PLACEMENT TEST

TGC ENGLISH CENTER

READING

READING PASSAGE 1

VENUS

The planet Venus, named after the Roman goddess of love, is the second closest planet to the Sun (Mercury is the closest), and the second brightest natural object in the night sky (after the Moon).

From Earth, Venus is brightest just after sunset and just before dawn. Because of this, the planet is often known as the Morning Star or the Evening Star. Venus is also sometimes known as the Earth's sister, because both planets share similarities in terms of size – Venus' surface area and volume are just a little smaller than Earth's. However, scientists believe that, several billion years ago, Venus and Earth were much more similar than they are today. Back then, Venus' atmosphere was more like Earth's, and there was almost certainly water in liquid form on the surface. Over time, Venus became hotter, and this water evaporated. Today, the planet's surface is a dry dusty desert.

Above the ground on Venus are sulphuric acid clouds. These thick clouds prevent the surface of the planet being seen from Earth. Indeed, it is only in the last few decades that scientists have discovered what the surface of the planet is really like. In the early 1990s, NASA's Magellan spacecraft mapped the surface of Venus in detail for the first time. Its radar images of hills, ridges and craters are almost photographic in their quality.

Questions 1–3

*Which **THREE** of the following statements are true, according to the reading passage?*
***NB** Your answers may be given in any order.*

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

A The Moon is the brightest natural object in the night sky.
B From Earth, Venus is at its brightest in the middle of the night.
C Venus is a slightly larger planet than Earth.
D Venus' atmosphere has changed greatly over billions of years.
E A telescope is required to see Venus' surface from Earth.
F Scientists now have a detailed map of the surface of Venus.
G The surface of Venus is almost completely flat.

Questions 4–10

Complete the sentences.
*Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.*

4 The ancient Romans had a _____ called Venus.
5 Only _____ is closer to the Sun than Venus.
6 Venus has been called the _____, the Morning Star and the Evening Star.
7 It is highly likely that there was _____ on Venus in the past.
8 Venus is a much _____ planet than it used to be.
9 Venus' thick clouds are made of _____.
10 The spacecraft Magellan used _____ to create pictures of the surface of Venus.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

READING PASSAGE 2

SUPERCONDUCTIVITY

In 1908, Heike Kamerlingh Onnes became the first scientist to produce liquid helium, achieving the lowest temperatures recorded up to that point. A number of researchers had suggested that materials behaved differently at very low temperatures, and this substance was important in allowing experiments that confirmed it. Working with solid mercury, Onnes demonstrated the phenomenon of superconductivity. This is when the electrical resistance of the metal drops suddenly to zero. No energy is lost as an electric current travels through the material, making it very efficient for storing or transmitting power. Since the work done by Onnes, other superconducting materials have been discovered that can be used at higher temperatures and which are therefore more economical.

There are a number of practical applications of superconducting materials. Many of these applications are based on the fact that the materials can be made into extremely powerful electromagnets. These are used in scientific experiments to direct beams of particles. They also form part of maglev trains – trains that float a small distance above the rails because of magnetic forces. Because there is no contact between the train and the rail, this form of transport is capable of very high speeds, although it is unlikely to be in widespread use until costs drop considerably.

Questions 11–15

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

11 Many people had tried to produce liquid helium before Onnes. _____
12 Onnes was the only scientist interested in very low temperatures. _____
13 Liquid helium was used for science at very low temperatures. _____
14 Only metals can be used as superconductors. _____
15 Superconductors that work at higher temperatures are more expensive. _____

Questions 16–20

Complete the summary of the second paragraph.
Choose ***NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS*** *from the passage for each answer.*

Superconductors are used in a variety of contexts. Very **16** _____ can be made out of superconducting materials and scientists use them in **17** _____ . In transport, maglev trains rely on the **18** _____ produced in superconductors to raise the train above the rails, the lack of **19** _____ meaning that high velocities can be reached. The **20** _____ of maglev systems limit their use.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LISTENING

SECTION 1

Questions 1–6 Audio 1, 1

Complete the notes below using words from the box.

