)** ..... used to running long distances gradually. If you don't, it can increase the chances **(3)** ..... picking up an injury. It **(4)** ..... generally thought that runners should initially go on fairly relaxed training runs. The pace should be gentle enough to allow you **(5)** ..... have a conversation with someone running alongside you. Don't make the mistake of eating too little before the race, or you will rapidly run **(6)** ..... of energy. But **(7)** ..... should you eat a large meal. It goes without saying that choosing the right footwear is also essential. **(8)** ..... you do, avoid clothes made of cotton and go for artificial materials, or even some types of wool such as merino. Choose clothing that will be comfortable.

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Part 3

For questions 1–8, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example: (0) *EXISTENCE*

An interesting new planet

Until recently, the **(0)** ..... of planets outside our own solar system was difficult to prove. Now, thanks to increasingly **(1)** ..... equipment, hundreds have been discovered orbiting distant stars. Recent **(2)** ..... of the nearest star to Earth, Proxima Centauri, have led to a **(3)** ..... discovery: a rocky planet similar in size to the Earth which may have liquid water on its surface.

EXIST
SENSE
INVESTIGATE
SIGNIFY

Although the new planet is **(4)** ..... closer to Proxima Centauri than the Earth is to the Sun, there is still a **(5)** ..... of life there. This is because the star is much smaller and cooler than our sun, so conditions on the planet may be **(6)** ..... enough to support life. Temperatures on the planet will be **(7)** ..... on whether there is an atmosphere surrounding it.

CONSIDER
POSSIBLE
COMFORT
DEPEND

Travelling to Proxima Centauri and exploring its planet is totally **(8)** ..... at the moment. Despite it being one of the nearest stars to the sun, it would take thousands of years to get there using current technology.

REAL

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Part 4

For questions 1–6, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given. Here is an example (0).

Example:

0 On holiday I prefer going sightseeing to relaxing on the beach.

RATHER

On holiday I *would rather go sightseeing than* relax on the beach.

1. Nobody explained why the flight had been delayed.

REASON

Nobody gave ..... to the flight.

2. Last year's skiing holiday was more exciting than this year's holiday by the sea.

AS

This year's holiday by the sea ..... last year's skiing holiday.

3. Maria doesn't think we should visit the museum because it's not very interesting.

POINT

Maria says ..... the museum because it's not very interesting.

4. All of us are excited about our trip to China next month.

LOOKING

Everyone ..... our trip to China next month.

5. When I was in Sweden, I managed to learn some Swedish.

PICK

When I was in Sweden, I was ..... some Swedish.

6. The architecture here makes me think of the buildings in Amsterdam.

REMINDS

The architecture here ..... of the buildings in Amsterdam.

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Part 5

1 **You are going to read an article about new technology and students. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.**

Student life and technology

By Debra Mallin, a business student at Greyfort University

Last Saturday, as my grandfather drove me and my sister home from a dinner to celebrate his birthday, he got frustrated at not being able to remember the name of the singer of a song he'd just heard on the radio. Without a second thought, I grabbed my smartphone, searched for the song and found the name, Bob Dylan. For me and my friends, this is a completely natural course of action, but it totally astonished my grandfather, who didn't understand how I had checked the information so quickly. My sister and I laughed and explained, but afterwards, it made me think about how much I depend on technology.

The list of the ways I use technology is endless: writing, planning, socialising, communicating and shopping, to name a few. When I reflected on its impact on my education, I saw that, for my fellow students and I, technology has been significant in many ways. Returning to the story of my grandfather and the smartphone, he had asked me more about how I used it and about university life. He said he thought we had an easy life compared to previous generations. My sister caught my eye and we exchanged a smile. But whereas she was thinking our grandfather was just being a typical 65-year-old, I could see his point.

Not only are we lucky enough to have the same educational benefits as those of previous generations, we have so many more as well. We still have walk-in libraries available to us, and I can see why some students choose to find and use resources in these distraction-free locations. However, the only option for studying used to be sitting in these libraries with as many books from your reading list as you could find, yet now a single search for your chosen study topic online can immediately provide access to a huge range of resources. At universities, interaction between students and university staff is another area that has changed considerably with developments in technology. We can have face-to-face time with our



tutors when we need it, and also communicate using our electronic gadgets from the comfort of our homes, or on the bus. The most popular means of doing this is via instant messaging or social media – email is often considered too slow, and it has become unacceptable for messages to be unanswered for any length of time. While this puts an extra strain on the university's academic support team, who usually have to answer the queries as they come in, we students are greatly benefitted.

It's important that we remember to appreciate how much the advances in technology have given us. Electronic devices such as tablets, smartphones, and laptops are now standard equipment in most classrooms and lecture halls, and why shouldn't they be? The replacement of textbooks with tablets allows students the luxury of having up-to-date, interactive and even personalised learning materials, with the added benefit of them not costing the earth.

When we compare the student life of the past and that of the present day, it is tempting to focus on the obvious differences when it comes to technology. In actual fact, students are doing what they've always done: embracing the resources available and adapting them in ways which allow them to work more efficiently and to live more enjoyably. The pace of change in technology continuously gathers speed, so we have to value each innovation as it happens.

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1. What does the writer illustrate by describing the incident in the car?
   - **A** the older generation's frustration at people's dependence on technology
   - **B** how unaware young people are of some effects of technology
   - **C** the difference in attitudes to technology between two generations
   - **D** how technology helps different generations communicate
2. What did the writer think of her grandfather's comment, mentioned in the second paragraph?
   - **A** It showed how out-of-date he was.
   - **B** It had an element of truth in it.
   - **C** It was an annoying thing to say.
   - **D** It made her feel sorry for him.
3. What does the writer say about getting study resources from libraries?
   - **A** She considers libraries more preferable places for study than home.
   - **B** She cannot understand why anyone chooses to go to a library now.
   - **C** She appreciates the fact that people can still study in libraries if they want to.
   - **D** She thinks libraries are limited by the quantity of resources they can store.
4. What disadvantage of new technology does the writer mention in the third paragraph?
   - **A** Those who can afford the best gadgets gain an unfair advantage.
   - **B** Sometimes slow internet connections make communication difficult.
   - **C** A heavier workload is created for teaching staff at the university.
   - **D** Students cannot escape from dealing with university issues.
5. What is the purpose of the question 'Why shouldn't they be?' in the fourth paragraph?
   - **A** to express an opinion
   - **B** to introduce some problems
   - **C** to make a criticism
   - **D** to indicate uncertainty
6. What is the writer's conclusion about students today in the final paragraph?
   - **A** They have such different lives to previous generations that it's unwise to compare them.
   - **B** They deal better with change than previous generations did.
   - **C** They take advantage of new resources more quickly than previous generations did.
   - **D** They are behaving in a similar way to previous generations of students.

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Part 6

1 **You are going to read an article about a national vote for people's favourite tree. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap (1–6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.**

Tree of the Year



The aim of the national Tree of the Year competition is to promote and celebrate the most interesting trees around the country. Images and descriptions of a shortlist of 28 trees are put online and the public are asked to vote for their favourite.

The four trees that gain the most votes before 5 p.m. on 5th October will be given a grant of £1,000. In addition, all trees that receive 1,000 or more votes will get a grant of £500. The grants may be spent on a tree health check or advice from a tree expert, or an educational event, for example. 1 ____

Among the 28 shortlisted trees there are a wide range of tree species, each with its own unique, fascinating story. For example, the 'Ding Dong' tree is a copper beech tree growing in a primary school playground. It was named the 'Ding Dong' tree because of a game pupils invented in which they race to touch its trunk, shouting 'Ding Dong!' The protective space underneath the 50-year-old tree is used as a magical outdoor classroom, while the indoor classroom displays pictures of the tree through each season of the year. 2 ____

Many of the other trees in the competition are remarkable for their age alone. The Craigends Yew, for example, is thought to be up to 700 years old, making it one of the oldest in Scotland. It is an amazing sight as many of its branches have layered. 3 ____ As a result of these extra growths, the total size when measured around the tree's crown (the main body of its leaves and branches) is a massive 100 metres.

Another very old tree, the Holm Oak in Kilbroney Park, Northern Ireland, is much loved by local people. It measures 3.6 metres around the trunk, and its beautiful bark looks like the skin of a snake. 4 ____ The advantage of this lack of uprightness is that young children can climb safely and easily on it. Kilbroney Park is home to many remarkable trees, but this tree was chosen as the favourite by community members.

A 500-year-old veteran oak tree stands in the ancient woodland pasture at Carngafallt in Wales. One of the interesting things about this twisted, hollow tree is that it has several 'air trees' growing out of it. An 'air tree' is one growing without its roots touching the ground. 5 ____ It extends its roots down inside the oak's hollow trunk.

The original Bramley apple tree in Nottinghamshire is younger than many in this competition, but is the famous parent of all modern Bramley apple trees. 6 ____ Many years later, Matthew Bramley, the new owner of the tree, was carrying some of his fruit when he met a gardener called Henry Merryweather. Henry asked if he could take some cuttings from Matthew's trees to grow his own trees. Mr Bramley agreed, provided they were named 'Bramley's Seedling'.

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A This means that they are touching the ground and have taken root.

B These roots have become enormous with age and have now emerged above the ground. Children love to jump over them like horses in a race.

C But the most distinctive thing about this tree is that its main trunk is leaning towards the ground at an angle of 45 degrees.

D The best example of this on the big old tree is another species of tree called a rowan.

E Alternatively, they could be used to hold a community event in honour of the tree.

F It was planted from a seed in 1809 by a woman called Ann Brailsford.

G Children hang bird feeders from its branches and it is used as the focus of many of the educational activities going on around it.

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