

EXAM PRACTICE TEST 1

READING TASK

Task 1. (1 point per item). You are going to read a newspaper article. Five sentences have been removed from the text. For questions 1–5 choose from the sentences A–F the one which best fits each gap. There is one extra sentence you do not need.

ALTERNATIVE MATERIAL FOR PAPER PRODUCTION

- A People care only about profit and are indifferent to environmental problems.
- B They also point out that marijuana is less toxic than alcohol and tobacco.
- C This alarming rate of destruction has serious consequences for the environment.
- D However, there is a problem: hemp is illegal in many countries of the world.
- E If these paper products could be produced in some other way, Canadian forests could be preserved.
- F According to its proponents, four times as much paper can be produced from land using hemp rather than trees.

Every second, 1 hectare of the world's rainforest is destroyed. That's equivalent to two football fields. An area the size of New York City is lost every day. In a year, that adds up to 31 million hectares – more than the land area of Poland. 1. _____. Scientists estimate, for example, that 137 species of plant, insect or animal become extinct every day due to logging. In British Columbia, where, since 1990, thirteen rainforest valleys have been clearcut, 142 species of salmon have already become extinct, and the habitats of grizzly bears, wolves and many other creatures are threatened. Logging, however, provides jobs, profits, taxes for the government and cheap products of all kinds for consumers, so the government is reluctant to restrict or control it.

Much of Canada's forestry production goes towards making pulp and paper. According to the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, Canada supplies 34% of the world's wood pulp and 49% of its newsprint paper. 2. _____. Recently, a possible alternative way of producing paper has been suggested by agriculturalists and environmentalists: a plant called hemp.

Hemp has been cultivated by many cultures for thousands of years. It produces fibre which can be made into paper, fuel, oils, textiles, food, and rope. For centuries, it was essential to the economies of many countries because it was used to make the ropes and cables used on sailing ships; colonial expansion and the establishment of a world-wide trading network would not have been feasible without hemp. Nowadays, ships' cables are usually made from wire or synthetic fibres, but scientists are now suggesting that the cultivation of hemp should be revived for the production of paper and pulp. 3. _____. Many environmentalists believe that the large-scale cultivation of hemp could reduce the pressure on Canada's forests.

4. _____. This plant, so useful for fibre, rope, oil, fuel and textiles, is a species of cannabis, related to the plant from which marijuana is produced. In the late 1930s, a movement to ban the drug marijuana began to gather force, resulting in the eventual banning of the cultivation not only of the plant used to produce the drug, but also of the commercial fibre-producing hemp plant. Although both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson grew hemp in large quantities on their own land, any American growing the plant

today would soon find himself in prison – despite the fact that marijuana cannot be produced from the hemp plant, since it contains almost no THC (the active ingredient in the drug).

In recent years, two major movements for legalization have been gathering strength. One group of activists believes that ALL cannabis should be legal – both the hemp plant and the marijuana plant – and that the use of the drug marijuana should not be an offense. They argue that marijuana is not dangerous or addictive, and that it is used by large numbers of people who are not criminals but productive members of society.

5. _____. The other legalization movement is concerned only with the hemp plant used to produce fibre; this group wants to make it legal to cultivate the plant and sell the fibre for paper and pulp production. This second group has had a major triumph recently: in 1997, Canada legalized the farming of hemp for fibre. For the first time since 1938, hundreds of farmers are planting this crop, and soon we can expect to see pulp and paper produced from this new source.

(Adapted from BBC NEWS)

5 points	
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Task 2. (15 points, 1 point per item). For questions 1–5 choose from headings A–F the one which best summarizes each paragraph. There is one extra heading you do not need to use.

ANTARCTICA LOSING ICE TO OCEANS

- A Alarming data
- B Scientists have some hopes
- C Ambiguous calculations
- D A threat to mankind
- E Pioneering method of research
- F A new method is welcome

1. _____

Researchers used satellites to plot changes in the Earth's gravity in the Antarctic during the period 2002–2005. Writing in the journal *Science*, they conclude that the continent is losing 152 cubic km of ice in the west. In recent years scientists have found evidence that West Antarctic ice is melting, which could contribute to sea level rise. They describe the West Antarctic ice sheet as “a giant awakened”.

2. _____

The new study, conducted by scientists at the University of Colorado at Boulder, uses a technique which has not been tried before: measuring gravity over Antarctica. Data come from a pair of satellites together known as Grace which orbits the Earth in tandem, measuring changes in its gravitational field. “Their orbits have a very large inclination, of 89 degrees in fact, so you get very good coverage over the Antarctic,” said Isabella Velicogna, one of the Colorado team.

3. _____

Overall, Dr. Velicogna's group found an annual decrease in ice sheet mass of 152 cubic km. There is a clear loss in the west, whereas the mass of the East Antarctic sheet appears to be constant. This loss of ice equates to an annual rise in the global average sea level of 0.4 mm; by contrast, the total rise, due mainly to thermal expansion of seawater, is estimated at about 1.8 mm per year.

