

2.13

- 1 No, she doesn't pause naturally between words or phrases and there are no examples of stress.
- 2 Her speech pattern is monotonous.

3 Assessing yourself and improving your score

3.2

- Fluency and Cohesion: try to improve her fluency so she hesitates less
- Lexical Resource: try to improve her accuracy
- Grammatical Range and Accuracy: try to use a wider range of grammatical structures
- Pronunciation: work on individual sounds

Practice Test 1

Listening Section 1

- 1 café
- 2 9/nine am/9/nine o'clock
- 3 5/five km/kilometres/kilometers
- 4 (a) bar(-)code/(a) barcode/bar code
- 5 website/web site
- 6 1.50
- 7 M-A-U-G-H-A-N
- 8 01444 732900
- 9 guiding/guide
- 10 taking/take photos/photographs

Listening Section 2

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 11 sharks | 16 fifty/50 minutes/mins |
| 12 old fishing village/Old Fishing Village | 17 museum |
| 13 shopping | 18 tourist office |
| 14 (water) fountain | 19 rain(-)wear/rainwear |
| 15 student card | 20 e(-)ticket/e ticket |

Listening Section 3

- | | |
|------|---------------------------------|
| 21 C | 27 (senior) management/managers |
| 22 A | 28 project request |
| 23 B | 29 meeting |
| 24 A | 30 conference call |
| 25 C | |
| 26 B | |

Listening Section 4

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 31 29,000 years | 36 china stone |
| 32 southern/south Europe | 37 cooling (down) |
| 33 water | 38 windows |
| 34 minerals | 39 volcanic ash |
| 35 white gold | 40 harbours |

Reading Passage 1

- 1 road (It was 1992. In England, workmen were building a new road ...)

- 2 conference (In 2002, ... the Dover Bronze-Age Boat Trust hosted a conference ... Many speakers came from overseas, and debate about cultural connections was renewed.)
- 3 proposals (Detailed proposals to reconstruct the boat were drawn up in 2004.)
- 4 launch (... an official launch of the project was held at an international seminar in France in 2007.)
- 5 exhibition (Meanwhile, the exhibition was being prepared ready for opening in July 2012 ...)
- 6 TRUE (The boat was not a wreck, but had been deliberately discarded, dismantled and broken. Perhaps it had been 'ritually killed' at the end of its life ...)
- 7 FALSE (With hindsight, it was significant that the boat was found and studied by mainstream archaeologists who naturally focused on its cultural context. At the time, ancient boats were often considered only from a narrower technological perspective, but news about the Dover boat reached a broad audience.)
- 8 FALSE (The possibility of returning to Dover to search for the boat's unexcavated northern end was explored, but practical and financial difficulties were insurmountable – and there was no guarantee that the timbers had survived the previous decade in the changed environment.)
- 9 NOT GIVEN (Archaeological evidence was beginning to suggest a Bronze-Age community straddling the Channel, brought together by the sea, rather than separated by it.) (Although the text implies that trade existed at the time across the Channel, there is nothing in the text to say what this particular boat was used for.)
- 10 six/6 metres/meters/m (At the base of a deep shaft six metres below the modern streets a wooden structure was revealed.)
- 11 (pads of) moss (The seams had been made watertight by pads of moss, fixed by wedges and yew stitches.)
- 12 (the) hull (shape) (In 2012, however, the hull shape was at the centre of the work, ...)
- 13 cost and time/cost time/time cost (both needed for a mark) (It was decided to make the replica half-scale for reasons of cost and time, ...)

Reading Passage 2

- 14 E (In total, there were responses from staff at 154 airports and 68% of these answered 'yes' to the question: Does your airport own and have meetings facilities available for hire?)
- 15 B (Some of the more obvious solutions to growing commercial revenues, such as extending the merchandising space or expanding the variety of shopping opportunities, have already been tried to their limit at many airports.)
- 16 G (Average revenue per airport was just \$12,959. Meeting facilities are effectively a non-aeronautical source of airport revenue. Only 1% of respondents generated more than 20% non-aeronautical revenue from their meetings facilities; none generated more than 40%.)
- 17 A (Meanwhile, the pressures to control the level of aeronautical revenues are as strong as ever due to the poor financial health of many airlines and the rapid rise of the low-cost carrier sector.)
- 18 C (Within this context, Jarach (2001) discusses how dedicated meetings facilities located within the terminal and managed directly by the airport operator may be regarded as an expansion

of the concept of airline lounges or as a way to reconvert abandoned or underused areas of terminal buildings.)

