



Istanbul
GEDİK
University

SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR
ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAM
20.05.2026

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

PART I: LISTENING

Total: _____ / 20 pts

LISTENING 1

Listen to the lecture about digital transformation and take notes. After the recording ends, use your notes to answer the following questions. (10x1 pts=10 pts)

1. What is integrated into business processes in digital transformation?

- A) Human resources
- B) Organizational structure
- C) Digital technologies
- D) Customer feedback

2. What is identified as a major driver of digital transformation?

- A) Government regulations
- B) Competition
- C) Marketing strategies
- D) Pricing policies

3. What do modern customers expect from businesses today?

- A) Lower prices only
- B) Faster and personalized services
- C) Fewer product options
- D) More physical interaction

4. Why do employees often resist digital transformation?

- A) They lack technical equipment
- B) They dislike management decisions
- C) They prefer traditional tools
- D) They are uncertain about changes

5. What is included in the costs of implementing digital systems?

- A) Advertising campaigns
- B) Maintenance and training
- C) Product development
- D) Customer service

6. What may happen when new systems are introduced in a company?

- A) Temporary disruption
- B) Immediate improvement
- C) Permanent decline
- D) Increased profits

7. What does automation mainly improve in business operations?

- A) Creativity
- B) Efficiency
- C) Communication
- D) Teamwork

8. How do data analytics support business decisions?

- A) By improving product design
- B) By increasing marketing reach
- C) By enabling informed decisions
- D) By reducing employee workload

9. What must leaders provide during digital transformation processes?

- A) Strict control
- B) Technical support
- C) Detailed rules
- D) Clear vision

10. How does digital transformation help companies in the long term?

- A) It makes them larger
- B) It keeps them competitive
- C) It reduces their costs
- D) It increases their stability

LISTENING 2

You will hear a conversation between two students about a new policy in the school. For questions 11–20, choose the best answer (A, B, C or D). You will hear the audio TWICE. (10x1=10 pts)

11. What is the main purpose of the new policy?

- A) Reduce course content
- B) Standardize assessments
- C) Increase class hours
- D) Replace teachers

12. What problem existed before?

- A) Lack of exams
- B) Confusion across department
- C) Too many teachers
- D) Limited resources

13. What will the platform manage?

- A) Only exams
- B) Exams and assignments
- C) Exams, assignments, and feedback
- D) Only feedback

14. What can be inferred about automated feedback in the new system?

- A) It is used for speaking assignments
- B) It is limited to objective tasks
- C) It replaces instructors
- D) It is rarely used

15. Who grades subjective tasks?

- A) System
- B) Students
- C) Teachers
- D) Assistants

16. What feature reduces cheating?

- A) Time extension
- B) Randomized questions
- C) Open-book exams
- D) Group testing

17. What can be inferred about the purpose of the practice tests?

- A) They reduce grading workload
- B) They help students adapt to the system
- C) They replace final exams
- D) They evaluate student performance

18. How many practice tests are mentioned?

- A) One
- B) Two
- C) Three
- D) Four

19. What happens to late submissions?

- A) Ignored
- B) Reviewed and graded lower
- C) Penalized automatically
- D) Re-submitted

20. What must students do if technical issues occur?

- A) Take a screenshot
- B) Restart the system
- C) Contact the instructor
- D) Report with evidence

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

Last week, Emma was preparing for an important university presentation. She felt very nervous because she thought she hadn't prepared enough. If she (21) _____ harder, she would have felt much more confident during the presentation. She wanted everything to look perfect, so she asked for professional help. She (22) _____ her slides _____ so that they would look perfect. On the morning of the presentation, her friend didn't respond to her messages. He (23) _____ his phone on silent and completely missed her calls. Emma was also very anxious about (24) _____ in front of a large audience, which made her even more stressed. However, the student (25) _____ next to her helped her rehearse at the last minute, which gave her some confidence.

