FCE Mock Exam

Reading and Use of English Paper

Part 1

THE LIQUORICE PLANT

The liquorice plant has been used in various **(0)** ..... for thousands of years. The Chinese praised it for its healing **(1)** ..... , and in ancient Greece doctors found the liquorice root **(2)** ..... relief from chest infections. It is claimed that Roman soldiers were given liquorice root to chew to **(3)** ..... their thirst on long marches. Today, it is used in the sweet-making industry.

The liquorice plant is a small bush with pale blue flowers. However, what we know as liquorice is made from juice extracted from the roots. The roots are soft and **(4)** ..... glycyrrhizin, which is one of the sweetest **(5)** ..... known to man; it is fifty times sweeter than sugar. The roots take four years to grow **(6)** ..... , and by that time can be up to ten metres long.

Liquorice harvesting has changed little over the **(7)** ..... . In the autumn, the plants are lifted and the upper parts are **(8)** ..... . The roots are then sorted and taken to factories, where the juice is extracted.

1	A	forms	B	standards	C	cures	D	qualities
2	A	provided	B	kept	C	supplied	D	found
3	A	fill	B	satisfy	C	improve	D	cool
4	A	hold	B	contain	C	construct	D	raise
5	A	substances	B	materials	C	features	D	solids
6	A	fully	B	widely	C	absolutely	D	wholly
7	A	eras	B	centuries	C	periods	D	seasons
8	A	thrown off	B	passed over	C	thrown away	D	passed down

Part 2

Weather forecasting

All sorts of people need to know **(0)** ..... the weather is going to be like, but they do **(9)** ..... all need to know the same things for the same period of time. If you're sailing a small boat for a day, it's only a **(10)** ..... hours that matter. If you're a water company worrying about water supplies, you want to know the chances of rain over **(11)** ..... next six months.

(12) ..... getting the forecast right matters to so many people, the weather business is always at the forefront of technology. **(13)** ..... is a weather satellite that flies from pole to pole every hour and **(14)** ..... quarter, reporting back to Earth. Others are moving at the same relative speed as the Earth below them **(15)** ..... that they can keep a continuous watch on different parts of the world. Weather forecasting relies **(16)** ..... processing and reporting an enormous number of detailed observations from around the world within minutes.

Part 3

THE END OF THE ROAD FOR WALKING

Walking is **(0)** ..... becoming a thing of the past according to a recent report. It warns of serious health and **(17)** ..... problems if the **(18)** ..... continues. In fact, the report states that walking as a means of transport has gone down by a **(19)** ..... in the last twenty years.	**RAPID** **ENVIRONMENT** **TEND** **FIVE**
The report blames the increased use of cars for doing the shopping and taking children to school. This has created **(20)** ..... pollution as well as **(21)** ..... surroundings for walking in, further discouraging people from walking. If the recent decline is maintained, walking will become a rarity and the chances are we will not be walking anywhere by 2050. Although this may seem an **(22)** ..... , be assured it is not. The **(23)** ..... of the car is greater than ever, and many young people cannot wait to become car **(24)** ..... themselves.	**ATMOSPHERE** **ATTRACT** **EXAGGERATE** **POPULAR** **OWN**

Part 4

25 In 2020 my parents will celebrate twenty-five years of marriage.

BEEN

By 2020 my parents ..... for twenty-five years.

26 As I had my camera with me, I was able to take lots of photos.

NOT

If I had not had my camera with me, I ..... to take lots of photos.

27 Farmers in the US grow a large proportion of the world's wheat.

IS

A large proportion of the world's wheat ..... farmers in the US.

28 My car is being repaired tomorrow.

HAVING

I'm ..... tomorrow.

29 I'm sorry you didn't get the job you applied for.

WISH

I ..... the job you applied for.

30 Greg should be here in time for lunch.

SUPPOSED

Greg ..... here in time for lunch.

Part 5

The Olympic Games: a competitor's perspective

The moment for Olympic glory and gold occurs once every four years – a moment which becomes the focus for the lives of athletes from all over the world. This one event is their ultimate goal, the high point of their ambition, and in order to achieve their dream they are prepared to make any sacrifice.