- 19 security procedures (... new security procedures that have had an impact on the dwell time of passengers.)
- 20 final destination (At this stage of facilities provision, the airport also has the possibility of taking on the role of the final destination rather than merely a facilitator of access.)
- 21 airlines (When an airport location can be promoted as a business venue, this may increase the overall appeal of the airport and help it become more competitive in both attracting and retaining airlines and their passengers.)
- 22 competitive advantage (... but clearly this will be dependent on the competitive advantage that the airport is able to achieve in comparison with other venues.)
- 23 economic downturn/climate (These are fairly high proportions considering the recent economic climate. Also: Moreover, the global economic downturn has caused a reduction in passenger numbers while those that are travelling generally have less money to spend.)
- 24 five years (In addition, 28% of respondents that did not have meeting facilities stated that they were likely to invest in them during the next five years.)
- 25 local (people) (Their findings show that meeting facilities provided by the majority of respondents tend to serve local versus non-local or foreign needs. 63% of respondents estimated that over 60% of users are from the local area.)
- 26 flights (16% of respondents estimated that none of the users of their meeting facilities use flights ...)

Reading Passage 3

- 27 C (Is Photography Art? This may seem a pointless question today ... But in the decades following the discovery of photography, this question reflected the search for ways to fit the mechanical medium into the traditional schemes of artistic expression.)
- 28 D (In both countries, public interest in this topic was a reflection of the belief that national stature and achievement in the arts were related.)
- 29 D (Many portrait painters ... who realized that photography represented the 'handwriting on the wall' became involved with daguerreotyping or paper photography in an effort to save their careers) (The phrase 'writing on the wall' or 'handwriting on the wall' means that there are clear signs that something will fail or no longer exist.)
- 30 A (These writers reflected the opposition of a section of the cultural elite in England and France to the 'cheapening of art' which the growing acceptance and purchase of camera pictures by the middle class represented ... This appeal to the middle class convinced the elite that photographs would foster a desire for realism instead of idealism ...)
- 31 E (From the maze of conflicting statements and heated articles on the subject ...)
- 32 G (The simplest, entertained by many painters and a section of the public, was that photographs should not be considered 'art' because they were made with a mechanical device and by physical and chemical phenomena instead of by human hand and spirit; to some, camera images seemed to have more in common with fabric produced by machinery in a mill than with handmade creations fired by inspiration.)

- 33 A (The second widely held view, ... was that photographs would be useful to art but should not be considered equal in creativeness to drawing and painting.)
- 34 C (Lastly, ... a fair number of individuals realized that camera images were or could be as significant as handmade works of art and that they might have a positive influence on the arts and on culture in general.)
- 35 B (... Lacan and Francis Wey. The latter, ... suggested that they would lead to greater naturalness in the graphic depiction of anatomy, clothing, likeness, expression, and landscape.)
- 36 E (... a more stringent viewpoint led critic Philip Gilbert Hamerton to dismiss camera images as 'narrow in range, emphatic in assertion, telling one truth for ten falsehoods'.)
- 37 A (Still other painters, the most prominent among them the French painter, Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, began almost immediately to use photography to make a record of their own output ...)
- 38 D (Delacroix's enthusiasm for the medium can be sensed in a journal entry noting that if photographs were used as they should be, an artist might 'raise himself to heights that we do not yet know'.)
- 39 A (... Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, began almost immediately to use photography to ... provide ... source material for poses and backgrounds ...)
- 40 C (Baudelaire regarded photography as 'a very humble servant of art and science'; a medium largely unable to transcend 'external reality'. For this critic, photography was linked with 'the great industrial madness' of the time ...)

Writing Task 1

Sample answer

The chart examines the levels of donation among people of different ages in Britain.

Overall, a greater percentage of British people gave money to charity in 1990 than in 2010. However, across the two years, the pattern differs before and after the age of 50.

In 1990, 42% of the 36–50 age-group made charitable donations, and this figure is the highest on the chart. The 18–25s contributed the least at only 17%. By 2010, these figures had fallen significantly to 35% and 7% respectively. The level of donations from the 26–35 age-group also experienced a decrease in 2010 from 31% to 24%.

While donations up to the age of 50 declined across the two years, they rose among the 51–65 age-group from 35% to nearly 40%, which was the highest percentage for 2010. The figure for the over 65s was lower than this, at 35%, but it was still a little higher than the 1990 figure of 32%.

(157 words)

Writing Task 2

Sample answer

For most people, when they get their first job they have little idea whether or not they will remain in the same organisation throughout their working life. If they decide to change, they need to consider how this will impact on their career overall.

People who stay with the same organisation have the advantage of thoroughly understanding how it works and

also becoming familiar with the staff and processes. If they work hard, their promotion prospects are good and there is likely to be greater job security, with the promise of a good pension when they retire. Employers value loyalty and may offer additional incentives to long-term employees, including bonuses and reward schemes.