Grey Castle	Central Gardens	Green Hall	Queen's Park	Farmer's Market

Places open all day Friday: 1 _____ and Central Gardens
Places the school has visited before: 2 _____ and Queen's Park
Places with organised tours: 3 _____ and Grey Castle
Places that charge for admission: 4 _____ and Green Hall
Places where booking is required: 5 _____ and Central Gardens
Places chosen for the trip: 6 _____ and Grey Castle

Questions 7–10

*Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B** or **C**.*

7 Before the trip, pupils will
- **A** have a special lesson.
- **B** read some information.
- **C** write an essay.

8 During the trip, pupils will be asked to
- **A** take notes for an essay.
- **B** write a quiz for other pupils.
- **C** find answers to a quiz.

9 They will travel to the first place by
- **A** train.
- **B** bus.
- **C** coach.

10 The school will inform the parents by
- **A** letter.
- **B** email.
- **C** phone.

SECTION 2

Questions 11–20 Audio 1, 2

Answer the questions below.

*Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER** for each answer.*

11 In which decade did the British Council create the EPTB exam? _____
12 What did the 'B' of 'EPTB' stand for? _____
13 In which year was ELTS introduced? _____
14 What kind of language 'context' was ELTS intended to reflect? _____
15 How many candidates took ELTS in 1985? _____
16 What was conducted in 1987? _____
17 Of what were there 210 in 1995? _____
18 Which IELTS module was revised in 2001? _____
19 In which year was a computerised version of the exam introduced? _____
20 How does the lecturer describe the 'industry of English-language exams'? _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LANGUAGE PRODUCTION

Questions 1–10

Choose the correct word or phrase to complete each gap.

I think the place I would most like **1** _____ is England. I **2** _____ English for about seven years now, and I still **3** _____ to an English-speaking country. I think that if I **4** _____ somewhere like England, I'd be able to practise my English, and also learn about the culture of another country. I **5** _____ to Europe once with my family, but that was to Italy. I really enjoyed **6** _____ all the tourist attractions, but it's difficult when you don't speak the local language. My father used **7** _____ in England when he was a student, and he says that if he **8** _____ that, then he wouldn't have learned to speak English with a good accent. One of my ambitions is **9** _____ there like he did, which I'm planning to do if I **10** _____ all my exams.

1	**A**	visiting	**B**	visit	**C**	to visit	**D**	to be visiting
2	**A**	am learning	**B**	learn	**C**	have learned	**D**	have been learning
3	**A**	haven't been	**B**	don't go	**C**	am not going	**D**	hadn't been
4	**A**	was going	**B**	went	**C**	would go	**D**	had been
5	**A**	would go	**B**	had gone	**C**	did go	**D**	was going
6	**A**	to see	**B**	see	**C**	to seeing	**D**	seeing
7	**A**	live	**B**	living	**C**	to live	**D**	to living
8	**A**	hadn't done	**B**	didn't do	**C**	wouldn't do	**D**	hasn't done
9	**A**	study	**B**	to study	**C**	for studying	**D**	to studying
10	**A**	pass	**B**	will pass	**C**	would pass	**D**	am passing

Questions 11–20

*Read the essay below. Write **ONE** word in each gap to complete the essay.*

It is rare for there to be an equal number of male and female students on a university course. Traditionally, in Britain **11** _____ *least, physics students are mainly male.*
12 _____ *contrast, students studying modern languages such as French tend to be female. This raises two important questions: is this because of discrimination, and what, if anything, should be done about it?*
To **13** _____ *mind, most universities do not discriminate in terms of gender. On* **14** _____ *contrary, they are keen to increase the number of women on physics courses, and increase the number of men on French courses. The reason there are more women on certain courses is that more women apply. It may well also be true that, with certain courses,* **15** _____ *an equal number of male and female students apply, the female applicants, for example, have better qualifications* **16** _____ *the male applicants, and so are given more places.*
It is essential that universities are allowed to choose the best qualified students for each subject. **17** _____ *they are forced to accept students because of their gender rather than ability, then the high standards of the university will decline. For this reason, I am opposed to rules* **18** _____ *control how many male and female students they accept.* **19** _____*, that does not mean there is not a problem. In my opinion, the solution is to encourage children at a young age to take an interest in a wide range of subjects.*
In conclusion, **20** _____ *is no doubt that some university courses have more male or female students. While this is not ideal, the solution is not to force universities to accept an equal number of students. Universities should always choose the best students for each course, whatever their gender.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS