



Istanbul
GEDİK
University

SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR
ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAM
2026

STUDENT'S FIRST NAME AND LAST NAME: _____

STUDENT NUMBER: _____

DEPARTMENT: _____

TOTAL TIME: 140 mins.

LISTENING	USE OF ENGLISH	READING	WRITING	SPEAKING	TOTAL
____ / 20	____ / 20	____ / 20	____ / 20	____ / 20	____ /100

LISTENING 1

Listen to the conversation between Emma and Ryan planning a university career fair. As you listen, take notes on the important details. After the recording ends, answer Questions 1–10 according to the information you hear. Choose the best answer for each question. You will hear the recording TWICE. (10x1 pts=10 pts)

1. When will the University Career Fair take place?

- A) May 8th
- B) May 12th
- C) May 15th
- D) May 5th

2. Which venue was finally selected?

- A) Main Conference Hall
- B) Sports Center
- C) Business Faculty Auditorium
- D) Student Activities Center

3. How many attendees are currently expected?

- A) Around 180
- B) Around 220
- C) Around 250
- D) Around 300

4. Why did the organizers invite Dr. Michael Reed?

- A) Event planning
- B) Career guidance
- C) Student advising
- D) Human resources

5. Why was the original budget request not approved?

- A) Some funds were assigned to other projects.
- B) Catering expenses were reduced.
- C) Student numbers were lower than expected.
- D) The proposal was submitted late.

6. What will the catering company provide?

- A) Snacks and coffee only
- B) Sandwiches, fruit, and drinks
- C) Hot meals and desserts
- D) Fruit and bottled water

7. Which advertising method was considered but NOT used?

- A) Posters
- B) Website announcements
- C) Social media
- D) Radio advertising

8. What do the organizers think about the current number of volunteers?

- A) More volunteers are urgently needed.
- B) The number should be sufficient.
- C) Most volunteers lack experience.
- D) Volunteer duties are still unclear.

9. Why did Emma and Ryan discuss severe weather?

- A) They wanted a backup plan.
- B) They expected low attendance.
- C) They planned to change venues.
- D) They were organizing outdoor activities.

10. What happens before the event officially begins?

- A) Companies arrive.
- B) Students register.
- C) The speech starts.
- D) Registration opens.

LISTENING 2

You will hear a lecture about urban transportation and sustainable travel. For questions 11–20, choose the best answer (A, B, C or D). You will hear the audio TWICE. You will have one minute to look at the questions before the recording starts. (10x1=10 pts)

11. What is the main purpose of the lecture?

- A) Analyze transportation challenges in growing cities
- B) Discuss modern urban transportation systems
- C) Explain the history of public transportation
- D) Promote the use of private vehicles

12. According to the speaker, what is one consequence of traffic congestion?

- A) Increased tourism
- B) Lower transportation costs
- C) Reduced population growth
- D) Higher fuel consumption

13. Why does the speaker mention private cars?

- A) To show a key cause
- B) To praise car travel
- C) To reject public transit
- D) To compare vehicle types

14. According to the lecture, what encourages public transportation use?

- A) Better accessibility
- B) Less traffic noise
- C) Lower car sales
- D) More road space

15. Why do some cities invest in bicycle lanes and pedestrian areas?

- A) To completely replace public transportation
- B) To reduce the need for transportation planning
- C) To encourage alternative travel methods
- D) To increase tourism revenue

16. What role does technology play in modern transportation systems?

- A) It mainly reduces the cost of purchasing vehicles.
- B) It helps improve efficiency and user experience.
- C) It replaces the need for transportation workers.
- D) It eliminates traffic congestion entirely.

17. What can be inferred about electric vehicles?

- A) They show clear potential.
- B) They remain unpopular.
- C) They are widely available.
- D) They need little support.

18. What can be inferred about electric vehicles?

- A) More people are choosing them.
- B) They are available everywhere.
- C) They have solved pollution issues.
- D) Interest in them is declining

19. What is the speaker's attitude toward integrated transportation systems?

- A) Moderately doubtful
- B) Broadly favorable
- C) Completely neutral
- D) Strongly negative

20. Which statement best summarizes the lecture?

- A) Technology alone can solve transportation problems.
- B) Public transportation should replace all other options.
- C) Combining different solutions offers the best results.
- D) Cities should discourage all private vehicle use.

A. Read the text below and choose the correct answer to complete the blanks. (5x1=5 pts)

Last month, our university organized a technology fair to introduce innovative projects developed by students. The event was very popular, and the winning projects (21) _____ on the university website next week. Looking back, some participants felt disappointed because they had not prepared enough. One student said, "I wish I (22) _____ more time practicing my presentation before the event." The fair took place in the Innovation Center, a modern building (23) _____ students can work on research projects and attend workshops. The organizers received (24) _____ positive feedback from visitors that they decided to make the fair an annual event. However, some students arrived late and missed important announcements. They (25) _____ more attention to the schedule that had been emailed to them earlier.

