

## PRE FIRST FINAL EXAM 2023

### READING AND USE OF ENGLISH

#### Part 1

For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

### Lighting a town

The Norwegian town of Rjukan lies along the floor of a narrow valley, **(0)** ..... by sheer mountains. Because of its location, the town, with its 3,400 **(1)** ....., has in the past lived in shadow for half the year. During the day, from late September to mid-March, the town gets no direct natural sunlight at all. Its residents all agreed this **(2)** ..... that the town was incredibly depressing during the winter months.

However, that all changed in 2013 with the **(3)** ..... of a system of mirrors whose design Martin Anderson, an artist, had first **(4)** ..... up with some 12 years earlier. With financial **(5)** ..... from the local government and from several prominent business people, Anderson's idea became a **(6)** ..... . Today, high on the mountain opposite the town, **(7)** ..... three large solar-powered, computer-controlled mirrors **(8)** ..... the precise movement of the sun across the winter sky, reflecting its rays onto the town's market square and flooding it in bright sunlight.

- |   |           |               |              |                |
|---|-----------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 | A totals  | B populations | C numbers    | D inhabitants  |
| 2 | A meant   | B explained   | C showed     | D made         |
| 3 | A ending  | B conclusion  | C completion | D result       |
| 4 | A brought | B come        | C caught     | D got          |
| 5 | A budget  | B cost        | C expense    | D investment   |
| 6 | A reality | B truth       | C principle  | D practicality |
| 7 | A find    | B sit         | C stay       | D hold         |
| 8 | A passing | B following   | C proceeding | D continuing   |

## Part 2

For questions 9–16, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only **one** word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

### The homing instinct

The homing instinct is what makes certain animals, birds and fish return (0) ..... the place they consider home. Cats often have this instinct. It was particularly strong in an American cat called Ninja, which disappeared shortly (9) ..... its owners had taken it to their new home; a year later the cat turned up at its old home even (10) ..... this was 1,360 kilometres away from (11) ..... its owners were now living. Other cats may not travel so far but many (12) ..... on going back to their old home. Pilsbury, an English cat, made a 13-kilometre journey back to its former home 40 times in spite of having to cross several busy roads to (13) ..... so.

Pigeons also have the homing instinct and, ever (14) ..... ancient times, human beings have used them to carry messages back home. However, cat owners, (15) ..... have to keep returning to their old address in (16) ..... to bring their cat home, tend to find the homing instinct simply irritating rather than useful or interesting!

## 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 gap in **the same line**. There is an example at the beginning (0).

### The oldest house in Britain

It was warm, round, had a (0) ..... view of a lake and appears to have been occupied for several hundred years. Welcome to the oldest house in the UK, which was found with other fascinating relics (17) ..... at a site in North Yorkshire. These remains are transforming our (18) ..... of how Britain's earliest inhabitants lived.

The structure was 3.5 metres in (19) ..... and was supported by a circle of wooden posts. Dark, decayed matter at the centre of the ruin suggests the possibility of a roof entirely made of grasses. (20) ..... of the remains by scientists revealed that the building stood in 8,500 BC. It was (21) ..... thought that people living in Britain at this time were nomadic with no fixed homes. But the (22) ..... of the oldest known house provides clear (23) ..... that some of these people built large permanent structures. Researchers of the site, however, are (24) ..... about how long the house will remain the 'oldest' in the UK, because new finds are being made all the time.

FANTASY

NEAR

KNOW

WIDE

INVESTIGATI

ORIGIN

DISCOVER

EVIDENT

SURE

### 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 **two** and **five** words, including the word given. Here is an example (0).

**Example:**

0 A very friendly taxi driver drove us into town.

**DRIVEN**

We ..... a very friendly taxi driver.

The gap can be filled by the words 'were driven into town by', so you write:

**Example:**

0	WERE DRIVEN INTO TOWN BY
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Write **only** the missing words **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

25 I haven't decided what sort of job I'd like to do when I leave college.

**MIND**

I haven't made ..... the sort of job I'd like to do when I leave college.