However, one of the drawbacks of staying with the same organisation is that the person may get stuck doing the same job year after year. In some cases, this can lead to boredom and disillusionment. Moving from one organisation to another can be a strategic decision in order to have variety and acquire a range of skills and experience. A friend of my father started out as a sociology teacher, he then joined the Social Services and is currently managing a care home in Western Australia. This has made him incredibly knowledgeable in a range of related fields and, in my view, has provided him with a much more interesting working life.

Although there are benefits to working for one organisation, I feel that it is also valuable for an employee to be able to offer a wide range of experience having worked for different companies. As long as it is planned carefully, I feel that change is good and will ultimately benefit the employee and the employer. (281 words)

Practice Test 2

Listening Section 1

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 3000/3,000/three thousand words | 6 post |
| 2 surprise/surprising ending | 7 famous authors |
| 3 16/sixteen | 8 online |
| 4 August | 9 public |
| 5 COMP4SS/comp4ss | 10 Spain |

Listening Section 2

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 11 world of water/World of Water | 15 (a) birthday party |
| 12 (the) splash ride | 16 (the) government |
| 13 (at) noon/midday/12 o'clock/12 pm | 17 (the/a) quiz |
| 14 feed (the) sharks | 18 E |
| | 19 C |
| | 20 B |

Listening Section 3

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| 21&22 IN EITHER ORDER | 26 seminars |
| D B | 27 A |
| 23 mathematics/math(s) | 28 B |
| 24 theory/theoretical | 29 C |
| 25 jet engines | 30 C |

Listening Section 4

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 31 supportive | 36 tone |
| 32 pay attention | 37 (a) silence/silences |
| 33 next steps | 38 weak verbs |
| 34 consistent | 39 repeat it |
| 35 graphics | 40 predicting |

Reading Passage 1

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 (retronasal) smell | 8 (air) molecules |
| 2 umami | 9 flavors/flavours |
| 3 toxins | 10 memories |
| 4 internal scents/smells | 11 prey |
| 5 disciplines | 12 chocolate |
| 6 spatial map | 13 appetites |
| 7 social life | |

Reading Passage 2

- | | | |
|---------|-------|------------------------|
| 14 v | 19 iv | 23 C |
| 15 ii | 20 C | 24 on(-)board computer |
| 16 viii | 21 B | 25 ultrasound signals |
| 17 vii | 22 A | 26 touch(-)screen |
| 18 i | | |

Reading Passage 3

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 27 NOT GIVEN | 34 a/the door |
| 28 NO | 35 identification |
| 29 NO | 36 (the/some) valuables |
| 30 YES | 37&38 IN EITHER ORDER |
| 31 NO | A C |
| 32 visual disturbance | 39&40 IN EITHER ORDER |
| 33 (some) directions | B E |

Writing Task 1

Sample answer

The data provides information on average temperatures and annual hours of sunshine in London, New York and Sydney.

The temperature patterns for London and New York are similar, although New York has warmer summers and colder winters. In both cities, peaks occur in July/August, at 23° in London and 29° in New York. In contrast, Sydney's hottest weather is in December/January when temperatures average 25°. During this period, New York's temperatures dip to an average of around 5°, compared with 8° in London. On the other hand, Sydney's lowest average temperatures in July are just over 15°.

As far as hours of sunshine are concerned, New York and Sydney have similar averages of 2,535 and 2,473 hours respectively. London, however, has a much lower average of 1,180 hours.

Clearly, London is the coldest city and has the fewest hours of sunshine. New York has the hottest summers, but Sydney enjoys the warmest overall climate.

(156 words)

Writing Task 2

Sample answer

Over the past 50 years, people have become used to the idea that they will probably live longer than their grandparents did. However, a longer life is only desirable if you can look after yourself and be independent, otherwise there can be disadvantages for everyone.

If you walk into a hospital in my country, you are likely to see a lot more elderly people than you did in the past. In fact, this is causing significant problems as there is a shortage of beds. Medical treatment is keeping the elderly alive, but at what cost to others?

On top of this, one of the biggest medical problems these days is dementia. Even if old people are still fit, they may not be able to look after themselves. They may have to live with their children or be cared for in a home, which can be expensive. Elderly people do not like to be a burden, but their children can feel obliged to care for them.

Obviously, not all old people become ill. Those who remain healthy can enjoy a happy old age as long as they have saved enough money. People are much more active in their sixties and seventies than they used to be and this can only be a good thing. They have time to enjoy their retirement and do a range of activities that they could not do when they were at work. They can also help look after their grandchildren, which is a great benefit for working parents.

To sum up, I believe that we should aim to keep people as healthy as possible so that they can enjoy their old age without having to rely on others. A longer life expectancy is obviously advantageous, but no one wants to live to be 100 if they only cause problems for their family and society.

