

English B – Higher level – Paper 2 – Listening comprehension

Specimen paper 1 hour

Instructions to candidates

Write your session number in the boxes above.

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer all questions.
- Answers must be written within the answer boxes provided.
- Answers may be written at any time during the examination.
- There will be three audio texts. All answers must be based on the appropriate audio texts.
- There will be four minutes of reading time at the start of each audio text.
- Each audio text will be played twice. There will be a two-minute pause before each audio text is repeated.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is [25 marks]

Text A: PISA Report Audio track 19



You are going to listen to a conversation between two teachers at an international school.

For questions 1–5, choose the best answer (a, b, c, or d)

- 1 According to these teachers, the PISA report is controversial because ...
 - a it ranks countries by students' test results for maths, reading and science
 - b it contributes to income inequality among teachers
 - c it is impossible to compare students' results from so many different countries
 - d none of the above
- 2 Martin believes that schools in Singapore are so successful because ...
 - a students take school more seriously
 - b Singapore is an emerging country that values education and educators highly
 - c students do what they're told
 - d income inequality is low among its citizens
- 3 On Jack's trip to Poland ...
 - a he was disappointed by students' lack of creativity
 - b he saw how they were hard-working and obedient
 - c he could see they were winning the education race against Russia
 - d he noticed very little critical thinking
- 4 Martin ...
 - a believes that students cannot perform creative tasks without knowledge of basic facts
 - b finds the differences between education in Singapore and Holland paradoxical
 - c agrees with psychologists who say that creative thinkers are often good at memorization and arithmetic
 - d sees many similarities between students in Singapore and Poland.

- 5 According to Martin, teacher autonomy ...
- a accounts for the successful results of students in Finland
 - b is what he likes about his job
 - c both a and b
 - d neither a nor b


Give short but complete answers to questions 6 and 7.

- 6 What do all the high-ranking countries on the PISA list have in common?

.....

- 7 Why is Martin reluctant to say that the smartest students are only from certain countries?

.....

Text B: Cameron Rouge  **Audio track 20**



You are going to listen to an interview with Cameron Rouge, a fictional, famous model.

The sentences below are either true or false. Tick the correct response then justify in your own words or using those from the recording. Both a tick and a justification are required for one mark.

- 8 Cameron Rouge is worried about what people will think of her ideas.

True	False
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Justification:

.....

- 9 Cameron Rouge is still doing modelling work despite speaking out in her new book.

True	False
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Justification:

.....

- 10 Cameron Rouge's new book includes photographs that have not been digitally retouched.

True	False
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Justification:

.....

11 Shows like *America's Next Top Model* and people like Tyra Banks offer an accurate representation of models in the modelling industry, according to Cameron Rouge. True False

Justification:

.....

12 Cameron Rouge has been affected directly by racial profiling. True False

Justification:

.....

Give short but complete answers to questions 13–15

13 Why does Cameron believe that she, of all people, has a right to speak out against racial discrimination?

.....


14 Give two reasons why Cameron's life is not as great as people think. [2 marks]

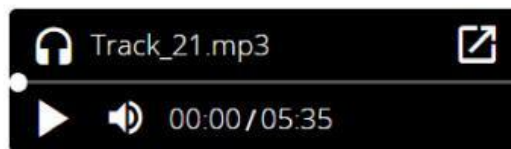
Reason 1:

Reason 2:

15 Why does the interviewer accuse Cameron of being hypocritical?

.....

Text C: Online gambling  Audio track 21



You are going to listen to an interview with Dr. Gurken, a professor of social and cultural anthropology.

Answer questions 16–22 in complete sentences.

16 Why does the interviewer believe that the title of Dr. Gurken's article is paradoxical?

.....

17 In Western Europe, what kinds of economic activities coincided with the rise of gambling?

.....

18 According to Dr. Gurken, why could colonialism be seen as a kind of gamble?

.....

19 What, according to Dr. Gurken, are three factors that lead to gambling in a society? [3 marks]

Factor 1:

Factor 2:

Factor 3:

20 Why did places like Papua New Guinea not have experiences with gambling as late as the 1950s?

.....

21 Why have rates of addiction to gambling increased around the world in recent years?

.....

22 What is Dr. Gurken's response to the interviewer's argument that gamblers will find a way to gamble, even if you block sites, pop-ups and IP addresses?

.....