



First Certificate in English

Reading and Use of English

Test 1

Time

1 hour 15 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Read the instructions for each part of the paper carefully. Answer all the questions.

Read the instructions on the answer sheets.

Write your answers on the answer sheets. Use a pencil.

You **must** complete the answer sheets within the time limit.

There are 53 questions in this paper.

Questions **1 – 24** carry one mark.

Questions **25 – 30** carry up to two marks.

Questions **31 – 43** carry two marks.

Questions **44 – 53** carry one mark.

Part 1

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).

Example

0 A in B for C about D as

0	A	B	C	D
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year, also known (0) the Spring Festival, is a vibrant and culturally significant celebration observed by Chinese communities around the world. The festival marks the beginning of the Lunar New Year and (1) falls between January 21 and February 20.

Preparations for Chinese New Year begin well in (2), with families thoroughly cleaning their homes to prevent bad luck and make way for good fortune. Red decorations, (3)of prosperity and happiness, are prominently displayed, and traditional paper cuttings hang from windows and doors to keep out evil spirits.

The (4) of the celebration is the reunion dinner on the eve of the new year. Families gather for a lavish feast, featuring symbolic dishes like dumplings, which represent wealth, and fish, symbolizing abundance. The reunion dinner is a time for family bonding and (5) the importance of familial ties in Chinese culture.

As the clock (6) midnight, fireworks and firecrackers light up the sky, symbolizing the expulsion of evil spirits. Red envelopes containing money are exchanged as a (7) of goodwill and blessings.

Chinese New Year is a tradition that not only celebrates the new lunar year but also strengthens family (8), promotes cultural heritage, and fosters a sense of hope and optimism for the future.

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 | A typically | B similarly | C conversely | D generally |
| 2 | A question | B time | C advance | D before |
| 3 | A iconic | B transmitting | C significant | D symbolic |
| 4 | A highlight | B point | C advantage | D improvement |
| 5 | A shows | B reflects | C communicates | D performs |
| 6 | A rings | B ticks | C strikes | D hits |
| 7 | A sign | B gesture | C communication | D estimation |
| 8 | A bonds | B connections | C knots | D chains |

Part 2

For questions 9 – 16, 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).

Example: 0 THE

Twin Pines Summer Camp

Working at (0) Twin Pines summer camp was a unique experience full (9) excitement and new experiences. From the early morning wake-up calls (10) the late-night campfires, every moment was a memorable one. As a camp counsellor, my days were dedicated to creating a positive and inclusive environment where kids were able (11) explore new activities, build friendships, and discover their strengths. Whether I was leading a hike through the wilderness, organizing spirited games on the field, (12) guiding arts and crafts sessions, I found immense satisfaction in being part of the campers' growth and development. The bond I formed with (13) fellow colleagues, the shared stories around the campfire, and the satisfaction of (14) a positive impact on a child's summer created a sense of camaraderie and fulfilment that made each day at the summer camp a memorable adventure.

I cannot recommend the experience enough. If you're looking (15) adventure and a unique way to spend the summer, don't hesitate and go for (16)..... There are camps looking for volunteers all over the world. Who knows, perhaps one day we'll find ourselves on a team together!

Part 3

For questions 17 – 24, 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 LOCATED

London Zoo

London Zoo, (0) in the heart of the British capital, is a historic and iconic institution that has been captivating visitors for over 180 years. Established in 1828, it is one of the world's (17)zoos and has evolved into a leading conservation and research centre. LOCATE

London Zoo is home to over 650 species of animals, making it a diverse and (18) destination for nature enthusiasts. The zoo's exhibits are thoughtfully designed to replicate the natural habitats of its inhabitants, providing both entertainment and educational value to its visitors. OLD

One of the zoo's key missions is (19), and it actively participates in breeding programs for endangered species, playing an essential role in global efforts to protect biodiversity. Visitors can witness the zoo's commitment to conservation through informative exhibits and (20)presentations that highlight the importance of wildlife preservation. FASCINATE

London Zoo is not just a place for (21) It serves as a hub for scientific research and education. The zoo's team of dedicated researchers and experts engage in studies on animal behaviour, genetics, and veterinary science, contributing valuable knowledge to the (22) understanding of wildlife. CONSERVE

The institution's commitment to sustainability is evident in its efforts to minimize its environmental impact. London Zoo has implemented eco-friendly practices, such as recycling programs and energy-efficient technologies, to create a more (23) and responsible environment. ENTERTAIN

With its rich history, commitment to conservation, and engaging exhibits, London Zoo continues to be a beloved destination for families, students, and wildlife enthusiasts alike, providing a platform for education, appreciation, and advocacy for the world's diverse and (24) species. GLOBE

SUSTAIN

DANGER

Part 4

For questions 25 – 30, 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 James would only speak to the head of department alone.

ON

Jamesto the head of department alone.

The gap can be filled with the words 'insisted on speaking', so you write:

Example:

0

25 The economic situation will probably not improve until next year.

UNLIKELY

The economic situation..... better until next year.

