

Note to participants:

Please be aware that the following sample test is provided for practice purposes only. The questions included in this test are not the same as those you will encounter in the actual exam. However, they are designed to reflect a similar format and level of difficulty to help you prepare effectively.

STAGE 1

LANGUAGE USE AND READING COMPREHENSION (50 pts.)

Language Use (30 questions/ 1 pt. each)

All multiple-choice questions, one correct option and three distractors

The following list outlines the grammar areas that will be assessed in Stage 1:

Adjectives	Present perfect
Adverbs	Prepositions
Comparatives and superlatives	Pronouns
Intensifiers	Gerund/Infinitive
Modals	Conditionals
Present simple	Connecting words expressing cause and effect, contrast, etc.
Present continuous	Reported speech
Past Simple	Passive voice
Past continuous	Clauses
Narrative Tenses	

SECTION	OBJECTIVES	SOURCE OF TEXTS	NUMBER OF TEXTS
Language Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To assess the participant's ability to decode simple, compound and complex sentences and to detect correct, appropriate language structures, vocabulary and discourse markers;To assess the participant's awareness of the essentials and intricacies of English grammar, including tenses, prepositions, idiomatic expressions and stylistic variations of certain structures.	Passages taken and adapted from various authentic sources, such as academic texts, newspaper and magazine articles	5-6 passages of varying lengths with a total of 30 blanks

PART I

Questions 1-30

On your answer sheet, mark the alternative which best completes the meaning of each sentence.

Sample Item:

On your answer sheet, mark the option which best completes the meaning of each sentence.

Massoud Ashina, an Azerbaijani doctor who (1) ____ in Denmark, (2) ____ a prize of 5.3 million euros by the prestigious Lundbeck Foundation. Ashina is one of the six leading neurologists in the world who received the award. He (3) _____ at the Azerbaijan State Medical Institute in 1988 and is (4) ____ a professor of neurology and senior advisor at Copenhagen University.

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|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
| a) lives | a) had been awarded | a) has studied | a) directly |
| b) living | b) has been awarded | b) had studied | b) usually |
| c) is lived | c) awarded | c) is studying | c) currently |
| d) is to be living | d) is awarded | d) studied | d) immediately |

The correct answers are: 1) a 2) b 3) d 4) c

Part II

Reading Comprehension (20 questions/ 1 pt. each)

All multiple-choice questions, one correct option, and three distractors

SECTION 1	OBJECTIVES	SOURCE OF TEXT	NUMBER OF TEXTS
Sentence Completion	To assess the participant's ability to recognize the relationship between ideas in a text and to recognize and interpret cohesive devices for linking different parts of a text.	Short passages taken from various authentic sources	5

Questions 31-35

On your answer sheet, mark the option which best completes each sentence or thought.

Sample Item:

31. Most people have a pet at some point during their lifetime. Pets promote both mental and physical health that can significantly improve our lives. People with pets typically have lower heart rates and blood pressure than those who don't. This stems from the increased physical activity that comes with owning a pet and the stress relief the companionship of a pet offers.

Furthermore,

- a) it's essential to note that pet ownership also comes with responsibilities, such as the need for time, attention, and financial resources, which may not be feasible for everyone.
- b) pets can help deal with a range of mental health conditions, from anxiety and loneliness to depression and low self-esteem.
- c) despite the numerous benefits of having pets, it's crucial to acknowledge that some owners may face challenges or limitations in caring for animals.
- d) factors like allergies, living situations, or personal preferences may make pet ownership impractical for certain individuals.

The correct answer is b.

SECTION 2	OBJECTIVES	SOURCE OF TEXTS	NUMBER OF TEXTS
Supporting Ideas	To assess the participant's ability to recognize ideas that support a given topic sentence.	Sentences taken from authentic sources such as academic texts, newspaper and magazine articles	3

Questions 36-38

In the following items, three of the alternatives support the main statement or idea and one does not. Mark the option that **DOES NOT** support the given topic statement.

It is imperative to permit children to own smartphones.

- a) They offer access to a wealth of educational apps, online resources, and interactive content, enhancing learning experiences.
- b) They enable easy communication between parents and children, fostering a sense of security.
- c) They help children develop technological proficiency and adaptability, essential skills for future success in various fields.
- d) They can be a source of distraction, affecting a child's ability to focus on academic tasks.

The correct answer is d.

