



Istanbul
GEDİK
University

SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

SAMPLE ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAM

ANSWER KEY

FIRST NAME AND LAST NAME:

DEPARTMENT:

TOTAL TIME: 120 mins.

NOTE: THE NUMBER AND THE TYPES OF THE QUESTIONS MAY CHANGE.

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

PART 1 : LISTENING

Total: _____ / 20 pts

A. Listen to the conversation. Choose the correct answers. You are going to listen it twice. (5x2= 10 pts.)

1. What do we learn about the cost of Mei and Ali's trip?
 - a. They have already paid for most of it.
 - b. They don't mind spending a lot on it.
 - c. They would like to keep to a low budget.
 - d. They don't want to spend a lot.

2. What does Ali think they should do about booking the train tickets?
 - a. He thinks they should ask his friend before they book.
 - b. He seems in a hurry to book the tickets.
 - c. He thinks they should wait a few weeks to book.
 - d. He seems relaxed about it.

3. What is Mei worried about?
 - a. Her dad might need an operation.
 - b. Her dad is in a lot of pain.
 - c. Leaving her dad alone.
 - d. Not spending enough time with her dad.

4. At the end of the conversation, what does Ali do?
 - a. He complains they won't get a discount on the tickets.
 - b. He offers to help Mei with her dad.
 - c. He sends his best wishes to Mei's dad.
 - d. He helps Mei about housework.

5. What do Ali and Mei decide to do about the trip?
 - a. They might change the dates of their trip.
 - b. They probably won't go now.
 - c. They are unlikely to change the dates of the trip.
 - d. They are eager to go on a trip right now.

2. Listen to five people describing what home means to them. Match the speakers to how they feel (A–H). There are three extra descriptions. (5x2= 10 pts.)

A. relationships with relatives

1. Speaker 1 _____

B. somewhere spacious

2. Speaker 2 _____

C. somewhere without fear

3. Speaker 3 _____

D. somewhere where they can be alone

4. Speaker 4 _____

E. somewhere cosy

5. Speaker 5 _____

F. somewhere where traditions can be carried out

G. somewhere with friendly neighbours

H. somewhere to relax

PART 2 : USE OF ENGLISH

Total: _____ / 20 pts

A. Choose the best option to fill the blanks (10x1= 10 pts.).

Teamwork is an essential skill in both academic and professional settings. Working in a group allows individuals to achieve goals (1) _____ they might struggle to accomplish alone. However, teamwork is not always easy. One of the biggest challenges is ensuring that all members contribute equally (2) _____ their strengths are utilized effectively. To make teamwork successful, communication plays a (3) _____ role. It was once said that "great teams communicate openly and honestly," which means that everyone must feel comfortable sharing (4) _____ opinions. Good communication also prevents misunderstandings which could disrupt the team's (5) _____. Another important aspect is time management. Deadlines have to be agreed (6) _____ early so that tasks are completed without unnecessary stress. If team members fail to organize their time (7) _____, they might not meet their objectives, which could lead to frustration. Motivation is equally important. It helps when the team leader encourages others by focusing on solutions rather than problems. For example, a leader might say, "We can (8) _____ this issue if we divide the workload fairly," instead of criticizing a team member who is struggling. Finally, reflection is a key step after completing a project. Teams should discuss what went well and what could (9) _____ improved. These discussions often highlight valuable lessons, which can be applied to future projects. Effective teamwork not only benefits the group (10) _____ also helps individuals develop skills which they can use in many areas of their lives. As a result, teamwork is seen not only as a skill but as a mindset that promotes collaboration and growth.

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. a. which | b. what | c. Where | d. who |
| 2. a. so that | b. despite | c. as long as | d. because of |
| 3. a. broad | b. crucial | c. successful | d. irrelevant |
| 4. a. us | b. their | c. my | d. your |
| 5. a. result | b. progress | c. failure | d. step |
| 6. a. in | b. upon | c. with | d. for |
| 7. a. silently | b. slowly | c. properly | d. recklessly |
| 8. a. resolve | b. understand | c. sign | d. execute |
| 9. a. be | b. being | c. been | d. to be |
| 10. a. but | b. despite | c. either | d. so |

B. Complete the conversations with the correct questions. (5x1=5 pts.)

- a) Could you remind me c) Would you mind if e) Do you think it's
 b) Can we reschedule d) What time should we leave worth

Conversation A

Lila: Hi Mark. (11)... e) Do you think it's worth ... we went by train instead of driving?

