STATE EXAM IN ENGLISH PRACTICE

MODULE 1



TR. 1 ***DIRECTIONS:*** *You will hear a text about* ***a couple of old friends flying a plane*** *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 two pilots are common visitors to the island of Samso.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

2. **They learned how to fly a plane in order to make a living.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

3. **They are coming to the island to run an errand for their wives.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

4. **Their wives suggested buying a plane as it was as cheap as driving and using the ferry.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

5. **On the whole, the narrator's attitude to the two elderly men is negative.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TR. 2 ***DIRECTIONS:*** *You will hear a text about* ***the Great Fire of London*** *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 Great Fire of London had such a devastating effect on the city mainly because of the weather conditions at that time.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

2. **The damaging flames raged for about five days before they gradually subdued.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

3. **The city was totally obliterated in this blazing disaster unlike in the air raids during the Second World War.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

4. **Altogether, 13 087 buildings were burned to the ground in the Great Fire of London.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

5. **As a result of the fire wooden houses were no longer built and some of the streets were widened.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TR 6 ***DIRECTIONS:*** *You will hear a text about* ***the oldest working mechanical clock in the world*** *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.*

1. **The old clock in Salisbury's Cathedral was found**
   A) during some restoration works.
   B) quite by chance.
   C) thanks to some old construction plans.
   D) because the curch engaged some enthusiasts.

2. **What is curious about this clock is that it**
   A) is made of wrought iron.
   B) has no face.
   C) signals the hours by use of a bell.
   D) is supplied with a mechanism.

3 **Another interesting thing about the clock is that unlike earlier clocks,**
   A) its mechanism is related to the work of a sundial.
   B) it was used to chime on important occasions from the city's life.
   C) it worked on the notion of the passage of seasons.
   D) it introduced the idea of time being measured in hours.

4. **The Cathedral's original mechanical clock was brought back to life in**
   A) 1928.
   B) 1789.
   C) 1386.
   D) 1956.

5. **All in all, horologists need to reach an agreement as to**
   A) who the craftsman who made Salisbury Catherdal'clock was.
   B) whether it has been kept in his original design.
   C) the Cathdral had a clock installed back in the 14th century.
   D) NONE of the above.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 1

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.*

Living Sustainably

Sustainability can be defined as the practice of meeting the needs of the current generation without degrading or destroying the natural resources such as water, soil, oil, minerals or biodiversity, which future generations will also need. Our lives and economies are dependent on natural capital, which is made up of these natural resources, and the energy provided by the sun. Our natural capital provides biological income in the form of renewable resources – e.g. soil, solar energy, animals and plants. Just as every investor knows, we should invest our capital and live off the interest, or income, it provides. To live sustainably, we need to do the same: protect our natural capital and live off our biological income.

To be truly sustainable, we need to address sustainability at the economic, environmental and social levels. According to the United Nations and the World Bank, the developed countries of the world, which include the USA, Japan, most of Europe, Australia and Canada, make up about 18% of the world's population, yet they use about 88% of the world's resources and produce about 75% of the world's waste and pollution. Since sustainability and environmental protection are inseparably linked, it is critical to address the inequity of resource use, especially for less developed or developing countries, as poverty and environmental degradation go hand in hand. On an individual level, it is important to realise that our resources are not limitless and so should be used in a manner that promotes their conservation.

Environmental stewardship is considered to be a big part of environmental protection. It is an ethic connected to responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices. Environmental stewardship means that each person takes an active interest in protecting the natural resources and natural services in the environment in which they live, and in fostering the health of that environment. It includes building in concert with nature, and using natural services as 'green infrastructure' to keep communities healthy. Despite seeming too philosophical this concept has given rise to may concrete actions in Europe and the United States.

1. **According to the text, living sustainably equals using our environment wisely trying both to include alternative energy sources and to decrease pollution.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

2. **The author of the text uses a number of financial terms in order to make the readers believe that they can buy and sell natural resources**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

3. **In terms of exploiting nature's wealth there is a great disparity between richer and poorer countries.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

4. **It is in the power of governments alone to regulate sustainable living worldwide.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

5. **In essence, environmental stewardship is not applicable to the situation in less-developed countries.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

LIVEWORKSHEETS

MODULE 2

Task 2

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.*

On board a plane

'Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the crew I would now like to welcome you on board. We'll be taking off shortly so we kindly ask you to turn your attention to the safety video.'

Well? Have you not nodded off yet? Well, that's the problem. Most of the videos that show you in excruciating detail where to stow your hand luggage and how to put your seat in an upright position are not exactly riveting but they are required by law. And in Germany, for example, their content is regulated by the Federal Aviation Office, not an entertainment company.

