



Final Exam

Advanced Level

Reading and Writing Examination

Paper Number: **Sample 3**

Candidate Instructions:



Make sure you have the correct candidate label in the box above.



Answer ALL the questions.



Time allowed – TWO hours and THIRTY minutes

Writing Section [50]

Reading Section [50]

Section R1 (13 marks)

Read the following passage and answer all the questions.

Marks
Awarded

Windows Into the Future

People have been using wood for thousands of years. It is a sustainable and renewable material found all over the world, from the oak trees of North America to the pine trees of China. Studies have shown, however, that wood from the fast-growing *balsa* tree can be used for something new: to replace glass or plastic. Despite being very soft, the wood is extremely strong, and both qualities help to make it ideal for this purpose. In 1992, a German scientist initially discovered that this wood could be made *transparent*, meaning you can see through it, like glass. Recently, a team led by a professor from Sweden and researchers from the USA conducted further experiments and are now honing the process to make wood completely clear.

In the past, experts made the wood transparent by soaking it in harmful chemicals to remove something called *lignin*. However, this process caused damage to the environment. Now, they modify the *lignin* rather than remove it, which is not only environmentally friendly but affordable. The earlier procedure was too costly to be a commercial possibility. Using the first technique, only thin pieces of wood could be made transparent. With the latest method, wood of any thickness can be used.

Although glass is an environmentally-friendly material, heat can still get through it, meaning it isn't very energy efficient. Transparent wood solves that problem as it is five times more effective than glass at trapping heat. Not only that, but it is lighter than glass and just as strong. It is almost as transparent as glass and is 90% as effective at letting light through.

As a much more sustainable alternative to plastic, transparent wood has already had many uses such as storing energy, in electronics and as a material for wrapping goods to protect them during transportation. There is even ambition for its use in optical applications such as lenses for glasses. Scientists have yet to use the material in construction, and while transparent wood could eventually be used to make windows, roofs and walls, there is not yet enough production and the process of making the material would need to be developed on a very large scale to bring the cost down. Until this happens, we can only imagine the endless possibilities.

For questions 1-3, please answer in complete sentences. (2 marks each)

1. What makes *balsa* wood suitable for transparent wood?

--

2. For which two reasons was the early process of making transparent wood changed?

--

3. What needs to happen to make transparent wood a practical building solution?

--

For questions 4-8, tick (✓) the box. (1 mark each)

4. Any thickness of wood can be made transparent.

True ☐

False ☐

5. Transparent wood lets through the same amount of light as glass.

True ☐

False ☐

6. Where did the original idea of transparent wood come from?

- A a scientist from Germany
B a research team from the United States
C a professor based in Sweden

A ☐

B ☐

C ☐

7. The characteristics of transparent wood mean that it is

- A slightly weaker than glass.
B less efficient at keeping heat in than glass.
C not as heavy as glass.

A ☐

B ☐

C ☐

8. Transparent wood has been used

- A to construct buildings.
B as packaging material.
C to make lenses for glasses.

A ☐

B ☐

C ☐

Write the words in the box. (1 mark each)

9. Find the word or phrase in the passage which means the **SAME** as:

improving (paragraph 1)

10. Find the word or phrase in the passage which means the **OPPOSITE** of:

releasing (paragraph 3)

Section R2 (7 marks)

Read the six short news stories below. Choose from the articles (A to F) and complete the answer grid. The articles may be chosen more than once. **One** article should **not** be chosen at all. One question has been done for you as an example.

A. An extremely unusual sea bird has been spotted off the beach at Sandgate, on the south coast. A pair of storm *petrels* were seen by local wildlife photographer, Sallie Birch. These tiny birds are usually only seen in the far north of the country, so it was a great surprise for the photographer. Unfortunately, Sallie was unable to capture the moment on camera as it happened so quickly. However, she hopes to see them again so that she can photograph them.

B. Ten beach huts on the east coast have recently been turned into a work of modern sculpture. The wooden huts, unused for many years, were thought to be spoiling the natural landscape. Artist Rhodri Jones received local council approval to enhance their appearance. Now some of the huts are covered in shells, whereas others have been decorated with wood and other natural materials that have washed up on the beach. Visitors are encouraged to donate money to local good causes.

C. The 'Clean Our Beaches' group has revealed what the top ten most common plastics found on our beaches are. Plastic bottles and lids were far and away the most common plastic pollution found, along with plastic bags of all sizes. Incredibly though, balloons also made it into the top ten. The group strongly urges all beach visitors to take their rubbish home with them. Better still, avoid using single-use plastic at all, and invest in reusable equipment for your next beach picnic.

D. The popular painter, Adella Sanchez, has announced a new exhibition in a small gallery in the seaside town of Margaretport. She is particularly known for her stunning landscapes of stony beaches and coastal caves, and this will be her first exhibition in over five years. Health problems have affected Sanchez' creative output during this time. Collectors of her work will enjoy this new opportunity to purchase some of her incredible paintings and to welcome her back on the art scene.

