

**MOCK EXAM**

**NB!** Please be aware that while the tasks included in this test are representative of the types of questions you can expect to encounter on the actual exam, the number of questions may vary.

**TASK 1**

I. For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0). Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Example:

0.      A measure                      B consider                      C regard                      D notice

**Beauty is in the eye of the beholder**

People have been debating the principles of beauty for thousands of years, but it still seems impossible to (0)\_\_\_\_\_ it objectively. German philosopher Immanuel Kant (1) \_\_\_\_\_ whether something can possess an objective property that makes it beautiful. He concluded that although everyone accepts that beauty exists, no one has ever (2) \_\_\_\_\_ on the precise criteria by which beauty may be (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Symmetry may have some significance. It has been proved to be attractive to the human (4) \_\_\_\_\_, in general, so perhaps a face may seem beautiful because of the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ between its two sides. Studies have shown that babies spend more time looking at symmetrical faces than asymmetrical ones and symmetry has also been (6) \_\_\_\_\_ as more attractive by adults looking at a series of photos. So although there seems to be no universal consensus on what (7) \_\_\_\_\_ beauty, there is at least an understanding that facial symmetry is an important (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

In the meantime, if you look at your partner and (9) \_\_\_\_\_ them as beautiful, you can (10) \_\_\_\_\_ yourself with the thought that people generally end up with a partner of a comparable level of attractiveness as themselves.

- |    |            |                |              |               |
|----|------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. | A. argued  | B. decided     | C. suggested | D. questioned |
| 2. | A. thought | B. agreed      | C. fixed     | D. written    |
| 3. | A. judged  | B. appreciated | C. awarded   | D. viewed     |

## TASK 2

I. You are going to read an extract from a magazine article. Six paragraphs have been removed from the extract. Choose from the paragraphs A-G the one which best fits each gap (1-6). There is one extra paragraph that you do not need to use.

### The story of the lamb-plant

According to a recent survey, 70 percent of ten-year olds living in Scotland's big cities think that cotton comes from sheep. It's easy enough to mistake the soft white stuff sold in fluffy balls in plastic bags at the local chemist's shop or supermarket with the curly stuff on a sheep's back, especially when the only sheep you've seen are in books or on TV.

1. Rumours had first begun to circulate way back in the Middle Ages. The borametz, also known as the 'lamb-plant', was said to exist in Tartary, a far-away land stretching across Eastern Europe and Asia. None of those who told the various tales had actually seen it, but they'd always met men who had.

2. The man responsible for spreading the story in Britain was John Mandeville, a knight of England who left home in 1322, and for the next 34 years travelled about the world to many diverse countries. His account of what he saw was the medieval equivalent of a bestseller, and was translated into every European language. He wrote that he too had seen a type of fruit that when opened, proved to contain a small white creature that looked in every way to be a lamb.

3. This was apparently proof enough for Mandeville and those who passed on the story. With each telling, the story gained new details and greater credibility. But in the 16th and 17th centuries, people learned more about the world and its inhabitants. As doubts crept in, more sceptical travellers set out in search of the mysterious lamb of Tartary.

4. And so it went on. As soon as anyone voiced doubts, someone else popped up with new 'evidence' of the lamb's existence. In 1605, Frenchman Claude Duret devoted a whole chapter of a book on plants to the borametz. But then, 80 years later, the great traveller Engelbrecht Kaempfer went east looking for it. He found nothing but ordinary sheep. The number of believers was dwindling, and in London the renowned scientific academy, the Royal Society, decided it was time to 'kill off' the borametz for good.

5. This, the Society reckoned, was what had started the ancient rumours. They proclaimed it to be a 'specimen' of a borametz, in fact. Hans Sloane, founder of the British Museum, described the specimen in a contemporary publication: it was made from the root of a tree fern, had four legs and a head and seemed to be shaped by nature to imitate a lamb. The four-footed fake also had 'wool' of a dark golden yellow. Despite this discrepancy in the colour of its fleece, the Royal Society considered the case closed.

6. The answer was there all along in the writings of ancient travellers. While researching his book *Sea Monsters Unmasked*, the observant Henry Lee kept coming across detailed descriptions of plants that sounded far more like the prototype borometz. The Royal Society, Lee decided, had failed to spot the obvious connection and had settled for something so unlikely it had to be wrong. What so many had imagined to be a mythical animal in fact turned out to be ordinary cotton.