21. A) will publish
B) will be publishing
C) will have published
D) will be published

24. A) too much
B) such a
C) so many
D) so much

22. A) spent
B) had spent
C) have spent
D) would spend

25. A) must have paid
B) could have paid
C) should have paid
D) would have paid

23. A) where
B) which
C) who
D) whose

B. Choose the correct word to complete the statements. (5x1=5 pts)

26. The documentary was so _____ that many students felt motivated to volunteer for environmental projects.

- A) reluctant
B) inspiring
C) disturbing
D) conventional

28. Universities should encourage students to _____ complex problems rather than avoid them.

- A) make a problem
B) tackle a problem
C) perform a problem
D) achieve a problem

27. Despite economic growth, the increasing _____ between rich and poor remains a serious social concern.

- A) division
B) adaptation
C) ceremony
D) landscape

29. Researchers are trying to _____ a solution to the problem of plastic pollution.

- A) run out of
B) get away with
C) come up with
D) look down on

30. The new library provides students with a highly _____ learning environment.

- A) benefit
- B) beneficially
- C) beneficiary
- D) beneficial

C. Read the conversations carefully and select the option that best fits the meaning, context, and flow of the dialogue. (5x1=5 pts)

31. At the Health Center

A: I've been feeling tired for several weeks now.

B: Have you been sleeping well?

A: Not really. I often wake up during the night.

B: _____

A: That's a good idea. I'll do that this week.

- A) Why don't you take some vitamins?
- B) You could keep a sleep diary.
- C) Maybe try sleeping less often.
- D) You should stop studying altogether

32. At the Airport

A: I'm worried about my first international trip.

B: That's understandable.

A: I'm afraid I'll forget something important.

B: _____

A: Thanks. That should make things easier.

- A) Make sure your passport is valid.
- B) Most airports are busy these days.
- C) International travel is very popular.
- D) Flights are often delayed in winter.

33. At a Career Fair

A: How are things going at your new company?

B: They're fine, but I sometimes think about another opportunity.

A: Do you regret your decision?

B: _____

A: Yes, that job sounded very promising.

- A) The salary is better than before.
- B) My colleagues are very supportive.
- C) The office is close to my home.
- D) I wish I had accepted that offer.

34. In the Principal's Office

A: Did you hear what happened to Liam?

B: Only a little. Why?

A: He was caught cheating during an exam.

B: _____

A: That would explain why he looked upset.

- A) He should study more carefully.
- B) He might join another class soon.
- C) He must have received a warning.
- D) He usually follows the rules

35. In a Student Residence

A: I think living in a dormitory is better than renting a flat.

B: I'm not completely convinced.

A: Really? I think it's much more convenient.

B: _____

A: That's true. Privacy can be important.

- A) Dormitories are usually near campus.
- B) Rent prices have increased recently.
- C) I prefer having my own space.
- D) Many students live off campus

D. Find the sentence that has the closest meaning to the given one. (5x1=5 pts)

36. The final exam results will be announced next Monday.

- A) The university will publish the results next Monday.
- B) The university reviewed the results last Monday.
- C) The university may revise the results next week.
- D) The university discussed the results this morning.

37. The conference was called off because of the storm.

- A) The conference was delayed because of the storm.
- B) The conference was cancelled because of the storm.
- C) The conference was interrupted because of the storm.
- D) The conference was relocated because of the storm.

38. Sarah must have forgotten about the meeting.

- A) Sarah should have remembered the meeting.
- B) Sarah might miss another meeting soon.
- C) Sarah probably forgot about the meeting.
- D) Sarah wanted to avoid the meeting today.

39. If I had known about the deadline, I would have submitted the form earlier.

- A) I learned about the deadline quite recently.
- B) I submitted the form before the final deadline.
- C) I knew the deadline but submitted it late.
- D) I didn't know the deadline, so I submitted it late.

40. The university is renowned for its research facilities.

- A) The university expanded its research facilities recently.
- B) The university invests in modern research facilities.
- C) The university is famous for its research facilities
- D) The university improved several research facilities.

READING I (10x1=10 pts)**Franchising and Independent Business Models**

A franchise is a type of business in which a group or an individual receives a license to conduct a commercial enterprise. Corporate franchises enable a business to market a well-known product or service in return for an initial fee and a percentage of the gross receipts. The franchiser usually provides assistance with merchandising and advertising. Examples of major franchise networks include fast-food restaurants, petrol stations, motels, automobile dealerships. Government franchises are issued to public utilities and transportation companies among others.

