

B2 MOCK EXAMINATION - Use of English and Reading Sections

SECTION I

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVES TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES.

1. I'm going to have to apologise to him, _____ ?
 - a) Am I
 - b) Don't I
 - c) Aren't I
 - d) Won't I

2. Some pipelines _____ and they've closed the road until the work _____ .
 - a) are laying has been finished
 - b) are being laid has been finished
 - c) have laid is finished
 - d) are laid is being finished

3. _____ suffering from jet-lag, he wanted to go out and do some sightseeing around Sydney.
 - a) In spite of
 - b) Although
 - c) However
 - d) Nevertheless

4. He turned off his mobile phone _____ disturbed during the meeting.
 - a) for not being
 - b) so as not to be
 - c) for not to be
 - d) not being

5. She couldn't help _____ sorry for the man as he was so embarrassed by his mistake.
 - a) to feel
 - b) to feeling
 - c) that she was
 - d) feeling

6. I _____ all of August with my parents in Wales this year.
 - a) spend
 - b) will be spending
 - c) have been spending
 - d) will have spent

7. Look! The warehouse over there is _____ . Call the Fire Brigade immediately.
 - a) in fire
 - b) on flames
 - c) fired
 - d) on fire

8. In the middle of his speech, he stopped _____ a sip of water.
- having
 - to have
 - that he had
 - to having
9. By the end of the month, all tests on the new machine _____ and it will be ready for launching.
- will have been completed
 - will be completing
 - have completed
 - are going to complete
10. He _____ offered a job with better working conditions. Otherwise, he wouldn't have resigned.
- can be
 - must have
 - must have been
 - may be
11. Isn't it high time he _____ to stand on his own two feet instead of relying on others?
- is learning
 - learnt
 - learns
 - has learnt
12. When he comes home from his holiday in Thailand, he'll be very surprised to see his front door _____ bright pink as a joke by his friends.
- was being painting
 - has been painted
 - was been painted
 - is painting
13. His office light is on but he _____ late tonight! It's his wedding anniversary. He probably forgot to switch it off when he went home.
- mustn't be working
 - shouldn't be worked
 - may not to work
 - can't be working
14. When she was young, her mother _____ with the housework.
- made her help
 - has made her help
 - was making her to help
 - made her helping

15. He wishes his neighbour _____ his son a set of drums for his birthday.
a) doesn't give
b) didn't give
c) hadn't given
d) wouldn't have given
16. _____ in the country? I bet you're finding it quiet after living in the town centre for so many years!
a) Do you get used to live
b) Did you use to living
c) Are you getting used to living
d) Are you used to live

SECTION 2

COMPLETE THE SECOND SENTENCE SO THAT IT MEANS THE SAME AS THE FIRST.

1. They last spoke to her six months ago.
They _____ to her for six months.
2. As she loses weight, her clothes become looser and looser.
The more _____, the _____ become.
3. He's sorry he didn't study more when he was at school.
He regrets not _____ more when he was at school.
4. Perhaps it was John calling last night. The line was very bad and I couldn't hear clearly.
It might _____ called last night. The line was very bad and I couldn't hear clearly.
5. "No. I won't let you get away with telling lies," he told her.
He refused _____ with telling lies.
6. They believe that the suspect is hiding somewhere in London.
The suspect _____ somewhere in London.
7. Despite the heat, he wore a heavy jacket.
Although _____, he wore a heavy jacket.
8. He helped me and that's why I was able to move the heavy bookcase.
If he _____ me, I _____ to move the heavy bookcase.
9. We can't have a sit-down meal because there isn't enough time.
There is too _____ a sit-down meal.
10. All the food for the wedding reception is going to be prepared by a catering firm.
We are _____ by a catering firm.
11. It is the earliest train from this station.
There _____ from this station.

12. Nothing is to be said about the surprise party until it is all organised!
You aren't _____ about the surprise party until I _____ everything!

SECTION 3

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVE TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES.

