

Reading test_English 1

Student name _____

Group/Class _____

Date _____ Score _____

VOCABULARY

1 Complete the conversation with the correct answers (A, B, or C).

Liane: I feel it's my duty to do (1) _____ to help people less
(2) _____ than me. What do you think?

Juan: I would (3) _____ it, but I don't know where to find information.

Liane: I can give you (4) _____ for good organizations that need
volunteers. Or, you can always (5) _____ money.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 A community service | B institution | C recommendations |
| 2 A consider | B fortunate | C concept |
| 3 A donate | B institution | C consider |
| 4 A recommendations | B community service | C concepts |
| 5 A consider | B duty | C donate |

Score: / 5

2 Complete the words in the sentences. The first letter is given, and there is one space for each letter.

There are many (1) b _____ to doing volunteer work. For example,
you meet new people and learn new skills.

It really makes a situation better when people are
(2) c _____ and work together.

The (3) p _____ goal of the project is to provide food to people in
need.

Maria's (4) n _____ working day is from 9-5, but today she's working late.

Ben has an (5) i _____ level of English, but he's
working hard to reach the next level.

Score: / 5

3 Choose the correct word (A, B, or C) to complete each sentence.

- 1 The company found a _____ to the problem by hiring more workers.
A challenge B waste C solution
- 2 There are over a _____ people who live in India.
A billion B profit C challenge
- 3 The _____ for us is to find a good way to keep fresh food from going bad.
A waste B challenge C agriculture
- 4 It's difficult to _____ so many people, but at least we can grow our own vegetables.
A feed B hunger C profit
- 5 Jake is studying _____ because he wants to help farmers grow and sell their produce.
A solution B waste C agriculture

Score: / 5

4 Complete the dialogue with the correct words from the list below. There are three words which are not used.

achievement allows create efficient friendship introduce part-time
sales

- Minh: Hello. Let me (1) _____ myself. My name's Minh.
- Sarah: Nice to meet you, Minh. I'm Sarah. Do you work here, too?
- Minh: Yes, I do. I only work (2) _____ though, because I'm still in school.
- Sarah: Oh that's good, so your schedule (3) _____ you time to study.
- Minh: Yes, that's right! I'm really busy with school right now but I'll graduate this summer.
- Sarah: Well, that's quite an (4) _____ ! Congratulations. And maybe that's why I haven't seen you before. I work in (5) _____ , and I travel a lot.
- Minh: What do you do when you travel?
- Sarah: I meet lots of people and tell them all about our products.

Score: / 5

5 Write the word with the same meaning as the underlined word.

1 The work party is an event which happens once a year.

2 I usually travel to Europe two times every year.

3 I make twice as much money now than when I first graduated.

4 The number of products my company sells has increased this year.

5 There are three times more employees at the company now than when I started working here.

- A double
- B annual
- C triple
- D bi-annual
- E quantity

Score: / 5

6 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

Don't worry if your paper isn't perfect. You can do a (1) *revision/paragraph* and turn it in again.

My boss has a (2) *specify/policy* which allows us to work from home on Fridays.

My company is changing, which (3) *evolving/indicates* that my boss likes new technology.

We have a (4) *definite/evolving* plan to meet at 8 a.m. so don't be late.

You need to (5) *revision/specify* your exact location so we can find you.

Score: / 5

READING

READING PASSAGE 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 1–13, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.

Domestic robots

Machines that look after your home are getting cleverer, but they still need care and attention if they are to perform as intended

Floor-cleaning machines capable of responding to their environment were among the first commercially available domestic products worthy of being called robots. The best known is the Roomba, made by iRobot, an American company which has sold more than three million of the disc-shaped, frisbee-sized vacuuming robots. The latest model, the fifth version of the Roomba, has more sensors and cleverer software than its predecessors. Press the 'Clean' button and the robot glides out of its docking station and sets off across the floor.



Domestic robots are supposed to free up time so that you can do other things, but watching how the Roomba deals with obstacles is strangely compelling. It is capable of sensing its surroundings, and does not simply try to adhere to a pre-planned route, so it is not upset if furniture is moved, or if it is picked up and taken to clean another room. Its infra-red sensors enable it to slow down before reaching an obstacle – such as a dozy cat – changing direction and setting off again.

It steadily works its way around the room, figuring out how to get out from under the television stand or untangle itself from a stray Game Boy recharging lead. Watch it for long enough, and you can sometimes predict its next move. The machine has a 'dirt sensor' and flashes a blue light when it finds things to clean up. Only when it detects no more dirt does it stop going over the same area and, eventually, conclude that the whole room is clean. It then trundles back to dock at its recharging station.

