

PRACTICE TEST 2 FOR THE NATIONAL ENGLISH CONTEST

I. LISTENING (5.0 points)

- The listening section is in *FOUR* parts. You will hear each part *TWICE*. At the beginning of each part, you will hear a sound.
- There will be a piece of music at the beginning and at the end of the listening section. You will have *TWO* minutes to check your answers at the end of the listening section.
- All the other instructions are included in the recording.

Part 1 and 2. You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about their jobs in television.

TASK ONE

For questions **1–5**, choose from the list (A–H) each speaker's job.

TASK TWO

For questions **6–10**, choose from the list (A–H) what each speaker says they find difficult about their job.

While you listen you must complete both tasks.

A make-up artist

B producer

C actor

D researcher

E sports presenter

F lighting engineer

G sound technician

H costume designer

Speaker 1 1

Speaker 2 2

Speaker 3 3

Speaker 4 4

Speaker 5 5

A having to upset people

B incorporating last-minute changes Speaker 1 6

C not getting enough variety Speaker 2 7

D listening to people's problems Speaker 3 8

E being told what to do Speaker 4 9

F keeping up to date Speaker 5 10

G not getting enough recognition

H working in uncomfortable conditions

Part 3. You will hear an interview in which two people called Sarah and Peter who work in air and sea rescue are talking about their work. For questions 11–15, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

11 What do Sarah and Peter agree is most important when working in sea rescue?

- A a lack of anxiety in unknown situations
- B a willingness to follow instructions
- C a certain amount of specialised knowledge
- D an ability to get along with colleagues

12 Sarah criticises the people they rescued last week because they

- A miscalculated how long their journey would take.
- B underestimated the distance they faced.
- C paid little attention to the weather forecast.
- D began their journey in unfavourable conditions.

13 What does Peter say is the disadvantage of using a helicopter in a rescue?

- A It is hard to keep in one position.
- B It makes communication difficult.

- C It cannot land on dangerous rocks.
- D It gets very cold inside it.

14 Sarah gets annoyed when people being rescued

- A are not grateful enough.
- B have the wrong priorities.
- C panic unnecessarily.
- D refuse assistance.

15 What does Peter say he plans to do next?

- A pass on his knowledge to others
- B apply for a less hazardous position
- C get promoted to a better job
- D use his skills in different circumstances

Part 4. You will hear a postgraduate psychology student talking to other students about a job-satisfaction study he has investigated. For questions 16-25, write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS for each answer.

Job satisfaction study

31 Workers involved in the study were employed at a _____.

32 Despite some apparent differences between groups of workers, the survey results were statistically _____.

33 The speaker analysed the study's _____ to identify any problems with it.

34 The various sub-groups were _____ in size.

35 Workers in the part-time group were mainly _____.

36 The _____ of workers who agreed to take part in the study was disappointing.

37 Researchers were unable to _____ the circumstances in which workers filled out the questionnaire.

38 In future, the overall size of the _____ should be increased.

39 In future studies, workers should be prevented from having discussions with _____.

40 Workers should be reassured that their responses to questions are _____.

II. READING (8.0 points)

II.1. LANGUAGE IN USE (3.0 points)

Part 1. For questions 26 – 35, read the passage below and decide which answer (A, B, C, or D) best fits each space. Write the letter A, B, C, or D in the numbered boxes provided.

Vietnam's Digital Education Reform

Vietnam's education system is undergoing a digital transformation, (26) _____ by the growing demand for accessible and future-ready learning. Urban schools have rapidly embraced technology, but rural areas still face connectivity challenges.

To reduce disparities, ministries—(27) _____ mandates sometimes overlap—are attempting to streamline efforts. Digital tools like online platforms and virtual classes are gaining ground, yet experts caution that tech alone cannot (28) _____ deeper issues like inequality or outdated curricula.

Today, skills like adaptability and problem-solving are seen as (29) _____ in the modern workforce. However, older teaching styles persist, and some educators resist change. Advocates say if reforms (30) _____ with adequate training, the system can improve meaningfully.

Only by embracing innovation at the leadership level (31) _____ true progress be achieved. In many provinces, this shift is still (32) _____, slowed by traditional mindsets.

Rather than mimic foreign models, Vietnam aims to (33) _____ global strategies with local values. A successful system must ensure the digital leap becomes a long-term (34) _____, not just a temporary experiment. In the end, rethinking how we (35) _____ is essential to national progress.

26. A. facilitated B. facilitating C. to facilitate D. having facilitated
27. A. which B. whose C. where D. whom
28. A. account for B. solve C. come up with D. get across
29. A. non-negotiable B. short-lived C. contradictory D. exclusive
30. A. are accompanied B. will accompany C. be accompanied D. accompanied
31. A. will B. can C. will only D. can only
32. A. under control B. in its infancy C. at risk D. under threat
33. A. adapt B. adopt C. align D. adjust
34. A. breakthrough B. feedback C. outcome D. compromise
35. A. succeed B. study C. educate D. teach

Part 2. For questions 36 – 40, read the passage, then fill in each of the numbered spaces with the correct form of the words given in the box. Write your answers in the numbered boxes provided. There are FOUR words that you do not need to use. The first one, (0), has been done as an example.