26 We had a good time in France, even though it was wet and windy.

OF

We had a good time in France and windy weather.

27 I'm sure Tom didn't lose the match. He was the best player there.

MUST

Tom match. He was the best player there.

28 I arrived late to work because I missed my train.

WOULD

I late to work if I hadn't missed my train.

29 When I was young, I often went to the cinema with my friends.

ACCOMPANY

When I was young my friends to the cinema.

30 The film was so good that we went back to see it several times.

SUCH

It was that we went back to see it several times.

You are going to read the introduction to a book about growing food on an allotment. For questions 31 – 36, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Growing Food on an Allotment

Allotments, small parcels of land allocated for cultivation, provide individuals with the opportunity to grow their own food, building a deep connection to the earth and a sense of community. We live in a world increasingly disconnected from our natural environment, and as a result the attraction of allotment gardening has grown dramatically as an important part of sustainable living.

Starting the journey of allotment gardening requires a blend of enthusiasm, dedication, and a basic understanding of horticulture. Allotment holders typically begin by securing a plot of land through local authorities. The size of the plot can vary, but the common thread is the dedication of each individual to growing sustainable and healthy food for the community.

Successful allotment gardening starts with careful planning and design. Planning the space, considering sunlight exposure, wind patterns, and water management, lays the foundation for a productive and visually appealing garden. Dividing the allotment into designated areas for different crops, pathways, and perhaps a small seating area fosters a sense of organization and purpose.

One of the joys of allotment gardening lies in the diverse array of crops that can be cultivated. From vibrant tomatoes to fragrant herbs, leafy greens, and root vegetables, allotments provide a canvas for expressing individual tastes and preferences. Crop rotation is often employed to maintain soil fertility and prevent pests and diseases.

Allotment gardening is inherently communal. Shared spaces build a sense of community among allotment holders, where advice, seeds, and produce are often exchanged. Collective events, workshops, and shared resources strengthen the social side of allotment life, transforming individual gardens into a vibrant community.

While the rewards of allotment gardening are plentiful, there are also many challenges. Bad weather, pests and diseases are all part of the journey. However, these contribute to a deeper appreciation for nature. The satisfaction of enjoying a meal containing homegrown produce outweighs the difficulties encountered along the way.

Line 22

Allotment gardening is a testament to the human connection with the land and the satisfaction gained from nurturing life. In cultivating abundance on these small plots, individuals not only secure a source of fresh, organic produce but also enjoy the benefits of physical activity, mental well-being, and a sense of belonging to a larger community. As the popularity of allotment gardening continues to rise, it stands as an example of sustainability, self-sufficiency, and the timeless joy of growing one's own food.

31. Why has allotment gardening grown in popularity?

- A It is seen as a way to return to nature.
- B It is an economical way to acquire food.
- C It saves time.
- D It is good for the environment.

32. Where do people get their allotments from?

- A Horticulturalist associations
- B The local council
- C Volunteer managers
- D Community associations

33. What should you consider when first planning your allotment?

- A the weather
- B the spacing
- C the visual appearance
- D the type of crops you intend to grow

34. How can a gardener express him/herself through allotment gardening?

- A Through the colour of their vegetables
- B Through the taste of their fruits
- C Through the selection of their crops
- D Through the care of the soil

35. Why is there such a sense of community among allotment holders?

- A They share resources
- B They give each other advice
- C They are all similar people
- D It is a naturally social pastime

36. What does 'these' refer to in line 22?

- A rewards
- B pests
- C diseases
- D challenges

Part 6

You are going to read about a woman's experiences of looking after a cat. Six sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the paragraphs **A – G** the one which fits each gap (**37 - 42**). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Pickles: A Very Particular Pet

In a corner of my home, a furry friend named Captain Pickles has made his home, turning my ordinary living space into a playground of scratching and jumping. Adopting a cat has proven to be a daily adventure filled with warmth, companionship, and the occasional mischief. | **37** _____ |

Caring for a cat is a question of understanding their unique needs and preferences. From the first day, I learned that Whiskers liked to relax on sunlit windowsills, where he could lie in the warmth of the sun. | **38** _____ | Cats, with their discerning tastes, also demand a diet that suits their discerning palates. Whiskers, being no exception, has a particular fondness for a gourmet selection of wet and dry food, ensuring that his meals are not just sustenance but a culinary delight.

Medical care is a crucial aspect of responsible cat ownership, and routine visits to the veterinarian have become a part of our shared journey. | **39** _____ | Preventive measures such as flea treatments and dental care are all part of our routine. A vigilant eye for any changes in behaviour or health concerns has become second nature, as being always aware of his needs is essential to building a healthy and happy life for Pickles.

The heart of our connection lies in the quiet moments, where the sound of his purring resonates through the room. Whether sleeping on my lap during a cozy evening or lying next to me as I work, Pickles has become a constant companion. | **40** _____ |

As Whiskers gracefully ages, his needs evolve, demanding a thoughtful adjustment in our daily routines. Specialized senior cat food and regular veterinary check-ups become a priority to address the changes in his health. The once sprightly jumps may be replaced by more deliberate movements, but the sparkle in his eyes and the softness of his purr remain constant. Adapting to the nuances of his aging process becomes a testament to the commitment of providing a loving and supportive environment through every stage of his life.

