



2023

Stage 2

Level B2

Name _____

Time

Listening: 30 minutes

Reading and Writing: 1 hour

Answer all questions.

Use black ball-point pen.

on your answer sheet.

Do NOT use pencil or correction fluid.

At the end of the test the supervisor will collect your paper and answer sheets.

Instructions may also be given in your language by your supervisor.

Good luck!

▪ Listening ▪

Listening Part 1

Questions 1-5

You will hear five people talking in different situations.

Choose **A, B, C** or **D**

- 1 What do we understand from Speaker one?
 - A) That Simon is rude
 - B) That he did really share her enthusiasm for the shoes
 - C) She decided not to respond
 - D) It was inappropriate of Simon not to comment on her shoes

- 2 Based on what speaker two says, which of the following isn't true?
 - A) He is sure of what he saw
 - B) The psychologist made a relatively good impression on him
 - C) His friends and family reacted in a dismissive manner
 - D) He did not easily recover from the experience

- 3 We can infer from what speaker three says that _____.
 - A) they felt they could have been victims to some sinister plan
 - B) seeing the old town left them shaken and traumatized
 - C) they couldn't believe people didn't know about the secret of the old town
 - D) everybody in the old town knew what was going on

- 4 What does speaker four imply?
 - A) That by not eliminating some daily activities we will increase our stress
 - B) That if you want a simpler life, cut out the activities she mentions
 - C) Reducing time spent on social media would give her time for other activities
 - D) Social media impacts her feed and meal times

- 5 What can we conclude from listening to speaker five?
 - A) That he knew he was cursed when he woke up
 - B) He is reluctant to believe that he is not cursed
 - C) That the universe had conspired against him
 - D) His father wasn't trying to help

▪ Listening ▪

Listening Part 2

Questions 6-10

You will hear a model named Carmen talking about what makes a person beautiful.
Choose **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**

- 6 According to Carmen _____.
- A) physical appearance plays the major role in beauty
 - B) beauty lies in having confidence and a high regard for physical appearance
 - C) believing in yourself is the most important key to beauty
 - D) people with charm have confidence and are therefore beautiful
- 7 Which of the following is not stated as playing a role in beauty?
- A) Physical appearance
 - B) Uniqueness
 - C) Having symmetrical features
 - D) Being sincere and real
- 8 How can a person show inner beauty?
- A) By making sure they are kind and have symmetrical features
 - B) By self-talk and by letting it shine through
 - C) Inner beauty is something that cannot be seen
 - D) By the way the person conducts themselves
- 9 What could we conclude from Carmen's talk?
- A) There is beauty in everything
 - B) We should recognize and acknowledge the beauty in each person
 - C) Inner beauty makes a person more beautiful than outer appearance
 - D) Everyone can learn how to be beautiful
- 10 What can we assume someone might say after listening to Carmen?

A

I really didn't think that she was so beautiful.

C

I need to reassess my negative views regarding my appearance.

B

She didn't tell us how others can be more beautiful.

D

I think it's rude of her to talk about beautiful people like that.

Turn to the next page.

▪ Part 3 ▪

Questions 11-20

Complete the gaps in the text. Choose **A, B, C** or **D**

Why Conspiracy Theorists Think Like They Do

In his new book *'How the Mind of a Conspiracy Theorist Works'* Josh Lawless expresses his much-debated views.

'The mind of a conspiracy theorist was made up long before they came (11) _____ their favourite conspiracy. They decided long ago that the establishment was (12) _____ and that they were going to oppose it and then chose a rationale that was a conspiracy theory. All this, just because it (13) _____ in with what they wanted to be true.

After a very short (14) _____ period, the conspiracy theorist begins to identify himself with the conspiracy theory. If the theory is wrong, something is wrong with him. While accurate, that (15) _____ is hard, very hard to accept. So, in the mind of the theorist admitting you are wrong, (16) _____ something is indeed wrong with you. A few manage to change their mindset but most never will and (17) _____ for the easy path: everyone else is wrong.'

However, French researchers conducted two studies, in which they assessed the critical thinking skills of a large number of undergraduate students. They found that there was a strong (18) _____ between lower critical thinking skills and a higher tendency to believe in conspiracy theories.

So, is a belief in conspiracy theories an indication of a lack of critical thinking skills? And if so, what can be done about it?

