



Intermediate Level Reading and Use of English Test

Section R1 (13 marks)

Read the following article and answer all the questions.

Ellen Ochoa

Ellen Ochoa was the first female Hispanic astronaut. Her grandparents had left Mexico and emigrated to Arizona, USA, and Ellen was born in 1958. Although her birthplace was Los Angeles, Ellen considers La Mesa, a small town near San Diego, to be her hometown as that's where she was brought up.

At school, Ellen was so interested in science and technology that her friends used to laugh at her. She ignored this and concentrated hard on her education. She went on to study physics and electrical engineering at university, where she heard about Sally Ride, the first American woman to go into space. This motivated Ellen and as a result, she too decided she wanted to become an astronaut.

After university, she started work as a research engineer, and in 1990 was selected by the North American Space Agency (NASA) to join its astronaut programme. Women were first accepted on this programme in 1978, when six of a class of 35, were female. This was around 17%. By the time Ellen joined, this had increased to 25%. Today, this number hasn't really changed, although the class of 2013 was unusual, with 50% of students being women.

Ellen's first mission into space was on the shuttle *Discovery*. Ellen travelled three more times into space. After her fourth flight, Ellen retired from being an astronaut and became the director of *The Johnson Space Center* in Texas. Only one woman had held that post before Ellen. Here, Ellen helped to develop the spaceship *Orion*, which will at some point take humans to Mars.

Ellen no longer does this job. Instead, she travels around giving talks about her career. She visits schools, where she describes how astronauts need to be creative and are often good at working out maths problems. However, she knows many children don't share her love of science, so encourages them to have big goals and to be ambitious.

In questions 1-3, please answer in complete sentences. (2 marks each)

1. Where in the USA was Ellen Ochoa born?
2. How many times did she travel to space?
3. What does Ellen do now?

For questions 4-8, tick the correct answer. (1 mark each)

4. Ellen's friends encouraged her to study science at school.
True False
5. Ellen was the second female director of The Johnson Space Center.
True False
6. When did Ellen decide she wanted to become an astronaut?
A when she was at school
B while studying at university
C after getting a job as an engineer
7. In 1990, what percentage of NASA's astronaut workforce was women?
A 25%
B 35%
C 50%
8. Ellen's message to all school children is that they should
A study science.
B be good at maths.
C aim high.

Write the words in the box (1 mark each)

9. Find the word in the passage which means the **OPPOSITE** of:

rejected (paragraph 3)
10. Find the word or phrase in the passage which means the **SAME** as:

solving (paragraph 5)

Section R2 (7 marks)

Read the five short texts below, which are all descriptions of journeys.

Choose from the texts (A to E) and complete the answer grid. The texts may be chosen more than once. One has been done for you as an example.

A. It was raining really heavily yesterday and as a result, all the buses were full, which meant I didn't manage to get a seat. I was really tired after a 10-hour shift at the café, and I was looking forward to a relaxing journey home. Luckily, I met a colleague and chatting to her helped the journey go quickly.

B. I decided to cycle to work at the call centre yesterday. The weather had been fine all week so I didn't check the weather forecast and decided not to take a coat. However, annoyingly, it started pouring with rain soon after I'd set off. I arrived at work completely wet and had to stand up all morning so as not to get the chairs wet.

C. I always enjoy train journeys, especially on a sunny day. It's a nice time to relax, look at the countryside and listen to music on my phone. However, last week I was on a six-hour journey to visit my cousin and just as I sat down, I realised I'd forgotten my phone. I thought I'd have a really boring journey but fortunately, I got talking to the person opposite me and we found out we had lots in common.

D. Everything went well and I fortunately arrived on time for my interview. The taxi to the station was very quick even though it cost three times more than my bus fare would have done. Stupidly, I'd written the train time down wrongly and it left at 3.45 pm not 4 pm as I had thought. As a result, I had to run and was only just in time.

