

Intensive English Exam – Placement Test

A. Overview

The Intensive English Exam – Placement test is a test for English language level assessment of student who are joining intensive English courses before taking academic programmes. The test includes 3 skills: listening, reading, writing.

B. Security

- All candidates should have their identity checked by presenting a photographic ID card or similar.
- Only writing implements should be on the desks.
- All other items, including phones (switched off) should be stored at the front of the room well away from the candidates or if possible, in a separate room.
- Candidates should also be discouraged from wearing bulky clothing such as coats or jackets.
- Desks should be in well separated rows, ideally 1.5 metres apart in all directions. The reading, writing and listening exams should be invigilated.
- All question-and-answer papers are collected at the end of each examination.
- Candidates should not leave with question papers.
- The room needs to have a large clock and the beginning and end times for the reading and writing examinations need to be written on a whiteboard or similar.

C. Test skills

I. Listening (30 minutes plus 10 minutes transfer time)

- The test includes 4 sections.
- There are 40 questions in total.
- 40 possible marks (each question is worth 1 mark)
- Approximately 40 minutes (30 minutes for listening plus 10 minutes allowed to transfer answers to the answer sheet)
- Question types:
 - Multiple-choice
 - Gap filling (Sentence completion; Form completion; Short answer, etc)
 - Matching features
- You will only hear the recording **ONCE**
- You will be informed when your 10 minutes to transfer your answer begins.

II. Reading (60 minutes)

- The test includes 3 reading passages.
- Average word count of each passage is around 700 words
- There are 40 questions in total.
- 40 possible marks (each question is worth 1 mark)
- Question types:
 - Multiple-choice
 - Matching (Headings; Features; Information)
 - Gap filling (Sentence completion; Form completion; Short answer, etc)
 - Yes, No, Not Given/ True, False, Not Given
- You will be informed when you have 10 minutes remaining. You should transfer your answers to the answer sheet at this point if you have not done so already.

III. Writing (60 minutes)

- 01 essay question
- A minimum of 250 words required
- Scored on a 0- 9 scale
- Question types:
 - Advantage/Disadvantage essay
 - Discussion essay
 - Opinion essay
 - Problem/Solution essay
 - Two – Part question essay
- You will be informed when you have 10 minutes remaining.

D. Demo Test

DEMO TEST
LISTENING

SECTION 1 Questions 1-10

Questions 1 – 3

Complete the notes below.

Write **DIGITS AND/OR LETTERS** for each answer.

Mobile number: (1) 01330 _____

Postcode: (2) BS _____

Address: (3) _____, Gromit Way, Bristol.

Questions 4 – 5

Answer the questions below. Write **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

4. In what year was the caller born? _____

5. What is the maiden name of the caller's mother? _____

Questions 6-8

Match each problem (Questions 6-8) with the person/organisation (A-D) that is responsible for the problem.

NB You may use any letter more than once. You will not use all the letter.

Problems

- 6. The bill wasn't fully paid.
- 7. There was an unrecognised phone call.
- 8. The number of free calls has gone down.

| Person/Organisation |
|----------------------------|
| A. the caller |
| B. the bank |
| C. the mobile phone centre |
| D. either B or C |

Questions 9-10

Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B** or **C**.

9. The caller's home number is...

- A. 0160 112 3975
- B. 0161 112 3975
- C. 0161 121 3879

10. When will the operator ring the caller?

- A. in an hour
- B. tomorrow
- C. immediately

READING

READING PASSAGE 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 1-13 which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.

- A** There are many apparently ‘universal truths’ about education that most of us accept without question. We may read about them on Facebook or other forms of social media, and think these are factual simply because they are online. These ‘truths’, in fact, are often unsupported by research and have recently been proven to be wrong. This is shocking for many people: it is clear that popular myths about education need to be closely explored. This article challenges a number of these untrue assumptions and explores how we may, in many cases, be very wrong about the best ways to learn. Education is essential for families, parents, school leaders, teachers and the leaders of every country. We need to learn the facts, and reject any myths about education in order to help ourselves and our children understand how best to approach learning.
- B** To give your children a head start in life, sit them in front of the television. A study of 200 American pre-schoolers has revealed that toddlers who watch TV for two hours a day develop more quickly than those who do without. On average, the two- and three-year-olds who watched TV scored 10 per cent higher in reading, maths and vocabulary. However, the programmes have to be aimed at their age group: children gain no benefits from watching TV designed for adults. ‘Television opens up the world to many young children and gives them a head start. This is sustained in improved academic progress throughout their school lives,’ said Alex Huston of the University of Texas. But the positive impact of TV declines with age, reports *The Sunday Times*. Older children who watch more than 16 hours of TV a week perform worse than their peers.
- C** The early bird catches the worm. However, people who lie around in bed in the morning and work in the evening are more intelligent, according to Tom Smith of the University of Sydney. The scientists asked 400 volunteers to fill in questionnaires to work out if they considered themselves early-rising ‘morning types’ or late-working ‘evening types’. Each volunteer was then given mental agility and memory tests. The researchers found that the ‘evening types’ had much better mental speed and memory. ‘The results suggest that, in contrast to conventional folk wisdom, evening types are more likely to have higher intelligence scores,’ Smith told *The Sunday Telegraph*. He also stated that the link between intelligence and working late may be a hang-over from prehistoric times, when those who were still alert after dark would be more likely to survive attacks by night-time predators.

