



LANGUAGE CENTRE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND STUDY SKILLS
MATURE AGE ENGLISH TEST
2017
QUESTION PAPER A
TOTAL MARKS: [___]/50]
TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

Follow the instructions very carefully

Encircling more than one letter for a question will invalidate it.

Answer ALL questions.

Name of Student:

Student Number/ID number:

Please DO NOT TURN OVER THE PAGE until the examiner gives instructions.

Question 1: Language

Read the following passage carefully, and then encircle the letter to the correct answer from the options given.

Swakopmund hostel unfit for habitation.

Teachers and caretakers of hostels and schools at the coastal town of Swakopmund have expressed their deep concern about the dilapidated state of some schools and hostels at the coastal town. They voiced their concerns at 1. ____ meeting held on Tuesday this week by the Swakopmund constituency councillor, Juuso Kambeushe.

Teachers and principals at West Side High School said that not only are schools and hostels overcrowded, but in such a poor state that they consider many of them a health and safety risk 2. ____ learners and teachers.

Werner Waal, the principal of Namib Primary School and manager of Hofmeyer hostel, said the facility was in such a terrible state the Ministry of Health and Social Services 3. ____ already declared it unfit. "However, the school remains open because we have nowhere else where we can 4. ____ these learners, as many of them don't have relatives in Swakopmund," he said.

The hostel caters for about 100 learners from various schools. The principal of Atlantic Junior Secondary School in Swakopmund, Emma Ipinge, also said her school was a safety risk because the schools ceilings started falling off many years ago.

"We are deeply concerned about our schools and the condition they are in. The ceilings are falling off, whilst the walls and tiles are cracked, 5. despite the fact the school might look good from the outside," she explained.

She said the situation 6. ____ worse when it is misty or rainy. "This is really not a conducive environment for the learners. We are really appealing not only to the government, but to the business community to assist us, as renovations are very costly and the schools 7. ____ have the necessary funds for renovations," she added.

The head of department for upper primary at Hanganeni Primary School, Dennis Muesee, said that 8. ^{the} school's bathrooms also need renovation as almost all the bathrooms and toilets were not in 9. ^{working} order.

"The school was built to cater for 300 learners, but the school currently 10. ^{has} 933 learners so it is clear these facilities are under strain and not necessarily because of vandalism," he said.

(Albertina Nakale: New Era Newspaper)

Now encircle the best answer to correct the sentences.

1.

A. a B. an C. the D. any

2.

A. about B. for C. at D. in

3.

A. had B. has C. have D. are having

4.

A. accommodate B. accomodate C. acommodate D. acomodate

5.

A. despite B. However C. As a result D. Beacuse

6.

A. became B. becomes C. become D. was becoming

7.

A. do not B. do C. does not D. does

8.

A. there B. them C. their D. us

9.

A. working B. work C. walk D. walking

10.

A. has B. is having C. have D. are having

(10/10)

2 1/2

QUESTION 2 COMPREHENSION

Read the passage below. Answer the multiple choice questions that follow. Encircle the letter of the correct answer.

The Alaska pipeline starts at the frozen edge of the Arctic Ocean. It stretches southward across the largest and northernmost state in the United States, ending at a remote ice-free seaport village nearly 800 miles from where it begins. It is massive in size and extremely complicated to operate.

The steel pipe crosses windswept plains and endless miles of delicate tundra that tops the frozen ground. It weaves through crooked canyons, climbs sheer mountains, plunges over rocky crags, makes its way through thick forests, and passes over or under hundreds of rivers and streams. The pipe is 4 feet in diameter, and up to 2 million barrels (or 84 million gallons) of crude oil can be pumped through it daily.

Supported
Resting on H-shaped steel racks called "bents," long sections of the pipeline follow a zigzag course high above the frozen earth. Other long sections drop out of sight beneath spongy or rocky ground and return to the surface later on. The pattern of the pipeline's up-and-down route is determined by the often harsh demands of the arctic and subarctic climate, the tortuous lay of the land, and the varied compositions of soil, rock, or permafrost (permanently frozen ground). A little more than half of the pipeline is elevated above the ground. The remainder is buried anywhere from 3 to 12 feet, depending largely upon the type of terrain and the properties of the soil.

One of the largest in the world, the pipeline cost approximately \$8 billion and is by far the biggest and most expensive construction project ever **undertaken** by private industry. In fact, no single business could raise that much money, so 8 major oil companies formed a consortium in order to share the costs. Each company controlled oil rights to **particular** shares of land in the oil fields and paid into the pipeline-construction fund according to the size of its holdings. Today, despite enormous problems of climate, supply shortages, equipment breakdowns, labor disagreements, treacherous terrain, a certain amount of mismanagement, and even theft, the Alaska pipeline has been completed and is operating.