(308 words)

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Practice Test 3

Listening Section 1

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 S-Y-M-O-N-D-S/S-y-m-o-n-d-s | 6 (go/do) jogging |
| 2 1996 | 7 bad ankle |
| 3 full(-)time | 8 fitness level |
| 4 swimming | 9 charity worker |
| 5 monthly | 10 (on) (the) radio |

Listening Section 2

- | | | |
|------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 11 C | 15 C | 19 lounge |
| 12 B | 16 E | 20 speeches/
speakers |
| 13 A | 17 A | |
| 14 B | 18 ring a bell | |

Listening Section 3

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 21 pine forests | 26 (the) introduction |
| 22 water | 27 (the) council |
| 23 print | 28 (some) data |
| 24 sort | 29 first draft |
| 25 remove ink | 30 (their/the) tutor |

Listening Section 4

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 31 protection | 36 cap |
| 32 flexible | 37 oil |
| 33 elephants | 38 active |
| 34 100 000/100,000 | 39 skin |
| 35 products | 40 blue(-)berries |

Reading Passage 1

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1 FALSE | 8 A |
| 2 FALSE | 9 E |
| 3 NOT GIVEN | 10 scouts |
| 4 TRUE | 11 waggle dance |
| 5 NOT GIVEN | 12 volume |
| 6 TRUE | 13 democratic |
| 7 C | |

Reading Passage 2

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 14 iv | 21 column(s) |
| 15 viii | 22 concrete |
| 16 ii | 23 structural revolution |
| 17 vi | 24 (non-pressurized) boilers |
| 18 iii | 25 power shortages |
| 19 factory | 26 climate control |
| 20 flooring/floor | |

Reading Passage 3

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 27 YES | 34 turn-taking |
| 28 YES | 35 interruptions |
| 29 NO | 36 belong |
| 30 NOT GIVEN | 37 distress levels |
| 31 NOT GIVEN | 38 rejection |
| 32 NO | 39 agreement |
| 33 (their) behavio(u)r/
activities | 40 content |

Writing Task 1

Sample answer

The diagrams show West Park School at three different stages in its development: 1950, 1980 and 2010.

In 1950, the school was built close to a main road and next to a number of houses. A large area behind the school was turned into a playground, while the area behind the houses was farmland.

By 1980, the houses had been demolished in order to make way for a small car park and an additional school building, which became the science block. In addition to the existing playground, the school also gained the farmland and converted it into a sports field.

In 2010, the school building remained unchanged but the car park was extended to cover the entire sports field. As a result of this, the original playground was divided into two so that it provided a smaller playground and a small sports field.

During this period, the school has increased in size and a car park has been created and enlarged. The combined recreational areas, however, first expanded and were then reduced in size.

(174 words)

Writing Task 2

Sample answer

Most people would agree that car ownership has increased in recent years and is causing a range of problems, particularly in built-up areas. I think there are a number of ways that governments can aim to deal with this.

Many big cities in the world have traffic problems but these problems vary. For example, it is reasonably easy to drive around my city after 10 am and before 5 pm. However, outside these hours, you have to allow double the usual time to reach your destination. In some other cities, traffic is congested at all times, and there is the continual sound of car horns as people try to get wherever they want to go.

One of the best approaches governments can take in busy cities is to encourage the use of public transport. This means the transport facilities have to be well run and people must be able to afford them. Buses, trams and trains are good ways of getting around, and if they are cheap and reliable, people will use them.

Another approach is to discourage people from actually entering the city by building car parks and shopping centres on the outskirts. Many cities around the world do this quite successfully and offer passengers bus transport into the centre, if they need it.

At peak travel periods, governments can also run campaigns to encourage people to be less dependent on their cars. Apparently, a lot of car trips involve very short journeys to, say, the supermarket or local school. These are often unnecessary, but we automatically get in our cars without thinking.

Clearly we all have a responsibility to look after our cities. Governments can do a lot to improve the situation and part of what they do should involve encouraging individuals to consider alternatives to driving.

(299 words)

Practice Test 4

Listening Section 1

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1 7.30/seven thirty | 6 55/fifty-five |
| 2 pencils | 7 beginners |
| 3 top | 8 Kahui |
| 4 August | 9 battery |
| 5 instructions | 10 show |

Listening Section 2

- | | |
|---------------------------|------|
| 11&12 IN EITHER ORDER B E | 17 B |
| 13&14 IN EITHER ORDER B C | 18 E |
| 15 G | 19 C |
| 16 I | 20 A |

Listening Section 3

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 21 C | 24 C | 27 A | 30 E |
| 22 A | 25 A | 28 D | |
| 23 B | 26 G | 29 C | |