Mark: Sure, that's a great idea. It will save us some time.

Lila: (12)... d) What time should we leave..?

Mark: Let's leave at 8:00 AM. That way, we'll avoid the rush hour traffic.

Conversation B

Lucy: I forgot the deadline for the report.(13) ... a) Could you remind me?

Sarah: It's due by Friday at 5:00 PM.

Lucy: Oh, that's a relief. I thought it was earlier. (14)... c) Would you mind if sending it in a day late?

Sarah: It's not ideal, but I think it'll be fine as long as you let them know.

13. Conversation C

Tom: I missed the meeting this morning. (15) b) Can we reschedule it could be sent as a summary?

Ali: Sure, I'll forward the notes to you.

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

16. Despite heavy rain, the football match continued as planned.

- a) The football match went on as scheduled, although it was raining heavily.
- b) The heavy rain resulted in the cancellation of the football match.
- c) Although the weather improved, the football match was postponed.
- d) The football match was delayed because of the heavy rain.

17. He had worked very hard for years, so he deserved the promotion he received.

- a) After working hard for years, he finally got the promotion he wanted.
- b) He didn't work hard enough, but he was still promoted in the end.
- c) Since he put in great effort over the years, his promotion was well-earned.
- d) His promotion came as a surprise because he didn't work hard for it.

18. The invention of the internet has made communication much faster and easier than it used to be.

- a) Communication today is much quicker and simpler thanks to the internet.
- b) Before the internet, communication was easier but slower than it is now.

- c) The internet has slowed communication, making it more challenging than ever before.
- d) The speed of communication has decreased with the widespread use of the internet.
19. Even though she studied for hours, she couldn't solve the difficult math problem.
- a) She solved the math problem after studying for hours.
- b) Hours of studying didn't help her solve the challenging math problem.**
- c) She didn't study enough, so she failed to solve the math problem.
- d) She solved the math problem quickly without much effort.
20. Many people believe that exercise helps improve mental health as well as physical health.
- a) Physical health can only improve if mental health is prioritized over exercise.
- b) Regular exercise is considered beneficial for both mental and physical health.**
- c) Improving physical health requires focusing less on mental well-being.
- d) Exercise is unnecessary for good mental health, but it benefits the body.

PART 3 : READING

Total: _____ / 20 pts

The Rise of Remote Work

The way we work has undergone a dramatic transformation over the past few years. The shift to remote work, accelerated by the global pandemic, has changed the traditional office culture. Many companies now offer flexible working options, and some have even abandoned their office spaces altogether. (1) **E**. This flexibility has made remote work appealing to employees who value a better work-life balance.

However, working from home isn't without its challenges. (2) **G**. Employees often find it hard to disconnect at the end of the day, leading to longer working hours and potential burnout. (3) **D**. Companies have started providing resources like mental health support and flexible schedules to address these concerns.

Another challenge is maintaining strong communication among teams. Without face-to-face interaction, collaboration can suffer, and misunderstandings can arise more easily. (4) **A**. Tools like Zoom, Slack, and Microsoft Teams have become essential for keeping remote teams connected.

Despite these challenges, many organizations have embraced the benefits of remote work. They can now hire talent from around the globe without requiring relocation, and they've reported cost savings from reduced office expenses. (5) **C**. As a result, remote work has become a permanent fixture in many industries, redefining what it means to "go to work."

For employees, the benefits are also significant. People can save time and money by avoiding long commutes, and they have the opportunity to create a workspace tailored to their needs. However, some still miss the social aspects of the office and worry about losing opportunities for career advancement. (6) **B**. Finding the right balance between remote and in-office work will be crucial in the coming years as companies and employees continue to navigate this new landscape.

A. Five sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap (1–6). There is ONE EXTRA SENTENCE which you do not need to use. (6x1=6 pts.)

