Test 2

READING AND 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**).

Example:

0 **A** distinguish **B** sense **C** feel **D** identify

0	A	B	C	D
		■		

The way we see the things around us

'Pastry,' once wrote a cookery expert, 'like horses and children, seems to **(0)** ..... if you are afraid of it and plays up **(1)** .....' Had she been writing today, she might well have mentioned that computers are just the same. Like small children, they do not **(2)** ..... well to force, and just as one way of **(3)** ..... with a fractious child is to send it to its room to **(4)** ..... off, so quite often, if the machine is giving trouble, the first thing to try is simply switching it off and doing something else; quite why the machine works **(5)** ..... when you boot it up again I have no idea.

(6) ..... human emotions and feelings to inanimate objects is, of course, extremely unscientific; it's only those who don't understand machines who believe that they behave like people. But I would **(7)** ..... that, although treating machines like people may be misguided, it is **(8)** ....., in general, to treating people like machines.

ACADEMIA ELENA

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1	**A** correspondingly	**B** similarly	**C** accordingly	**D** appropriately
2	**A** respond	**B** reply	**C** adapt	**D** answer
3	**A** reacting	**B** dealing	**C** handling	**D** bargaining
4	**A** ease	**B** calm	**C** quieten	**D** cool
5	**A** perfectly	**B** completely	**C** reasonably	**D** competently
6	**A** Associating	**B** Attributing	**C** Accrediting	**D** Admitting
7	**A** support	**B** decide	**C** confirm	**D** maintain
8	**A** desirable	**B** preferable	**C** advisable	**D** suitable

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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 W A Y

Driverless cars

Driverless cars would of course, do **(0)** ..... with the stress of driving, allowing their occupants to read, browse the internet or take a nap, and they would also eliminate accidents caused by human error.

The benefits would go **(9)** ..... comfort and safety, however, since they would also revolutionise transport and urban planning. *Traffic lights and road signs* would no **(10)** ..... be needed. Different autonomous vehicles on the road would be able to coordinate their movements, and travel **(11)** ..... close formation, so that traffic would be kept flowing without interruption, **(12)** ..... journeys quicker and road use more efficient. On the one hand, this might mean that cities got bigger, as a **(13)** ..... of commuting times being reduced; on the **(14)** ....., they could become denser, with houses in the space previously dedicated to roads.

It may all sound **(15)** ..... science fiction, but much of the technology needed to turn ordinary vehicles into self-driving ones already exists. Almost **(16)** ..... car makers are developing systems which will in effect turn cars into autonomous robots.

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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 M I C R O S C O P I C

Exploring the oceans

A million new species of **(0)** ..... sea life have recently been observed for the first time, promising **(17)** ..... about the marine ecosystem that could **(18)** ..... our understanding of the impact of climate change on the oceans. Each new life form was observed in the **(19)** ..... of the Pacific and Atlantic oceans by the research vessel, the *Tara*, which was a **(20)** ..... small ship to be undertaking a mission on this scale. **SCOPE** **REVEAL** **REVOLVE** **DEEP** **COMPARE**

The expedition's **(21)** ..... show for the first time the quite remarkable diversity of tiny plankton that are a vital food source for fish and whales. In total, 1.5 million species of microorganisms were recorded – **(22)** ..... more than previously thought – and some of these were extraordinarily beautiful. **FIND** **SIGNIFY**

Worryingly, the scientists report that the oceans are becoming more acidic, and this will continue if **(23)** ..... of carbon dioxide increase, or even if they remain at current levels. Since these organisms are sensitive to acid, they could become **(24)** ..... species in the future. **EMIT** **DANGER**

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 Do you mind if I watch you while you paint?

objection

Do you ..... you while you paint?

0	have any objection to my watching

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

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25 Sam moved house only because he disliked commuting.

dislike

But for his ..... moved house.

26 Katy didn't seem nervous, even though she was making her speech without notes.

sign

Katy ....., even though she was making her speech without notes.

27 The manager said he was extremely confident that his team could cope with the challenges ahead.

every

The manager said he ..... to cope with the challenges ahead.

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28 More and more tourists are visiting the ancient towns in the mountains.

growth

There ..... tourists visiting the ancient towns in the mountains.