(0) EFFECT	KNOWLEDGE	ALTERNATE	CONTROL	PRESENT
LIE	CONCLUDE	DATE	TITLE	INFORMATIVE

The idea that we live in a web of communications and that you're (0) effectively only six steps away from direct contact with your favourite film star is not a new one. Indeed, it (36) _____ the internet and mobile telephony by several decades. In the 1960s, Stanley Milgram established that it was surprisingly easy to contact anyone in the USA via postal system, even if their address was (37) _____ to you. However, his findings were deemed (38) _____ since some messages never reached their target. Internet in the idea was revived by John Guare's play *Six degrees of separation* in the 1990s, and then popularized by an online game (39) _____ the Six degrees of Kevin Bacon, in which players link any actor to Kevin Bacon in as few steps as possible. More recently, people have tested out the theory using social networking sites like Facebook. There are still questions about how (40) _____ the results are, but the latest technology lends considerable weight to the underlying feasibility to the theory.

Part 3. The passage below contains FIVE grammatical mistakes. For questions 41 – 45, UNDERLINE the mistakes and WRITE THEIR CORRECT FORMS in the numbered boxes provided. The first one has been done as an example.

One of the greatest 0. problem with holidays, apart form the usual travel complications and accommodation difficulties, are in the expectations people have of them. When we go on holiday we expect to leave all the stresses and strains of our everyday lives behind us. We imagine we will be able to escape to such a degree that we even tend to believe, consciously or not, which we can leave our own

personalities behind and become completely different people. The average business-person, tense, preoccupied, short-tempered, unable to relax, envisages herself/himself becoming, from the moment of locking the office door, a radically different type of person: carefree, good-humoured, ready to relax and enjoy whatever adventures present themselves. In practice, we take ourselves with us wherever we go, and the personality that is forming over years of stress and tension is almost impossible to shake off at a moment's notice. It is no wonder so many holidays are a disappointment, no matter how smoothly they go or how lovely the weather is. In fact, the innumerable problems that build up during the average holiday are probably a welcome distraction from the nagging feeling that we are not enjoying ourselves as much as we should.

Your answers:

e.g. (0). problem → problems

	Mistakes	Corrections
Q41		
Q42		
Q43		
Q44		
Q45		

II.2. READING COMPREHENSION (5.0 points)

Part 1. For questions 46–55, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Around 290 BC, the most fashionable philosophical movement in Greece was Stoicism, (46) _____ by a businessman who had settled in Athens and (47) _____ about explaining his ideas in the marketplace.

He offered to deliver men from fears and desires (48) _____ made them unhappy, by accepting the world as it was and seeking happiness within (49) _____, not through others.

So long as happiness (50) _____ depended on others, or on anything over which men had no control, they would be a prey to anxiety and disappointment.

Another Stoic, called Chrysippus, is said (51) _____ have died (52) _____ laughing at his own joke!

Release from fear and worry was also (53) _____.

Epicurus, a native Athenian, offered a different approach. He argued that while pleasure was good, some pleasures could be perceived (54) _____ potentially painful.

(55) _____ was the pursuit of success and such entanglements as marriage that were to be avoided.

Part 2. Read the following passage and do the tasks that follow

Disappearing into Africa *From Dark Star Safari by Paul Theroux*

I wanted the pleasure of being in Africa again. Feeling that the place was so large it contained many untold tales and some hope and comedy and sweetness too, I aimed to reinsert myself in the bundu,

as we used to call the bush, and to wander the antique hinterland. There I had lived and worked, happily, almost forty years ago, in the heart of the greenest continent.

In those old undramatic days of my school teaching in the bundu, folks lived their lives on bush paths at the end of unpaved roads of red clay, in villages of grass-roofed huts. They had a new national flag, they had just gotten the vote, some had bikes, many talked about buying their first pair of shoes. They were hopeful, and so was I, a schoolteacher living near a settlement of mud huts among dusty trees and parched fields – children shrieking at play; and women bent double – most with infants slung on their backs – hoeing the corn and beans; and the men sitting in the shade.

The Swahili word safari means ‘journey’, it has nothing to do with animals, someone ‘on safari’ is just away and unobtainable and out of touch. Out of touch in Africa was where I wanted to be. The wish to disappear sends many travellers away. If you are thoroughly sick of being kept waiting at home or at work, travel is perfect: let other people wait for a change. Travel is a sort of revenge for having been put on hold, or having to leave messages on answering machines, not knowing your party’s extension, being kept waiting all your working life – the homebound writer’s irritants. But also being kept waiting is the human condition.

Travel in the African bush can also be a sort of revenge on mobile phones and email, on telephones and the daily paper, on the creepier aspects of globalisation that allow anyone who chooses to get their insinuating hands on you. I desired to be unobtainable. I was going to Africa for the best of reasons – in a spirit of discovery; and for the pettiest – simply to disappear, to light out, with a suggestion of I dare you to try to find me.

Home had become a routine, and routines make time pass quickly. I was a sitting duck in this predictable routine: people knew when to call me, they knew when I would be at my desk. I was in such regular touch it was like having a job, a mode of life I hated. I was sick of being called up and importuned, asked for favors, hit up for money. You stick around too long and people begin to impose their own deadlines on you.