So the first observation of life with a domestic robot is that you will keep watching it before you trust it completely. Perhaps that is not surprising: after all, when automatic washing machines first appeared, people used to draw up a chair and sit and watch them complete their wash, rinse and spin cycles. Now they just load them, switch them on and leave them to it.

The second observation is that, despite their current level of intelligence, certain allowances must be made to get the best out of a domestic robot. The Roomba can be set up to clean at particular times, and to clean more than one room (small infra-red 'lighthouses' can be positioned in doorways, creating an invisible barrier between one room and the next that is only removed when the first room has been cleaned). A 'drop-off' sensor underneath the robot prevents it from falling down stairs. All very clever, but what the Roomba will not do is pick up toys, shoes and other items left lying around. Rooms cared for by robots must be kept tidy. To start with, children will happily put things away in order to watch the robot set off, but unfortunately the novelty soon wears off.

Similar allowances must be made for other domestic robots. Sweden's Husqvarna recently launched a new version of its Automower lawn mowing robot. Before it can be used, a wire must be placed around the perimeter of the lawn to define the part to be cut. If toys and other obstacles are not cleared from the lawn before it starts work, the robot will steer around them, leaving uncut areas. However, the latest version can top up its batteries with solar power, or send its owner a text message if it gets into trouble trying to climb a mole-hill.

But there is still only a limited range of domestic robots. Machines that mop the floor, clean a swimming pool and clear muck from guttering are made by iRobot. Several surveillance robots are also on offer. The Rovio, made by WowWee of Hong Kong, is a wi-fi-enabled webcam, mounted on an extending arm, which rides along smoothly on a nimble set of three wheels. Its movement can be remotely operated over the Internet via a laptop or mobile phone. The idea is that Rovio can patrol the home when its owner is away, either automatically or under manual control: in the latter case, two-way communication allows the operator to see and talk via the machine. So you could, for instance, shout at the cat if it is sleeping on your best sofa.

Some machines are called robots even though they cannot move around. There is an ironing robot, for instance, that resembles an inflatable dummy: put a damp shirt on it, and it puffs up to remove the creases. Similarly, there are elaborate trouser presses that aspire to be robots. But do these devices really count as robots? If so, then surely dishwashers and washing machines do, too.

Yet whatever shape or size robots come in, many will be adored. Another important observation from living with a robot is that it tends to become part of the family. 'People give them names, and if they have to be sent back for repair, they carefully add a mark to them to ensure they get the same machine back,' says Nancy Dussault Smith of iRobot.

Practice test

Questions 1–6

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?

Write

TRUE	if the statement agrees with the information
FALSE	if the statement contradicts the information
NOT GIVEN	if there is no information on this

- 1 Improvements have been made to Roomba over time.
- 2 Obstacles have to be removed from Roomba's path.
- 3 Roomba keeps cleaning in one place until it thinks it is dirt free.
- 4 People once found washing machines as fascinating as robots.
- 5 Comparative studies are available on the intelligence of domestic robots.
- 6 Roomba tidies up a room as well as cleaning it.

Questions 7–10

Answer the questions below.

Use **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

- 7 What is used to mark out the mowing area for the Automower?
- 8 What form of renewable energy can some Automowers use?
- 9 What does the ironing robot look like?
- 10 What do people often put on a robot when it is going to be repaired?

Questions 11–13

Label the diagram below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

The Rovio



READING PASSAGE 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 14–26, which are based on Reading Passage 2 below.

Deforestation in the 21st century

When it comes to cutting down trees, satellite data reveals a shift from the patterns of the past