Most athletes consider themselves fortunate to have one chance to shine at an Olympic Games, while others may be fortunate to get two or more chances. All are selected by their national Olympic Committee to represent their country, and once selected they face two major challenges. The first is the mountain of form filling, paperwork and administration. The second is to finalise their preparation for the Games. Most athletes have highly developed training schedules which enable them to reach the height of their performance for a particular event. However, the Olympics creates its own timetable and pressures.

When I was selected to represent Great Britain, I had approximately a hundred days to get
line 13 everything ready. This was spent finalising training plans, raising nearly £16,000 towards the costs, seeing to travel arrangements and entry forms, and having discussions with my employer about extra time off work to allow me to prepare fully.

Throughout my sailing career I had never had the opportunity to become a full-time athlete, so I needed to pursue my management career at the same time as my sporting objectives. However, top-class athletes in any sport need to make sure they can plan and deal with all the expenses effectively, organise their time and work successfully towards definite aims – skills that are usually associated more with business than with sport!

Once you arrive, you stay in the Olympic 'Village', which is really a small town housing around 17,000 athletes and officials from every imaginable culture and background. It is fascinating to watch athletes of all kinds, from tiny gymnasts to huge weightlifters and basketball players, and best of all is the excitement at being part of such a select gathering. There are training facilities, souvenir shops, launderettes, a bank and post office, as well as the Village restaurant, which seats over 3,000 at one time. The outdoor plazas become a meeting place for athletes from around the world, and from there you can see people returning with their medals proudly displayed around their necks or bravely hiding their tears of defeat or disappointment.

So what does it feel like to go to an Olympics? It can be summed up in many ways by the opening ceremony, where thousands of athletes and officials parade wearing their team kit. For most it is an event they will never forget and the honour of just being there is almost magical. And perhaps winning a medal is one of life's major experiences. For me it was the thoughts of family and friends who had all played a part on my road to success, and it felt wonderful.

31 According to the writer, in addition to the physical demands, taking part in the Olympics also means

A completing all the necessary paperwork.
B learning to deal with stress.
C having several meetings with the Olympic Committee.
D sacrificing one's free time during the preparation.

32 What does 'This' in line 13 refer to?

A having been selected to compete
B the time available for preparation
C the need to raise a sum of money
D planning arrangements at work

33 In the fourth paragraph, the writer advises Olympic athletes to

A develop their skills in a variety of sports.
B have their expenses professionally handled.
C gain some abilities used in business.
D find a full-time job in the sporting world.

34 What did the writer enjoy most about staying in the Olympic Village?

A the size of the village
B the number of competitors
C the sense of belonging
D the variety of nationalities

35 What does the writer say about competitors who were unsuccessful?

A They clearly showed how extremely upset they were.
B They felt that taking part was more important than winning.
C They did not mind other people offering them sympathy.
D They did their best to keep their feelings to themselves.

36 When the writer won a medal, she

A reflected on all the support she had received.
B realised it would never happen again.
C knew it was a very important moment.
D felt it was the greatest honour of her life.

Part 6

Never mind the dress, how much is that plane?

Mary Bruce was shopping one day in one of the most expensive streets in London. She was looking for a nice new dress, when instead she noticed a showroom with a small light aircraft for sale at a fairly reasonable price. She went away to try on a dress. It did not suit her. The plane did. She asked the man in the shop whether the plane would take her round the world. **37** ☐

That day in 1930 Mary Bruce was 35 years old and it was the beginning of an adventure for a very brave woman who became the most inexperienced pilot ever to fly round the world. She qualified as a pilot in the minimum forty hours' flying time at the local airport near her home in the same year. **38** ☐

Mary Bruce had faced danger on other occasions and loved anything that was risky and frightening. She was one of the first women to buy a motorcycle, and was always being taken to court for speeding down country lanes. **39** ☐ As a couple they once drove as far as they could into the Arctic Circle before they ran out of road. In 1927, encouraged by her husband, she won a race for women drivers in the Monte Carlo rally, and two years later she was the first person to set a distance record for driving a powerboat.

After she had completed her trip round the world she made a recording in which she talks about her various experiences in her tiny plane, sometimes even facing death. In one instance she talks about how she once saw land, but as the plane's oil pressure was zero she wondered whether she would be able to stay up in the air long enough to reach it. **40** ☐ No one listening to the recording could fail to be impressed by her bravery and sense of adventure.

