

MODULE 1

PART ONE: LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Directions: You will hear a forum post about a curious experience twice. Before you listen to it, you have **1 minute** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **3 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among **A**, **B** or **C**. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.

- 1. The post is about a bird that snatched the boy's hat straight from his head.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.
- 2. The boy was running across the park on his way home from school.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.
- 3. The owl used the boy's hat to line its nest with.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.
- 4. The boy's friend, Jodie, was another victim of the aggressive owl.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.
- 5. The authorities have not done anything about the problem with the aggressive birds.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

Directions: You will hear an anecdote twice. Before you listen to it, you have **1 minute** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **3 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among **A**, **B**, or **C**. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.

- 6. The little old lady opened an account with Chase Manhattan Bank and then she wanted to meet the Bank President in person.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.
- 7. The Bank President wanted to know the origin of the old lady's money because he suspected that she had acquired it illegally.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.
- 8. After the Bank President accepted the bet with the old lady, he did not leave his office till the end of the working day.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.
- 9. On the day the old lady went to the bank, accompanied by her lawyer, from betting, she won more money than she had lost.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.
- 10. The old lady's lawyer was desperate because he had lost \$500,000.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

Directions: You will hear a short folk tale twice. Before you listen to it, you have **2 minutes** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **4 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among **A, B, C or D**. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.

11. The story is about

- A)** a lazy farmer and his clever daughter.
- B)** a dishonest moneylender and a clever girl.
- C)** a poor farmer and an honest moneylender.
- D)** a clumsy farmer's daughter and a moneylender.

12. The moneylender wanted

- A)** his money back at all costs.
- B)** both his money and the girl's hand at all costs.
- C)** the girl's hand at all costs.
- D)** to see the farmer in prison at all costs.

13. If the girl picked the white stone, she would

- A)** not have to marry the moneylender and her father's debt would be forgiven.
- B)** still have to marry the moneylender and her father's debt would be forgiven.
- C)** not have to marry the moneylender but her father would be sent to prison.
- D)** still have to marry the moneylender but her father would not be sent to prison.

14. When the farmer's daughter picked a stone out of the moneybag, she

- A)** staggered and fell onto the path.
- B)** dropped the stone onto the path.
- C)** fell onto the path and lost the stone.
- D)** looked at the stone and put it back into the bag.

15. The farmer's daughter was saved from the unwanted marriage by

- A)** a really lucky chance.
- B)** her usual clumsiness.
- C)** the moneylender's stupidity.
- D)** her own quick wits.

PART TWO: READING COMPREHENSION

Directions: Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question among **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

When I arrived in England I thought I knew English. After I'd been here an hour I realized that I did not understand one word. In the first week I picked up a tolerable working knowledge of the language and the following dozen fortnights convinced me that I would never know it really well, let alone perfectly. My only consolation is that nobody speaks English perfectly.

If you live here long enough you will find out that you need just a single adjective, *nice*. You can say that the weather is nice, a restaurant is nice, you had a nice time, and all this will be very nice.

The most successful attempts, however, to look a man of high culture have been made on the usage of polysyllabic words. Many foreigners who have learnt Latin and Greek discover that the English language has absorbed a huge amount of ancient Latin and Greek expressions, and they realize that (a) it is much easier to learn these expressions than the much simpler English words; (b) that these exceptionally long words make a simply superb impression when talking to the greengrocer, the porter and the insurance agent.

But even in Curzon Street society, if you say, for instance, that you are a *tough guy* they will consider you a vulgar, irritating and objectionable person. Should you declare, however, that you are an *inquisitorial homo sapiens*, they will have no idea what you mean, but they will feel in their bones that you must be something wonderful. When you know all the long words, it is advisable to start learning some of the short ones, too.

16. Within an hour after his arrival in England the narrator found out

- A) he knew English very well.
- B) he spoke English properly.
- C) he didn't understand only one word.
- D) he could understand nothing.

17. In the first week the narrator

- A) learned enough English to start work.
- B) learned enough English to get by.
- C) realized he would never learn English.
- D) realized the English didn't speak properly.

18. To people who have learned Latin and Greek, the English language seems

- A) very easy to master perfectly.
- B) full of polysyllabic, difficult-to-remember words.
- C) quite close in vocabulary to the two ancient languages.
- D) an easy, simplified version of the ancient languages.

19. People commonly use polysyllabic words

- A) to show they know Latin and Greek.
- B) so that simple people would understand them better.
- C) to make fun of pseudo-intellectuals for their snobbery.
- D) when they want to impress somebody.