Everyone always available at any time in the totally accessible world seemed to me pure horror. It made me want to find a place that was not accessible at all ... no phones, no Internet, not even mail delivery, the wonderful old world of being out of touch; in short, of being far away.

All I had to do was remove myself. I loved not having to ask permission, and in fact in my domestic life things had begun to get a little predictable, too – Mr Paul at home every evening when Mrs Paul came home from work. ‘I made spaghetti sauce ... I seared some tuna ... I’m scrubbing some potatoes ...’ The writer in his apron, perspiring over his béchamel sauce, always within earshot of the telephone. You have to pick it up because it is ringing in your ear.

A morbid aspect of my departure for Africa was that people began offering condolences. Say you’re leaving for a dangerous place and your friends call sympathetically, as though you’ve caught a serious illness that might prove fatal. Yet I found these messages unexpectedly stimulating, a heartening preview of what my own demise would be like. Lots of tears! Lots of mourners! But also, undoubtedly, many people boasting solemnly, ‘I told him not to do it. I was one of the last people to talk to him.’

For questions 56 – 61, decide whether each of the following statements is True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG). Write T, F, or NG in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- 56. The author had previously spent several decades working in urban areas of Africa.
- 57. The local people the author lived among were full of optimism despite having very little.
- 58. The author believes that safaris were originally created for hunting wild animals.
- 59. One reason the author wanted to travel was to avoid being constantly contacted by others.

60. The author's routine life at home made him feel safe and relaxed.

61. The author's friends reacted to his departure as if he were facing a life-threatening illness.

For questions 62–69, read the summary and fill in each space with NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS taken from the passage. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

The writer longed to return to Africa, where he had lived decades earlier, to rediscover the charm of the (62) _____. Back then, rural villagers were just beginning to enjoy basic rights and showed a sense of (63) _____ despite their difficult circumstances. The author disliked being constantly reachable and sought to be (64) _____ again. He viewed travel as a form of (65) _____ against the modern world's constant demands, such as voicemail and email.

At home, life had become too predictable, with the writer performing (66) _____ every evening, always within (67) _____. When he announced his departure, friends responded with unexpected (68) _____, as if he were facing a serious threat. Strangely, he found this reaction to be a (69) _____ of how people might remember him after death.

Part 3. In the passage below, six paragraphs have been removed. For questions 70 – 75, read the passage and choose from paragraphs A – G the one which fits each gap. There is ONE extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Write the letters A – G in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

The scariest ride on the planet

Charles Starmer-Smith spent a weekend in Norway learning how to ride on a bob skeleton, a one-person sledge which races down an ice track at 60 mph.

I glanced down at the red snow by my feet just a few yards from the finishing gate of the Lillehammer bob skeleton track. The bob skeleton is also known as a toboggan and reminded me of a tray a waiter might use to bring plates of food out in a restaurant. But this one was going to have me on it rather than a pile of food so seeing the blood of an earlier rider was a little unnerving. Make no bones about it, this has to be one of the scariest rides on the planet.

70

I feigned nonchalance at this information, but I was fooling no one. I have made a habit of scaring myself: I've leapt down the face of Switzerland's Verzasca Dam — the world's biggest bungee jump, I have descended the near-vertical Corbets Couloir at Jacksonhole — perhaps the most fearsome ski run in North America — and I have learnt to ski-jump at Calgary.

71

At least I was not alone as several other novices would be joining me. After a fitful sleep, we went out early to walk to the top of the track. The snow, hanging heavy on the branches of Lillehammer's forested slopes, made the track look even more imposing. Snaking down the slope like a giant metallic python, the walls were steeper, the straights were longer but the 16 turns were much sharper than I expected.

72

Halfway up, we arrived at the infamous Turn 13, a shuddering 180-degree U-turn where the centrifugal pressures equal those experienced by fighter pilots. 'This is where you'll feel the full force,' said Tony, our instructor, his eyes sparkling. 'So, is the track running quickly?' I asked tentatively. He did not need to answer.

73

All we caught was a flash of eyeballs and overalls as the rider sliced around the curved wall of ice at breathtaking speed. We glanced at each other, panic etched across our faces and laughed the nervous laugh of the truly terrified as we realised this would soon be us.

74

I therefore took comfort in the knowledge that, with a professional in charge, someone would be keeping his head while the rest of us were losing ours. I drew the short straw and was given position four, where you feel the full brunt of the force with nothing but cool Norwegian air behind you.

75

We barely had time to check that we were all in one piece before we were sent off to get kitted up for the skeleton. On Tony's instructions I lay face down on the sledge, arms clamped by my sides, nose inches from the ice and off I went. After seventy seconds of terror, I could barely speak and my body felt as though it had been in a boxing ring, but I had never felt so alive. What a ride!

Missing paragraphs

A

Before we had any more time to contemplate our fate, we found ourselves at the top, climbing aboard a bobsraft. Designed to give you a feel for the track before going down on your own, this giant, padded open-top box looked about as aerodynamic as a bus, but it travelled a whole lot faster. It had a driver who did this all the time which was reassuring.