SECTION 3	OBJECTIVES	SOURCE OF TEXTS	NUMBER OF TEXTS
Text Comprehension	To assess the participant's ability to understand the key ideas in a text and answer comprehension questions about it, to identify the purpose of a text, to understand the author's point of view, to make out inferred meaning and to guess word meanings	Texts taken from various authentic sources	5-6 texts of varying lengths accompanied by 1- 5 questions

Questions 39-50

Researchers at Washington State University have developed two insect-like robots, a mini-bug, and a water strider, which are the smallest, lightest, and fastest fully functional micro-robots ever created. Weighing in at eight milligrams and 55 milligrams respectively, these robots can move at about six millimetres per second. The key innovation lies in their tiny actuators, which are less than a milligram in size and use a shape memory alloy. Unlike traditional motors, these actuators have no moving parts, making them mechanically sound and efficient. The robots flap their fins or move their feet up to 40 times per second with minimal energy consumption. While the water strider robot mimics an insect's flat flapping motion, a more efficient rowing motion akin to the insect's legs is what researchers are eager to develop. Future endeavours include creating a water strider-type robot capable of traversing both the surface of water and being able to make through water if allowing the robots to be fully autonomous with miniature power sources. This breakthrough opens up new possibilities in micro-robotics for applications such as artificial pollination, robotic-assisted surgery and environmental monitoring.

39. What is the main focus of the research conducted at Washington State University?

- a) Investigating the behaviour of insects in natural environments
- b) Developing miniature robots with traditional motors for various applications
- c) Creating insect-like robots with tiny actuators and shape memory alloy technology
- d) Studying the movement patterns of water striders in aquatic ecosystems

40. What type of motion does the water strider robot aim to replicate?

- a) Flapping
- b) Rowing
- c) Monitoring
- d) Traversing

41. What is **NOT** a potential application for the micro-robots?

- a) Harvesting crops
- b) Fertilization
- c) Computer-supported operations
- d) Ecological surveillance

The correct answers are: 39) c

40) b

41) a

STAGE 2

LISTENING COMPREHENSION (25 pts.)

OBJECTIVES	SOURCE OF RECORDINGS	NUMBER OF RECORDINGS
To assess the participant's ability to follow and comprehend extended spoken input and identify its purpose, to track the development of the argument, to identify specific information on a range of topics, to distinguish main ideas from supporting details	Authentic sources, academic interviews, recorded lectures	5

Questions 1-25

As you listen, mark the option that best answers each question or completes each statement.

TASK 1. PRE-LISTENING: Listen to the beginning of an interview with Brian Lewis, a long-distance swimmer. At this stage, you **DO NOT** have to complete any task. This listening will help you tune in and better concentrate.



Listen to the whole interview, and for questions 6-10, choose the answer (a, b, c or d) which fits best. You have 1 minute to read the questions.

- 1. How old was Brian when he did his first long-distance swim?**
 - a) 10
 - b) 17
 - c) 12
 - d) 15

The correct answer is d.

WRITING (25 pts.)

SECTION	OBJECTIVES	SOURCE OF TEXTS	WORD LIMIT
Writing an <i>Essay</i>	To assess the participant's ability to use correct, appropriate language structures, vocabulary and discourse features in writing, to produce a cohesive and coherent piece of writing	The text will serve as a tool to activate the participants' schemata, concepts and vocabulary relevant to the topic and to help them think about the issue prior to writing.	An essay of approximately 250-300 words

Sample Writing Test:

Read the text below and do the task that follows.

WOULD YOU LIKE A 4-DAY SCHOOL WEEK?

By SHEM BANBURY

Would you like a 4-day school week? Well, for some pupils in Australia, four-day weeks and shorter days could become an option under updated plans.

In Queensland, Australia, state primary and secondary schools are being given the opportunity to adopt 'flexible' school schedules, which could include four-day school weeks, shorter days, or variations in start and finish times.

While some schools are already testing shorter days, the expectation is for most schools to continue operating as usual.

And while shorter days that end earlier might sound amazing, it could also mean a very early start.

Plus the extra day not in school might instead be used for doing sports, homework or other educational activities, just not time in the classroom.

One of the issues raised is around working parents and who would look after children on the days when they aren't in school.

The move aims to provide schools with the flexibility to adapt their schedules based on the needs of their communities. The changes would take effect from 2024, and any proposed modifications would need to be discussed with students, parents, and staff.

Adapted from: <https://www.kiwikidsnews.co.nz/>

Write an **ESSAY** (250-300 words) on the topic given below. (25 pts.)

Should Schools Adopt a 4-Day School Week?

- Make sure that you write a well-organized essay; that all your ideas are relevant to the topic; and that you stay within the word limit, or you will lose points.
- Your essay will be graded according to *content, organisation, and accuracy of language*.

STAGE 3

SPEAKING

The top 15 participants with the highest scores from Stages 1 and 2 will be invited for an interview, where they will answer questions on a range of everyday and academic topics.

- They will be evaluated based on their ability to express ideas clearly, use appropriate vocabulary, and maintain coherence in responses.
- Critical thinking, the ability to interact and confidence will also be assessed.