(Accessed on 13 March 2017 from <http://englishforeveryone.org/Topics/Reading-Comprehension.htm>)

Now encircle the best answer to correct the sentences.

Questions

1. The passage primarily discusses the pipeline's

- A. . operating costs
- B. . employees
- C. . consumers
- D. . construction

2. The word "it" in line 3 refers to

- ☒ A. . pipeline
- B. . ocean
- C. . state
- D. . village

3. According to the passage, 84 million gallons of oil can travel through the pipeline each

- ☒ A. . day
- B. . week
- C. . month
- D. . year

4. The phrase "Resting on" in line 10 is closest in meaning to

- A. . Consisting of
- ☒ B. . Supported by
- C. . Passing under
- D. . Protected with

5. The author mentions all of the following as important in determining the pipeline's route EXCEPT the

- A. . climate
- B. . lay of the land itself
- C. . local vegetation
- D. . kind of soil and rock

6. The word "undertaken" in line 19 is closest in meaning to

- A. . removed
- ☒ B. . selected
- ☒ C. . transported
- D. . attempted

7. How many companies shared the costs of constructing the pipeline?

- A. . 3
- B. . 4
- ☒ C. . 8
- D. . 12

600
1200

8. The word "particular" in line 21 is closest in meaning to

- A. . peculiar
- B. . specific
- C. . exceptional
- D. . equal

9. Which of the following determined what percentage of the construction costs each member of the consortium would pay?

- A. . How much oil field land each company owned
- B. . How long each company had owned land in the oil fields
- C. . How many people worked for each company
- D. . How many oil wells were located on the company's land

10. Where in the passage does the author provide a term for an earth covering that always remains frozen?

- A. . Line 3
- B. . Line 14
- C. . Line 19
- D. . Line 32

(___/10)

Question 3: CRITICAL THINKING

Read the following passage, and then follow the instructions.

Tools of Persuasion

Persuasion is the art of convincing someone to agree with your point of view. According to the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle, there are three basic tools of persuasion: ethos, pathos, and logos.

Ethos is a speaker's way of convincing the audience that she is a credible source. An audience will consider a speaker credible if she seems trustworthy, reliable and sincere. This can be done in many ways. For example, a speaker can develop ethos by explaining how much experience or education she has in the field. After all, you would be more likely to listen to advice about how to take care of your teeth from a dentist than a firefighter. A speaker can also create ethos by convincing the audience that she is a good person who has their best interest at heart. If an audience cannot trust you, you will not be able to persuade them.

Pathos is a speaker's way of connecting with the audience's emotions. For example, a speaker who is trying to convince an audience to vote for him might say that he alone can save the country from a terrible war. These words are intended to fill the audience with fear, thus making them want to vote for him. Similarly, a charity organisation that helps animals might show an audience pictures of injured dogs and cats. These images are intended to fill the viewer with pity. If the audience feels bad for the animals, they will be more likely to donate money.

Logos is the use of facts, information, statistics, or other evidence to make your argument more convincing. An audience will be more likely to believe you if you have data to back up your claims. For example, a commercial for soap might tell you that laboratory tests have shown that their soap kills all 7 000 000 of the bacteria living on your hands right now. This piece of information might make you more likely to buy their brand of soap. Presenting this evidence is much more convincing than simply saying "our soap is the best!" Use of logos can also increase a speaker's ethos; the more facts a speaker includes in his argument, the more likely you are to think that he is educated and trustworthy.

Although ethos, pathos, and logos all have their strengths, they are often most effective when they are used together. Indeed, most speakers use a combination of ethos, pathos, and logos to persuade the audiences. The next time you listen to a speech, watch a commercial, or listen to a friend try to convince you to lend him some money, be on the lookout for these ancient Greek tools of persuasion.

(Read Theory LLC, 2012)

Read the passage below. Answer the multiple choice questions that follow. Now encircle the letter of the correct answer.

1. As used in paragraph 2, what is the best *antonym* for credible? Syn

- ☒ A. Unintelligent
- ☐ B. Boring
- ☐ C. Dishonest
- ☐ D. Amazing

2. Amy is trying to convince her mother to buy her a pair of N\$500 shoes. She says: "Mom, the shoes I have are really old and ugly. If I don't get these new shoes, everyone at school is going to laugh at me. I will be so embarrassed that I will want to die."

What form of persuasion is Amy using here?