Older studies have shown that teaching analytical thinking can decrease or (19) _____ against the adoption of such theories. In fact, it was also found that analytical thinking could be taught successfully to 10-year-old and 12-year-old children. But despite all this research we still do not see many people trying to look for a cure. What makes people want to stay in the same frame of mind? Some experts claim that it's all about (20) _____ and wanting to be different. The desire to be seen as different and special serves as a motivation for people to engage with conspiracy theories.

- | | | | | |
|----|----------------|------------------|------------|----------------|
| 11 | A) aware | B) into | C) across | D) up |
| 12 | A) malevolent | B) wonderful | C) trading | D) possessive |
| 13 | A) dropped | B) fitted | C) was | D) sliced |
| 14 | A) translation | B) deteriorating | C) wait | D) incubation |
| 15 | A) mindset | B) reliance | C) border | D) recommended |
| 16 | A) suggest | B) indicate | C) equals | D) show |
| 17 | A) choose | B) opt | C) run | D) decides |
| 18 | A) equality | B) tight | C) links | D) association |
| 19 | A) protect | B) stop | C) affect | D) drives |
| 20 | A) dreams | B) dangers | C) people | D) uniqueness |

▪ Part 4 ▪

Questions 21-30

Susan, Atif, and Robert talk about forgiveness.

Read and answer the questions. Choose **A, B, C** or **D**

Should We Forgive?

Susan (Scientist)

Sometimes it's healthier not to forgive.

We seem to be in a forgiving frenzy. We are frequently warned that refusing to forgive will ruin our lives. I would like to dispute that view. In fact, I believe it is possible to remain emotionally healthy even if you do not forgive someone else, whether that is your partner, spouse, parent, brother, sister or friend. Nowadays, there's a good probability that we'll see a dramatic forgiveness episode on any given television channel. Sisters or brothers that have been estranged for years decide to forgive each other and live happily ever after. Well, that's TV.

Not forgiving needs to be reconceived. It is sometimes not possible to forgive serious betrayal. And yes, while I think that we need to forgive people for errors and misjudgements, I fail to see why I should have to forgive someone who has consistently and intentionally taken action to hurt me over time. Why should I want to forgive someone for doing something that I believe they may even do again in the future? Instead of being opposites, forgiveness and unforgiveness are two points on a continuum. Emotionally genuine solutions in either direction might result from the same internal processes. Anyone who has undergone the difficult and painful process of consciously forgiving or not forgiving comes out of it with greater self-awareness, a stronger sense of connection to others, and less weight on their shoulders.

Atif (Teacher)

The choice is yours

Many people will argue that we should forgive those who hurt and offend us. But isn't it easier said than done? When someone tries to harm us, especially if it's someone we care about deeply, it enrages us. How do you make that right? There are a few things you can do in this situation, but each choice is challenging.

You can put it behind you and move on. Forget about the individual. This is never easy, especially if you can't stop thinking about the incident. You could try forgetting about it and finding peace. This again often proves too much for people. Another reason is that the pain is just too much, and although part of you might want to forgive, you just cannot find it in your heart to forgive so easily.

Of course, one response which many of us think about is trying to get back at them. Take your revenge and all will be well. But that means you will have to stoop as low, if not lower, than they have. And even if you take revenge, it's more likely that the situation will deteriorate even further.

There is another way. Try to understand exactly what happened and why it happened. Ask yourself if there was a way you could have avoided it. Remember this as a lesson for the next time. Then you put all your energy into something more productive, into improving yourself. Eventually, you thank the person who hurt you. Because if it wasn't for that person, you would not have realised where you needed to improve.

Robert (Lawyer)

It is our duty to forgive.

The only animals on Earth with the capacity to consciously provide forgiveness, compassion and mercy in the face of harm and insult are humans.

This capacity to see past the slight, the suffering, and the abuse and offer the other person a chance to change for the better is undoubtedly a trait that distinguishes humans from other species. This is true in our daily lives, but it is particularly true of our legal system.

Where is the opportunity, let alone the incentive, for the offender to reflect on and alter their behaviour if vengeance and punishment are the sole responses to offenses?

When society offers forgiveness, it is saying "I have no guarantee that you will not offend again—but I hope that this gesture I offer to you may truly awaken in you a desire and a resolve to not offend again." Showing mercy is not a sign of weakness but rather of strength. As I would hope you would do with me, I will take a chance on you.