E. Arnaud D'Amico is the town's newest business owner. He took over the beach café six months ago and wasted no time in updating the building, which had fallen into a state of poor repair. The café now has much better access and improved lighting. D'Amico, a wheelchair user himself, said it was extremely important for everyone to be able to use the space safely and easily. He hopes that the café will become a significant part of the town's culture.

F. The oldest hotel in the town of Barbrook is due to be knocked down at the end of the month after several weeks of failed negotiations. The hotel, which faces the main beach, was abandoned earlier this year because of financial difficulties. It is unclear what will be built to replace it, but local residents are being asked for their opinions in a questionnaire which has been distributed around the town. Possibilities so far include a sea-life centre, a restaurant and a recycling centre.

Which article, A, B, C, D, E or F talks about

a call to action?	e.g.	C
a decision to be made?	1	
a missed opportunity?	2	
a return from sickness?	3	
a surprising statistic?	4	
support from an authority?	5	
a rare sight?	6	
a money problem?	7	

Section R3 (10 marks)

Choose the correct answer in each sentence and tick the box.

Marks
Awarded

Example:

If I were you, I would call her now.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| ☐ A will call | ☐ B am calling | ☒ C would call | ☐ D have called |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|

- I'll talk to Annie when she _____ into the office.
☐ A came ☐ B will come ☐ C comes ☐ D is coming
- These clothes should _____ in the top drawer.
☐ A be keeping ☐ B have kept ☐ C to keep ☐ D be kept
- Amir found it difficult _____ on his schoolwork.
☐ A to focus ☐ B in focusing ☐ C focused ☐ D focus
- Their manager let them _____ home early yesterday.
☐ A going ☐ B gone ☐ C to go ☐ D go
- He'd rather I _____ a car instead of a motorbike.
☐ A have bought ☐ B bought ☐ C buy ☐ D to buy
- Samira isn't used to _____ in the city yet.
☐ A lives ☐ B living ☐ C live ☐ D lived
- Jon and Matt suddenly turned _____ at my flat last night.
☐ A in ☐ B out ☐ C up ☐ D by
- Alina _____ a complaint to the restaurant manager about the slow service.
☐ A made ☐ B gave ☐ C put ☐ D did
- Please check that the lights are off before _____ the house.
☐ A leaves ☐ B leaving ☐ C left ☐ D to leave
- Where's the cake gone? Someone must _____ it.
☐ A to eat ☐ B been eating ☐ C be eaten ☐ D have eaten

10

Section W3 (10 marks)

Rewrite the sentences to give the same meaning as the original. Rewrite all direct speech as reported speech.

Marks
Awarded

Example:

Perhaps they went to bed early.

They might have gone to bed early.

1. I have rarely seen such heavy rain.

Rarely

2. You really should throw away those old magazines.

It's about time

3. She came to the party last night so I saw her.

If

4. The workforce was repairing the road as I drove past.

The road

5. 'Markus, do you want a cup of coffee?' Peter asked.

Peter asked

10

Section R4 (10 marks)

Marks
Awarded

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets.

Example:

He gratefully took the cup and drank the water. (grateful)

1. Barbara is a very _____ teacher. (imagine)
2. Have you filled in that job _____ yet? (apply)
3. I was sitting _____ on the sofa and fell asleep. (comfort)
4. Rahul says that you need a lot of _____ in his job. (patient)
5. The river is often completely _____ during the winter. (freeze)
6. The office is really _____ and he can never find what he needs. (organise)
7. The _____ of the CEO has left the company shocked. (depart)
8. He makes _____ visits to the head office in New York. (year)
9. Boris _____ tried to fix the heating. It's still not working and he's going to call an engineer. (success)
10. Vegetarian food is the _____ of this restaurant. (special)

10

Section R5 (10 marks)

Read the following sentences. They make a story. Write ONE missing word in each space.

Example:

Have you ever had a strange experience?

1. Harvey and Milo were good friends and they were searching _____ an old house to buy, which they could fix and subsequently sell at a profit.
2. They had found a potential house, which they felt optimistic about but, _____ they arrived to view it, they were immediately disappointed.
3. _____ the fact that the house had an extensive garden and was spacious with three floors, it was clear that nobody had lived there for years.
4. This was obvious because the garden was extremely untidy, _____ really tall trees, long grass and overgrown hedges.
5. The estate agent hadn't told them _____ the previous owners were or how long they had lived there.
6. Going into the house, they noticed an unusual smell coming from the old-fashioned kitchen, which was empty and in _____ of a thorough clean.
7. The smell _____ Milo of peaches and of the jam his mother used to make when he was a child.
8. The next room they looked at was the living room, which had hardly _____ furniture, apart from one old armchair.
9. Unfortunately, they weren't _____ to climb the stairs as there were none there - there was just a hole where the staircase should have been.
10. By this time, the pair were feeling _____ uncomfortable that they decided to leave. As they closed the door, they heard the sound of footsteps coming from upstairs.