B

As if on cue, snow crystals began to jump in unison on the metallic railings as, high above, a sledge began its inexorable journey down. What started as a distant hum became a rattle, then a roar as the sledge reached top speed. The tarpaulin covering the track stiffened in its wake and the girders groaned.

C

On these previous occasions, I had had experience or the expertise of others to fall back on, but with this there was nothing from which to draw strength. The bob skeleton confounds conventional logic.

D

It started deceptively slowly, but within moments picked up speed. It soon became clear that the rider has little control and survival instinct takes over.

E

It is hard to describe the debilitating effect that such immense speeds and forces have on your body. It was like nothing I have ever experienced. The last thing I remember going through my mind was straining just to keep my head upright.

F

We listened to advice on how to get round them safely – use your eyes to steer and tilt your head away from the corners to minimise the pressure. It sounded simple enough, but get it wrong at these speeds and your chin faces the cheese-grater.

G

The man behind these adrenalin-packed weekends at Norway's Olympic park, explained that those who attempt the famous run often accidentally 'kiss' the ice with their nose or chin, leaving a layer or three of skin behind.

Part 4. For questions 76 – 85, read the following passage and write A, B, C, or D in the corresponding numbered boxes provided to indicate the correct answer which fits best according to what is stated or implied in the text.

Solutions to Spam

→ Although it seems like the **proliferation** of spam—junk E-mails sent unsolicited to millions of people each day—is a recent problem, spam has been around as long as the Internet has. In fact, the first documented case of spam occurred in 1978, when a computer company sent out 400 E-mails via the Arpanet, the precursor to the modern Internet. Now, spam E-mails account for more than two-thirds of all the E-mail sent over the Internet, and for some unlucky users, spam makes up 80 percent of the messages they receive. And despite technological innovations such as spam filters and even new legislation designed to combat spam, the problem will not go away easily.

The reason spammers (the people who and businesses that spread spam) are difficult to stop is that spam is so cost effective. It costs a spammer roughly one-hundredth of a cent to send spam, which means that a spammer can still make a profit even with an **abysmally** low response rate, as low as one sale per 100,000 E-mails sent. This low rate gives spammers a tremendous incentive to continue sending out millions and millions of E-mails, even if the average person never purchases anything from them. With so much at stake, spammers have gone to great lengths to avoid or defeat spam blockers and filters.

Most spam filters rely on a fairly primitive “fingerprinting” system. In this system, a program analyzes several typical spam messages and identifies common features in them. Any arriving E-mails that match these features are deleted. But the fingerprinting defense proves quite easy for spammers to defeat. To confuse **the program**, a spammer simply has to include a series of random characters or numbers. These additions to the spam message change its “fingerprint” and thus allow the spam to escape detection. And when programmers modify the fingerprint software to look for random strings of letters, spammers respond by including nonrandom content, such as sports scores or stock prices, which again defeats the system.

A second possible solution takes advantage of a computer’s limited learning abilities. So-called “smart filters” use complex algorithms, which allow them to recognize new versions of spam messages. These filters may be initially fooled by random characters or bogus content, but they soon learn to identify these features. Unfortunately, spammers have learned how to avoid these smart filters as well. **The smart filter functions by looking for words and phrases that are normally used in a spam message, but spammers have learned to hide words and phrases by using numbers or other characters to stand in for letters.** For example, the word “money” might appear with a zero replacing the letter “o.” Alternatively, spammers send their messages in the form of a picture or graphic, which cannot be scanned in the same way a message can.

Another spam stopper uses a proof system. With this system, a user must first verify that he or she is a person before the E-mail is sent by solving a simple puzzle or answering a question. This system prevents **automated** spam systems from sending out mass E-mails since computers are often unable to pass the verification tests. With a proof system in place, spam no longer becomes cost effective because each E-mail would have to be individually verified by a person before it could be sent. So far, spammers have been unable to defeat proof systems, but most E-mail users are reluctant to adopt these systems because they make sending E-mails inconvenient. ■ A similar problem prevents another effective spam blocker from widespread use. ■ This system involves charging a minimal fee for each E-mail sent. ■ The fee, set at one penny, would appear as an electronic check included with the E-mail. ■ Users can choose to waive the fee if the E-mail is from a legitimate source; however, users can collect the fee from a spammer. A fee system would most likely eliminate a great deal of spam, but unfortunately many users find such a system too intrusive and inconvenient.

=> In some ways, the battles being fought over intrusive E-mails are very much an arms race. Computer engineers will continue to devise new and more sophisticated ways of blocking spam, while spammers respond with innovations of their own. It is unfortunate that the casualties in this technological war will be average E-mail users.

76. The word **proliferation** most nearly means

- (A) growth
- (B) spread
- (C) advancement
- (D) enlargement

77. In the first paragraph, the author describes spam as

- (A) a recent problem that affects millions of users
- (B) totaling more than 80 percent of E-mails sent via the Internet
- (C) a technological innovation
- (D) unwanted messages sent to a mass audience

78. In the passage, the word **abysmally** is closest in meaning to:

- (A) unknowingly
- (B) disastrously
- (C) disappointingly
- (D) extremely

79. The phrase **the program** refers to:

- (A) spam messages
- (B) random characters and numbers
- (C) a type of spam filter
- (D) common features

80. According to paragraph 4, smart filters are superior to fingerprinting systems because smart filters

- (A) are eventually able to recognize new versions of spam messages
- (B) are able to learn from their mistakes
- (C) do not need to find common features to detect spam
- (D) are not fooled by random characters or content

81. Which of the choices below best expresses the meaning of the highlighted sentence in the passage?
Incorrect answer choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- (A) Once spammers figured out how smart filters functioned, they were able to defeat them by changing words in the message.
- (B) Spammers can avoid smart filters by replacing certain letters in words or phrases with other characters.
- (C) Smart filters function by looking for words that have certain letters replaced by numbers.
- (D) A smart filter is easily defeated by spammers who are able to disguise words and phrases with numbers and characters.

