

PRACTICE TEST 1

PAPER 1: READING

Part 1

You are going to read a magazine article. For questions 1-8, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Cruising Round the Mediterranean

Janet Foster describes her holiday of a lifetime.

“Wonderful weather, masses of interesting things to see and do, and superb comfort.” That was what I told the travel agent when she asked what kind of holiday I was looking for. “How about a Mediterranean cruise?” she said. And that’s how I found myself, two months later, aboard the cruise ship *Venus*.

From the moment I set foot on the ship, I felt pampered. The public areas were quite luxurious with their elegant furnishings and wood-panelled walls. They reminded me of some of the scenes from the film *Titanic*, and I half expected Leonardo de Caprio to appear at any moment. My own cabin was the last word in luxury.

On the first day, I explored the ship to get my bearings and to find out about on-board entertainment activities. I made a mental note of which ones to go for, and what to avoid. Most of the young people seemed to be hanging around the gym and virtual-reality centre. I visited both briefly, but quickly went back on deck. No way was I going back to England after this cruise without a tan that would be the envy of my friends! I spent hours basking beside the swimming pool, taking an occasional dip in the water for exercise, or briefly joining one of the aerobics sessions. I strolled around the decks, stopping from time to time to lean on the rail and gaze out to sea.

And while I enjoyed solitary moments on the upper deck, don’t think for a minute that taking a cruise by myself implied that I remained alone. Though men appeared to be in the minority, there were plenty of singles on board and no lack of company. In fact, I made several casual acquaintances and formed friendships with a couple of fascinating fellow passengers of both sexes, with whom I’ve kept in touch.

Some of the more experienced cruise passengers I met told me that cruise ships are famed for the

quality of their cuisine, and the *Venus* was no exception. I sampled everything the chef had to offer. My favourites were the English afternoon teas with dainty sandwiches, fresh pastries and hot buttered scones. I can still hear the waitress, silver teapot in hand, asking, ‘Would you prefer milk or lemon, madam?’

There was a dazzling variety of evening activities. In my 10 days on board I ‘only’ managed two concerts, a Las Vegas-style cabaret, a magic show, a lecture on wines, a disco, and a 60s night of singing and dancing.

But the crowning glory of the cruise was undoubtedly the tours. The short stops we made at historic ports of call satisfied my craving for travel and perfectly suited my temperament. I tend to become impatient with extended stays in any one spot. From a hilltop castle at Vigo in Spain, I enjoyed a panoramic view across the bay. In the quaint, narrow streets of Palma, Majorca, even souvenir shopping proved a pleasure. One place I would have been happy to spend longer than the one allotted day was the Adriatic port of Dubrovnic, with its marvellous old city walls.

Venice provided the grand finale before we returned to the UK. Sailing slowly along the canals in a gondola, peering at St. Mark’s Square through the misty early morning light was magical. I was pleased that I had forced myself to rise at the crack of dawn and see Venice, quiet, without the usual adoring crowds. I found the city as alluring as ever.

Other holidays that I’ve had were fun. Some were more restful, most considerably cheaper than a cruise, but none were in any way comparable. It’s going to take a year of scrimping and saving to pay off the cruise on the *Venus* but, for my idea of heaven, it was worth it.