29 I don't think Harriet has any idea how difficult it is to use this apparatus.

involved

I don't think Harriet has any idea ..... this apparatus.

30 Because the room is not available today, they have rearranged the meeting for next week.

put

Because the room is not available today, the meeting
..... next week.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 5

You are going to read an article about the advantages and disadvantages of pessimistic and optimistic attitudes. 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.**

Are you an Optimist or a Pessimist?

Whichever you are, a new book reveals that you can learn a lot from attempting the opposite attitude.

As a nation, the British are not a very optimistic bunch. When we were first granted the honour of hosting the 2012 Olympic Games, according to an opinion poll at the time, 55 per cent of us were more concerned about the likely impact on the transport network while the Games were on than with celebrating the arrival of the greatest show on Earth. But alongside this type of staunch pessimism resides an unsettling feeling that we should be more positive. We are always trying to dislodge each other's pessimism. Test it for yourself: sit gloomily in a public place and see how long it takes before a smiling passer-by says, 'Cheer up, it might never happen!' or offers one of those trite aphorisms about 'looking on the bright side' or 'clouds having silver linings'.

The self-help industry rakes in billions through peddling hope and positive thinking. But can a positive outlook really improve our lives? How can optimism make people more trustworthy, or sports events more successful? It can't, says Professor Elaine Fox, a neuroscientist who recently published a book called *Rainy Brain, Sunny Brain* about our ambivalent feelings of optimism and pessimism. Our negativity is the response of a rational mind and positivity is a delusion, she says, and for most of us they both act to balance us out. 'Positivity is a delusion. But it is a useful delusion. If we didn't have some sort of optimism we wouldn't ever get out of bed in the morning. But pessimism has its place,' she says.

So, when we think positively, are we just tricking ourselves that things will get better? It's a little more complicated than that, says Professor Fox. 'Where self-help books say "just think happy thoughts" it doesn't work.' But some degree of optimism can work to our advantage, because if we feel more positive, we will take more positive actions. 'Optimism gives you a sense of control,' she explains. So, to return to the example of the Olympics, if we had just repeated the mantra, 'the Olympics will be amazing, the Olympics will be amazing' it wouldn't have made it happen. In the event we actually did respond positively to them, but by taking the kind of actions – buying tickets to events, or getting involved as volunteers – that meant we ended up loving the whole experience.

More dramatically, positive thoughts can have concrete health benefits and can help us through certain situations, Professor Fox explains. In experiments on pain in which students are asked to keep their hands in a bucket of ice water for as long as they can stand it, students who believe they have been given a painkiller, but have in actual fact just been given a sugar pill, will keep their hand in longer than those who aren't given anything. Scans of their brains show they actually produce a surge of dopamine, a so-called 'happy' chemical, which combats the pain.

'Thomas Edison, the famous American inventor, said, "If I find 10,000 ways something won't work, I haven't failed. I am not discouraged, because every wrong attempt discarded is another step forward." In general, optimists will try harder and spend longer on something than pessimists,' says Professor Fox. 'They also believe they have some control over their life, and that's why they tend to be more successful.'

But don't shrug off your grumpy cynicism just yet. Professor Fox says a healthy dose of negativity can help us out, too. 'The amygdala – the fear system in our brain that helps us detect threat and danger – is really at the root of pessimism. Pessimism helps us suss out danger in our lives.' And although most of us are unlikely to need this reaction the same way our caveman ancestors did – for fight-or-flight reactions – fear is still a useful trait. 'A pessimistic outlook would work if you were setting up your own business,' says Professor Fox, 'to identify risk and avoid it.' So, there is a place for pessimism. 'They say the aeroplane was invented by an optimist and the parachute was invented by a pessimist. That's the reason I called the book *Rainy Brain, Sunny Brain*, because we need both.' Anticipate sunshine, but carry an umbrella and you should get along just fine.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

31 The writer says that British attitudes to the 2012 Olympic Games

A illustrated an underlying mindset.
B contradicted stereotypes of national character.
C reflected a shift in public opinion.
D indicated the dangers of ambivalence.

32 In the second paragraph, we learn that Professor Fox believes being optimistic

A is more desirable than being pessimistic.
B is a necessary counter to our negativity.
C is likely to lead to unrealistic expectations.
D is as natural a quality as pessimism.