82. The passage mentions all of the following as hindrances to adopting verification systems EXCEPT

- (A) user reluctance
- (B) inconvenience
- (C) ineffectiveness
- (D) violation of privacy

83. The author describes the fight over spam as an arms race because

- (A) computer engineers and spammers are constantly reacting to each other's strategies

- (B) some of the techniques used by spammers may cause harm to E-mail users
- (C) there is no peaceful solution to the problem of spam
- (D) computer engineers will never be able to completely protect against spam E-mails

84. In the final paragraph, the author implies that

- (A) most spam E-mails will eventually be blocked
- (B) E-mail users suffer the greatest costs from the fight over spam
- (C) there is no way to stop new and more sophisticated spam E-mails
- (D) the battle over spam E-mails will never end

85. Which of the following square brackets [A], [B], [C], OR [D] best indicates where in the passage the sentence “**Although a fee to send an E-mail seems an extreme solution, the fee is more of a verification device than an actual payment.**” can be inserted

- (A). [A] (B). [B] (C). [C] (D). [D]

Part 5. For questions 86 – 95, read the following passage and choose from the sections (A – E). The sections may be selected more than once. Write the letter A, B, C, D, or E in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

WORLD MUSIC REVIEWS: ARTISTS and ALBUMS

A Watcha Clan:

Diaspora Hi-Fi – A Mediterranean Caravan

The album begins with a scrambled montage of voices and Arabic strings and percussion; right away, the listener is projected into a mix of dance floor sounds. This is fusion music, dubbed and electroed. *Watcha Clan* put forward a dilemma: can diverse influences result in a harmonious whole? Or does it just end up as a mish-mash of indistinguishable sound? They certainly add a rich variety of flavours to the dominant rhythms.

Some people can’t get enough of vocalist Sista K’s unusual voice, but for others even a little is too much. Nassim Kouti sometimes accompanies her on vocals and guitar. One of these tracks is the melodic haunting ‘Ch’ilet La’Yani’. The beginning of ‘Oued El Chouli’ is equally tranquil and briefly entrances before the reggae beat takes over, powered by Moroccan castanets. The song stands out on the album because the really impressive combination of styles works so well.

B Various artists:

Nigeria Disco Funk Special

At one time, would-be artists flocked to Nigeria from all over Africa to put their very individual spin on imported music. The first number on this compilation, an instrumental by *Sahara All Stars* entitled ‘Take Your Soul’, is bravely funky and strikes just the right opening note. The next outstanding track is by the talented Johnny Haastrup, who gives a great rendition of ‘Greetings’. It is hard to understand why he never really made it as a soloist: his treatment of the song is lyrical, and this piece is both harmonic and flamboyant.

Sadly, the remaining songs are variable, and not in the same league, and you may be disappointed that they lack a truly authentic and traditional feel. Also, the material is mostly instrumental, so there are few singing stars in evidence. But despite this, the album is well worth listening to. It’s arranged in an order suitable for clubs, which is doubtless what the artists originally intended.

C Neco Novellas:

Khu Kata

[
Neco Novellas is a singer-songwriter with immense talent and imposing stage presence. His new album, *Khu Kata*, presents influences of his teenage years in Mozambique. Guest vocalist Lilian Vieira of Zuco 103 enriches the track called 'Vermelha' which is a successful mix of Brazilian samba and Mozambican pop. But with 'Phumela' things slide downhill for a while, and the lyrics of 'Swile Navo' can only be described as banal and repetitive.

He returns to form with 'The Train', which is beautifully arranged and owes an obvious debt to the Hugh Masekela songbook ('Stimela!'), but the best tracks are the uplifting 'Tikona' and 'O Sol', which truly stand out as the blend of world/jazz fusion that this artist regularly delivers. Nonetheless, *Khu Kata* would have been improved by more rigorous editing and slightly fewer tracks.

D Think of One:

Camping Shaabi

Think Of One is truly unique. Over the years, this Antwerp-based group have worked and recorded with a wide range of artists such as Afro-Brazilian percussionists and Inuit throat singers, but for this album, they return to Moroccan themes. The Moroccan effect is apparent straight away in the spellbinding rhythmic voices of the first track, 'J'étais Jetée'. And that's just for starters – the recording goes on to mix diverse sounds and types of music at an astounding speed.

The quality doesn't falter from one track to the next and each track is innovative in its own way. The vintage keyboards and Balkan-style brass section are always there, laying the foundations for the other sounds which are brought in and used around them. In a dazzling combination of Flemish, French, Arabic and English, the band's lyrics also fascinate, some having a serious tone and others being more frivolous, but a singable tune always surfaces.