4. _____

But there is another issue which needs resolving. Grace is unable to discriminate between ice and rock. And the rock surface of Antarctica, below the ice sheet is rising. The new research paper attempts to correct for this by estimating the rate of the rise through computers models of the Earth's interior. But uncertainties in the models produce uncertainties in the team's estimates of changes to the ice: the annual loss could be as low as 72 cubic km, or as high as 232 cubic km.

5. _____

"The best way would be to go to rock outcrops on Antarctica, put GPS receivers on them and measure how rapidly they're rising", D. Vaughan told the BBC News website. "That is done at the moment in a few places, but not enough, and a new program is being launched."

(Adapted from BBC NEWS)

(1 point per item). For questions 6–15 use the information given in the text to complete the sentences. Find in the text words which mean the same as the underlined words below. There is an example (00).

00 Scientists use different devices to mark changes on the maps.

Scientists use different devices to plot changes.

6. The bad weather only added to our difficulties.

The bad weather only _____ to our difficulties.

7. They run business very successfully as they work together.

They run business very successfully as they work _____.

8. The extent to which the news was presented shocked everybody.

The news _____ shocked everybody.

9. The situation in the company has remained unchanged since last Christmas.

The situation in the company has remained _____ since last Christmas.

10. The President makes a speech in the parliament once a year.

The President makes a(n) _____ speech in the parliament.

11. People calculated that his income was about \$15,000 a year.

People _____ his income to be about \$15,000 a year.

12. This problem requires a prompt solution.

This _____ requires a prompt solution.

13. The authorities have to settle the problems immediately.

The authorities have _____ the problems immediately.

14. He couldn't recognize a distinction between the accidental and intentional crime.

He couldn't _____ between the accidental and intentional crime.

15. A new campaign against poaching has been started recently.

A new campaign against poaching has been _____ recently.

15 points

Task 3. *(1 point per item). You are going to read an article. For questions 1–5 choose the answers (A, B, C or D) which best complete the sentences given according to the text.*

SHUTTLE HOPES FOR MORE FLIGHTS

1. The success of Shuttle depends on
 - A. astronauts piloting the spaceship.
 - B. a new construction of Shuttle.
 - C. the fuel to be filled in the tank.
 - D. improving insulation.
2. A deadly hazard happened because
 - A. the fuel tank didn't work.
 - B. the insulation was not checked.
 - C. ice broke off and damaged the spaceship.
 - D. a piece from insulation split.
3. The tests will be made to check
 - A. the capacity of the spaceship.
 - B. the pressure in Shuttle.
 - C. the possible dangers while taking off.
 - D. the strength of pressurization lines and cable trays.
4. NASA scientists and engineers are working to
 - A. design a new spaceship.
 - B. reduce the size of possible chunks.
 - C. create the smallest piece of foam.
 - D. use another type of energy.
5. The main idea of the article is to
 - A. increase the number of flights.
 - B. design more spaceships.
 - C. ensure secure launches of Shuttle.
 - D. build the International Space Station.

The US space agency is growing optimistic of resuming space shuttle flights in May and perhaps squeezing in three missions this year. Hope rests on a new fuel tank due to arrive at the launch site in a couple of days. The key to the program's future is how well engineers have fixed the foam-shedding problem that led to the loss of Shuttle Columbia in 2003.

Foam loss also reoccurred in July 2005 on NASA's first, and so far only, shuttle launch since the accident. "I remain optimistic that if we fly this summer, we'll be able to get three flights off this calendar year. But time will tell," shuttle program manager Wayne Hale said at a press conference.

The primary safety upgrade has centered on the shuttle's 154ft (47 m) long external fuel tank, which holds the liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen consumed by the ship's three main engines during climb to orbit. Insulating foam on the tank, intended to prevent the formation of ice which could break off and damage the orbiter, became a deadly debris hazard when a briefcase sized chunk broke off during Columbia's launch and smashed into its wing. The damage triggered the shuttle's break-up over Texas 16 days later as Columbia flew through the atmosphere in preparation for landing. Seven crew members aboard the shuttle died.

Managers put shuttle flights on hold and set about redesigning the tank again. The tests, which will involve precise subscale models of the shuttle, as well as full-size pieces of some tank components, are designed to assess how well the tank can withstand the aerodynamic stresses of launch without the protective foam ramps shielding pressurization lines and trays. In addition to clearing the tank for flight, engineers are looking at several other technical issues that could delay the launch.

NASA's goal is to eliminate large pieces of foam flying off the tank. Hale acknowledged that small pieces of foam, hopefully none bigger than a matchbox, will still shed during launch. "I wanted to make sure everyone understands we are trying to eliminate critical foam loss, but we expect to see foam coming off this next tank," Hale said. "Our task ahead of us is to guarantee that all of these very small pieces of foam, most of them less than an ounce, will be of a size that they cannot have enough energy to do damage if they strike the orbiter," Hale added. "We'll continue to make improvements so we can eliminate even smaller pieces of foam loss."

Except for a possible servicing mission to the Hubble Space Telescope, NASA is devoting all remaining shuttle flights to building the International Space Station.