



CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH

Language Assessment

Part of the University of Cambridge

FIRST CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH

D251/01

Reading and Use of English

SAMPLE TEST 1

Time 1 hour 15 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this question paper until you are told to do so.

Write your name, centre number and candidate number on your answer sheet if they are not already there.

Read the instructions for each part of the paper carefully.

Answer all the questions.

Read the instructions on the answer sheet.

Write your answers on the answer sheet. Use a pencil.

You **must** complete the answer sheet within the time limit.

At the end of the test, hand in both this question paper and your answer sheet.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

There are 52 questions in this paper.

Questions **1 – 24** and **43 – 52** carry one mark.

Questions **25 – 30** carry up to two marks.

Questions **31 – 42** carry two marks.

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).

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Example:

0 A band B set C branch D series

0	A	B	C	D
	☐	☐	☒	☐

What is genealogy?

Genealogy is a (0) of history. It concerns family history, (1) than the national or world history studied at school. It doesn't merely involve drawing a family tree, however – tracing your family history can also (2) in learning about your roots and your identity. The internet enables millions of people worldwide to (3) information about their family history, without great (4)

People who research their family history often (5) that it's a fascinating hobby which (6) a lot about where they come from and whether they have famous ancestors. According to a survey involving 900 people who had researched their family history, the chances of discovering a celebrity in your past are one in ten. The survey also concluded that the (7) back you follow your family line, the more likely you are to find a relation who was much wealthier than you are. However, the vast majority of people who (8) in the survey discovered they were better off than their ancestors.

- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|------------|---|--------------|---|----------|---|------------|
| 1 | A | instead | B | rather | C | except | D | sooner |
| 2 | A | cause | B | mean | C | result | D | lead |
| 3 | A | accomplish | B | access | C | approach | D | admit |
| 4 | A | fee | B | price | C | charge | D | expense |
| 5 | A | describe | B | define | C | remark | D | regard |
| 6 | A | reveals | B | opens | C | begins | D | arises |
| 7 | A | older | B | greater | C | higher | D | further |
| 8 | A | attended | B | participated | C | included | D | associated |

Part 2

For questions 9 – 16, 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).

Write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

Example: 0 A S

Motorbike stunt rider

I work (0) a motorbike stunt rider – that is, I do tricks on my motorbike at shows. The Le Mans race track in France was (9) I first saw some guys doing motorbike stunts. I'd never seen anyone riding a motorbike using just the back wheel before and I was (10) impressed I went straight home and taught (11) to do the same. It wasn't very long before I began to earn my living at shows performing my own motorbike stunts.

I have a degree (12) mechanical engineering; this helps me to look at the physics (13) lies behind each stunt. In addition to being responsible for design changes to the motorbike, I have to work (14) every stunt I do. People often think that my work is very dangerous, but, apart (15) some minor mechanical problem happening occasionally during a stunt, nothing ever goes wrong. I never feel in (16) kind of danger because I'm very experienced.

Part 3

For questions 17 – 24, 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).

Write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

Example: 0 C O M M O N L Y

An incredible vegetable

Garlic, a member of the Liliaceae family which also includes onions, is

(0) used in cooking all around the world. China is currently the largest (17) of garlic, which is particularly associated with the dishes of northern Africa and southern Europe. It is native to central Asia and has long had a history as a health-giving food, used both to prevent and cure (18) In Ancient Egypt, workers building the pyramids were given garlic to keep them strong, while Olympic athletes in Greece ate it to increase their resistance to infection.

COMMON

PRODUCT

ILL

The forefather of antibiotic medicine, Louis Pasteur, claimed garlic was as (19) as penicillin in treating infections. Modern-day (20) have proved that garlic can indeed kill bacteria and even some viruses, so it can be very useful for people who have coughs and colds. In (21) , some doctors believe that garlic can reduce blood (22)

EFFECT

SCIENCE

ADD

PRESS

The only (23) to this truly amazing food is that the strong and rather (24) smell of garlic is not the most pleasant!

ADVANTAGE

SPICE

Part 4

For questions **25 – 30**, 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 A very friendly taxi driver drove us into town.

DRIVEN

We a very friendly taxi driver.

The gap can be filled by the words 'were driven into town by', so you write:

Example:

0

WERE DRIVEN INTO TOWN BY

Write **only** the missing words **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

- 25 Joan was in favour of visiting the museum.

IDEA

Joan thought it would be to the museum.

- 26 Arthur has the talent to become a concert pianist.

THAT

Arthur is so could become a concert pianist.

- 27 'Do you know when the match starts, Sally?' asked Mary.

IF

Mary asked Sally time the match started.

- 28 I knocked for ages at Ruth's door but I got no reply.