- 1 Why did the writer book a holiday on the *Venus*?
 - A She had always dreamed of going on a cruise.
 - B It was the only cruise with places still available.
 - C It was the result of a suggestion made to her.
 - D She had been thinking about it for quite a long time.
- 2 From her first impressions of the cruise ship, the writer felt that the ship owners
 - A had had the vessel redecorated.
 - B had ordered an exact replica of another ship.
 - C understood the importance of atmosphere.
 - D were constantly looking for new staff.
- 3 What does the word 'ones' (line 18) refer to?
 - A tours
 - B activities
 - C bearings
 - D young people
- 4 Why did the writer go to the swimming pool a lot?
 - A She loves all forms of sport and exercise.
 - B She met shipboard friends there.
 - C She prefers swimming to gymnastics.
 - D She wanted to lie in the sun.
- 5 The writer uses the phrase 'no lack of company' (lines 33-34) to show that she
 - A was used to being on her own.
 - B found lots of people to mix with.
 - C enjoyed meeting the male passengers.
 - D preferred her own company.
- 6 What do we learn about the writer?
 - A She always enjoys going out to shop for gifts.
 - B She had actually been to Venice before.
 - C She didn't like the crowds one encounters on cruise ships.
 - D She liked to get up early in the morning.
- 7 According to the writer, the ticket for the cruise
 - A cost less than other holidays abroad.
 - B was unreasonably expensive.
 - C cost more than the writer had expected.
 - D has not yet been fully paid for.
- 8 Which statement most closely expresses the writer's conclusions about her trip?
 - A The travel agent understood what I was looking for.
 - B I could have done with more shipboard activities and less sightseeing.
 - C It was not at all what I expected of a cruise.
 - D Many of the activities were unsuitable for older people.

Part 2

You are going to read an article about a model. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-H the one which fits each gap (9-15). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Big is Beautiful

What makes model Kate Dillon different from other fashion models?

Overweight Kate – that’s what fellow students called her at school. So, after watching a television film about eating disorders, Kate Dillon, an unhappy teenager, decided to starve herself. **9** By the age of sixteen, after losing 30 pounds, she did indeed have more friends and was spotted by a scout for a modelling agency, where she subsequently embarked on a highly successful career in modelling. Dillon was soon featured on the covers of top fashion magazines. Her dream had come true, but it was to be short-lived.

Kate had turned into one of those glamorous, slender models seen in magazines, on TV and in films. Girls all over the world long for such an image and some will do almost anything to achieve it. **10** Constantly worrying about her weight, Kate was also feeling ill and run down. After seven years, she began to wonder if being slim was the only measure of beauty.

During a photography session for the exclusive fashion magazine *Harper’s Bazaar*, Kate’s glamorous life suddenly lost its charm. **11** Was it all worthwhile? Somewhere along the way, hadn’t she lost sight of all the other things that were important in life?

This realisation changed Kate’s life. She gave up modelling and started going out, dancing, and having a good time. She soon began putting on a little weight, although she was careful to eat sensibly, with the guidance of a nutritionist. **12** She slowly gained confidence, became comfortable with her new lifestyle and at ease with her appearance.

Kate was determined to do it her way, and again her life took an unexpected turn. When a friend suggested that she go back to modelling, Kate realised that this was a real possibility. With a more natural look and her newly found self-confidence, she was engaged on the spot by a top agency – this time as a size-14 model. **13** She has established a new norm for beauty, where being as skinny as a rake is no longer the only criterion for an attractive woman.

Describing herself as “a model with a voice,” Kate has been a key speaker on eating disorders and the female self-image at places such as Harvard University. She speaks out against the media’s narrow concept of beauty. According to Dillon, the media feed women images of an impossible ideal which cause anxiety so as to sell them the so-called “solution” in the form of diets. Even messages telling women to be themselves are often mixed. **14**

Kate is optimistic that attitudes are changing and that society is moving towards a more open ideal of beauty, but feels there is still a long way to go. Modifying people’s attitudes takes time, and Kate does not promise young women instant acceptance. **15** The first step is for women to make a decision to live by their own standards rather than trying to fulfill the ideals of others. As Kate says, “What’s really cool is to be who you are.”

Practical Question

- A At the same time, she started exercising, and took up running and martial arts.
- B She constantly comes across women's magazines that run articles about her as a role model on one page, and give tips for 'how to get slim quick' on the next.
- C Encouraged by her manager and clients to be as bony as possible, Kate was eating less and less.
- D Ironically, she now enjoys even greater success, making twice the income she once did.
- E It might feel great to look slim, but women should ask themselves: How much effort should be put into it?
- F The greatest problem is accepting that women can be attractive without conforming to cover-girl norms.
- G She happened to glance around and became aware of the enormous effort everyone was making to create her perfect public image.
- H She became obsessed with the idea that being slim would win her acceptance and popularity.