Through the seasons, our home transforms into an oasis of warmth during cold winters and a cool escape in the hot summer months. | **41** _____ | As his caretaker, creating a comfortable and climate-appropriate atmosphere becomes a gesture of love, ensuring his well-being in every weather.

The inevitable challenges of cat ownership, from the occasional broken vase to the mysterious disappearance of household items, serve as gentle reminders that living with a cat is a lesson in patience and adaptability. As the sun sets on another day in our shared

journey, I reflect on the countless moments of joy and companionship that Pickles has brought into my life. |42_____ | In the quiet of our home, the presence of Pickles is a constant reminder of the profound impact that caring for a cat has on the soul, and the enduring companionship that enriches the fabric of daily life.

A In those quiet moments, our lives connect and we share together a mutual understanding.

B He entered my life barely a week ago, bringing with him a sense of joy and responsibility.

C Pickles, reacting to these changes, seeks out his favourite places to be, whether it's by the fireplace in the colder months or on a cool tile floor when the heat of summer dominates.

D There is total commitment on my part, but perhaps not always on his.

E Pickles endures the examinations and vaccinations with a dignified grace.

F So, I arranged a bed by the window, complete with a blanket for his royal comfort.

G The responsibilities of cat ownership go beyond the basic tasks of feeding and grooming; they include the emotional connection and the shared experiences.

Part 7

You are going to read an account of a difficult journey to work. For questions 43 – 52, choose from the sections (A – D). The sections may be chosen more than once.

Which paragraph...

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| mentions a topic that was often repeated? | <input type="text" value="43"/> |
| describes the physical emotional reactions of the other travellers? | <input type="text" value="44"/> |
| describes the morning's weather? | <input type="text" value="45"/> |
| expresses positive thoughts about human endurance? | <input type="text" value="46"/> |
| describes an unsettling change to a familiar routine? | <input type="text" value="47"/> |
| describes a daily routine? | <input type="text" value="48"/> |
| describes an unexpected social interaction? | <input type="text" value="49"/> |
| mentions an imposing building? | <input type="text" value="50"/> |
| mentions a complex journey? | <input type="text" value="51"/> |
| mentions a lesson that he took from the experience? | <input type="text" value="52"/> |



The Train Journey

A

It was a Monday morning, and time to start the journey to work. I hurried through breakfast, I knotted my tie, all the while worried about reaching the station on time. I locked the door behind me and joined the crowds of early-morning commuters pushing their way towards the station. Penge Junction loomed ahead, a grey and imposing structure against the waking city. The morning air was crisp, carrying a subtle promise of the day's possibilities. I joined the queue of fellow commuters, each immersed in their world of headphones and newspapers, with the collective anticipation of the imminent journey hanging in the air.

The train, when it finally arrived, was filled with bodies pressed together like sardines in a can. The doors hissed open, and the crowd pushed forward. I found myself squashed between strangers, unable to find barely enough space in which to breathe.

B

The first challenge came in the form of an unexpected delay. The driver's voice crackled through the offering vague explanations. Mechanical issues, they said, a phrase that became a recurring theme throughout the morning. The train slowed to a crawl, each stop stretching into an interminable pause. My fellow travellers began to grow impatient. Commuters exchanged exasperated glances and tapped their feet in frustration. I, too, felt a sense of deep irritation growing within me as the minutes turned into an eternity. I watched as fellow commuters shifted from casual conversations to sighs of resignation. The train, a symbol of punctuality in normal circumstances, had become our enemy in the struggle against time.

C

The second challenge arrived with an unexpected announcement – a change in the train's route. The familiar stations, the landmarks of our daily journey, were replaced by unfamiliar names that sent a

wave of uncertainty through the train. The collective whispers of confusion were met with another announcement, this time offering a vague explanation about track maintenance. The train, it seemed, was navigating a labyrinth of detours and diversions, prolonging the journey and adding a layer of complexity to the already challenging commute.

As the train ventured into unknown territory, the third challenge materialized in the form of a sudden breakdown. The familiar sound of the engine turned into an ominous silence, and the train came to a stop. The conductor's voice, now a constant companion in our nightmare journey, announced another round of apologies and explanations.

D

The passengers exited the train and walked out onto the platform, their expressions a mixture of frustration and tired acceptance. As we waited for a rescue train, a sense of camaraderie emerged among the passengers. The once-isolated individuals transformed into a community connected to each other by circumstance, finding comfort in the collective struggle of the morning commute. As I walked away from the train station, I reflected on the difficulties of that morning's journey. The challenges faced during those hours of commuting served as a reminder of the adaptability of individuals navigating the unpredictability of life. And so, every morning since then, with the memory of that impossible journey, I approach the train platform with a renewed appreciation for the resilience that emerges in the face of difficulty.