So it's hardly surprising that frequent flyers tune out when they are shown for the umpteenth time how to fasten and unfasten their seat belt. But ignoring these rules can have serious consequences. For example – do you remain seated until the plane has come to a standstill? A German travel journalist tells the story about a dog which run across the runway in Casablanca, forcing the pilot to slam on the brakes. Brakes that work well at 350 kmph work well at 50 kmph too and one of the passengers who had just emptied the overhead bin flew from row 26 to the lavatory behind the cockpit suffering a serious injury.

Some airlines are ready to do whatever it takes to attract passengers' attention – showing funny cartoons or mind-breaking animations. Sometimes it is the crew that try to spice things up. Perhaps you've heard of humorous announcements such as 'There are 50 ways to leave your lover but only 4 to leave this aircraft,' or 'There are only two smoking areas on this flight, one on each wing. That's where we're showing the film *Gone with the Wind*.' One flight attendant went so far as to have the first row of passengers to clap their hands and stamp their feet. Once they had a rhythm going, he started to rap the safety instructions. Another crew member filmed the whole 'performance' and then uploaded it on YouTube. Before he knew it, 40-year-old David Holmes was famous, appearing on CNN and being interviewed for popular talk shows.

Regardless of whether the safety instructions are filmed or animated, performed by hobbits or computer-generated avatars, the words of a flight attendant from Lufthansa will always ring true: 'We wish all passengers who have paid attention a good flight and all the rest – good luck.'

1. **The aim of the text is to mock passengers who disregard following the safety instructions.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

2. **The author states that the law requires airlines to present safety instructions as attractively as possible.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

3. **n the case of the dog crossing the runway the airline suffered severe fines after the incident.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

4. **The current wide access to social networks such as YouTube helps raise people's awareness of the seriousness of safety precaution while flying.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

5. **Crew members will always be looking out for ways to make the routine presentation of safety instructions more exciting.**
   A) True B) False C) No information in the text

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 6

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

'Fading' jobs

Since textile workers in England were replaced by mechanised looms in the 19th century new technologies have been continuously taking the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of labourers. In the 20th century – the age of machinery, robotics, and computers – the United States has seen the loss of millions of factory jobs. Now, in the era of the Internet and further automation, a new generation of full-time workers is on the verge of losing their positions to technology. We have used the information provided by the Bureau of Labour Statistics to identify the jobs that will lose the largest percentage of their current positions over the next decade.

Many jobs are in industries where technological advancement has already caused major reductions in the workforce. Now, further contraction is expected in those same industries as workers who were trained to oversee the machines are themselves replaced by new machines and software that manage the old machines. For example, more than 50,000 postal workers formerly assigned to oversee the mail sorting machines will lose their jobs as newer automated machines are implemented.

In addition, some of the world's newest industries, including semiconductors and computers, are already replacing major sections of employees because of further improvements. The components of semiconductors are now too small for humans to process, and automatic software updates for computer systems, both in the office and the factory, can now be done automatically, or from a central location.

Not just technology is causing job losses. Changing trends in personal preferences and business practices are also affecting people's livelihoods. Fewer people wear watches and use film-loaded cameras, and so hundreds of repair-persons in both fields will lose their jobs due to lack of demand. In some cases, these industries are essentially dying, losing 30 to 40% of their workforces in the process. The Postal Service and the publishing industry are being killed by the Internet. It is estimated that soon, they might lose hundreds of thousands of additional jobs as they continue to shrink.

Strangly enough, computer operators' positions are also at stake. Computer operators work across a variety of businesses, in offices and factories. They are responsible for the regular upkeep of the computer systems at their business, updating software, maintaining logs, keeping them virus-free. It may be difficult to imagine that a job with the word 'computer' in its title is also in danger of becoming outdated, but that is increasingly the case. Advances in technology are making many of the duties performed by these workers obsolete. The expanding use of software that automates computer operations gives companies the option to make systems more efficient, but greatly reduces the need for operators.

On the other hand, as operators lose their jobs, software designers and manufacturers are becoming some of the fastest-growing jobs in the country. These are the people developing the software that will replace operators.

1. **According to the text we can infer that mechanised looms**
   A) were once equal to a technological revolution.
   B) replaced many workers when they were introduced.
   C) have in their turn become outdated.
   D) ALL of the above.

2. **New technological advancements make it possible for ... to become fully automated.**
   A) mail sorting
   B) watch repairing
   C) book writing
   D) taking pictures

3. **In the field of producing semiconductors, humans are being replaced because of**
   A) the presence of centralised automated systems.
   B) the ever-decreasing size of their parts.
   C) the many software updates needed to produce them.
   D) the inadequate qualification of the workforce.

4. **One surprising result of technological advancement is that**
   A) machines are replacing people.
   B) people dealing with computers will likely lose their jobs.
   C) robots will be used in place of many machines of older design.
   D) the internet interferes with the publishing business.