One of her few complaints was that she attracted so much interest whenever she made an arranged stopover. **41** ☐ That kind of comment was typical of her attitude, and it was hardly surprising that she drew crowds of people wherever she landed.

In 1933 she successfully completed one of the world's first mid-air refuelling operations and in 1939 she won prizes in a showjumping event. Even in old age she did not slow down. **42** ☐ She died in 1990.

A In 1926 she married a racing driver and started driving cars herself.

B On another occasion she was afraid the engine would fail and so she decided to make an emergency landing in the sand.

C She found time to write five books, including her autobiography, and at the age of 78 she drove at 110 miles per hour around a racing circuit.

D He replied that it would, and within a week she was flying solo.

E She remarked that the only chance she had to have her hair cut was by making crash-landings.

F Immediately after getting her pilot's licence she took off on a 16,500-mile flight around the world, crossing 23 countries on three continents.

G This was something she had never realised before.

Grown-up books for smart children

Writers of fiction for eight- to twelve-year-olds seem to fall into two groups. Some writers imitate the voices of children and others write in their own voices, clearly and with something new to say. On the whole, the latter are funnier and more original.

A A Handful of Gold

A Handful of Gold by Joan Aiken demonstrates that a writer doesn't have to spell things incorrectly or put on silly voices to be funny. This book is a selection of Aiken's stories written over the past forty years. Although the stories contain humour, many of them end sadly. In *The Serial Garden*, for example, a boy walks into a garden drawn on the back of a cereal packet. He encounters an old man and it looks as if there is going to be a happy ending. But at the final moment fate prevents this from happening and the reader is left gasping with the sense of loss. The writing is full of imaginative power and this book is a treasure for any ten-year-old.

B The Wreck of the Zanzibar

The Wreck of the Zanzibar by Michael Morpurgo is a story supposedly written by Great Aunt Laura in 1907 on her 14th birthday – although the book is suitable for younger readers. Laura's story describes life in a fishing community which is struggling to survive; its style is simple, direct and moving, with beautiful drawings.

C Red, White and Blue

Red, White and Blue by Robert Leeson deals with the theme of bullying. The pages in the book are edged in white, red and blue to copy the notepaper which young Gawain uses for his homework, his diary and his own fantasy story. Gawain is thirteen and in his first year at secondary school. He is bullied by older boys at school, his teenage brother also treats him unkindly and his father went missing during a war before Gawain was born. The author makes good use of three different styles, and it is a very likeable book.

D The Trokeville Way

The Trokeville Way by Russell Hoban deserves attention because it is more ambitious than most for this age group. It sets out to do something difficult: to express the troubles and gradual awareness of adolescence through one boy's experience of a dream world. Sadly, it is not entirely successful. The book has moments of beautiful writing, but it is also difficult to follow at times and repetitive, although a sophisticated twelve-year-old might enjoy the demands it makes on the reader.

E Granny the Pag

More successful is the book by Nina Bawden called *Granny the Pag*. This book's great strength is its wonderful central character, twelve-year-old Catriona's amazing grandmother. She wears old dresses, smokes constantly and rides a motorbike. She embarrasses her granddaughter but at the same time she is a perfect companion. Catriona lives with her because of her parents' careers in a television soap opera. The book is touching, true and enormously funny, and the author shows how it is possible to write for children without having to sound like a child.

F The Pits

The Pits by Lesley Howarth is a very successful book. The storyteller is the ghost of a Stone Age man who lived thousands of years ago. He has picked up the modern way of speaking of the world he now inhabits and uses this language to describe his adventures. The contrast between the tone he uses and the content of his adventures is interesting. It also gives the writer the opportunity to discuss all sorts of modern issues like gangs, school and family life.

Which of the books

contains attractive illustrations?	43	
deals with teenagers behaving badly towards others?	44	
replicates paper that one of its characters writes on?	45	
contains more than one story?	46	
only partly achieves its aims?	47	
describes a difficult but entertaining relationship?	48	
is very amusing?	49	
deals with a number of contemporary topics?	50	
is rather hard for this age group?	51	
brings together the present world and the past?	52	