20. In context 'Curzon Street society' most probably stands for

- A) people of refined manners.
- B) vulgar and irritating men.
- C) inquisitorial homo sapiens.
- D) experts in linguistics.

MODULE 2

Directions: Read "*The Nail*" by Brothers Grimm below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question among **A**, **B** or **C**, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

A merchant had done good business at the fair. He had sold his wares, and filled his money-bags with gold and silver. Then he wanted to travel homewards, and be in his own house before nightfall. So he packed his trunk with the money-bags inside on his horse, and rode away.

At noon he rested in a town, and when he wanted to go farther, the stable-boy brought out his horse and said, "A nail is missing, Sir, from the horseshoe on its left hind foot." "Let it be missing," answered the merchant. "The shoe will certainly stay on for the six miles I have still to go. I am in a hurry."

In the afternoon, when he once more stopped and had his horse fed, the stable-boy went into the room to him and said, "A nail is missing, Sir, from the horseshoe on its left hind foot. Shall I take him to the blacksmith?"

"Let it be missing," answered the man. "The horse can very well hold out for the couple of miles which remain. I am in haste."

He rode forth, but before long the horse began to limp. It had not limped long before it began to stumble, and it had not stumbled long before it fell down and broke its leg. The merchant was forced to leave the horse where it was, unbuckle the trunk, take it on his back, and go home on foot.

He did not arrive there until quite late at night. "That cursed nail," he said to himself "has caused all this disaster."

Wise men say: "The more haste, the less speed."

21. The merchant had made good profit at the fair.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

22. At the fair the merchant had sold silverware.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

23. A stable-boy found out that the merchant's horse needed a nail in one of its shoes.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

24. Only a mile away from the merchant's house, the horse broke its leg.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

25. The merchant blamed himself for his late arrival home.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

Directions: Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question among **A**, **B** or **C**, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

Hainan gibbon ‘clinging on’ with 25 left in China

Scientists are racing to save a critically endangered ape species that lives only in the rainforests of southern China’s Hainan Island. With 25 known individuals remaining, a disease outbreak or a strong typhoon could “massively impact” the species’s chances of survival, the scientists say.

Samuel Turvey, a senior research fellow at the Zoological Society of London, said the Hainan gibbon was “definitely the world’s rarest ape species, the rarest primate species, and one of the rarest mammal species. They’re kind of clinging on, literally and metaphorically, to patches of forest in the mountains which people haven’t got around to cutting down yet.” He said both the species and its habitat were protected under Chinese law, but “the population is so low now that simply removing the threat isn’t enough ...”

Hainan is China’s smallest and southernmost province, an island of rainforests, mountains and sandy beaches in the South China Sea. The gibbons – unusually tall and thin creatures with small black faces and thick beige fur – live in the Bawangling national nature reserve. The reserve was home to more than 2,000 gibbons in the late 1950s, but poachers and woodcutters slowly intruded on the area, leaving only about 30 individuals by 1980, when the Chinese government declared the park a protected area.

Greenpeace China’s forest campaigner **Wu Hao** said the island – one of China’s most biodiverse regions – lost 72,000 hectares of rainforest between 2000 and 2010, mostly to make way for rubber and paper plantations. “The plantations are still there, which is actually still a big problem for the nature reserve, for the gibbon and for other species,” he said. Experts are also searching for individual gibbons that might inhabit remote patches of forest, where none have been previously observed. “Every one of those gibbons is worth its weight in gold for conservation,” he said. “The more gibbons there are left, the greater the chances that we can recover this population.”

26. According to scientists, an epidemic can decrease the Hainan gibbon’s chances of survival.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

27. Chinese law protects both the Hainan gibbon and the area where it lives.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

28. Hainan is the smallest island in China.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

29. About 1,000 Hainan gibbons have been killed by poachers since the 1950s.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

30. In Wu Hao’s opinion, the gibbons are the only species to suffer from the loss of their habitat.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

PART THREE: USE OF ENGLISH

Section One: Cloze

Directions: Read the text and the sentences below and for each numbered gap choose the letter (A, B, C or D) of the word or phrase that best suits the gap, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

Changing the face of youth culture

To say that the (31) of YouTube has come out of the blue would be inaccurate. The website itself has been around for over nine years, and recent statistics carried out by its analysts (32) that over six billion hours of video are watched on the site every month. It is only in the last few years, however, that the people behind the videos, or 'the content creators' as they have dubbed themselves, have moved out from behind their computer screens into the (33)

The perfectly made-up faces of beauty vloggers Zoe Sugg (Zoella) and Tanya Burr have recently become a familiar (34) on magazine covers, and both women have created successful beauty lines and signed book deals in the past year, (35)

..... to the delight of their adoring army of fans. Alfie Deyes, who in his *Pointless Blog* has hours of footage, doing fairly normal, everyday activities, has instantly topped the *Sunday Times* and *Amazon* bestseller charts when his debut *The Pointless Book* was released. Many of these biggest internet personalities themselves confess that they find it difficult to understand the (36) they receive but they do not mind having hordes of exalted fans wherever they go.