When we as individuals and as a community declare "You have done wrong" whether to a youngster who is branded "a loser" or to an adult who is called a "repeat offender," there can be so much more motivation for that person to reform and grow if they are treated with compassion and forgiveness. Forgiveness and compassion go hand in hand and it not only holds our collective human bones together but also makes it possible for us as a society to move forward.

- 21 What does Susan mean when she says, 'We seem to be in a forgiving frenzy?'
- A) She is implying there is currently a *forgiving craze*
 - B) It is incorrect to say that not forgiving will ruin our lives
 - C) She does not think it is really a frenzy
 - D) Being in a frenzy can also be emotionally healthy
- 22 What can we infer from Susan's description of a TV episode?
- A) That it takes them years to finally make up
 - B) That it is removed from reality
 - C) That living happily ever after can only happen like this
 - D) That TV likes to portray families in this manner
- 23 According to Susan _____.
- A) we shouldn't always forgive those who may have hurt us unintentionally
 - B) most people should be forgiven if they promise not to do it in the future
 - C) we should be able to choose not to forgive if the circumstances warrant it
 - D) we shouldn't look again at the whole idea of not having to forgive

- 24 Atif thinks that _____.
- A) revenge is something that we all think about initially
 - B) it is easier to forgive when we are not enraged by someone
 - C) one obstacle to forgiving is the feeling of being hurt
 - D) before we forgive, we should think about the options
- 25 Atif implies that revenge is not the best course of action because _____.
- A) it is difficult to stoop as low as the other person
 - B) the result may not have any effect on the other person
 - C) it can make matters worse
 - D) it is not something anyone should think about
- 26 What does Atif infer that might be a better option?
- A) Buying self-help materials etc. to get over your problems
 - B) Always thanking the person that hurt you
 - C) Realising that the other person needs self-improvement
 - D) Being more aware of ourselves and trying to improve
- 27 Robert says that _____.
- A) only humans and animals can forgive
 - B) it is unique that all humans forgive
 - C) humans can make the choice to overlook things
 - D) everyone should be forgiven for everything
- 28 Which of the following is not true from what Robert says?
- A) Forgiveness is always part of the way the legal system works
 - B) Showing forgiveness is not a sign that you are weak
 - C) Society should provide opportunities for reform to offenders
 - D) Just punishing offenders does not give them the chance to reflect or change
- 29 Robert implies that _____.
- A) society is making an agreement with an offender when it offers forgiveness
 - B) treating nobody with compassion and forgiveness is part of who we are
 - C) 'repeat offenders' have little hope of finding forgiveness in the legal system
 - D) society is always better off when it doesn't punish offenders
- 30 How could we sum up Robert's views?
- A) Today, society is unable to offer forgiveness through the legal system
 - B) Our development as a society depends on the ability to forgive
 - C) Branding someone 'a loser' only creates repeat offenders
 - D) The legal system must start using compassion and forgiveness

▪ Part 5 ▪

Questions 31-40

For questions 31- 35 choose the word(s) closest in meaning to the underlined word(s).

For questions 36 - 40 choose **A, B, C** or **D**

Why Am I Seeing This?

Show a human being a picture of two dots and a curved line, and he's going to interpret it as a human face. It is almost instinctual even. There is a word for it. Pareidolia.

Pareidolia is the propensity to see (31) ambiguous input as something the observer already knows. Examples include perceiving shapes in the clouds, hearing secret messages in reversed music, and perceiving markings on Mars as canals. Have you ever seen a cloud that resembled a huge teddy bear? When there is no meaning, I suppose we try to make our own. Perhaps there is no danger in spotting a man on the moon or a teddy bear in the clouds.

However, pareidolia is more than just recognizing faces. It involves giving meaning to any ambiguous stimulus. Those of us who experience panic attacks will know what it's like when we've experienced a (32) twinge of nausea and spent an hour dwelling on it, rather than quickly dismissing it as the result of something we ate for dinner. Maybe it's a serious stomach problem? Or maybe a sore throat? Perhaps this means I am going to die? We choose to interpret it as something more meaningful. Some other sign of (33) impending doom.

It's time to throw out these interpretations that we mistakenly and frequently unconsciously imagine. Not all things in this world have a purpose. We must develop the ability to tell the difference between when we are uncovering meaning and when we are constructing it.