- A** Globally, roughly 13 million hectares of forest are destroyed each year. Such deforestation has long been driven by farmers desperate to earn a living or by loggers building new roads into pristine forest. But now new data appears to show that big, block clearings that reflect industrial deforestation have come to dominate, rather than these smaller-scale efforts that leave behind long, narrow swaths of cleared land. Geographer Ruth DeFries of Columbia University and her colleagues used satellite images to analyse tree-clearing in countries ringing the tropics, representing 98 per cent of all remaining tropical forest. Instead of the usual 'fish bone' signature of deforestation from small-scale operations, large, chunky blocks of cleared land reveal a new motive for cutting down woods.
- B** In fact, a statistical analysis of 41 countries showed that forest loss rates were most closely linked with urban population growth and agricultural exports in the early part of the 21st century – even overall population growth was not as strong an influence. 'In previous decades, deforestation was associated with planned colonisation, resettlement schemes in local areas and farmers clearing land to grow food for subsistence,' DeFries says. 'What we're seeing now is a shift from small-scale farmers driving deforestation to distant demands from urban growth, agricultural trade and exports being more important drivers.'
- C** In other words, the increasing urbanisation of the developing world, as populations leave rural areas to concentrate in booming cities, is driving deforestation, rather than containing it. Coupled with this there is an ongoing increase in consumption in the developed world of products that have an impact on forests, whether furniture, shoe leather or chicken feed. 'One of the really striking characteristics of this century is urbanisation and rapid urban growth in the developing world,' DeFries says. 'People in cities need to eat.' 'There's no surprise there,' observes Scott Poynton, executive director of the Tropical Forest Trust, a Switzerland-based organisation that helps businesses implement and manage sustainable forestry in countries such as Brazil, Congo and Indonesia. 'It's not about people chopping down trees. It's all the people in New York, Europe and elsewhere who want cheap products, primarily food.'
- D** DeFries argues that in order to help sustain this increasing urban and global demand, agricultural productivity will need to be increased on lands that have already been cleared. This means that better crop varieties or better management techniques will need to be used



on the many degraded and abandoned lands in the tropics. And the Tropical Forest Trust is building management systems to keep illegally harvested wood from ending up in, for example, deck chairs, as well as expanding its efforts to look at how to reduce the 'forest footprint' of agricultural products such as palm oil. Poynton says, 'The point is to give forests value as forests, to keep them as forests and give them a use as forests. They're not going to be locked away as national parks. That's not going to happen.'

- E** But it is not all bad news. Halts in tropical deforestation have resulted in forest regrowth in some areas where tropical lands were previously cleared. And forest clearing in the Amazon, the world's largest tropical forest, dropped from roughly 1.9 million hectares a year in the 1990s to 1.6 million hectares a year over the last decade, according to the Brazilian government. 'We know that deforestation has slowed down in at least the Brazilian Amazon,' DeFries says. 'Every place is different. Every country has its own particular situation, circumstances and driving forces.'
- F** Regardless of this, deforestation continues, and cutting down forests is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions from human activity – a double blow that both eliminates a biological system to suck up CO₂ and creates a new source of greenhouse gases in the form of decaying plants. The United Nations Environment Programme estimates that slowing such deforestation could reduce some 50 billion metric tons of CO₂, or more than a year of global emissions. Indeed, international climate negotiations continue to attempt to set up a system to encourage this, known as the UN Development Programme's fund for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD). If policies [like REDD] are to be effective, we need to understand what the driving forces are behind deforestation, DeFries argues. This is particularly important in the light of new pressures that are on the horizon: the need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and find alternative power sources, particularly for private cars, is forcing governments to make products such as biofuels more readily accessible. This will only exacerbate the pressures on tropical forests.
- G** But millions of hectares of pristine forest remain to protect, according to this new analysis from Columbia University. Approximately 60 percent of the remaining tropical forests are in countries or areas that currently have little agricultural trade or urban growth. The amount of forest area in places like central Africa, Guyana and Suriname, DeFries notes, is huge. 'There's a lot of forest that has not yet faced these pressures.'

Questions 14–19

Reading Passage 2 has seven paragraphs, A–G.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

You may use any letter more than once.

- 14 two ways that farming activity might be improved in the future
- 15 reference to a fall in the rate of deforestation in one area
- 16 the amount of forest cut down annually
- 17 how future transport requirements may increase deforestation levels
- 18 a reference to the typical shape of early deforested areas
- 19 key reasons why forests in some areas have not been cut down

Questions 20–21

Choose **TWO** letters, A–E.

Which **TWO** of these reasons do experts give for current patterns of deforestation?

- A to provide jobs
- B to create transport routes
- C to feed city dwellers
- D to manufacture low-budget consumer items
- E to meet government targets

Questions 22–23

Choose **TWO** letters, A–E.

The list below gives some of the impacts of tropical deforestation.

Which **TWO** of these results are mentioned by the writer of the text?

- A local food supplies fall
- B soil becomes less fertile
- C some areas have new forest growth
- D some regions become uninhabitable
- E local economies suffer

Questions 24–26

Complete the sentences below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** and/or **A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.

- 24 The expression 'a' is used to assess the amount of wood used in certain types of production.
- 25 Greenhouse gases result from the that remain after trees have been cut down.
- 26 About of the world's tropical forests have not experienced deforestation yet.