21. A) had studied
B) studied
C) has studied
D) was studying

24. A) spoke
B) speak
C) to speak
D) speaking

22. A) had / checked
B) is / checked
C) was / checking
D) has been / checking

25. A) sat
B) sitting
C) is sitting
D) was sitting

23. A) should have left
B) must have left
C) can't have left
D) would have left

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

26. She tends to _____ people who didn't go to university and thinks they are less intelligent.

- A) kick off
B) chill out
C) look down on
D) burst into

27. The news about the factory accident was so _____ that it made everyone in the office feel uneasy and worried.

- A) astonishing
B) disturbing
C) welcoming
D) stunning

28. She was _____ to accept the job offer because she wasn't sure if it was the right decision for her career.

- A) vulnerable
B) remarkable
C) hectic
D) reluctant

29. Many public projects failed to reach their goals because of widespread _____ within the system, which affected fairness and trust.

- A) stamina
B) substitution
C) adaptation
D) corruption

30. When dealing with a complex problem, it is important to _____ it from a different perspective in order to find a better solution.

- A) appreciate
- B) expand
- C) approach
- D) resolve

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 Meeting

A: Has everyone seen the new schedule?

B: I looked at it shortly this morning.

A: We may need to delay the product launch.

B: _____

A: I agree. We shouldn't hurry.

- A) You are right, postponing the launch would be wiser.
- B) We should launch it now so customers stay interested.
- C) Delaying launches usually damages a company.
- D) The schedule seems clearer than it did last week.

32. At the Train Station

A: Excuse me, has the 10:15 train left?

B: I'm not sure. The board changed a minute ago.

A: I hope I haven't missed it.

B: _____

A: Good idea, I'll check there.

- A) It probably left already if the platform is empty.
- B) You can ask at the information desk to be certain.
- C) The next train should be less crowded.
- D) Timetables are often confusing at this station.

33. In Class

A: Did you understand the professor's explanation?

B: Not at all. It was quite technical.

A: Same here. I'm still confused.

B: _____

A: That would help a lot.

- A) I think everyone else understood it perfectly.
- B) The lecture would be easier in a bigger room.
- C) We could email her later and ask for clarification.
- D) She usually speaks more slowly in morning classes.

34. At the Doctor's Office

A: Have your symptoms improved since last week?

B: A little, but I still feel tired.

A: Are you sleeping enough?

B: _____

A: That may explain the problem.

- A) I've been exercising more than usual recently.
- B) My appetite has improved over the past few days.
- C) I rarely feel tired during the daytime now.
- D) To be honest, I haven't been resting very much lately.

35. At the Hotel Reception

A: There seems to be a problem with the air conditioning.

B: I'm sorry to hear that.

A: It keeps turning off.

B: _____

A: Thank you very much.

A) We usually lower the temperature after midnight.

B) Another guest reported the same issue yesterday.

C) I'll send someone upstairs immediately to check it.

D) You can open the window if the room feels warm.

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

36. It is vital that we make a decision as soon as possible.

A) We have plenty of time to reach a final decision.

B) It is very important for us to decide without delay.

C) Making a quick decision might lead to serious mistakes.

D) We should wait a bit longer before we make up our minds.

37. We had to call off the picnic because of the heavy rain.

A) We enjoyed the picnic despite the heavy rain.

B) The rain was heavy, but we didn't cancel the picnic.

C) We decided to cancel the picnic due to the bad weather.

D) We moved the picnic to another place because it rained.

38. His explanation only added to the confusion.

A) His explanation solved the problem fully.

B) He explained the situation clearly.

C) His speech reduced everyone's worries.

D) The things that he said made it more confusing.

39. The meeting was put off until they say something different.

A) The meeting was shortened without warning.

B) The meeting was postponed for now.

C) The meeting continued for a long time.

D) The meeting was cancelled long ago.

40. She objected to unfair treatment.

A) She accepted unfair treatment.

B) She treated others unfairly.

C) She expected fair treatment from others.

D) She complained about unfair treatment.