26 Tony never took any notice of the advice people gave him.

**ATTENTION**

Tony never ..... the advice people gave him.

27 Mary didn't ring us last night because she knew we were going out.

**WOULD**

Mary ..... us last night if she hadn't known we were going out.

28 I am planning to go to the football match, unless they cancel it because of the weather.

**DUE**

If the football match ..... the weather, I am planning to go to it.

29 Louise didn't really feel like going out for a meal.

**MOOD**

Louise wasn't really ..... going out for a meal.

30 'Last week, I unexpectedly met an old friend on the train,' said the man.

**RUN**

The man said that ..... an old friend on the train unexpectedly last week.

## Part 5

You are going to read an article about a flight in a very fast aeroplane. 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.

### My fastest ever plane ride

*Reporter Matt Rudd goes on an extraordinary plane ride*

In The Red Bull Air Race, twelve pilots take it in turns to race through a series of pylons between 15 and 25 metres high, negotiating sharp turns, barrel rolls and loops on the way, all at speeds of up to 370 km per hour. I was invited to find out what it feels like to take part.

An hour before the flight, I had to sign two forms. The first confirmed that I was in good health, the second that I would empty all my pockets, because tiny objects can become very dangerous during the flight. I also learnt that I would have to try to stay orientated throughout. 'The horizon is your best friend,' I was told, 'the pilot will explain in which direction you have to look.' I was also asked to promise that when I was flying upside down, I would 'completely relax. Try and enjoy the view.' Half an hour before the flight, I had a safety briefing in which I was told not, under any circumstances, to touch anything.

By the time we were taxiing down the runway, my legs up in front of me, feet trying not to touch the incredibly important steering pedals, hands trying not to rest on any of the many important switches within reach, my mind had made itself up. Ignoring all instructions received, I would not relax and enjoy the flight. This is the cruel paradox of high-speed acrobatic flying. In order to survive it without passing out, you have to keep calm and focused. You have to tense up at the right time and you have to relax at the right time. Panicking is a bad idea. None of this was of particular comfort as we began accelerating down the runway.

Dario, the pilot, and I reached the end of the runway. There we were in the Zivko Edge 540, upsettingly one of the world's fastest acrobatic planes, ready to go. The plane took off and two seconds later we banked sharply to the right. It was an instant, violent manoeuvre and I felt

the air squeeze out of my lungs. I looked up at the horizon, tensed everything and emitted short gasps as I sank down into the seat. For a split second I weighed 6.2 times my normal weight. And then we levelled out. We turned another sharp left and dived, leaving my stomach at 2,000 metres and my lungs scrunched up on the roof of the plane. Seconds later, we were 10 metres off the ground, aiming for the alarmingly small space between two pylons. They passed at 400 km per hour but my whoop of momentary excitement was stolen by a sharp right turn. We hadn't even done any acrobatics yet.

For two minutes, I was allowed to fly the plane, my hand shaking so much the plane shook too... it's that responsive. And then after that Dario said something. And I said, 'Can you repeat that?' But instead of replying, he did a barrel roll, a full lateral 360° turn.

'Are you okay?'

'Yup.'

'Have you had enough?'

'No,' I lied.

Then he did a loop, flying the plane up and over, turning a full circle in the air. Now, I am aware that many people would find this exciting. The sort of people who enjoy rollercoasters. However, I just thought it was a bit much. At the top of the loop, as we were flying upside down, I heard a small voice shouting, 'Relax, relax, look up.' Then I looked up and saw some fields.