Listening Section 4

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 31 food | 36 shark |
| 32 hero | 37 teeth |
| 33 feathers | 38 messages |
| 34 shells | 39 meeting |
| 35 diamond | 40 escape |

Reading Passage 1

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1 FALSE | 8 NOT GIVEN |
| 2 FALSE | 9 A |
| 3 TRUE | 10 B |
| 4 TRUE | 11 C |
| 5 NOT GIVEN | 12 C |
| 6 FALSE | 13 A |
| 7 NOT GIVEN | |

Reading Passage 2

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 14 NOT GIVEN | 21 Communication |
| 15 YES | 22 C |
| 16 NO | 23 F |
| 17 NOT GIVEN | 24 H |
| 18 fertiliser / fertilizer | 25 A |
| 19 lasers | 26 D |
| 20 cereals | |

Reading Passage 3

- | | |
|------|---------------------------|
| 27 E | 33&34 IN EITHER ORDER C D |
| 28 D | 35&36 IN EITHER ORDER B C |
| 29 C | 37 generation |
| 30 E | 38 citizen |
| 31 A | 39 abstract |
| 32 B | 40 music |

Writing Task 1

Sample answer

This bar chart illustrates the performance of Southland's primary exports in 2000 and 2013. It also indicates future projections for 2025. According to the data, it seems likely that international tourism will become the dominant industry, although dairy exports will remain strong. In 2000, we can see that tourism was the greatest exports earner of the three industries, with revenue standing at just over £8 billion. This figure has increased slightly, so that now, in 2013, it has reached almost £9 billion. It is estimated that international tourism will continue to grow, so that by 2025, it will be earning around £10 billion for the country. In 2000, dairy exports were worth around £7 billion, but since then there has been a dramatic increase, and sales for this year are approximately £10 billion. Experts are predicting that exports in this area may fall slightly, so a figure of £9.5 billion is expected for 2025. Meat products are the third key industry in Southland, but sales have dropped since 2000 and now stand at £5.5 billion. It is expected that sales will continue to decrease in the future.

(187 words)

Writing Task 2

Sample answer

The growth of the fast food industry has, without doubt, impacted on the eating habits and the health of many societies around the world. Diabetes, high cholesterol, heart and respiratory problems are all on the rise due to fatty and sugar-rich food*. However, the question is whether higher tax would improve this situation or not.

From an economic point of view, higher tax might seem sensible. In countries such as the USA, Australia and Britain*, the healthcare system spends a large part of its budget on people with diet-related health problems. It could be argued that these people have caused their own illnesses because of their choice of food. In this case, why should they expect the state to pay for their treatment? The tax could help fund the healthcare system.

However, we also need to consider which socio-economic group consumes fast food as the main part of their diet. Statistics indicate* that lower income groups eat more of this food than wealthier people. One possible reason for this is that fast food is far cheaper than fresh produce. This is because many governments offer large subsidies to farmers who provide products for the fast food industry, such as corn, wheat and beef. Fruit and vegetables, on the other hand, are not subsidised. Research suggests* that many families simply cannot afford to buy healthy food or pay higher taxes on fast food. For them, fast food is not a choice but a necessity.

In conclusion, imposing a higher tax on fast food does not seem to be the answer. If the government chose to do this, it would only lead to greater poverty and families facing further hardship. (278 words)

Practice Test 5

Listening Section 1

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1 white | 6 airport |
| 2 office | 7 taxi |
| 3 camera | 8 Docherty |
| 4 umbrella | 9 River |
| 5 13th May/13 May/
thirteenth May/May 13/
May 13th/May thirteenth | 10 07979605437 |

Listening Section 2

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 11 G | 14 E | 17 A | 20 A |
| 12 D | 15 C | 18 C | |
| 13 A | 16 B | 19 C | |

Listening Section 3

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 21 B | 24 C | 27 B | 30 F |
| 22 A | 25 B | 28 G | |
| 23 A | 26 E | 29 A | |

Listening Section 4

- 31 migration
32 eyes
33 lizard
34 trade
35 survival
36 political
37&38 IN EITHER ORDER ships; horses
39&40 IN EITHER ORDER industry; tourism

Reading Passage 1

- 1 vi 2 x 3 ii 4 ix 5 iv 6 i 7 vii
8 North America 9 (super-hot) fires 10 (stored) carbon
11 winds 12 Drought 13 beetle

Reading Passage 2

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| 14 skin/skin samples | 21 blood |
| 15 noise/noise pollution | 22 NOT GIVEN |
| 16 (around) Tasmania | 23 TRUE |
| 17 sperm/sperm whale(s) | 24 NOT GIVEN |
| 18 sound waves | 25 TRUE |
| 19 nutrients | 26 FALSE |
| 20 microbubbles | |

Reading Passage 3

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 27 B | 31 C | 35 A | 39 G |
| 28 A | 32 D | 36 H | 40 B |
| 29 B | 33 B | 37 D | |
| 30 D | 34 C | 38 F | |

Writing Task 1

Sample answer

The two pie charts compare the percentages of online sales across different retail sectors in New Zealand in the years 2003 and 2013. For three of the sectors, it is evident that over this time frame there was significant change in their proportion of online transactions.