PART III: READING

Total: _____ / 20 pts

READING I (10x1=10 pts)

The Hidden Impact of Life-Changing Events

People often assume that life-changing events arrive dramatically, accompanied by obvious signs of transformation. In reality, however, the experiences that permanently alter people's lives are frequently subtle, ambiguous, and only fully understood in **retrospect**. Psychologists have increasingly argued that personal development is rarely shaped by a single extraordinary incident. Instead, it emerges through a gradual process

in which seemingly ordinary experiences reshape an individual's priorities, relationships, and understanding of themselves.

A striking example of this phenomenon can be found in the experiences of Maya Henderson, a former corporate lawyer who abandoned a highly successful career to become a documentary filmmaker. In interviews, Henderson explained that her decision was not triggered by a sudden crisis but by a sequence of minor events that slowly changed her perspective. During a business trip to Southeast Asia, she visited a coastal village that had recently suffered severe environmental damage. Although the visit lasted less than a day, she was deeply affected by conversations with local residents whose livelihoods had disappeared because of industrial pollution. Upon returning home, she found it increasingly difficult to feel motivated by the financial negotiations that had once dominated her professional life. Within two years, she had resigned from her position and begun producing films focusing on environmental justice.

Researchers suggest that such transformations often occur because emotionally significant experiences challenge previously unquestioned assumptions. Individuals tend to construct stable narratives about who they are and what they value. However, encounters that contradict these beliefs can create a psychological discomfort that forces people to reconsider long-established goals. According to recent studies, people who respond positively to these moments are generally more adaptable and willing to tolerate uncertainty. Rather than resisting change, they interpret disruption as an opportunity for growth.

Modern technology has **intensified** this process by exposing individuals to perspectives that would once have remained inaccessible. Through social media, podcasts, and online communities, people regularly encounter alternative lifestyles, political opinions, and career paths. While critics argue that this constant exposure can produce anxiety and dissatisfaction, others believe it encourages reflection and self-awareness. A single article, conversation, or video may inspire someone to reevaluate assumptions that have remained unchanged for years.

Ultimately, life-changing events rarely resemble the dramatic scenes portrayed in films or novels. More often, they consist of moments that quietly disrupt familiar patterns of thought. Although these experiences may initially appear insignificant, they frequently become the foundation for profound personal transformation long afterward.

41. What is the main argument of the passage?

- A) Technology is responsible for most personal change.
- B) Personal transformation often develops gradually.
- C) Successful careers usually lead to dissatisfaction.
- D) Psychologists disagree about identity formation.

42. According to the writer, life-changing events are often:

- A) immediately recognized as important
- B) connected to public success
- C) subtle and difficult to identify
- D) caused by financial difficulties

43. Why did Maya Henderson reconsider her career?

- A) She lost interest in filmmaking.
- B) She experienced a financial crisis.
- C) Environmental experiences affected her values.
- D) Her company encouraged her to resign.

44. The word "retrospect" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to:

- A) confusion
- B) prediction
- C) hesitation
- D) reflection

45. What does the passage suggest about emotionally significant experiences?

- A) They can challenge established beliefs.
- B) They mainly influence social relationships.
- C) They prevent people from taking risks.
- D) They usually create temporary reactions.

46. According to researchers, adaptable individuals tend to:

- A) avoid uncertainty whenever possible
- B) interpret disruption positively
- C) depend heavily on routines
- D) reject unexpected opportunities

47. How has technology influenced personal development?

- A) It has reduced access to new ideas.
- B) It has weakened professional ambition.
- C) It has eliminated traditional lifestyles.
- D) It has exposed people to broader perspectives.

48. The word “intensified” in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to:

- A) weakened
- B) ignored
- C) restricted
- D) strengthened

49. What criticism of modern technology does the writer mention?

- A) It increases anxiety for some individuals.
- B) It encourages unrealistic career expectations.
- C) It discourages emotional connections.
- D) It limits intellectual curiosity.

50. Which statement would the writer most likely agree with?

- A) Personal change usually happens suddenly.
- B) Career success limits emotional growth.
- C) Small experiences can shape people’s lives.
- D) People should avoid uncertain situations.