In recent decades, franchising has expanded rapidly as a preferred method of business development, particularly in global markets. Well-known brands such as Simit Sarayı and Domino's have successfully used this model to grow internationally. One of the primary advantages of franchising is the reduced level of risk for new business owners. Since the brand is already established, franchisees benefit from customer recognition and a proven system. In addition, franchisors typically provide training, operational guidelines, and marketing strategies, which make it easier for individuals with limited experience to enter the business world.

Despite these advantages, franchising also has several disadvantages. Franchisees are required to follow strict rules set by the franchisor, which limits their independence and creativity. For example, they may not be allowed to modify products or adapt services to local preferences. Furthermore, the financial obligations can be significant, as franchisees must pay ongoing royalties in addition to the initial investment. As a result, profit margins may be lower compared to independently owned businesses.

Independent businesses, in contrast, offer greater flexibility and control. Owners are free to make decisions about pricing, branding, and product offerings. This independence allows them to respond more effectively to local market demands and customer preferences. For instance, a small local café can introduce unique menu items based on customer feedback, which may not be possible in a standardized franchise system. However, independent businesses also face higher risks, as they lack the support, reputation, and structured systems provided by established franchises.

From an economic perspective, both franchising and independent businesses play important roles. Franchising contributes to economic growth by creating jobs, expanding industries, and increasing market efficiency. On the other hand, independent businesses encourage innovation and diversity, which are essential for a dynamic and competitive economy. While franchising promotes stability and consistency, independent enterprises often drive creativity and change.

In conclusion, both business models present distinct advantages and challenges. Franchising offers security, support, and a recognized brand, whereas independent businesses provide autonomy and innovation. The choice between the two depends largely on the individual's priorities, experience, and willingness to take risks in a competitive business environment.

41. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A) Historical development of franchising
- B) Financial structure of corporations
- C) Government involvement in business
- D) Comparison of two business models

42. Which factor is mentioned as a reason why franchising involves less risk?

- A) Lower competition
- B) Established system
- C) Full independence
- D) Reduced costs

43. What can be inferred about franchise owners?

- A) They operate independently
- B) They avoid financial risks
- C) They require no prior knowledge
- D) They sacrifice autonomy for support

44. In paragraph 3, the word "they" refers to:

- A) franchisors
- B) customers
- C) franchisees
- D) local businesses

45. The word "obligations" in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to:

- A) freedoms
- B) duties
- C) opportunities
- D) benefits

46. Which economic contribution of franchising is mentioned in the passage?

- A) Reduces jobs
- B) Creates jobs
- C) Slows growth
- D) Limits markets

47. According to the passage, how are independent businesses described in terms of innovation?

- A) More innovative
- B) Limited innovation
- C) Brand dependent
- D) Less competitive

48. According to the passage, why might a local café succeed as an independent business?

- A) It can adapt to customer preferences
- B) It follows strict international standards
- C) It receives financial support from franchises
- D) It operates with lower costs

49. What can be inferred about franchise businesses that operate in different countries?

- A) They are free to adapt all products to local tastes.
- B) They tend to offer a similar customer experience.
- C) They focus mainly on small local markets.
- D) They rarely use marketing strategies

50. What is the writer's attitude toward franchising and independent businesses?

- A) Strongly in favor of franchising
- B) Strongly critical of independent businesses
- C) Uncertain and unclear
- D) Balanced and objective

READING 2 (10x1=10 pts)

The Evolution of Paper: From Ancient Records to the Digital Age

Paper has existed in various forms for thousands of years and has played a fundamental role in the development of human civilization. Long before the invention of computers and digital storage systems, societies depended on written records to preserve knowledge, communicate ideas, and organize daily life. The history of paper demonstrates not only technological innovation but also humanity's continuous effort to improve the storage and transmission of information.

One of the earliest materials used for writing was papyrus, which was produced by the ancient Egyptians from reeds growing along the Nile River. The inner fibers of the plant were carefully processed and pressed into sheets that could be used for official documents, religious texts, and literary works. Although papyrus was an effective writing material, its production was largely limited to regions where the plant was readily available.

Centuries later, important developments in papermaking occurred in Asia. The Chinese are generally credited with creating the first material closely resembling modern paper. By using plant fibers, including those from the paper mulberry tree, they produced a smooth and durable surface suitable for writing. The technique gradually spread throughout East Asia, particularly to Japan, where papermakers refined the process and created exceptionally high-quality paper for educational, artistic, and administrative purposes.