PAPER 1: READING Part 3 (Questions 16-30)

Part 3

You are going to read a newspaper article about a sporting event. For questions **16-30**, choose from the participants (**A-D**). The participants may be chosen more than once.

Which of the participants

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----|----------------------|
| had been confident of winning? | 16 | <input type="text"/> |
| mentions qualities not necessarily connected to sport? | 17 | <input type="text"/> |
| describes the kind of people who take part in this race? | 18 | <input type="text"/> |
| refers to long training done before the race? | 19 | <input type="text"/> |
| contributed expert knowledge? | 20 | <input type="text"/> |
| mentions overcoming an unexpected setback? | 21 | <input type="text"/> |
| felt that the weather was in the team's favour? | 22 | <input type="text"/> |
| was able to return a favour? | 23 | <input type="text"/> |
| refers to physical requirements of participants? | 24 | <input type="text"/> |
| mentions the strict rules of the race? | 25 | <input type="text"/> |
| enjoys the adrenalin rush from competing? | 26 | <input type="text"/> |
| is aware of their own shortcomings? | 27 | <input type="text"/> |
| complains about the physical conditions? | 28 | <input type="text"/> |
| feels the choice of venue is an important factor? | 29 | <input type="text"/> |
| demonstrates excellent navigational ability? | 30 | <input type="text"/> |

Primal Quest

Are you adventurous? Sarah Cairns asked four participants about Discovery Channel's annual race.

A "Testing yourself to the limit, challenging nature, racing and adventure" was how **Paul** described the exciting annual expedition race called Primal Quest. Paul had tried his hand at all the skills needed for the contest long before he actually took part in it. "I learned to ride horses and mountain bikes at an early age and when I was 16, Dad finally took me climbing. It still took me years to build up the necessary strength," he told us. "The race covers over 400 miles of extremely rough terrain, and includes rappelling and whitewater rafting. You need to keep going round the clock for anything between six to 10 days, and you're fighting exhaustion most of the time. This year the race was in the desert, and the extreme heat was especially brutal. But, I get a kick out of any sport that involves danger and calls for stamina and a lot of willpower. It's a challenge to human endurance."

B **Helen** admitted that she wasn't always an asset to her team. "I'd done quite a bit of mountain biking before, but there were sections between checkpoints that we rode across which were interspersed with parts where the bikes had to be carried. That meant that, at each stage, we had to dismantle our bikes, and then reassemble them. I'm what you would call *technically challenged*, so I held the team back. My three teammates were great, though. Whoever was ready first always gave me a hand." Helen, experienced in the water, was happy that she was able to reciprocate in the kayaking part of the race, a skill in which her fellow teammates were less competent. She managed to save them quite a bit of time by choosing the fastest possible course through the river and helping them avoid underwater rocks. These are virtually invisible, but a skilled kayaker can recognise them by the slight changes in the river's flow.

C It's difficult for **Sandy** to put her finger on what attracted her most about Primal Quest. "Maybe it was a love of extreme sports," she told me, "or growing up in a mountainous area in Canada where climbing and canoeing were always part of our lives." The beauty and splendour of the course, which took them through stunning desert canyons to unspoilt mountain trails, made her feel it was well worth it. Sarah also admitted that being a woman had something to do with it. "I loved the idea of a challenging race in a wild and remote location, where both sexes had to be represented on every team. I really believe that Primal Quest makes for better human beings, not just sportspeople. You need perfect communication with your teammates, mutual consideration and total dedication to the mission at hand. I think you come home from the experience a more compassionate person, at work, with your family and in other relationships."