- A. Employers are finding innovative ways to overcome these communication barriers.
- B. Balancing these benefits with employees' needs will determine the success of future workplaces.
- C. Remote work has also allowed companies to become more inclusive and diverse.
- D. On the other hand, these strategies may not fully address the emotional toll on employees.
- E. In many cases, this approach has proven to increase employee satisfaction and productivity.
- F. As a result, many teams rely heavily on video conferencing and instant messaging apps.
- G. One major issue is the difficulty of separating personal life from professional responsibilities.

B. Please answer the following questions according to the reading passage. (7x2= 14 pts)

The Future of Urban Farming

As cities grow larger, the challenge of feeding their populations becomes increasingly pressing. Urban farming is emerging as a potential solution, offering a way to produce fresh food within city limits. This method of agriculture involves using available urban spaces such as rooftops, balconies, and abandoned lots to grow fruits, vegetables, and even raise fish. Vertical farming, a type of urban farming, uses stacked layers of plants to maximize space efficiency, making it an ideal choice for dense urban environments.

One of the key advantages of urban farming is its ability to reduce the environmental impact of food production. Traditional farming often involves transporting food long distances, which contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, urban farms can use innovative techniques like hydroponics and aeroponics, which require less water and soil compared to conventional farming.

Despite its benefits, urban farming faces significant challenges. Limited space is a major obstacle, as cities are already crowded with buildings and infrastructure. However, architects and city planners are collaborating to design buildings that integrate green spaces and urban farms. Governments and private companies are also investing in research to make urban farming technologies more affordable and accessible.

The potential applications of urban farming are vast. It can provide fresh produce to urban communities that might otherwise lack access to nutritious food, known as food deserts. Schools and community centers can use urban farms as educational tools to teach children about sustainability and agriculture. By involving local communities in the farming process, urban agriculture not only improves access to food but also fosters a sense of connection and responsibility toward the environment.

1. What is the main purpose of the article?
 - a. To criticize traditional farming methods
 - b. To introduce the concept of urban farming and its benefits**
 - c. To describe the environmental challenges of city life
 - d. To explain the history of agriculture in urban areas
2. Which of the following is closest in meaning to "sustainability" in the context of the article?

- a. Economic growth
 - b. Environmental responsibility**
 - c. Efficient transportation
 - d. Scientific innovation
3. According to the text, how does urban farming benefit the environment?
 - a. It eliminates the need for pesticides in food production.
 - b. It reduces greenhouse gas emissions by shortening food transportation distances.**
 - c. It allows architects to create taller buildings in cities.
 - d. It replaces traditional farming with hydroponics entirely.
 4. What is a key challenge faced by urban farming?
 - a. Lack of public interest in fresh produce
 - b. Difficulty in training architects and city planners
 - c. Limited availability of space in urban areas**
 - d. Poor water quality for hydroponic systems
 5. In what way can urban farming benefit local communities, as mentioned in the text?
 - a. By creating more jobs in rural areas
 - b. By turning urban farms into tourist attractions
 - c. By providing fresh produce to food deserts**
 - d. By encouraging people to move to cities
 6. What role do architects and city planners play in urban farming, according to the text?
 - a. They teach farming techniques to local communities.
 - b. They build spaces specifically designed for urban agriculture.**
 - c. They invent new technologies for hydroponic farming.
 - d. They lobby governments to fund urban farms.
 7. Which of the following best paraphrases the underlined sentence in paragraph 2?
 - a. Transporting food long distances adds to environmental pollution through increased emissions.**
 - b. The transport of food over large distances has no significant impact on the environment.
 - c. Long-distance transportation reduces the efficiency of traditional farming practices.
 - d. Greenhouse gas emissions can be controlled by reducing urban farm sizes.

PART 4 : WRITING

Total: _____ / 20 pts.

Choose ONE of the topics below and write a well-organized essay about it (between 250-350 words).

1. Technology has changed how we communicate. Some say it improves relationships, while others argue it reduces face-to-face interaction. **Do you think modern technology has improved or worsened the quality of personal relationships? Support your answer with specific reasons and examples.**
2. Cities face environmental problems like air pollution and flooding. Local governments are trying various solutions. **Write an essay discussing one major environmental**

What are the benefits of social media?

What are the problems with social media?

Can social media help someone find a job?

Think about a goal you have achieved in your life?

How did you achieve it?

What are your goals for your studies/career?

How do you plan to achieve them?