As trade routes expanded and cultures interacted more frequently, papermaking knowledge spread westward. During the Middle Ages, European societies experienced a growing demand for books, legal documents, and educational materials. To meet this demand, manufacturers relied on pulped linen and cotton rags. However, as literacy rates increased and printed materials became more widely available, these traditional sources proved insufficient.

The invention of the printing press accelerated this trend dramatically. Books could now be produced in far greater numbers, making knowledge accessible to a much larger segment of society. Historians often argue that the availability of affordable paper was one of the factors that contributed to educational expansion and scientific progress in Europe. Without a reliable writing medium, the rapid spread of new ideas would have been considerably more difficult.

During the nineteenth century, technological advances led to the widespread use of wood-pulp, which remains the principal raw material in paper production today. Countries with extensive forest resources, such as Canada, Sweden, and Finland, became major suppliers to the global paper industry. Nevertheless, the increasing consumption of paper has also raised environmental concerns. Critics point to issues such as deforestation and industrial waste, while supporters emphasize the development of sustainable forestry practices and large-scale recycling programs.

In recent decades, digital technology has transformed the way information is stored and shared. Some **observers** predicted that computers would eventually eliminate the need for paper altogether. However, despite the growth of digital communication, paper continues to play an important role in education, business, publishing, and packaging. Its long history suggests that rather than being replaced entirely, paper is likely to coexist with digital media for many years to come.

51. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A) The environmental impact of modern paper production
- B) The development and continuing importance of paper
- C) The historical growth of printing technology alone
- D) The increasing popularity of digital communication

52. Why was papyrus production limited in ancient times?

- A) It required advanced machinery.
- B) It depended on a specific plant.
- C) It was unsuitable for writing.
- D) It was too expensive to transport.

53. The development of papermaking in Japan suggests that ____.

- A) new technologies are often improved over time.
- B) paper production remained unchanged for centuries.
- C) artistic activities reduced paper demand.
- D) China lost interest in papermaking.

54. According to the passage, what effect did rising literacy rates have?

- A) It remained stable for centuries.
- B) It declined after trade expanded.
- C) It increased paper demand.
- D) It depended on papyrus imports.

55. Why does the writer mention the printing press?

- A) To explain a decline in education
- B) To compare European and Asian inventions
- C) To criticize early publishing methods
- D) To show rising demand

56. According to the passage, affordable paper was important because it ____.

- A) promoted learning.
- B) reduced writing.
- C) improved transport.
- D) expanded forest.

57. In paragraph 7, who are the "observers" mentioned in the passage?

- A) People who predicted a paperless future
- B) Companies producing paper products
- C) Publishers using digital platforms
- D) Officials regulating paper production

58. Why does the writer discuss environmental concerns?

- A) To oppose paper use
- B) To promote digital media
- C) To highlight challenges
- D) To reject recycling

59. The reference to sustainable forestry serves to ____.

- A) describe an alternative writing material.
- B) offer a response to environmental criticism.
- C) explain how paper was made historically.
- D) predict the end of paper production.

60. Which statement best reflects the writer's view of paper's future?

- A) Paper will soon disappear from daily life.
- B) Digital technology will fail to replace paper.
- C) Paper will become important only in education.
- D) Paper and digital media are likely to coexist.



T.C.
İSTANBUL GEDİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ
YABANCI DİLLER YÜKSEKOKULU

EXAM ESSAY WRITING * EVALUATION FORM **

***This form is an integral part of the exam paper and is not to be used separately.**

****This rubric is used in the third midterm exam of the English Prep Program and English Proficiency Exam.**

PART IV: WRITING

Total: _____ / 20 pts.

Choose ONE of the topics below and write a well-organized essay about it (btw. 250-300 words).

- 1. Topic: Many universities are using more technology in their courses. Do you think technology improves learning, or does it create more problems for students?**

You may wish to consider:

- *online learning platforms*
- *access to information*
- *distractions caused by technology*
- *communication between teachers and students*

- 2. Topic: Many universities organize clubs, workshops, and social events, but not all students participate in them. Why do some students avoid these activities? What can universities do to encourage greater participation?**

You may wish to consider:

- *lack of time*
- *academic workload*
- *social benefits*
- *university support and promotion*

- 3. Topic: International tourism has increased significantly in recent decades. What are the causes of this growth, and what effects does it have on local communities?**

You may wish to consider:

- *transportation*
- *economic benefits*
- *cultural exchange*
- *environmental impact*

1. Organization & Mechanics _____/0-5pts 2. Content _____/0-5 pts

3.1 Grammar & Punctuation _____ 0-5 pts 3.2 Vocabulary & Spelling _____ /0-5 pts

TOTAL: _____/20 pts