In which review is the following mentioned?

86. the rapid transition from one source of inspiration to another
87. the high standards a performer is capable of in a certain style
88. the varying focus and linguistic origins of the songs
89. an opening track which impresses without vocals
90. the high standards of musicianship maintained throughout the album
91. the possible problems that can arise from relying on a multitude of sources
92. a decline in standards after some effective tracks
93. the calm atmosphere created by two tracks on the same album
94. the special contribution of a singer to a blend of sounds
95. tracks sequenced in a way that would reflect the performers' wishes

III. WRITING (5.0 points)

Part 1. Read the following extract and use your own words to summarise it. Your summary should be between 120 and 150 words.

In the face of rapid technological change and shifting global priorities, today's younger generation will need more than academic qualifications to succeed in the future workforce. While traditional

degrees remain relevant, employers are increasingly seeking adaptable individuals with critical thinking, creativity, and digital fluency. The ability to learn continuously and to apply knowledge in new contexts is now valued more than memorizing facts.

Moreover, soft skills such as emotional intelligence, communication, and collaboration are becoming key indicators of workplace success. As many jobs are automated or transformed by artificial intelligence, tasks that require human insight, empathy, and nuanced judgement will become more important. This explains the growing emphasis on interdisciplinary learning and project-based education models in many developed countries.

In addition to skills, young people need a mindset shift. The future of work is unlikely to follow a linear path; instead, it will involve multiple career transitions, freelance roles, and gig-based employment. Therefore, resilience, risk-taking, and the ability to navigate uncertainty will be essential. Cultivating a growth mindset—believing that abilities can be developed through effort and learning—is now seen as a more reliable predictor of success than raw talent alone.

Equally crucial is the awareness of global challenges. From climate change to inequality, the ability to act ethically and think systemically will determine who can lead responsibly. Employers are beginning to favor candidates who show commitment to social and environmental values, not just personal ambition. Programs that combine skill-building with service-learning, entrepreneurship, or sustainability training are growing in popularity.

Ultimately, success in the future will not depend solely on intelligence or credentials, but on a blend of adaptable skills, ethical awareness, and an attitude of lifelong learning. The next generation must prepare not only to compete, but also to contribute meaningfully to a world that demands both innovation and compassion.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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ANSWER KEY

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Part 1 and 2

1 E 2 D 3 F 4 A 5 G 6 B 7 A 8 F 9 D 10 G

Speaker 1:

I do different shifts, and ¹ *I sometimes don't come off air until ten thirty if there's a big game on.* I get a real buzz out of getting ready – going through my scripts and getting my make-up and hair done. Of course however prepared you are, you don't know what's going to happen in a live event. ⁶ *Sometimes if there's extra time in a match we have to change the planned running order of a programme.* That can be terrifying on live television. With a studio full of people I'm on my own at that point. I also sometimes interview people live and pride myself on being able to get the best out of them even if they are tired.

Speaker 2:

I work mainly on documentaries and most days are office-based but the work fascinates me. ² *A lot of time is spent on the phone getting the background for stories, and producing detailed briefs for producers.* Sometimes I'm struggling to find the right interviewee, and other times ⁷ *I have too many and then I have to tell someone I'm not able to use them after all – and deal with their disappointment.* That can be hard. I do get out and about though. If I'm working on a live production I'll give advice and support to the presenters during a broadcast. That sounds exotic but in fact it means a lot of hanging around.

Speaker 3:

I work on soap operas so ³ *I need to make everything look as natural as possible. It's not like working in a theatre where everything has to be very bright.* I'm part of a team responsible for planning a set and I operate the equipment which has become more and more complex over the years. ⁸ *I have to make sure I make the most of the new technology as it's available.* Sometimes when you've got used to doing things a certain way that can be annoying. I'll never be a millionaire, but no two days are the same, and there's usually a great atmosphere around production sets.

Speaker 4:

I love working in TV as I get a really wide brief. ⁴ *It can take several hours to make someone look twenty years older than they really are or make them look unwell* and some of the jobs I get are pretty demanding. The real challenge of that is sitting with the same actor for a long period of time. Sometimes we have a really good chat and sometimes we don't say much but ⁹ *there are actors who use it as a chance to go over everything that's going wrong in their lives* and I'm stuck then. It can get a bit too much. But nothing beats the satisfaction of the actor looking in the mirror and saying 'Wow'.

Speaker 5:

Although my job is hard work, it's great fun and very fulfilling. ¹⁰ *Sadly though, in my line of business, we always end up at the bottom of the credits at the end of a TV programme,* even though a production wouldn't get anywhere without us! ⁵ *To do my job, you need to have a good ear and be able to pick out any undesirable noise.* I've also had to learn to be very patient. Most of my time is spent standing around waiting for decisions to be made. That doesn't bother me – I'm glad it's up to the producer to get the whole thing to come together – I wouldn't want that job!

Part 3

1 D 2 A 3 B 4 B 5 D

Interviewer: Welcome. Today we're looking at careers in some of the more risky professions. My guests are Sarah Jessops and Peter Cavalli. They both work in an air and sea rescue team. Peter, let me ask you first. What made you want to do this job?