1. He didn't turn a _____ when she told him she was leaving him. He must have been expecting it.
 - a) page
 - b) leaf
 - c) nose
 - d) hair

2. As it was such a long journey, they _____ for a night about half-way there.
 - a) stopped off
 - b) broke up
 - c) cut off
 - d) ended up

3. I tried to read the classic she lent me but I found it was too _____ and eventually gave up after about thirty pages. I decided that a good thriller was much easier reading!
 - a) badly-read
 - b) narrow-minded
 - c) heavy-going
 - d) easy-going

4. The train was hot and I was exhausted, and I _____ and missed my station.
 - a) overslept
 - b) wrapped up
 - c) laid off
 - d) dropped off

5. Hello! I was at _____ and decided to pay you a visit.
 - a) random
 - b) a loose end
 - c) a tight corner
 - d) the end of a tunnel

6. Since he moved to London, I only see him once in _____ when he comes to visit his grandparents.
 - a) the clouds
 - b) while
 - c) a blue moon
 - d) moonlight

7. The children are getting very restless! Why don't they go out to play and let _____?
- a) off steam
 - b) the cat out of the bag
 - c) the town be painted red
 - d) down the dumps
8. You'll have to shout. She's as deaf as a _____.
- a) bat
 - b) bell
 - c) post
 - d) door
9. Those children are completely out _____! Why don't their parents make them behave better?
- a) limits
 - b) of orders
 - c) of turn
 - d) of control
10. Some important scientific breakthroughs come about purely _____ while scientists are aiming at doing something different.
- a) chancy
 - b) by accident
 - c) at loggerheads
 - d) for case
11. I wish he wouldn't keep clicking his pen. It's getting _____.
- a) down my nose
 - b) on my nerves
 - c) off my mind
 - d) off my chest
12. Sheila has such a _____ belief that she's no good at maths that she refuses even to attempt to understand it.
- a) firm-set
 - b) rootless
 - c) deep-rooted
 - d) long-term

SECTION 4

COMPLETE THE TEXT WITH THE CORRECT FORM OF THE WORD IN BRACKETS.

Biodegradable chewing gum

A consortium of chicleros, or Mexican gum farmers, are launching an organic, biodegradable chewing gum which could 1 _____ (REVOLUTION) the gum-chewing habits of the British.

2 _____ (ENVIRONMENT) hope that it will eventually replace the highly 3 _____ (ADHERE) gum which sticks to British pavements and costs local authorities an estimated £413 million a year to clean up.

Natural chicle gum is no longer present in modern gums, which are made from non-biodegradable petrol based polymers. This is why they are stretchy, 4 _____ (RESIST) to weather and chemicals and extremely sticky. Normally, a 5 _____ (REVOLT) blob of discarded chewing gum has a lifespan of up to five years, whereas the natural gum could dissolve, with rain, in a month.

More than a billion packs of gum are sold in the UK every year. It is hoped that if the Mexican gum lives up to 6 _____ (EXPECT), the leading British chewing gum manufacturers will take steps to improve the present situation.

Little or nothing has been done to make it socially 7 _____ (ACCEPT) to spit out gum in the streets. In Ireland, six million euros were set aside to change public behaviour and another million for research. Britain has spent a mere £1 million. There is the strong 8 _____ (SUSPECT) that the British gum industry is ignoring the problem and doing the bare minimum.

The consortium of chicleros also means that the workers who had deserted their villages to provide cheap labour in hotels have begun to return to the rainforest to resume their old skills of tapping chicozapote trees for chicle. They have 9 _____ (PROUD) in their work and are looking forward to increasing their 10 _____ (PRODUCT).

SECTION 5

READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

Ghosts on photos?

Strange figures and objects sometimes mysteriously appear on films or in snapshots. Sceptics explain them away by saying they are tricks of light, double or long exposures, reflections or digital trickery.

However, a few of the unexpected additions to photos and films defy easy explanation. Cameras filming streets for the Web recently captured what appeared to be a woman, dressed in Victorian clothes, moving across the square. An eccentric person, you may say, the world is full of them. It happened in Cardiff's Tiger Bay, now redeveloped into a fashionable area with a theatre, clubs, exhibition halls, waterside restaurants and expensive apartments, but once a slum area notorious for murders, violence and unsolved mysteries. The area is also part of the setting for the Torchwood series, a spin-off of Dr Who, and it may have been an extra still wearing the clothes used in filming. The only unexplainable thing was that only three quarters of the lady was visible and she seemed to float above the pavement before vanishing into thin air.

Ghostly images are not confined to the historical; a misty shape captured on film in New Jersey seems to be an 'ET' kind of image, with an oblong-shaped head, long neck and fat body, standing next to a thin bluish-white beam of light. Other photos taken in different parts of the world at varying times are of strange lights or objects flying overhead in formation. Planes, reflections, air balloons, digital tricks or UFOs?