E. I used to think that the bus was the best way to get to the airport, but last week the airport bus didn't turn up and so we had to call a taxi. The taxi got us to the airport in good time despite the fact that it was rush hour, so the traffic was terrible with people going home from work. Also, shared between the four of us, it cost no more than the bus. I think I'll do the same next time.

Which person A, B, C, D or E

nearly missed a train?	e.g.	D
had to spend more money than planned?	1	
travelled at the busiest time of day?	2	
has changed his/her mind about the best way to travel?	3	
had to stand up on a journey?	4	
wasn't prepared for bad weather?	5	
was travelling home from work?	6	
enjoyed a conversation with a stranger?	7	

Section R3 (20 marks)

Choose the correct answer for each sentence and tick the box.

Example:

My parents have been living in France for 15 years.

✓ A for B during C since D until

1. If I _____ more time, I would read more books.

A had B have C have had D will have

2. Has the computer been _____ yet?

A fixing B fixed C to fix D fix

3. John is having his car _____ today.

A clean B cleaning C to clean D cleaned

4. If you had caught the train, you would _____ by now.

A arriving B have arrived C arrive D had arrived

5. The new basketball coach isn't quite _____ the last one.

A very friendly B most friendly C friendlier than D as friendly as

6. Paula _____ when she fell and broke her leg.

A was dancing B is dancing C has danced D dances

7. That's the hotel _____ my sister works.

A which B that C what D where

8. He phoned the restaurant _____ change the reservation.

A in spite of B although C in order to D because of

9. Tell the children to take off their shoes before _____ in the house.

A coming B come C to come D came

10. She'd come to the party if she lived nearer, _____

A won't she? B hadn't she? C wouldn't she? D didn't she?

Section W3 (10 marks)

Rewrite the sentences to give the same meaning as the original. The beginning of the sentence has been provided. Also use the word in brackets. Do not change it in any way. Other changes to the sentence will be necessary.

Example:

Molly's painting is more beautiful than the others in the gallery. (most)

Molly's painting is the most beautiful painting in the gallery.

1. These football boots are too small for me to wear. (enough)

These football boots

2. The cake was so delicious that I ate three pieces. (such)

It

3. They'll send a replacement phone tomorrow. (be)

A replacement phone

4. The orchestra is going to perform three new songs tomorrow. (by)

Three new songs

5. 'I've never visited my cousin in Paris,' said Karl. (he)

Karl said

10

Section R4 (10 marks)

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word in brackets.
Write ONE WORD ONLY on the line.

Example:

Dave carried the old vase very carefully. (careful)

1. Jack _____ held up the silver cup and the crowd cheered. (proud)
2. There are lots of _____ restaurants in my city. (Argentina)
3. We were _____ to lose the match. We played well and I thought we would win. (lucky)
4. Sinan is planning a big _____ for her sixteenth birthday. (celebrate)
5. The _____ asked the visitors to wait in the hotel restaurant. (reception)
6. I couldn't sleep because the party next door was too _____ (noise)
7. Thank you for your _____ this week. You've been very helpful. (kind)
8. The book was really _____ so I took it back to the library and chose something better. (bore)
9. I wasn't sure of the _____ of the word so I looked it up in the online dictionary. (mean)
10. My cousin has worked as a _____ for 20 years. (build)

10

Section W4 (5 marks)

In each sentence, there are two verbs. One of the verbs can be changed for the phrasal verb given in brackets. Rewrite each sentence using the phrasal verb given. Change the form of the phrasal verb where necessary. There are two examples.

Example 1:

When the price falls I'll buy that new camera.

(go down)

When the price goes down I'll buy that new camera.

Example 2:

Juan doesn't like Paul but he tolerates him.

(put up
with)

Juan doesn't like Paul but he puts up with him.

1. I spoke to the bank about the mistake in my account and they are investigating it. (look into)

2. Sam didn't come to the party yesterday because he hadn't recovered from the flu. (get over)

3. Sally was going to help me with my maths homework, but she broke her promise. (let down)

4. I found my keys when I was tidying my desk drawer. (come across)

5. Jorge is going to stop buying fizzy drinks and have water instead. (give up)