Peter: I actually started training as a doctor but I'm a very outdoors kind of person and I got this chance to learn to be a helicopter pilot. I've been able to use my medical skills but that doesn't really give me an advantage. We all get excellent training in the practical and medical stuff but what is emphasised over and over again is ¹ *cooperation with the rest of the crew*.

Sarah: Yeah – it all has to work like clockwork with everyone respecting each other so if anyone thinks they know more than the rest or wants to give out instructions the whole operation falls apart. And if you feel stressed, as we all do sometimes because we don't know what we're going into, we have to hide it or it might put the others off.

Interviewer: So how does a typical rescue begin?

Peter: Well there isn't really a typical rescue but they all start with a call to the office and we have just 15 minutes to check out our route and equipment to make sure we're ready for any eventuality. We're well prepared for whatever we might find out there but ² *our real enemy is the climatic conditions*. That's what affects how straightforward a rescue will be as a storm can change drastically from when the call comes through to when we get there. Most rescues take place within 20 miles of the shore so our journey time isn't usually too long. But we did a rescue last week which was much further out in the North Sea, and much harder to locate.

Sarah: Yes, it was quite a large boat with six people on board and they'd crossed from England to Holland in fine weather. When they were ready to come back, the forecast said the wind was going to change direction and a storm would develop but conditions would only change slowly. So they were well aware of that but set off with the sea as calm as a pond. ³ *They reckoned they'd get back with time to spare but they hadn't thought it through properly. They'd foolishly based their timing on the outward journey and*, with the more challenging conditions which developed, they got into trouble halfway back.

Interviewer: It must be hard flying the helicopter in a storm like that?

Peter:

We're used to it. One reason why helicopters are used in sea rescues is that, unlike planes which have to circle round and round, they can hover above the scene, hardly moving. That's why they're also suited to rescues inland or from rocky cliff faces when any other form of transport would be very tricky. ⁴ *You've probably noticed the noise a helicopter makes though and when we're trying to rescue someone however much we shout, they often can't hear us* and the helicopter increases the wind chill factor too. We're all right as we're prepared but those in the water under us can get even colder than they already are.

Interviewer:

What about the people you're rescuing? Do they always do what you ask?

Sarah:

Mostly. They're usually so pleased to see us that they follow instructions even if what we're asking them to do looks quite scary. In fact, they calm down when we get there as we're in charge and they don't have to worry any more. But some people then forget about the danger they're in and start trying to save all their possessions. ⁵ *They try to carry far too much with them instead of concentrating on saving themselves*. That's crazy as it puts us all at risk even though they don't realise it.

Interviewer:

So will you both carry on in this job?

Sarah:

I can't imagine giving it up.

Peter:

Well, I think I've gone as far as I can – there isn't anywhere else to go apart from an office job. ⁶ *So I'm going to move inland and broaden my experience by joining a mountain rescue team. It's just as challenging and what I've learnt from sea rescues is very relevant there.* And I've been taking lots of extra courses and I might become a trainer one day but that's not on the cards just yet.

Part 4 (Questions 16-25)

- 16. call centre
 - 17. inconclusive
 - 18. methodology / methods
 - 19. unequal
 - 20. female / women
 - 21. response
 - 22. control
 - 23. sample / group
 - 24. their / other colleagues
 - 25. confidential
-

Audioscript – Part 4

Narrator:

You will hear a postgraduate psychology student talking to other students about a job-satisfaction study he has investigated. Before you listen, you have some time to look at Questions 31–40. Now listen, and answer Questions 31–40.

Student:

Good morning everyone. For my presentation today I'm going to report on an assignment that I did recently. My brief was to analyse the methods used in a small study about job satisfaction, and then to make recommendations for future studies of a similar kind.

The study that I looked at had investigated the relationship between differences in gender and differences in working hours, and levels of job satisfaction amongst workers. For this purpose, employees at a **call centre** had been asked to complete a questionnaire about their work.

I'll summarise the findings of that study briefly now. First of all, female full-time workers reported slightly higher levels of job satisfaction than male full-time workers. Secondly, female part-time workers reported slightly higher levels of satisfaction than female full-time ones did. On the other hand, male part-time workers experienced slightly less job satisfaction than male full-time workers. But although these results seemed interesting, and capable of being explained, perhaps the most important thing to mention here is that in statistical terms they were **inconclusive**.

Personally, I was surprised that the findings hadn't been more definite, because I would have expected to find that men and women as well as full and part-time workers would experience different levels of satisfaction. So I then looked more carefully at the **methodology** employed by the researchers, to see where there may have been problems. This is what I found.

First of all, the size of the sample was probably too small. The overall total of workers who took part in the survey was two hundred twenty-three, which sounds quite a lot, but they had to be divided up into sub-groups. Also the numbers in the different sub-groups were **unequal**. For example, there were one hundred fifty-four workers in the full-time group, but only sixty-nine in the part-time group. And amongst this part-time group, only **ten** were male, compared to fifty-nine who were **female**.