At 36% we can see that the travel sector accounted for the majority of online sales in 2003, but this percentage had dropped to 29% by 2013. Across the same ten-year period, as an increasing number of people chose to purchase films and music online, we can see that transactions went from just 21% to 33%, making it the retail sector with the highest overall share of the online market.

In 2003, the clothing industry boasted an impressive 24% of total online sales in New Zealand. However, by 2013, the figure had fallen considerably to 16%. Interestingly, online sales of books eventually overtook sales of clothes, although books still represented only 22% of the market.

(162 words)

Writing Task 2

Sample answer

In recent years, advances in technology have allowed governments, the police and privately owned companies to keep the public under constant surveillance. In many major cities and towns, security cameras are recording the movements of ordinary citizens. Whenever a cellphone is used, the call is logged, so the service provider knows exactly when and where the user made the call. Invisible satellites orbit the Earth, watching us whether we like it or not. Is this, however, a development we should welcome?

Certainly there are benefits. In areas where there is a high crime rate, the use of security cameras may act as a deterrent to criminals: if they can see a camera, they may think twice about breaking into a building or stealing a car. If a crime is carried out, then a camera may provide useful evidence. The same is true for a cellphone; the police sometimes rely on call logs to help them trace the whereabouts of suspects or victims.

On the other hand, there are a number of concerns. In countries where human rights are ignored, the use of security cameras or listening devices may be harmful to society. People should be able to hold meetings and express their opinions without their privacy being invaded. There is also a very different issue we should consider. Nowadays, many people upload personal information and photographs onto social networking sites; they often do not realise how easy it is for other people to view this information or for the site owners to use the data or photographs for their own financial gain.

It seems inevitable that there will be more and more ways to monitor society in the future. However, it is our responsibility to evaluate new technology and decide whether it will do more harm than good. Surely our freedom is more valuable than technological progress?

(307 words)

Practice Test 6

Listening Section 1

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| 1 208 613 2978 | 6 fridge |
| 2 visiontech | 7 school |
| 3 doctor | 8 950/£950 |
| 4 garage | 9 quiet |
| 5 furniture | 10 friend |

Listening Section 2

- | | |
|-----------------------|------|
| 11 contact details | 16 C |
| 12 (an) emergency | 17 D |
| 13 radio | 18 F |
| 14 (spare/extra) keys | 19 G |
| 15 (window) locks | 20 E |

Listening Section 3

- | | |
|------|--------------------|
| 21 B | 26 C |
| 22 C | 27 (global) hunger |
| 23 B | 28 pollution |
| 24 A | 29 wood |
| 25 C | 30 grass(es) |

Listening Section 4

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 31 marketing | 35&36 IN EITHER ORDER C E |
| 32 interests | 37&38 IN EITHER ORDER A D |
| 33 jobs | 39&40 IN EITHER ORDER A C |
| 34 health | |

Reading Passage 1

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 vi | 8 economy |
| 2 vii | 9 guidelines |
| 3 i | 10 language |
| 4 iv | 11 equipment/resources |
| 5 viii | 12 Master's degree/Masters degree |
| 6 ii | 13 respect/status |
| 7 science | |

Reading Passage 2

- | | |
|------|---------------------------|
| 14 F | 19&20 A/C |
| 15 E | 21&22 IN EITHER ORDER A D |
| 16 A | 23 TRUE |
| 17 E | 24 NOT GIVEN |
| 18 B | 25 NOT GIVEN |
| | 26 FALSE |

Reading Passage 3

- | | | |
|------|------------------|------------------|
| 27 D | 32 C | 37 conversations |
| 28 B | 33 D | 38 Internet |
| 29 A | 34 A | 39 cities |
| 30 C | 35 workplace | 40 A |
| 31 B | 36 acquaintances | |

Writing Task 1

Sample answer

This graph illustrates how crime rates altered in Newport inner city during the period 2003–2012. We can see immediately that the greatest change occurred in the number of burglaries, while incidents of theft remained low but steady.

In 2003, we can see that burglary was the most common crime, with approximately 3,400 reported cases. The figure rose to around 3,700 in 2004, but then there was a downward trend until 2008. At this point the figure stood at just over 1,000 incidents. This rose slightly in 2009, then continued to fluctuate for the remaining period.