READING 2 (10x1=10 pts)

Endangered Animal Success Stories

In 2006, the US government created "Endangered Species Day" on May 11. This day helps people learn about animals and plants that are disappearing. The government is a true friend to these animals. In 1973, they made a law called the Endangered Species Act. This law has three main goals: To protect animals and plants by naming them "endangered", to keep the homes of these species safe, and to help the groups of animals grow again. Today, we celebrate many success stories of animals saved from disappearing forever. Here are two of those stories.

First is the story of the bald eagle. It is the symbol of the United States. Long ago, there were about 100,000 bald eagles in the US. But by 1963, there were less than 1,000 birds left. This was a very bad trend. Hunting was one reason for this, but a chemical called DDT was another problem. This chemical was used to kill bugs, but it hurt the eagles too. **It** made the shells of their eggs very thin. Because of this, the eggs broke easily, and the baby birds inside were very weak.

The most important reason for the return of the bald eagle was the ban on the chemical DDT in 1972. Also, being on the endangered species list gave the birds more protection. Today, people watch eagle groups very carefully. Humans help raise baby eagles and later release them back into the wild. Because of this hard work, there are now about 14,000 eagles in the United States (not including Alaska).

Another famous symbol of North American nature is the grizzly bear. Before Europeans arrived, more than 50,000 grizzlies lived in the American West. Today, that number is only about 1,000. Because grizzly bears have babies very slowly, it takes many years for the total number of bears to grow. Most grizzly bears in the United States live in safe areas like Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks. In these places, hunting is 100% banned. As the number of bears grows, it is very important to prevent bear and human encounters. Every year, 20 to 40 bears die during these **encounters**. Managing trash is a very important way to keep bears away from humans. We hope the government continues to protect these animals. Every special animal and plant makes our world better and is worth saving. By protecting endangered species, we show respect for the Earth. We also give a very valuable gift to the people who will live in the future.

51. What is NOT mentioned in the passage as a goal of the Endangered Species Act?

- A) listing animals and plants as endangered
- B) preserving plant and animal habitat
- C) helping endangered species to grow
- D) creating more national parks

52. What does ‘it’ in paragraph 2 refer to?

- A) the bald eagle
- B) hunting
- C) DDT
- D) the destruction of habitat

53. What was the main impact of DDT on bald eagle reproduction?

- A) They couldn’t find enough food
- B) Weak shells prevented successful births
- C) It increased the mortality of adult birds
- D) It led to changes in migration patterns

54. Which factor had a direct negative impact on the reproduction of bald eagles?

- A) Habitat destruction
- B) Hunting activities
- C) Exposure to a chemical substance
- D) Human disturbance in nesting areas

55. Which of the following can be inferred about the recovery of endangered species?

- A) Multiple coordinated efforts are required for success
- B) Legal protection alone is sufficient for long-term recovery
- C) Human-controlled environments are always necessary
- D) Natural population growth happens rapidly after the bans

56. What is suggested about human–bear encounters?

- A) They are beneficial for ecological balance
- B) They are rare and have little impact
- C) They help control bear populations
- D) They can result in bears being killed

57. In paragraph 4, the underlined term “encounter” most strongly implies:

- A) an unplanned and potentially risky meeting
- B) a controlled and safe interaction
- C) a deliberate attempt to approach
- D) a repeated and familiar situation

58. Why is garbage management important in areas with grizzly bears?

- A) It improves hygiene in national parks
- B) It prevents bears from coming closer to humans
- C) It increases tourism safety awareness
- D) It supports scientific research on bears

59. What is the author’s main message about protecting animals?

- A) It is a duty that we have for the people of the future.
- B) It is mostly about following government rules.
- C) It only works in special, closed areas.
- D) It depends mainly on advertisements for the public.

60. What is the primary purpose of the passage?

- A) To critically evaluate environmental policies in the United States
- B) To highlight successful conservation efforts supported by legislation
- C) To compare different endangered species across regions
- D) To argue against human intervention in wildlife management

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