Example: 6 - A

A. *And so it was, more or less, for 180 years. Then a little known naturalist pointed out that their so-called 'original' lamb-plant was a false clue. There was, however, a plant that had almost certainly given rise to the notion of the borometz. – 6*

B. There's certainly doubt as to whether this was based on first-hand experience, but the contemporary guidebooks were certainly available. A few years earlier, a monk who came from

C. a monastery near Padua, wrote that 'there grow fruits, which when they are ripe and open, display a little beast much like a young lamb'. He claimed he had heard this from reliable sources.

## TASK 3

I. For questions 1-10, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and six words, including the word given. Here is an example (0).

Example:

0. As he continued to listen to the speech, Richard became increasingly sleepy.

**SLEEPY**

The more Richard listened to the speech, THE SLEEPYER HE became.

1. Although we booked a table, it wasn't necessary because the restaurant was empty. **NEED**  
There was \_\_\_\_\_ made a reservation because the restaurant was empty.

2. John resigned because he wants to travel, not because he wants a new job. **DO**  
John's resignation is \_\_\_\_\_ desire to travel than wanting a new job.

3. Albert's wife said he had to start being interested in their children's lives. **TIME**  
Albert's wife said \_\_\_\_\_ an interest in their children's lives.

## TASK 4

I. For questions 1-15, read the text below and think of the word which fits best each space. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example:

0. WOULD

### Too late to learn?

After I had fallen over for the eighth time in 25 minutes, I realized I (0) \_\_\_\_\_ not be able to teach myself to ski. I had fallen forwards, backwards and to both sides. I had landed on my wrists, arms, knees, thighs and shoulders and it seemed (1) \_\_\_\_\_ were no new ways left to fall, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ I got in the way of other learners and (3) knocked down by someone else. I asked a friend (4) \_\_\_\_\_ I could do to improve my technique. 'Stop crashing into things,' she said, at (5) \_\_\_\_\_ point I gave up. I tucked my skis under one arm, dropped them, tucked them under the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and stomped home through the snow in my very uncomfortable snow boots. (7) \_\_\_\_\_ my anger, I booked a lesson with an instructor called Jane who was surprised that a 37-year-old could live life (8) \_\_\_\_\_ no co-ordination. It was (9) \_\_\_\_\_ disability that meant my first lesson was wildly unsuccessful. The difference (10) \_\_\_\_\_ skiing and sliding out of control down a steep hill is (11) \_\_\_\_\_ ability to 'snowplough', meaning that you have to position the skis in an open V-shape with the apex parallel to your nose. If you (12) \_\_\_\_\_ make a snowplough, you simply aren't going to stop. I found (13) \_\_\_\_\_ impossible to turn my feet to the correct angle, and when I finally (14) \_\_\_\_\_ make a V-shape, it was (15) \_\_\_\_\_ wide I could not move out of it! Jane was unimpressed.

## TASK 5

I. For questions 1-10, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example:

0. EXHIBITION

### Community Centre Summer Events

June 3rd sees the opening of an incredible (0) \_\_\_\_\_ of **0. EXHIBIT** photographs by professional photographer and local (1) \_\_\_\_\_, **1. RESIDE**

John Taylor. In the 50 years that John has been taking photographs, he has amassed a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ fascinating record of village life. The show is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ *History Through The Lens* and includes nostalgic portraits of local people and hypnotic images of the landscape. There is also a section on (4) \_\_\_\_\_ important events which is equally fascinating.

2. VISION

3. TITLE

4. HISTORY

Another upcoming event is a book reading by author Maria Treadway. You may know Maria as a children's writer, but over the last three years she has (5) \_\_\_\_\_ into adult fiction. Her novels, all set in the 17th century, are both entertaining and highly (6) \_\_\_\_\_. Maria has often admitted in the past to being a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ and she carries out extensive research before she writes. On June 9th, she will be reading from her latest novel *The Last Key*, which is (8) \_\_\_\_\_ her best work to date. This is a really (9) \_\_\_\_\_ evening so be sure to book well in advance! (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to both events is \$10 for adults and free for pensioners.

5. DIVERSE

6. INFORM

7. PERFECT

8. ARGUE

9. MISS

10. ADMIT

## WRITING

Choose **ONE** of the following topics:

1. Write an **argumentative essay** on the topic: Should affluent nations be required to share their wealth among poorer nations by providing such things as food and education? Or is it the responsibility of the governments of poorer nations to look after their citizens themselves?
2. Write an **article** on the following topic: Our ability to make decisions about the future can be affected by a fear of things we do not know or fully understand.

Words: 200 - 220