- D** Washington-based childcare expert Matt Jones says pushy parents may be doing their children more harm than good. Working parents often overstimulate babies and toddlers. They buy them educational toys which are too old for them in the belief that they are improving their prospects. In fact, faced with such demands, the children may become frustrated and give up completely. Worse still, the children recognise that they are disappointing their parents and this sense of failure eats away at their self-esteem. The warning comes as an ever-increasing range of learning material is being produced for the very young. In the US, 'hyper-parenting' is common, says Joan Coles in *The Times*. Expectant mothers are pressured into buying CDs such as 'Mozart for Mothers-to-Be - Build your baby's brain!'). Many parents buy educational videos including Baby Einstein and Baby Shakespeare. By the age of one, enrolment in a variety of classes, from languages to maths, is normal in the USA.
- E** One in five modern children suffers from anxieties so severe that they should be classed as mental disorders, say scientists from the University of Maastricht. The researchers interviewed 290 Dutch primary school children aged between 8 and 13. Twenty per cent of them had worries so serious that they limited their ability to lead normal lives, reports *The Daily Mail*. Many had trouble sleeping; some were afraid to leave their homes; others had problems talking to their peers. 'Nobody is really sure exactly why this is, but these disorders are caused by children internalising their anxiety,' said child psychiatrist Pete May. 'This could be caused by parents being away from their children for long periods or by children being stressed at school. A parent who does not spend time with their child could miss out on the fact that the child has the problem, meaning it can go untreated and get worse.'

Questions 1 – 3

Reading Passage 1 has **FIVE** paragraphs, **A – E**.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

Write the correct letter, **A – E**, next to questions 1 – 3.

1. a study that looked into the mental health of elementary school students.
2. examples of products many US parents would buy for their children.
3. explanation of a saying that derives from ancient people's behaviour.

Questions 4 – 5

Complete the sentences below using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

4. Sometimes we may think things are true just because we read them _____.
5. The most important point about this article is that it challenges _____ about education.

Questions 6– 8

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the reading passage 1?

Next to questions 6-8 on your answer sheet, write:

- TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information
FALSE if the statement contradicts the information
NOT GIVEN if there is no information about this

6. Toddlers who watched TV scored 10% lower in reading, maths and vocabulary.
7. *The Sunday Times* funded the study by the University of Texas.
8. The older the children get, the benefit of watching TV decreases.

Questions 9 – 12

Who expressed the following ideas?

Match each idea (questions 9-12) with the correct person (A – D)

9. Parents' pushiness might bring more negative impact to their children.
10. Parents might not notice that their children are having problems.
11. Evening people are probably more intelligent than morning people.
12. Being pushy is popular among American parents.

List of people

- A. Tom Smith
- B. Matt Jones
- C. Joan Coles
- D. Pete May

Questions 13

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.

What is a suitable title for Reading Passage 1?

- A. The facts and myths about education.
- B. The benefits of watching television.
- C. The wrong way to raise a child.
- D. The pressure children face.

WRITING

You should spend about 60 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people think that instead of trying to prevent climate change, we must find a way to live with it?

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?

Give reasons for your answer, and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

ANSWER KEYS

LISTENING

1. 725 293
2. 391TP
3. 6B
4. 1967
5. SMYTHE
6. D
7. A
8. A
9. B
10. C

READING

1. E
2. D
3. C
4. online
5. (popular) myths / untrue assumptions
6. FALSE
7. NOT GIVEN
8. TRUE
9. B
10. D
11. A
12. C
13. A