D Upon reaching Checkpoint 36, **David** and his teammates were informed that, before they could continue, they would have to complete an orienteering course. This was a route of eight and a half miles which they had to cover while finding points shown on a map, in territory that is especially difficult to navigate. They hadn't counted on this obstacle, and as it turned out, some other teams opted for an eight-hour penalty rather than attempting it. "However, one of the team had once been a scout and remembered orienteering to get us through this part in under five hours. On the seventh day, we were still well ahead," he told us. "Our performance was outstanding. We'd made good time on the mountain bike sections and there wasn't a flash flood in sight when we waded through a river bed." Then, on the eighth day, misfortune struck. Nell sprained an ankle so she couldn't ride her bike. "There was no way she could get to the finishing line, which meant we were all disqualified."

PAPER 2: WRITING Part 1 (Question 1)

Part 1

You **must** answer this question. Write your answer in **120-150** words in an appropriate style.

- 1 You have received an email from Nancy, a nurse at the local hospital, who organises events for patients. Read her email and the notes you have made. Then write an email to Nancy using **all** your notes.

Email

From: Nancy Dawson

Sent: 30th May

Subject: Concert

Your school choir has an excellent reputation and I was wondering whether you'd be willing to give a concert for our patients.

As doctors do their rounds and see patients in the mornings, an early afternoon concert in the middle of the week would be best. Is this convenient for you? Can we set a date?

No, because ...

Since the concert is for the children's ward, it would be wonderful if they could participate in some way. Have you got any ideas? Also, I wasn't sure how you want to organise the ward so the children can do so. What would you recommend?

Suggest ...

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Nancy Dawson

Yes!

Make recommendation

Write your **email**. You must use grammatically correct sentences with accurate spelling and punctuation in a style appropriate for the situation.

Part 2

Write an answer to **one** of the questions 2-5 in this part. Write your answer in **120-180** words in an appropriate style.

- 2 You have a part-time job in a leisure centre. The manager wants to offer more activities for 11-16-year-olds. He has asked you to write a report, answering the following questions:

- What activities would you recommend for this age group?
- When and how often should such activities be offered?
- What equipment or materials would be required?

Write your **report**.

- 3 You have had a class discussion on the importance of computer skills. Your teacher has asked you to write an essay, giving your opinion on this statement:

Computer skills should be taught in schools today.

Write your **essay**.

- 4 This is part of a letter you received from a penfriend.

Do you remember I wrote to you about summer jobs? Well, I now have two offers – one working in a music shop in town and the other working in the art museum. They both pay the same student rate. I just can't decide which one is best. What do you think I should choose?

Write a letter to your penfriend, giving your opinion and explaining why. Do not write any postal addresses.

Write your **letter**.

- 5 Answer **one** of the following two questions based on **one** of the titles below.

(a) *A Space Odyssey* by Arthur C. Clarke

You saw this announcement on the noticeboard of your school library.

Reviews Wanted!

Have you read a good book recently? Write a review of the book you read. Include a brief description of the plot, main characters and interest level. Say whether you would recommend the book for our school library.

Write your **review**.

(b) *Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne

Phileas Fogg and Passepartout are very different characters, yet together they manage to win the bet. Write an **essay** comparing the two characters and explain why they succeed despite their differences.

Write your **essay**.

Part 1

For questions 1-12, 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).

Example:

- 0 A class B collection C set D type

0	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D
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A Snapper in the Sewers

Snappers are a (0) of biting turtle, which is rapidly (1) extinct. This is probably the reason why rangers in the Australian Reptile Park felt (2) upset when eight baby snappers were stolen from the park (3) 20 years ago. Then, last year, a construction worker in Sydney was working in the sewage system under the city streets, when he (4) what looked like an enormous turtle. At (5) , he couldn't believe his (6) He was amazed. Where (7) earth had it come from? When he reported it, the most likely explanation seemed that it was one of the baby snappers that had been taken more than 20 years earlier. The park rangers were very excited and (8) to get it back. However, the snapper was no longer a baby and it took six men, using a wheelbarrow, to get the 110-pound turtle out of the sewers. In (9) , they were lucky, as some snappers weigh twice as much as that! All the TV and press (10) of the snapper's rescue made it quite famous and it was even (11) a nickname, Leonardo, after the famous Mutant Ninja Turtle. Doesn't it make you (12) what other secrets are hidden in the sewers under our cities?