Secondly, although quite a large number of people had been asked to take part in the survey, the **response** was disappointingly low – a lot of them just ignored the invitation. And workers who did respond may have differed in important respects from those who didn't. Thirdly, as the questionnaires had been posted to the call centre for distribution, the researchers had had very limited **control** over the conditions in which participants completed them. For instance, their responses to questions may have been influenced by the views of their colleagues. All these problems may have biased the results.

Student:

In the last part of my assignment I made recommendations for a similar study, attempting to remove the problems that I've just mentioned.

Firstly, a much larger **sample** should be targeted, and care should be taken to ensure that equal numbers of both genders, and both full and part-time workers, are surveyed. Secondly, the researchers should be present to administer the questionnaires to the workers themselves. And they should require the workers to complete the questionnaire under supervised conditions, so that the possibility of influence from **other colleagues** is eliminated. Finally, as workers may be unwilling to provide details of their job satisfaction when they are on work premises, it's important that the researchers reassure them that their responses will remain **confidential**, and also that they have the right to withdraw from the study at any time if they want to. By taking measures like these, the reliability of the responses to the questionnaires is likely to be increased, and any comparisons that are made are likely to be more valid.

So that was a summary of my assignment. Does anyone have any questions?

Narrator: *That is the end of Section 4. You now have half a minute to check your answers.*

II. READING

II.1. LANGUAGE IN USE

Part 1.

- 26. A. facilitated
- 27. B. whose
- 28. B. solve
- 29. A. non-negotiable
- 30. A. are accompanied
- 31. D. can only
- 32. B. in its infancy

33. C. align
 34. A. breakthrough
 35. C. educate

Part 2.

36. pre-dates
 37. unknown
 38. inconclusive
 39. entitled
 40. representative

Part 3.

	Mistakes	Corrections
Q36	Are	is
Q37	Which	that
Q38	Enable	unable
Q39	Forming	form
Q40	Innumeros	innumerable

II.2. READING COMPREHENSION

Part 1. Stoicism Passage (Questions 46–55):

No.	Answer	Explanation
46	founded	"Stoicism, founded by..." – correct verb for establishing a movement or school.
47	went	"went about explaining..." – common phrasal structure meaning "began doing."
48	that	"desires that made them unhappy" – relative pronoun introducing a defining clause.
49	themselves	"happiness within themselves" – reflexive pronoun for "men" (people in general).
50	still	"so long as happiness still depended..." – reinforces that the condition remained true.
51	to	"is said to have died..." – fixed structure after "is said."
52	from	"died from laughing" – standard preposition following "died" + cause.
53	valued	"Release from fear and worry was also valued." – logical verb for Stoic ideals.
54	as	"perceived as potentially painful" – fixed collocation "perceived as."

No.	Answer	Explanation
55	It	Refers to the whole idea in the previous sentence: "It was the pursuit of success..."

Part 2. Disappearing into Africa

From Dark Star Safari by Paul Theroux

56. *The author had previously spent several decades working in urban areas of Africa.*

Answer: F (False)

Explanation: The author says: "There I had lived and worked, happily, almost forty years ago, in the heart of the greenest continent." He refers to the **bundu**, the bush, not urban areas.

57. *The local people the author lived among were full of optimism despite having very little.*

Answer: T (True)

Explanation: The author writes: "They were hopeful, and so was I..." even though they lived in "mud huts among dusty trees and parched fields."

58. *The author believes that safaris were originally created for hunting wild animals.*

Answer: F (False)

Explanation: The text says the **opposite**: "The Swahili word safari means 'journey', it has nothing to do with animals..."

59. *One reason the author wanted to travel was to avoid being constantly contacted by others.*

Answer: T (True)

Explanation: He describes wanting to escape from constant availability: "I desired to be unobtainable... no phones, no Internet... being far away."

60. *The author's routine life at home made him feel safe and relaxed.*

Answer: F (False)

Explanation: He says: "Home had become a routine... I was a sitting duck... a mode of life I hated." indicating discomfort, not relaxation.

61. *The author's friends reacted to his departure as if he were facing a life-threatening illness.*

Answer: T (True)

Explanation: "Say you're leaving for a dangerous place and your friends call sympathetically, as though you've caught a serious illness that might prove fatal."

62-69

No.	Answer	Explanation
62	antique hinterland	"...to wander the antique hinterland . There I had lived and worked..."
63	hope and comedy	"...it contained many untold tales and some hope and comedy and sweetness too..."
64	out of touch	"...someone 'on safari' is just away and unobtainable and out of touch ."
65	revenge on modernity	"Travel is a sort of revenge for having been put on hold..." (<i>also supported later by "revenge on mobile phones and email"</i>)
66	domestic routines	"...my domestic life... Mr Paul at home every evening... The writer in his apron..." (<i>implies regular domestic chores</i>)
	earshot of the phone	"...The writer in his apron, perspiring over his béchamel sauce, always

No.	Answer	Explanation
		within earshot of the telephone. ”
67	sympathetic calls	“...your friends call sympathetically , as though you’ve caught a serious illness...”
68	preview of death	“...a heartening preview of what my own demise would be like. ”

Part 3.

70G 71C 72F 73B 74A 75E

Part 4.

76B 77D 78D 79C 80A 81B 82C 83A 84B 85D

Part 5.

86D 87C 88D 89B 90D 91A 92B 93A 94C 95B

III. WRITING

Students’ own answers