In 2003, the number of cars being stolen stood at around 2,800 and followed a similar trend to burglary until 2006. At this point the number rose, standing at around 2,200 in 2007. There was a marginal decrease in the following year, but from then on, the trend was generally upwards.

Finally, robbery has always been a fairly minor problem for Newport. The number of offences committed changed little over nine years. It is interesting to note that the figure of approximately 700 in 2003 is the same figure for 2012.

(187 words)

Writing Task 2

Sample answer

The pursuit of knowledge is a concept that is valued by most cultures. In the 21st century, we now have many more options regarding how and where to find that knowledge. If you are a French national, you can apply to do an economics degree in the USA, and likewise an American citizen can take a course in linguistics in France. Indeed, most universities across the world now have a good proportion of foreign students enrolled in their programmes.

Certainly, there are numerous advantages of studying in a different country. Many students choose to do this because they know that a particular university, for instance Stanford Business School, has an excellent reputation. Graduating from here, they believe, will increase their chances of securing a decent position in a company back home. Students studying abroad also have the opportunity to form friendships with people of various nationalities: in time, these may develop into useful professional networks. Furthermore, living far from family and friends can enable young people to become more independent and self-sufficient.

Unfortunately, the experience of studying abroad is not always a positive one. Research suggests that a small percentage of young people struggle to adapt to their new environment and suffer from severe culture shock. The situation can become worse if the student is not mature enough to cope by themselves. Different approaches to teaching and learning may also come as an unwelcome surprise to some students.

In essence, the key to a good experience at a foreign university is an open mind. If a student is presented with this opportunity, they should certainly seize it.

(267 words)

Practice Test 7

Listening Section 1

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 unfriendly | 7 S-H-A-D-F-O-R-T-H/
S-h-a-d-f-o-r-t-h |
| 2 noisy | 8 towel |
| 3 23.50/twenty-three fifty | 9 breakfast |
| 4 insects | 10 kitchen |
| 5 bathrooms | |
| 6 party | |

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Listening Section 2

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 11 B | 14 B | 17 E | 20 A |
| 12 A | 15 A | 18 C | |
| 13 C | 16 A | 19 F | |

Listening Section 3

- | | | |
|------|---------------|------------|
| 21 A | 25 A | 29 cost(s) |
| 22 B | 26 A | 30 time |
| 23 A | 27 background | |
| 24 B | 28 theory | |

Listening Section 4

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 31 religion(s) | 36 education |
| 32 nature | 37 king |
| 33 flight | 38 entertainment |
| 34 stars | 39 opera |
| 35 practical | 40 electricity |

Reading Passage 1

- | | |
|-------------|------|
| 1 TRUE | 8 D |
| 2 FALSE | 9 B |
| 3 NOT GIVEN | 10 G |
| 4 NOT GIVEN | 11 C |
| 5 TRUE | 12 E |
| 6 FALSE | 13 F |
| 7 TRUE | |

Reading Passage 2

- | | |
|----------------------|------|
| 14 (the) hairs | 21 B |
| 15 (electric) charge | 22 C |
| 16 pores | 23 E |
| 17 water | 24 I |
| 18 concave | 25 F |
| 19 E | 26 H |
| 20 D | |

Reading Passage 3

- | | |
|--------|--------------------------|
| 27 i | 33 F |
| 28 x | 34 E |
| 29 ii | 35 C |
| 30 vii | 36 D |
| 31 iii | 37&38 (in any order) B E |
| 32 v | 39&40 (in any order) A E |

General Training Reading Section 1

- | | |
|-----|--------------|
| 1 E | 8 B |
| 2 B | 9 TRUE |
| 3 A | 10 NOT GIVEN |
| 4 F | 11 NOT GIVEN |
| 5 C | 12 TRUE |
| 6 A | 13 FALSE |
| 7 C | 14 FALSE |

General Training Reading Section 2

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 15 volunteers | 22 range |
| 16 consultants | 23 selection |
| 17 decisions | 24 details |
| 18 efficiency | 25 evaluation |
| 19 confidence | 26 implementation |
| 20 involvement | 27 lessons |
| 21 aim | |

General Training Reading Section 3

- | | |
|------|-------------------------|
| 28 C | 35 Treasury |
| 29 A | 36 (commemorative) coin |
| 30 C | 37 (ornamental) stars |
| 31 C | 38 (word) Britain |
| 32 A | 39 (red) ink |
| 33 A | 40 colour/color |
| 34 B | |

Practice Test 8

Listening Section 1

- 1 (simple) documents
- 2 keyboard
- 3 flowers
- 4 tools
- 5 Saturday
- 6 Mairead
- 7 Bridge
- 8 (the) 14(th)/fourteen(th) (of) May/May (the) 14(th)/fourteen(th)/14.(0)5/(0)5.14
- 9 park
- 10 newspaper

