PRACTICE TEST 2

Paper 1 – Reading & Use of English *(1 hour 30 minutes)*

Part 1

For questions **1-8**, read the text below and decide which answer (**A**, **B**, **C** or **D**) best fits each gap. Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

There is an example at the beginning (**0**).

0 **A** rid **B** eradicated **C** stamped **D** deleted

0	A	B	C	D
	☐	■	☐	☐

Young at Heart

Sociologists suggest certain cultures have almost **(0)** .....B..... the word 'old' from their vocabulary. Linguistically speaking, people are just not allowed to be old anymore. At a(n) **(1)** ..... they can be 'elderly', but more often than not they are 'senior citizens', 'older adults' or one of a **(2)** ..... of other euphemisms.

It's true that grandparents these days, while not necessarily younger in years than those of past generations, are definitely younger in spirit. One is increasingly **(3)** ..... pressed to find a sixty-something sitting quietly at home watching TV, waiting for the grandchildren to call round. No, today's over-sixties are **(4)** ..... and about. They are socialising, running marathons, travelling the world. They look better than ever, are more independent than ever, and even **(5)** ..... many twenty-somethings to shame when it comes to fitness.

Clearly, there is much to be said for this development. Society can no longer mindlessly **(6)** ..... its elderly to the scrap heap. Still, the expectation for youthful vigour in the elderly does have its downsides. The prerogatives of the over-sixties since **(7)** ..... immemorial – aching joints, reduced energy, mental fogginess – are becoming increasingly unacceptable. Nowadays, to actually behave as though you are in your **(8)** ..... years is almost frowned upon.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1	A	outside	B	edge	C	push	D	limit
2	A	host	B	crowd	C	set	D	choice
3	A	deep	B	hard	C	short	D	due
4	A	away	B	round	C	up	D	out
5	A	put	B	leave	C	point	D	place
6	A	file	B	deliver	C	relegate	D	reduce
7	A	measure	B	occasion	C	moment	D	time
8	A	dusk	B	night	C	twilight	D	evening

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 2

For questions **9-16**, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only **one** word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (**0**). Write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet.**

Example: 0 | A | G | O |

A University Education

Just a few generations **(0)** *.....AGO....., only an elite few could aspire to a university education. For the masses, education beyond the age of fifteen lay well and* **(9)** *..... in the realms of fantasy. Today, thanks to state funding, any school leaver possessed of the academic ability and inclination can embark on a tertiary education.*

But the opening **(10)** *..... of higher institutes of learning has not come* **(11)** *..... a heavy price. Thanks to the thousands of graduates that universities now churn* **(12)** *..... annually, what was once a passport* **(13)** *..... employment is no longer a guarantee of success. Today, university degrees are a dime a dozen and academic achievements* **(14)** *..... for little in the job market. Many graduates remain unemployed* **(15)** *..... after graduating. Of the lucky few that do manage to find employment, many have to accept menial positions or unskilled work. The problem, as we all know, is the job market in many countries is over-saturated: too many people are seeking too few jobs.* **(16)** *..... this not the case, university degrees might hold the sway they once did.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 space 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 | T | H | E | R | A | P | E | U | T | I | C |

The Best Medicine

If you feel stressed or unhappy, nothing, say researchers, is as (0) THERAPEUTIC as laughing. A good, (17) ..... laugh relieves physical tension and stress, leaving your muscles relaxed for up to 45 minutes afterwards. Not only that, laughing triggers the release of endorphins – the body's 'feel-good' chemicals – so it can provide temporary relief from pain. Laughter even increases infection-fighting antibodies, thus improving your resistance to disease. But the best thing about this (18) ..... medicine that has so much power to heal and (19) ..... is that it's fun, free, and available in abundance.	**THERAPY** **HEART** **PRICE** **NEW**
One of the best ways to increase the amount of time you spend laughing each day is to hang out with entertaining, (20) ..... people. These are people who laugh easily – both at themselves and at life's (21) ..... . Laughter is contagious, so just hearing others laugh primes your brain and readies you to smile. What's more, the 'feel good' emotion you get when you laugh will remain with you long after your laughter (22)	**MISCHIEF** **ABSURD** **SIDE**
The ability to laugh easily and frequently is a tremendous resource for (23) ..... problems and improving both physical and emotional health. So, go on! Bring your body and mind back into (24) ..... – laugh!	**COME** **EQUAL**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 **three** and **eight** words, including the word given. Here is an example **(0)**.

Example:

0 Since John has now retired, you will both be able to travel.

means

John's ..... you will now both be able to travel.

0	*retirement means that*

Write **only** the missing words **on the separate answer sheet.**

25 As I grow older, I distrust other people more and more.

distrustful

The older I grow, ... other people.

26 The competition was so strong that he didn't stand a chance of winning the race.

strength

Such ..... that he didn't stand a chance of winning the race.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

27 The minister was heavily criticised for her decision to raise taxes.

subjected

The minister ..... for her decision to raise taxes.

28 The news came as a terrible shock to us.

ears

We couldn't ..... the news.

29 He doesn't sleep very heavily and therefore wakes up rather easily.

light

Being a ..... rather easily.