LONG

I knocking at Ruth's door but I got no reply.

- 29 Everyone says that the band is planning to go on a world tour next year.

SAID

The band planning to go on a world tour next year.

- 30 I'd prefer not to cancel the meeting.

CALL

I'd rather the meeting.

Part 5

You are going to read an extract from a novel in which a young woman called Caitlin talks about her life on an island. For questions 31 – 36, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

We live on the island of Hale. It's about four kilometres long and two kilometres wide at its broadest point, and it's joined to the mainland by a causeway called the Stand - a narrow road built across the mouth of the river which separates us from the rest of the country. Most of the time you wouldn't know we're on an island because the river mouth between us and the mainland is just a vast stretch of tall grasses and brown mud. But when there's a high tide and the water rises a half a metre or so above the road and nothing can pass until the tide goes out again a few hours later, then you know it's an island.

We were on our way back from the mainland. My older brother, Dominic, had just finished his first year at university in a town 150 km away. Dominic's train was due in at five and he'd asked for a lift back from the station. Now, Dad normally hates being disturbed when he's writing (which is just about all the time), and he also hates having to go *anywhere*, but despite the typical sighs and moans – why can't he get a taxi? what's wrong with the bus? – I could tell by the sparkle in his eyes that he was really looking forward to seeing Dominic.

So, anyway, Dad and I had driven to the mainland and picked up Dominic from the station. He had been talking non-stop from the moment he'd slung his rucksack in the boot and got in the car. University this, university that, writers, books, parties, people, money, gigs.... And when I say talking, I don't mean talking as in having a conversation, I mean talking as in jabbering like a mad thing. I didn't like it the way he spoke and waved his hands around as if he was some kind of intellectual or something. It was embarrassing. It made me feel uncomfortable – that kind of discomfort you feel when someone you like, someone close to you, suddenly starts acting like a complete idiot. And I didn't like the way he was ignoring me, either. For all the attention I was getting I might as well not have been there. I felt a stranger in my own car.

As we approached the island on that Friday afternoon, the tide was low and the Stand welcomed us home, stretched out before us, clear and dry, beautifully hazy in the heat – a raised strip of grey concrete bound by white railings and a low footpath on either side, with rough cobbled banks leading down to the water. Beyond the railings, the water was glinting with that wonderful silver light we sometimes get here in the late afternoon which lazies through to the early evening.

We were about halfway across when I saw the boy. My first thought was how odd it was to see someone walking on the Stand. You don't often see people walking around here. Between Hale and Moulton (the nearest town about thirty kilometres away on the mainland), there's nothing but small cottages, farmland, heathland and a couple of hills. So islanders don't walk because of that. If they're going to Moulton they tend to take the bus. So the only pedestrians you're likely to see around here are walkers or bird-watchers. But even from a distance I could tell that the figure ahead didn't fit into either of these categories. I wasn't sure how I knew, I just did.

As we drew closer, he became clearer. He was actually a young man rather than a boy. Although he was on the small side, he wasn't as slight as I'd first thought. He wasn't exactly muscular, but he wasn't weedy-looking either. It's hard to explain. There was a sense of strength about him, a graceful strength that showed in his balance, the way he held himself, the way he walked....

- 31 In the first paragraph, what is Caitlin's main point about the island?
- A It can be dangerous to try to cross from the mainland.
 - B It is much smaller than it looks from the mainland.
 - C It is only completely cut off at certain times.
 - D It can be a difficult place for people to live in.
- 32 What does Caitlin suggest about her father?
- A His writing prevents him from doing things he wants to with his family.
 - B His initial reaction to his son's request is different from usual.
 - C His true feelings are easily hidden from his daughter.
 - D His son's arrival is one event he will take time off for.
- 33 Caitlin emphasises her feelings of discomfort because she
- A is embarrassed that she doesn't understand what her brother is talking about.
 - B feels confused about why she can't relate to her brother any more.
 - C is upset by the unexpected change in her brother's behaviour.
 - D feels foolish that her brother's attention is so important to her.
- 34 In the fourth paragraph, what is Caitlin's purpose in describing the island?
- A to express her positive feelings about it
 - B to explain how the road was built
 - C to illustrate what kind of weather was usual
 - D to describe her journey home
- 35 In 'because of that' in line 31, 'that' refers to the fact that
- A locals think it is odd to walk anywhere.
 - B it is easier for people to take the bus than walk.
 - C people have everything they need on the island.
 - D there is nowhere in particular to walk to from the island.
- 36 What do we learn about Caitlin's reactions to the boy?
- A She felt his air of confidence contrasted with his physical appearance.
 - B She was able to come up with a reason for him being there.
 - C She realised her first impression of him was inaccurate.
 - D She thought she had seen him somewhere before.