The flight was over in 10 minutes. It had been 'soft' compared to what the pilots endure when they race. As if to illustrate the point, Dario got out some sandwiches the minute we landed and merrily tucked in. I didn't eat for hours and that night I did the loop the loop over and over again in my sleep.

line 55

line 56

line 59

line 71

- 31 How did Matt feel as the plane started moving along the runway?
- A annoyed that there were so many rules to follow
  - B surprised that he had to sit in a rather awkward position
  - C convinced that he was going to be unable to behave as required
  - D anxious that he had not been adequately prepared for the experience
- 32 Why does Matt say *We hadn't even done any acrobatics yet* in lines 55 and 56?
- A to justify his impatience
  - B to express his disappointment
  - C to explain why he felt so relieved
  - D to emphasise how apprehensive he felt
- 33 What does *responsive* mean in line 59?
- A eager
  - B sensitive
  - C active
  - D helpful
- 34 In the fifth paragraph, Matt wants the pilot to think that
- A he understands the technical terms.
  - B he needs a break.
  - C he is feeling fine.
  - D he had expected to roll.
- 35 What does *it* refer to in line 71?
- A turning a full circle
  - B being aware
  - C finding this exciting
  - D enjoying rollercoasters
- 36 What is implied about the pilot in the final paragraph?
- A He finds Matt's reaction amusing.
  - B He wants to demonstrate that he is tougher than Matt.
  - C He feels unusually hungry after the flight.
  - D He is completely unaffected by their experience.

## Part 1

You **must** answer this question. Write your answer in **140–190** words in an appropriate style **on the separate answer sheet**.

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- 1** In your English class you have been talking about modern entertainment. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using **all** the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.



Some people say that young people can only entertain themselves in front of a screen. What do you think?

### Notes

Write about:

1. why screen entertainment is so popular
2. books and reading
3. ...(your own idea)

## LISTENING

### Part 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations.

For questions 1–8, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

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- 1 You hear part of an interview with a crime writer.  
What does he say about his home town?  
**A** It was a good background for the writing he does.  
**B** He generally feels uncomfortable returning there.  
**C** People there tend to treat him differently now.
  
- 2 You hear a careers adviser talking to a woman who has applied for two jobs.  
What suggestion does he make?  
**A** find out more information about the first job  
**B** withdraw the application for the second job  
**C** ask the first company to be flexible
  
- 3 You hear a girl talking about a psychology textbook.  
What does she say about it?  
**A** It is not very interesting.  
**B** It is good value for money.  
**C** It is going to come in useful.
  
- 4 You hear the mother of a famous skier talking about a competition.  
She says that her daughter  
**A** expected to win the competition.  
**B** didn't tell her mother she was entering it.  
**C** gave up her job to practise for it.

- 5 You hear a film director talking about the actors she works with.  
How does she feel about the actors in her current film?
- A She sympathises with their problems.
  - B She admires the sacrifices they make.
  - C She approves of their attitudes.
- 6 You hear a man talking about his first job interview.  
How did he feel during the interview?
- A confident that he was right for the job
  - B embarrassed because of the long silences
  - C relieved he could answer most of the questions
- 7 You hear two friends talking about a popular television programme.  
What is the programme about?
- A retirement
  - B cookery
  - C teaching
- 8 You hear two people talking about a place they have visited.  
What kind of place is it?
- A a museum
  - B a library
  - C a shop

## Part 2

You will hear a girl called Laura Beamer talking about being a volunteer at a summer school for 7–14 year olds, which is called the Children's University. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

### Volunteer at the Children's University

The Children's University was started by a  **9** five years ago.

The focus of this year's Children's University was the topic of  **10** .

Laura's partner was Mark, who works as a  **11** when he is not  
volunteering.

Laura's group of volunteers gave some workshops about how  **12**  
is made.

Laura says the children had a booklet called a ' **13** ' which was  
stamped to show their progress.

Laura and the children went to the graduation ceremony in the  **14**  
hall of the local University.

Some children received a  **15** for attending a lot of workshops.

Laura said the scheme allowed her to develop skills such as  **16** .

Laura will most probably become a  **17** in the future.

Laura says she can give people in her audience something called an  
 **18** for volunteers.