30 I particularly dislike it when I have to cancel appointments.

call

What I particularly ..... appointments.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 5

You are going to read part of an article from a magazine. 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.**

The Bloomberg Way

The mayor of New York on his soft drink ban, why he doesn't worry about approval ratings, and more.

You could look at Michael Bloomberg – astringent, profane, irritated by small talk, impatient with the politics of empathy – and see a plutocrat whose billions have given him the freedom to say and do whatever he wants, even to change the law to run for a third term as New York City's mayor. Or you could look a little further and see a more interesting pattern: a man who turned getting shunted off the fast track at Salomon Brothers into an opportunity, creating an entirely new approach to getting traders the data they needed; who took getting fired as a chance to gamble his payout on this idea; who then took the billions he made and chose not to embark on a lifelong vacation but to step into the least-forgiving political arena in the country; and who has since governed New York assertively, putting himself in the vanguard of a generation of mayors who, at a time when the federal government is paralysed, are testing new approaches to education, transportation, and public health. You begin to see a guy, in sum, who thinks for himself, but not only of himself.

I visited the mayor recently at the open bullpen that is his nerve centre at City Hall, where he works from a cubicle in the centre of the room. Howard Wolfson, one of his deputy mayors, was telling me how hard it was to close struggling schools, when Bloomberg joined us. Wolfson was saying that the administration had shut more than 100 schools. "Yeah, 140, I think," the mayor said briskly as he settled into a chair. Unlike most politicians or businessmen I've interviewed, he never once suggested he would make a comment off the record – it didn't seem to occur to him that he might – or even hesitated before answering, in a conversation that ranged from his plan to limit the size of soft drinks in order to combat obesity; to his approach to governing; to the future of journalism. What follows are excerpts.

On why he's tackling obesity:

"This is the first disease that has gone from a rich person's disease to a poor person's disease. Generally, it would go in the other direction. For the first time in the history of the world, this year, more people will die from the effects of too much food than from starvation. And there's one other answer to the question as to why. And that is, I like to take on those things that other people either are unwilling to take on for political reasons or unwilling to take on because it's just too complex, or they just don't care. That would include guns, for example. If you think about it, it is poor minorities that are the victims, and so most elected officials would not get involved – and I think we should".

On why he's trying to limit the size of soft drinks:

The correlation between the rise in obesity and the consumption of sugar is just up 100%, no matter what the beverage companies think or say. Look, the beverage companies aren't stupid. Coca-Cola is run by a very smart guy; PepsiCo by a very smart woman. They see this train coming down the tracks at them and that's why they're trying to get people to move over to Coke Zero or Diet Pepsi, because down the road, the public is going to say "No more. The cost of treating obesity is just out of control."

On his reaction to the widespread opposition, in public polls, to his soft drink restrictions:

To some extent, it's that everybody is resistant to change. Leadership is about doing what you think is right and then building a constituency behind it. It is not doing a poll and following from the back. If you want to criticise the political process – and it's probably true throughout history and certainly not just in the United States – I think it's fair to say, in business or in government, an awful lot of leaders follow the polls. And that's not the way to win. I happen to think it's not ethical, or right, and not your obligation. But I don't even think it's good business or politics, because people aren't good at describing what is in their own interest. What leaders should do is make decisions as to what they think is in the public interest based on the best advice that they can get, and then try and build a constituency and bring it along. The public, I believe – and I've always thought this – is much more likely to follow if they believe you are genuine. I think it's a losing strategy to not have values. I think the public wants you to have them and will respect you for them. They may carp a little bit, but in the end, that's the kind of person they want. They want somebody who has real conviction.

On why high approval ratings mean you're failing:

If I finish my term in office and have high approval ratings, then I wasted my last years in office. That high approval rating means you don't upset anybody. High approval rating means you're skiing down the slope and you never fall. Well, you're skiing the baby slope, for goodness' sakes. Go to a steeper slope. You always want to press. You want to tackle the issues that are unpopular, that nobody else will go after.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

31 From the description in the first paragraph, what can we infer about Bloomberg?

A His main motivation is generating controversy.
B He has scant sympathy for ordinary people.
C He is not inclined to choose the easy path.
D He has made unfortunate decisions in life.

32 Why does the author make the point that Bloomberg said everything on the record?

A to paint Bloomberg in the best possible light
B to imply that Bloomberg has the press on his side
C to express surprise at Bloomberg's lack of subterfuge
D to demystify the tactics of politicians in general

33 What commonality does Bloomberg imply exists between obesity and guns?

A Both are deadly.
B Both disproportionally affect the poor.
C Both are too complex for a political resolution.
D People just don't care about either.

34 According to Bloomberg, beverage companies know that soon

A obese individuals will start suing them.
B they will be subjected to fines by the government.
C the public will hold them accountable.
D sugary drinks will be banned altogether.

35 Bloomberg doesn't mind criticism because he believes that

A the public does not actually know what is best for them.
B people are always opposed to new things at first.
C he is not obliged to listen to his constituency.
D it is the public's prerogative to criticise politicians.

36 Why are high approval ratings unimportant to Bloomberg?

A He sees them as a sign that a politician is not trying hard enough.
B He doubts that they reflect actual ability or skill.
C He believes that positive and negative attention is equally beneficial.
D He enjoys the power he has to upset people.

LIVEWORKSHEETS