So what makes these people so special? In part, the success of the YouTube phenomenon from its very beginning has (37) in the reality television culture which has made invading people's lives through the medium of the camera socially acceptable.

Vloggers (38) advantage of the ridiculous fact that many people easily get addicted to watching someone else live their life (39) of living their own.

YouTube personalities have turned into an integral part of modern culture which thrives on invasions of privacy, and which idolises the trivial and the mediocre. The only question which remains is how long the spectacle will last.

- 31. A) rise B) raise C) raising D) arousal
- 32. A) appreciate B) judge C) estimate D) rate
- 33. A) highlight B) twilight C) headlight D) spotlight
- 34. A) sight B) site C) scenery D) setting
- 35. A) less B) much C) better D) lots
- 36. A) attitude B) attention C) attachment D) attraction
- 37. A) lay B) laid C) lied D) lain
- 38. A) make B) find C) take D) bear
- 39. A) instead B) besides C) rather D) apart

40. When Jonathan Swift published 'Gulliver's Travels' in 1726, he intended it as a satire on the ferociousness of human nature. Today it is as a story for children.

A) enjoyed B) entertained C) pleased D) delighted

41. One in three articles in leading teen girl magazines focuses on outer and stirs up interest in beauty and slimming products.

A) lookings B) outlook C) visions D) appearance

42. After the death of her aunt she came a large sum of money and bought a new house on the south coast.
A) into B) onto C) over D) to

43. In the UK you could be from driving for six months if you get 12 penalty points within three years.
A) refused B) discarded C) banned D) rejected

44. They say that everyone would be of writing good essays at the end of the course.
A) expert B) capable C) able D) skilled

45. we didn't have enough time to complete the job, we stopped to take some rest.
A) Despite B) Unless C) However D) Although

Section Two: Sentence Completion

Directions: For each of the sentences below, choose the letter **A**, **B**, **C** or **D** of the word or phrase that best completes its meaning, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

46. I think you better take a pullover with you – it's quite cold today.
A) should B) would C) had D) could

47. All people want success and happiness but unfortunately achieve them.
A) few B) a few C) little D) a little

48. The island has not been inhabited since the earthquake 10 years ago.
A) had struck B) struck C) has stricken D) strucked

49. The longer you ignore a problem,
A) the worst it becomes B) the worst becomes it
C) the worse it becomes D) the worse becomes it

50. I promise I won't forget the cat while you are away next week.
A) feeding B) having fed C) to have fed D) to feed

MODULE 3

Section Three: Sentence Transformations

Directions: On your sheet for open-ended answers complete the second sentence so that it is as close as possible in meaning to the first one.

51. It is not possible for her to have bought this from us yesterday because our shop was closed. (Use a modal verb.)

She because our shop was closed.

52. Unfortunately, they didn't return before Christmas, so I didn't give them your present.

If

53. It is known that Cleopatra used Aloe Vera to maintain her legendary beauty.

Cleopatra is.....

54. Someone had broken into your office through the window.

Yourthrough the window.

55. Ann said that John had stolen the money.

Ann accused

56. You are not allowed to disturb the pilot under any circumstances.

Under no circumstances

57. "What were you doing between 9 and 10 o'clock last night?" the police officer asked him.

The police officer asked him

58. I don't have enough free time.

If only !

59. I want to say that this is not fair.

What

60. They made us work for more than 8 hours a day without a break.

We were

PART FOUR: WRITING

Directions: On your sheet for open-ended answers write a composition in standard English of about 160-170 words on **ONE** of the following topics. When you write your composition, make sure you **DO NOT** include in it any personal names or give any information about your school, town, etc. Circle the topic you have chosen on your answer sheet.

1. What do you think is better for you – to live with your parents, or to live on your own?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of each choice? Can you afford to be independent financially? Can you cook? Can you use a washing machine?

2. Describe the most precious present you have ever received.

Who gave it to you? What was the occasion? Why is it so valuable?

Mind that if you submit two texts as well as in case of indecent language, plagiarism, identical texts or if your composition is under 80 words or totally unrelated to the chosen topic, it will get 0 points.