

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

**CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH EMPOWER**  
**B2 READING / USE OF ENGLISH COMPETENCY TEST**

**End of Course Test**

**Time** 30 minutes

**INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS**

Do not open this question paper until you are told to do so.  
Write your name on this question paper.  
Read the instructions for each part of the paper carefully.  
Answer all the questions.  
Write your answers on the question paper.

**INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS**

There are four parts to this test.  
Each question carries one mark.

**Questions 1 – 10**

Read the text below and choose the correct answer for each gap.

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### Living without the Internet

Paul Miller is a journalist, so you would think that he would find it pretty difficult to give up using the internet for a year. (1) ...., that's exactly what he decided to do. It's not that Paul didn't (2) ..... going online. In fact, he found he was spending a large part of his day glued to the screen. He felt that he had become too (3) ..... on it for everything. Like many of us, Paul couldn't imagine (4) ..... the internet for a full day, not checking his emails and his Twitter account. How on earth would he cope (5) ..... being offline for a whole year?

Paul has just (6) ..... the halfway point of his challenge – six months with no internet have passed. And so what has it been like for him? Well, Paul admits that, at first, he did find it very (7) ..... not being able to contact people online. As you'd (8) ..... , it was the social networking sites that he missed most of all.

Interestingly, Paul is now finding it easier (9) ..... than harder as the weeks without the internet go by. He finds that he has much more time to read books and meet friends face to face these days. He advises other people to (10) ..... a go at living without the internet, even if they can't manage it for a whole year!

1	A	Although	B	However	C	Instead	D	Despite
2	A	want	B	satisfy	C	like	D	wish
3	A	reliable	B	self-confident	C	influenced	D	dependent
4	A	giving up	B	trying out	C	going ahead	D	getting on
5	A	for	B	along	C	with	D	over
6	A	got	B	reached	C	arrived	D	come
7	A	strict	B	rigorous	C	strong	D	tough
8	A	believe	B	expect	C	consider	D	experience
9	A	except	B	unless	C	rather	D	otherwise
10	A	give	B	have	C	get	D	take

Turn Over ►

## Part 2

## Questions 11 – 15

Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only **one** word in each gap.

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## The Quality of City Life

More and more people are moving to cities to live, but how is people's quality of life being affected by this? People have different opinions about (11) ..... contributes to them having a 'good quality of city life'. Some would choose having plenty of parks, others a lack of crime. Most people, though, would agree that traffic congestion (12) ..... already become a really serious problem in their lives. People spend far (13) ..... much time stuck in their cars and getting angry. It's thought that, by the middle of the century, most cities will (14) ..... introduced much better public transport. (15) ..... this happens, a whole range of problems will be solved for people living in cities.

## Part 3

## Questions 16 – 20

Read the text and questions below.

For each question, circle the correct letter **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.

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### Money, Money, Money!

Trade goes back as far as recorded history and doubtless even further. The farmer exchanged corn for fish from the fisherman. All very fine, but it meant the farmer and the fisherman had to stay where they were. That's where money had the advantage. Once it was decided what a currency (whether it was seashells or gold coins) was worth, you could travel out of your area and its value stayed the same.

For many centuries, the actual value of the metals used in the coins showed the value which they represented in terms of trade. A gold coin has almost always represented a higher value than a silver one for example, because gold itself is more precious. **This** changed with the introduction of notes, made of paper, and now plastic credit cards are being used for the majority of our buying and shopping needs.

Using a credit card has become the normal way of paying for most people today, but it is a relatively recent invention and a very important one in the history of money. And it isn't difficult to see why! Having a lot of cash on you has

always had its disadvantages – you might lose it or be robbed. Some people have blamed the spread of diseases on dirty coins and notes being passed around in society. A pocketful of loose change can become rather heavy and uncomfortable to carry around.

Research indicates that people feel it's less dishonest to cheat others when using a credit card than cash. Psychologists believe that credit cards put a greater distance between the buyer and the seller and so cheating someone by using a card seems less dishonest than when using cash, because it makes the victim seem more remote. Dishonesty wouldn't have been a problem with the face-to-face exchange between our fisherman and farmer.

So would a bright, cashless society really make us happier or better people? It would certainly be more efficient. But I have to tell you that I lost my credit card three months ago and do you know what? I haven't replaced it yet and I haven't really missed it at all!

16 In the first paragraph what point is the writer making about the introduction of money?

A It made a wider range of products available.  
B It allowed people more freedom.  
C It brought different kinds of people together.  
D It made certain products less expensive.

17 In the second paragraph, what does the writer mean by 'this' (in bold)?

A the need for both notes and coins  
B the development of different currencies  
C the metal used equalling the value of the coin  
D using plastic and paper to show a currency's value

18 In the third paragraph, what is the writer's purpose?

A to explain the rise in popularity of the credit card  
B to show surprise at some reasons for not using cash  
C to introduce a new view of the history of money  
D to contrast people's attitudes to money now and in the past

19 In the fourth paragraph, the writer says that credit cards tend to

A encourage people to distrust others more.  
B make victims of crime become more dishonest themselves.  
C allow people to leave the scene of their crime more quickly.  
D make people feel less guilty when cheating others.

20 Which statement best sums up the writer's thoughts?

A The history of money is always changing, but not necessarily for the better.  
B Money has always caused problems between people and continues to do so.  
C It is quite likely that attitudes to money will change considerably in the future.  
D History has shown that money does not always make people happier.

## Part 4

## Questions 21 – 30

Read the text in which four travel journalists remember their travel highlights from this year and the questions below. For each question, choose the correct journalist. The journalists may be chosen more than once.

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## Which journalist

felt exhausted when he reached his destination?

21

did some regular exercise on holiday?

22

had to cope with freezing temperatures?

23

was disappointed with some travel arrangements that had been made for him?

24

strongly believed that he was in serious danger?

25

wandered down some interesting corridors?

26

ate a delicious evening meal outside?

27

felt like he had gone back in time?

28

spent his whole holiday sleeping in a tent?

29

got lost?

30

**A ED WALKER**

I was dragging myself up to 11,500 feet in Morocco's Atlas Mountains but it wasn't the crashing headache that got me down, it was the terrible anxiety – a feature of altitude sickness apparently. It's difficult to carry on when you're convinced that you and your three hiking buddies are about to die. We should have gone straight back down, but we couldn't find the path and had to camp the night in a tent on a windblown mountainside. I made it – just – through the sub-zero night, but only with the help of an excellent sleeping bag, and a handful of painkillers. You can imagine how amazing it felt when, less than 24 hours later, I was down the mountain, relaxing in a hot bath in the hotel and wondering what all the fuss had been about.

**B TOM ROSS**

After a 17-hour train journey, I arrived in Dibrugarh, India at 6 am, and I was looking forward to getting into a comfortable hotel bed. So it was with no small amount of horror that I arrived at the hotel. It was on a dirt road, along which lorries raised great clouds of dust. The corridors rang with the sounds of televisions and the wiring was terrifying! I sat at a dirty table in the dining room and felt desperate. Then I pulled out my guidebook – It recommended a place out in the countryside about six miles away. An hour later I was in a beautiful 18th-century palace surrounded by breathtaking gardens. White-jacketed staff steered me to the biggest room I have ever stayed in. That night I dined on the terrace and it was superb – here I was in the middle of nowhere, and yet the impressive dishes wouldn't have been out of place in the best restaurant.

**C SEAN YATES**

There I was, sleeping in a yurt – a traditional tent. It was the middle of the night, and I woke to the sound of rain. As water dripped onto my sleeping bag, I thought I was in for trouble. In fact, my stay in a yurt in Lycia, Turkey, turned out to be my best holiday of the year. The main building was a restored farmhouse, then there were 15 yurts arranged around its gardens. The views across the farmland stretched all the way to the Taurus Mountains in one direction and the Turquoise Coast in another. It was the perfect setting in which to enjoy home-cooked meals, a swimming pool, and yoga lessons below the trees twice a day. By the end of my week, I was totally relaxed.

**D RON JONES**

Italy was my highlight but Venice was too hot and packed with tourists, so I headed off to Rome as soon as I could and had an amazing time in the city's second-century Trajan's Market. There, I explored fascinating corridors lined with chambers that had once been shops. They seemed just hours before to have been emptied of their jars of oil and wine and folds of rich cloth. You need less of an act of imagination here than anywhere else in Rome to travel back almost two thousand years into the past and fill the market with shoppers in togas, or strolling Roman soldiers.