

1.2 TRUE / FALSE / NOT GIVEN (1.5 pts — 0.3 pts each)

Read each statement and write T (True), F (False), or NG (Not Given). Answer on a separate sheet.

1. Tea was first used in China as a medicinal drink rather than as a source of pleasure.
2. The Japanese tea ceremony was developed before Lu Yu wrote the Classic of Tea.
3. When tea first arrived in England, it was affordable enough for people from all social classes to enjoy.
4. Britain's opium trade with China was a direct consequence of the imbalance in tea imports.
5. Scientific studies have confirmed that drinking green tea completely prevents cardiovascular disease.

SECTION 2 — SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION

Rewrite each sentence using the clue in brackets without changing the meaning. (2.5 pts — 0.31 pts each approx.)

1. "We are going to open a second branch next spring," the owner told us.

(Reported speech — future)

→

2. Archaeologists have recently discovered a new tomb in the Valley of the Kings.

(Passive voice — Present Perfect)

→

3. She didn't take the job offer, so she is still commuting two hours every day.

(Third Conditional)

→

4. I'm certain he has been to Japan before — he speaks about it as if he knows it well.

(Modal verb: must have)

→

5. Despite the heavy snowfall, the trains ran on time.

(Even though)

→

6. She started writing her novel four years ago and hasn't finished it yet.

(Present Perfect + for)

→

7. "Please don't discuss the details with anyone outside the team," the manager warned them.

(Reported speech — imperative)

→

8. It wasn't necessary for him to rewrite the whole report — only the conclusion was wrong.

(Needn't have)

→

SECTION 3 — PHRASAL VERBS: FILL IN THE BLANKS

Complete each sentence using the correct phrasal verb from the box. Use the correct form. (2 pts — 0.2 pts each)

WORD BANK

ask out • be fed up • break down • calm down • catch up with • give up • look after • move on • take after • turn down

1. She finally plucked up the courage to _____ her colleague _____ after months of admiring him from a distance.
2. After losing three matches in a row, the coach urged the players not to _____

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____

General Instructions

Read all sections carefully before answering. Total: 10 points. Time: 90 minutes.

SECTION 1 — READING COMPREHENSION

Read the text carefully and answer all sub-sections. (2.5 pts)

THE HISTORY OF TEA: FROM CHINESE RITUAL TO GLOBAL OBSESSION

[1] Tea is the most widely consumed beverage on Earth after water, with an estimated three billion cups drunk every day. Yet its origins are surprisingly ancient and deeply intertwined with Chinese culture. According to legend, the emperor Shennong discovered tea in 2737 BCE when dried leaves from a wild tree fell into his boiling water. Whether or not this story is true, historians agree that the deliberate cultivation and consumption of tea as a beverage was well established in China by at least the 3rd century CE.

[2] In China, tea was initially valued not for pleasure but for its medicinal properties. Early texts describe it as a remedy for fatigue, poor digestion, and low spirits. Over time, however, it evolved into a sophisticated cultural practice. During the Tang Dynasty (618–907 CE), the scholar Lu Yu composed the *Cha Jing*, or *Classic of Tea* — a comprehensive treatise on the cultivation, preparation, and appreciation of tea that elevated the beverage to the status of an art form. The Japanese tea ceremony, or *chanoyu*, which developed several centuries later, was similarly guided by principles of mindfulness, harmony, and aesthetic refinement.

[3] Tea reached Europe through Portuguese and Dutch traders in the early 17th century and became fashionable among the aristocracy almost immediately. In England, it was initially a luxury item, sold in coffee houses for prices that placed it well beyond the reach of ordinary people. The situation changed dramatically during the 18th century as the British East India Company established control over trade routes and began importing tea in enormous quantities. By the 1750s, tea had become the national drink of Britain, consumed across all social classes.

[4] The global spread of tea was not without its darker consequences. Britain's insatiable demand for Chinese tea created a significant trade imbalance, as China had little interest in British goods. To remedy this, the East India Company began smuggling opium — grown in British-controlled India — into China, leading to the Opium Wars of the 19th century, which left China weakened and humiliated. Meanwhile, the British established vast tea plantations in India and Ceylon (modern-day Sri Lanka), relying on exploited local labour to fuel their growing empire.

[5] Today, tea is produced in over 60 countries and traded on global commodity markets. It comes in hundreds of varieties — from the delicate white teas of Fujian province to the robust Assam blends favoured by builders in Britain. Beyond its cultural significance, tea has attracted growing scientific attention: studies suggest that regular consumption of green tea in particular may reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease and certain cancers. The humble leaf, it seems, has lost none of its power to captivate and sustain the human race.

1.1 SYNONYMS (1 pt — 0.25 pts each)

Find a word in the text that is closest in meaning to each of the following words. Write only the word from the text.

1. "linked" → _____
2. "thorough" → _____
3. "excessive" → _____
4. "charm" → _____

and to keep pushing until the final whistle.

3. The printer _____ in the middle of an important presentation, which caused significant embarrassment for the sales team.

4. He _____ his father in almost every way — the same posture, the same dry sense of humour, and the same stubborn streak.

5. The project manager is _____ with the constant last-minute changes and has asked for a formal meeting to address the issue.

6. "_____, everyone — there is no need to panic. We have a backup plan and everything is under control."

7. She has struggled to _____ her peers ever since she missed two months of school due to illness.

8. He was offered a leading role in a major production, but reluctantly _____ it _____ to spend more time with his family.

9. After years of grief, she finally felt ready to _____ and embrace the new opportunities that life had to offer.

10. Their elderly neighbour asked them to _____ her cat and water her plants while she was away at a health retreat.

SECTION 4 — OPINION ESSAY

Choose *ONE* topic and write an opinion essay of 120–150 words. (3 pts)

OPTION A

"Eating together as a family every day is essential for maintaining strong family bonds."

Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons and examples.

OPTION B

"Countries should invest more in cultural heritage preservation than in building new infrastructure."

Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons and examples.

I choose: Option _____

Marking Criteria	Max. Score	Teacher's Score
Content & arguments (relevant, developed ideas)	0.9 pts	
Organisation (intro, body, conclusion)	0.7 pts	
Vocabulary range & accuracy	0.7 pts	
Grammar & sentence variety	0.7 pts	
TOTAL	3 pts	

Good luck! / ¡Buena suerte!