5. **The word *'obsolete'* as used in the last but one paragraph means**
   A) absurd B) obscure C) out-of-date D) abundant

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A. Read the text below and choose the correct word A, B C or D to fit the gaps.

There can be no **(11)**..... that online shopping is of huge benefit to the consumer. Far from becoming **(12)**....., online shoppers are very demanding. Overpriced merchants with poor services should beware. Gone are the days when stores could charge what they liked for goods and get away with it. The same, too, for shady manufacturers: smarter consumers know which products have a good **(13)**..... and which do not, because online they now read not only the sales **(14)**..... but also reviews from previous purchasers. And if customers are disappointed, a few **(15)**..... of the mouse will take them to places where they can let the world know. Nowadays there is nothing more damning than a flood of negative comments on the internet.

However, the big boys, as always, are ahead of the game. Some companies are already adjusting their business models to take account of these trends. The stores run by Sony and Apple, for instance, are more like brand showrooms than shops. They are there for people to try out **(16)**..... and to ask questions to knowledgeable staff. Whether the products are ultimately bought online or offline is of secondary importance.

Online traders must also adjust. Amazon, for one, is **(17)**..... turning from being primarily a bookseller to becoming a **(18)**..... retailer by letting other companies sell products on its site, rather like a marketplace. During America's Thanksgiving weekend last November, Amazon's sales of consumer electronics in the United States **(19)**..... its book sales for the first time in its history. Other transformations in the retail business are **(20)**..... to follow.

11. **A.** query	**B.** examination	**C.** question	**D.** proposal
12. **A.** complacent	**B.** dissatisfied	**C.** competent	**D.** compassionate
13. **A.** distinction	**B.** resolution	**C.** opinion	**D.** reputation
14. **A.** bubble	**B.** message	**C.** blare	**D.** blurb
15. **A.** taps	**B.** clucks	**C.** clicks	**D.** prods
16. **A.** devices	**B.** tools	**C.** emblems	**D.** schemes
17. **A.** mistakenly	**B.** rapidly	**C.** unreasonably	**D.** secretly
18. **A.** mass	**B.** block	**C.** lump	**D.** chunk
19. **A.** receded	**B.** excluded	**C.** repressed	**D.** exceeded
20. **A.** tied	**B.** secured	**C.** bound	**D.** fastened

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DIRECTIONS: *Read the sentences below and for each numbered gap choose the letter (**A, B, C** or **D**) of the word or phrase that best fits the gap.*

1. **An elite group saw its wealth increase by a ..... £412 million every day in the last year.**
   A) main B) staggering C) dominant D) amazing

2. **There are 16 billionaires in Sub-Saharan Africa alone, where 358 million people live in ..... poverty.**
   A) extreme B) acute C) crucial D) massive

3. **A previous study found that a heavy women will earn $9,000 less ..... than an average-weight women of the same skill, education and work experience.**
   A) annually B) year C) annum D) once a year

4. **Steps to introduce a tax on internet traffic in Hungary have been (a) ..... by the country's government, after thousands of people (b) ..... the streets in protest.**
   (a) A) called off B) grown up C) scaled out D) cut down
   (b) A) appeared B) flooded C) cached D) found

5. **We admire our new teacher as she seems very ..... about any aspect of the subject she teaches – physics.**
   A) knowledgeable B) smart C) powerful D) competent

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.*

1. **(a) ..... the results were potentially alarming, the authors of the study from Uppsala University urged caution and said their evidence was not (b) ..... for dietary recommendations to change.**
   (a) A) In spite B) Despite C) However D) Although
   (b) A) enough strong B) strong enough C) strong D) strengthened

2. **We've all heard that ..... attractive people are ..... they earn.**
   A) more .... more
   B) the more ... the more
   C) most ... most
   D) the most ... the most

3. **Psychology studies show that people prefer things that are easier ..... .**
   A) to process
   B) processing
   C) to have processed
   D) to have been processed

4. **Yana didn't remember ..... her mother when she landed at Munich Airport, which was very thoughtless of her.**
   A) ringing B) having rung C) to have rung D) to ring

5. **I've arranged ..... at his aunt's during the semester.**
   A) my son to stay
   B) for my son to stay
   C) my sons staying
   D) for my son staying

LIVEWORKSHEETS

MODULE 3

DIRECTIONS: *Complete the second sentence so that it is as close as possible in meaning to the first one.*

1. **Thomas did so well at the test only because of your timely help.**
   If it weren't .....

2. **I arrived at the airport three hours ago.**
   I have .....

3. **Mandy didn't have enough time to finish her Biology project before the deadline.**
   Mandy had .....

4. **'Why don't we go over the problems we solved in class again?' Anthony said.**
   Anthony suggested .....

5. **The biggest language school in our town was set up in the 1990s.**
   They started .....

WRITING – 160-170 words

LIVEWORKSHEETS