- ☐ A. pathos
- ☐ B. ethos
- ☐ C. logos
- ☒ D. a combination of ethos, pathos and logos

3. According to the passage, logos can build ethos because

- ☐ A. an audience is more easily convinced by facts and information than simple appeals to emotions like pity or fear
- ☐ B. an audience is more likely to trust a speaker who uses evidence to support his argument
- ☐ C. a speaker who overuses pathos might make an audience too emotional; audiences who are too frightened or sad are unlikely to be persuaded
- ☐ D. a speaker can use misleading or false information to make his argument seem more convincing

4. Gareth is running for mayor. He tells his audience: " Under our current mayor, there have been 15 000 new cases of unemployment. If he stays in office, who knows how many more people will lose their jobs? The number could go even higher. When I was the CEO of Midas, I helped to create over 1 000"new jobs. I can do the same thing for this city if you vote for me."

Which form of persuasion is gareth using here?

- A. pathos
- B. pathos and logos
- C. logos and ethos
- D. pathos, logos and ethos

5. According to the passage, the most effective tool of persuasion is

- A. Ethos
- B. Logos
- C. A combination of ethos, pathos and logos
- D. pathos

(___/5)

QUESTION 4 MAIN IDEAS and SUMMARY

Read the following passage, and then follow the instructions.

A man was sitting with his feet up on a desk. He turned his head when Stanley and the guard entered, but otherwise didn't move. Even though he was inside, he wore sunglasses and a cowboy hat. He also held a can of cream soda, and the sight of it made Stanley even more aware of his own thirst.

He waited while the bus guard gave the man some papers to sign. "That's a lot of sunflower seeds," the bus guard said. Stanley noticed a burlap sack filled with sunflower seeds on the floor next to the desk. "I quit smoking last month," said the man in the cowboy hat. He had a tattoo of a rattlesnake on his arm, and as he signed his name, the snake's rattle seemed to wiggle. "I used to smoke a pack a day. Now I eat a sack of these every week."

'Holes' - Louis Sachar, page 12

1. What is strange about the appearance of the man described in the first paragraph?

- A He is barefoot and wearing no shirt.
- B He is a bus guard.
- ☒ C. He is wearing sunglasses and a cowboy hat even though he is indoors.

2. What piece of evidence tells us that Stanley has not had a drink for several hours.

- A. Stanley notices 'a burlap sack filled with sunflower seeds'
- ☒ B. Seeing the can of cream soda makes Stanley 'even more aware of his own thirst.'
- C. The man in the cowboy hat says he 'quit smoking last month'.

3. Why does the man have a sack of sunflower seeds nearby?

- A. He's a gardener.
- ☒ B. The man gave up smoking in the previous month and finds that chewing sunflower seeds helps him.
- B. He really likes sunflower seeds so he buys them in bulk

Read this extract and then answer the question. . Now encircle the letter of the correct answer.

This was the worst nightmare yet. He was standing with his back pressed against a smooth wall cold as ice. The cold nibbled at his buttocks and legs; it ran up and down the knobbles of his spine, making him shiver; it invaded his lungs so he could hardly breathe; he felt he had been shivering a long time.

His head was drooping as if it weighed a ton, but it was held up by a sharp band around his throat that was almost choking him. He tried to reach up and tear the band away, but there were sharp bands round his wrists as well. He tried to move his feet, but there were more cold, sharp bands around his ankles.

'Urn Burial' - Robert Westall

What is the best summary of this extract? Now encircle the letter of the correct answer.

3.

- A. A description of a man who has captured someone
- ☒ B. A description of the experience of a captured man
- C. An explanation of prison life

Read this extract and then answer the question.

The two lions lay on their backs in the shade of the acacia tree, their massive paws limp and relaxed. We had been watching them for 20 minutes when the male slowly stood up, stretched, and padded over to a clearing. He began to roar. It was a deep, heart-stopping roar which echoed along the ancient African valley. It was an announcement that he, Raffi, had arrived and it was his territory now. Slowly he turned to his mate and lay peacefully beside her. It was quiet once more.

It was a dramatic contrast to my first encounter with them on a Tenerife rooftop in 1994. That image of two thin, grubby lions pacing back and forth in their tiny cage is forever etched on my memory. The corrugated iron roof turned the cage into an oven. Without a water bowl in sight, the only features in the cage were an old rubbish bin and narrow sleeping shelves with nails sticking out. For five years Raffi and Anthea had mentally survived in these conditions - how? I never believed I would one day see them in their ancestral home.

'Fly Away Home' - Tricia Holford

4. What is the best summary of this extract? Now encircle the letter of the correct answer.

- A A description of lions in captivity
- B A description of lions in their habitat
- C A description of lions in two habitats, natural and captive

(___/5)

TOTAL[___/30]

Question 5 Essay

Write an essay of not more than 250 words on ONE of the following topics.

- 1) Dangerous games
- 2) An ideal institution of higher learning
- 3) Fashion
- 4) The greatest lessons I have learnt in life.
- 5) The day the taxi drivers went on strike
- 6) Crime does not pay

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.

[]/20 marks]