However, most of the strange images are historical in nature. Two photos snapped by people visiting Tantallon Castle, a ruined 14th century fortress on the east coast of Scotland, both seem to contain ghostly figures which had not been seen by the people taking the pictures. The first, taken over thirty years ago, shows a typical family group and, behind them, what looks like a female figure in a dress of the Tudor period looking out of a half-ruined window.

One sceptic said, 'When the picture is enlarged, it is quite obvious it is a woman in a pink jacket coming down the stairs with a shopping bag.' The second picture is more mystifying. It was taken at the same location as the first in May last year, and shows a man or a woman in 15th century clothes staring out of a window at the photographer. No costumed mannequins or guides were at the castle at the time and experts have ruled out the possibility of digital alterations.

These two photos were among the many 'ghost' pictures a panel of experts discussed as part of a project for the Edinburgh International Science festival. Professor Wiseman, who led the group, had previously set up a Web competition for the 'best ghost image'. Over two hundred and fifty photos were sent from all over the world and more than a quarter of a million people voted for what they considered the most convincing picture. Professor Wiseman said that although he was a sceptic about ghosts, he was puzzled by the second Tantallon photo, which won the competition by getting 39% of the votes.

He said, 'I suppose it could be a visitor looking a little strange. Perhaps someone will come forward. Another possibility is an odd reflection of light, but it does look very much like a person. The explanation is not obvious.'

Some of the other photos included one taken at a house where there had been sightings of a ghostly four-year-old child. It showed the face of a child between the legs of the group of friends being photographed. Another, taken at a castle twenty years ago, appears to show the transparent figure of a headless ghost dressed in an old-fashioned army coat standing in front of two children playing on a cannon. Sceptics concluded that this photo could have been the result of a double exposure.

Even if most of the strange images on films and photos can be explained away in a logical manner, interpretations fundamentally seem to depend on whether the person looking at the photo is a believer or a non-believer in ghosts and other mysteries.

1. Strange images in photos and films _____ .

- a) are always present because of digital manipulation
- b) are always caused by tricks of light
- c) added by sceptics are easily explained
- d) cannot always be easily explained

2. Tiger Bay _____ .

- a) is an area where murders and violence are common
- b) has changed its character since the area was redeveloped
- c) is a poor area full of mysteries
- d) has become notorious since it was redeveloped

3. The woman filmed in the Tiger Bay area was mysterious because _____.
- a) she was one of the principle actors in the Torchwood series
 - b) she was a fashionably-dressed eccentric
 - c) the image was incomplete and it seemed to disappear
 - d) the woman had vanishing legs
4. Some of the strange images captured on film _____.
- a) include the film ET
 - b) are not historical in character
 - c) have a fat misty figure in a beam of light
 - d) have been photographed all over the world simultaneously
5. Which statement is correct?
- a) The two Tantallon Castle photos definitely show the same figure.
 - b) The two Tantallon Castle photos are historical.
 - c) Tantallon Castle was ruined in the 14th century.
 - d) The people who took the Tantallon Castle photos were unaware there was another figure present when they took the photos.
6. The first Tantallon Castle photo _____.
- a) is not as inexplicable as the second
 - b) has been denounced as digital manipulation
 - c) is of a woman carrying a shopping bag and her family
 - d) was taken last May
7. The second Tantallon Castle photo _____.
- a) shows the same figure as the first, but more clearly
 - b) was voted the most 'convincing' in the Web competition
 - c) probably includes a mannequin or a guide dressed in 15th century clothes
 - d) was taken shortly after the first
8. Professor Wiseman _____.
- a) is sure the second Tantallon Castle photo is of a strange-looking visitor or a reflection of light
 - b) says that both Tantallon Castle photos are puzzling
 - c) is sure the image at the window is of a real person
 - d) is dubious about the existence of ghosts
9. Amongst the other photos submitted was one of _____.
- a) headless children playing on a cannon
 - b) two children on a cannon seen through a soldier without a head
 - c) a child's face on some friends' legs
 - d) a double exposure of two children
10. Belief in the ghostly images seems to depend on _____.
- a) whether the photo has been altered
 - b) logic
 - c) whether a person is predisposed to believe in ghosts and mysteries
 - d) the incredulity of the photos

Now check your answers against the answer sheet!