Listening Section 2

- | | |
|------|-----------------|
| 11 C | 16 films/movies |
| 12 B | 17 reports |
| 13 A | 18 region |
| 14 H | 19 job |
| 15 G | 20 housing |

Listening Section 3

- | | |
|------|--------------------------|
| 21 E | 26 D |
| 22 I | 27 A |
| 23 C | 28 aims/objectives/goals |
| 24 G | 29 staff |
| 25 B | 30 feedback |

Listening Section 4

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 31 hook | 36 intelligence |
| 32 string | 37 tail(s) |
| 33 danger | 38 energy |
| 34 rubber | 39 chemical |
| 35 light | 40 diet |

Reading Passage 1

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 seafaring | 9 TRUE |
| 2 merchant | 10 FALSE |
| 3 temple | 11 TRUE |
| 4 craftsmen | 12 TRUE |
| 5 timber/wood/cedar | 13 NOT GIVEN |
| 6 partnership | |
| 7 ivory | |
| 8 commission | |

Reading Passage 2

- | | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| 14 iv | 21 TRUE |
| 15 ii | 22 NOT GIVEN |
| 16 vii | 23 TRUE |
| 17 i | 24 vertical integration |
| 18 v | 25 movie moguls |
| 19 vi | 26 divestiture |
| 20 FALSE | |

Reading Passage 3

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| 27 D | 34 food |
| 28 C | 35 predator |
| 29 E | 36 E |
| 30 B | 37 H |
| 31 environmental | 38 B |
| 32 light | 39 B |
| 33 multi tasking | 40 A |

Writing Task 1

Sample answer

The number of rentals and sales in various formats of films, between 2002 and 2011 in a particular store has changed a lot. Sometimes it has been very low and sometimes very high. The number of rental since 2002 has been decreasing every year. Comparing the number of rentals in 2002 with 2011, it's possible noticing that in 2002 it was about 180,000 rentals against approximately 55,000 in 2011. In regarding the number of VHS sales, comparing the period between 2002 and 2005, it has happened as well. In 2002 the number of VHS sales was about 85,000 sales, against 65,000 in 2003, 40,000 in 2004 and about 10,000 sales in 2005. After that time, this store stopped to sale VHS. By another side, the number of DVD sales grewed up between 2002 and 2007, from approximately 45,000 in 2002, more than 100,000 in 2003, to more than 200,000 in 2007. However, since 2008, it has been going down slightly. In 2011 this number was less than 180,000.

The number of Blu-Ray sales has started since 2007 and it has growing up slowly. In 2007 it was nowhere near as significant as DVD sales but I guess it will grow up drastically in a few years.

Actually the number of DVD sales is still very higher than another products in that place.

(222 words)

Writing Task 2

Sample answer

Nowadays we are living in a society based on consuming. As a result, some people have problems in dealing with this budget and they get into debt by buying things they don't need and can't afford.

This kind of behavior is encountered quite often in our present days, mainly because of the possibility of buying goods in leasing. Hence, people buy most of the goods using the credit card without having a clear idea on how much money they possess or they owe.

Also, another cause for this behavior could be psychological. The advertisement and the subliminal messages one encounters in a regular day in a big city has an enormous impact on one's brain. The main problem is the lack of awareness of the serious effects that advertisement can have on people.

In order to prevent people from adopting this dangerous behavior, measures should be taken so as to raise awareness among people. Also, one must learn how to manage his budget in order to get a balance between necessitating and pleasure. Keeping a record on income and monthly spendings would be very helpful and would give to the consumer an overall image on how his budget should be spent.

All summed up, the chances of becoming a victim of the consumer's society are high nowadays due to the surrounding temptations but this problem could be easily avoid by being aware of this dangers and having a rational attitude when dealing with money.

(244 words)

General Training Reading Section 1

- | | |
|-----|--------------|
| 1 F | 8 FALSE |
| 2 C | 9 TRUE |
| 3 B | 10 TRUE |
| 4 A | 11 TRUE |
| 5 C | 12 FALSE |
| 6 F | 13 TRUE |
| 7 E | 14 NOT GIVEN |

General Training Reading Section 2

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 15 duties | 22 15 (days)/fifteen (days) |
| 16 objective | 23 demolition |
| 17 negotiate | 24 5 years/five years |
| 18 relevant | 25 hazards |
| 19 connection | 26 practical |
| 20 modest | 27 tuition |
| 21 supervisor(s) | |

General Training Reading Section 3

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 28 viii | 35 horses (galloping) |
| 29 vi | 36 swords |
| 30 iii | 37 conductor |
| 31 vii | 38 machinery |
| 32 i | 39 miners |
| 33 x | 40 poverty |
| 34 iv | |