The idea that pareidolia was created by us as a coping mechanism, is another argument as to why we see faces in (34) incongruous items and settings. For instance, astronomer Carl Sagan argues that pareidolia enables us to identify faces at a distance and discern whether we are looking at an ally or an enemy.

Pareidolia, according to some experts, offers a psychological explanation for a variety of sensory delusions. They think pareidolia may be responsible for the many reported sightings of UFOs, Elvis, the Loch Ness Monster, and frightening messages heard when records are played backwards.

It turns out that we also have pareidolia for motion; or *motion pareidolia*.

But why does the brain act in this way? Why does the brain trick us into thinking there is motion when there isn't? Is this not a significant weakness in the visual system?

It might be advantageous for evolution to be able to detect false motion patterns and noise. An animal might be better off supposing a shadowy movement behind a tree was a (35) predator and being proven wrong than to suppose the movement was not a predator and end up getting eaten. It is much less expensive to overreact to a false alarm than to ignore a genuine threat. However, the brain must actively create potential situations from faulty sensory input in order to draw the incorrect conclusion. And part of this process is the development of fictitious beliefs.

- 31 **A)** defined
 B) lucid
 C) obvious
 D) questionable

- 32 A) block
B) touch
C) false alarm
D) advance

- 33 A) approaching
B) distant
C) remote
D) bleak

- 34 A) consistent
B) harmonious
C) inappropriate
D) uniform

- 35 A) animal of prey
B) praying animal
C) vegan animal
D) wild animal

- 36 The passage suggests that Pareidolia _____.

- A) is a condition which is related to brain malfunction
B) is a human tendency to see faces everywhere, including in inanimate objects
C) can play visual or auditory tricks on the mind
D) may lead to animals getting eaten

- 37 The author implies that _____.

- A) only those who have experienced it can understand pareidolia
B) pareidolia can often appear after we have eaten
C) seeing something strange is a sure sign of pareidolia
D) we can overreact and read too much into minor incidents

- 38 Which of the following is true according to the text?

- A) Pareidolia could serve an evolutionary purpose
B) The Loch Ness monster can be put down to pareidolia
C) Pareidolia is the result of a significant weakness in the visual system
D) Animals use Pareidolia for protection when in the forest

Man running in the forest?



No. That's my dog.

- 39 According to the author of the text _____.
- A) pareidolia cannot be experienced in the form of motion
 - B) it may be better to act as a result of a perceived threat rather than take risks
 - C) nobody knows the difference between uncovering meaning and constructing it
 - D) we always view nausea as a sign of impending doom
- 40 What conclusion does the author draw about our participation in Pareidolia?
- A) We experience it because of our need to rectify our visual impairment
 - B) Our brain takes the wrong information and creates a result based on that
 - C) It is essential for animals to experience Pareidolia in order to survive
 - D) It can be more expensive to react to a false alarm than a genuine threat

▪ Part 6 ▪

Writing

You recently represented your school at a *career day* in a major city. The title of the *career day* was "**Should I go to College?**"

You attended two talks given by career advisors on the topic of going to college. You made notes (below) on each presenter's talk. Your school now asks you to write a summary based on the talk that you liked the most at the career day. You must choose either **Presenter A** or **Presenter B** and use all six items from your notes as well as your own idea. Write your summary using your own words. Write between 230-250 words only.

Presenter A

College is essential for every student's future.

- *College graduates have significant advantage in job market – higher paying employment*
- *Enhances ability to understand the subject better*
- *Personal Development: grow and learn about themselves. Develop critical thinking skills*
- *Networking: Make valuable connections both professional and personal*
- *Cultural Awareness: Provides different perspectives and way of life – become more open minded*
- *Life-long Learning: creates mindset that values growth and continued education*
- **(Your own idea)**

Presenter B

College may not be the right option for everyone.

- *Some may struggle with demands of college and not succeed in that environment*
- *Not the only path to successful career. Many jobs well paid – no requirement for college degree*
- *Huge financial burden: tuition, books, student loan, burden on family financially*
- *College may not suit learning style. Many learn with hands-on experience and become experts in their chosen field*
- *College may not be an option for some due to personal circumstances. Also, immigration status or lack of accessibility in the community may mean that college is not an option*
- **(Your own idea)**