33 What does Professor Fox suggest about positive thinking in the third paragraph?

A It is difficult to find any sensible advice about it.
B It is ineffective unless carefully planned.
C It is desirable as it will lead to material benefits.
D It is likely to be the basis for practical achievement.

34 What is the writer illustrating by using the phrase 'the Olympics will be amazing'?

A the futility of merely thinking positively
B the way that positive thoughts can motivate people
C the importance of overcoming negative thinking
D the fact that people can be trained to think in certain ways

35 What point is exemplified by the reference to Thomas Edison?

A In order to be successful, we have to experience failure.
B Optimists gain success through persistence.
C Successful people are often unwilling to work for others.
D Success comes more easily to optimists than pessimists.

36 In the final paragraph, it is said that the invention of the parachute

A was a necessary consequence of the invention of the aeroplane.
B proved that humans always tend to fear the worst.
C was comparable to someone starting a company.
D demonstrated a readiness to confront the idea of risk.

ACADEMIA CLEVA

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 6

You are going to read an article about a tourist destination in Australia. Seven paragraphs have been removed from the extract. Choose from the paragraphs **A–H** the one which fits each gap (37–43). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet.**

Visiting Uluru

One day in 1874, an explorer, Ernest Giles, struggled up a small hill and was confronted with a sight such as he could never have dreamed of finding. Before him, impossibly imposing, stood the most singular monolith on earth, the great red rock now known as Uluru. Hastening to report the find, he was informed that a man named William Gosse had chanced upon it a few days ahead of him and had already named it Ayers Rock after the South Australia governor.

37 _____

So you are aware, as you drive to the park entrance, that you have driven 1,300 miles to look at something you have seen portrayed a thousand times already. In consequence, your mood as you approach this famous monolith is restrained, unexpectant – pessimistic even. And then you see it, and you are instantly transfixed. There, in the middle of a memorable and imposing emptiness, stands an eminence of exceptional nobility and grandeur, 1,150 feet high, a mile and a half long, five and a half miles around.

38 _____

It's not that Uluru is bigger than you had supposed or more perfectly formed or in any way different from the impression you had created in your mind, but the very opposite. It is exactly what you expected it to be. You *know* this rock. You know it in a way that has nothing to do with calendars and the covers of souvenir books.

39 _____

It is a motion much too faint to be understood or interpreted, but somehow you sense that this large, brooding, hypnotic presence has an importance to you at the species level – perhaps even at a sort of tadpole level – and that in some way your visit here is more than happenstance.

40 _____

I'm suggesting nothing here, but I will say that if you were an intergalactic traveller who had broken down in our solar system, the obvious directions to rescuers would be: 'Go to the third planet and fly around till you see the big red rock. You can't miss it.' If ever on earth they dig up a 150,000-year-old rocket ship from the Galaxy Zog, this is where it will be. I'm not saying I expect it to happen; not saying that at all. I'm just observing that if I were looking for an ancient starship, this is where I would start digging.

41 _____

You realize that you could spend quite a lot of time – possibly a worryingly large amount of time; possibly a sell-your-house-and-move-here-to-live-in-a-tent amount of time – just looking at the rock, gazing at it from many angles, never tiring of it. You can see yourself hanging out with much younger visitors and telling them: 'And the amazing thing is that every day it's different, you know what I'm saying? It's never the same rock twice. That's right, my friend – you put your finger on it there. It's awesome. It's an awesome thing.'

42 _____

Instead, we stopped at the visitors' centre for a cup of coffee and to look at the displays, which were all to do with interpretations of the Dreamtime – the Aborigines' traditional conception of how the earth was formed and operates. There was nothing instructive in a historical or geological sense, which was disappointing because I was curious to know what Uluru is doing there. How do you get the biggest rock in existence onto the middle of an empty plain?

43 _____

Afterwards we had one last drive around the rock before heading back to the lonely highway. We had been at the site for barely two hours, obviously not nearly enough time, but I realized as I turned around in my seat to watch it shrinking into the background behind us that there never could be enough, and I felt moderately comforted by that thought.

LIVEWORKSHEETS