- | | | | | |
|----|----------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1 | A growing | B getting | C turning | D becoming |
| 2 | A so | B such | C much | D too |
| 3 | A above | B over | C beyond | D past |
| 4 | A ran over | B saw through | C came across | D got by |
| 5 | A once | B all | C least | D first |
| 6 | A sight | B eyes | C ears | D luck |
| 7 | A on | B in | C of | D about |
| 8 | A concerned | B worried | C upset | D anxious |
| 9 | A fact | B case | C general | D time |
| 10 | A publications | B reports | C broadcasts | D communications |
| 11 | A adopted | B called | C made | D given |
| 12 | A think | B like | C wonder | D ask |

Part 2

For questions 13-24, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only **one** word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS**.

Example: 0 H O W

Mysterious Hums

Can you imagine (0) it feels to walk around with a continuous low noise, or hum, in your ears day (13) day? Some people are doing just (14) , and it is seriously affecting their lives. Apparently, hums are heard mostly indoors, at night, and sound (15) a lorry engine or motor that (16) been left running. Hums disturb people's concentration, sleep and, (17) some cases, cause serious headaches.

Not (18) hears hums; in fact, (19) people are aware of the noise at all. However, the 2% of the population that are able to pick up on these sounds simply cannot ignore (20)

Hums were first documented by experts in the field of acoustics as long ago as 1991. (21) man-made sources may be responsible for some of the hums, others are not so easy to account for. One theory suggests that these hums are created deep in the earth by rocks pushing one (22) the other. Another theory is that a particular kind of wave in the ocean is creating this mysterious noise.

(23) the actual cause of these hums, it seems that for the time (24) , people who do hear the hums will continue to suffer until a way to deal with the noise is found.

Part 3

For questions 25-34, 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).

Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS.

Example: 0 L E G E N D A R Y

Jumping for Joy

Evel Knievel, the (0) motorcyclist, and his son Robbie both dreamed of (25) across the Grand Canyon on motorbikes. In 1974, Evel Knievel asked for (26) to try the jump and was bitterly disappointed when officers of the National Park Service refused to give it.

LEGEND
JUMP
PERMIT

Twenty five years (27) , his son Robbie was much (28) He was allowed to make the attempt at the (29) point of the canyon, 200 km east of Las Vegas. Driving at a speed of 145 kph, he easily cleared the 69.5 metre leap. Hundreds of (30) people and a display of fireworks greeted him as he landed with a crash.

LATE
LUCK
NARROW
CHEER

The (31) of the canyon at that point is 762 metres, so if the jump had failed, it is (32) whether Robbie would have survived. Perhaps that was the reason he seemed quite (33) about the minor (34) he suffered. He only had a sprained ankle and two broken ribs.

DEEP
DOUBT
CONCERN
INJURE

Part 4

For questions 35-42, 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 two and five words, including the word given. Here is an example (0).

Example:

0 I've had quite enough of your rudeness.

PUT

I will not rudeness.

The gap can be filled by the words 'put up with your' so you write:

Example: 0 P U T U P W I T H Y O U R

Write only the missing words IN CAPITAL LETTERS.

35 There's no point in spending time on this exercise.

OF

This exercise time.

36 It was such an expensive book that I didn't buy it.

SO

If the book, I would have bought it.

37 I'd rather book tickets than wait in a queue.

PREFER

I in a queue.

38 The paint on that house looks very new.

MUST

That house very recently.

39 Don't do any work for the next few days.

EASY

Just for the next few days.

40 John likes more sugar in his tea.

SWEET

This cup of tea for John.

41 Did you enjoy the party?

GOOD

Did you at the party?

42 Peter said he would help me with the gardening.

HAND

Peter offered with the gardening.