

English Entry Exam

Example

Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.

Answer all the questions in the spaces provided.

Writing time is 90 minutes.

Good luck!

USE OF ENGLISH

PART 1

For questions 1-10, read the sentences below and decide which answer (A,B,C, or D) best fits each gap. Circle the correct answer.

1. Donald has decided to complain to his M.P. _____ the state of the roads.
A) involving B) touching C) regarding D) befitting
2. We were disappointed when the hotel failed to _____ up to the promises in the brochure.
A) sum B) rise C) live D) climb
3. The parents could not _____ on a name for their new baby.
A) assent B) conclude C) consent D) decide
4. After the accident the little girl was taken to the hospital and _____ for shock.
A) cured B) treated C) operated D) healed
5. _____ she wasn't feeling well, she still went to work.
A) Although B) In spite of C) However D) Despite
6. The city is _____ near as nice as the country.
A) nothing B) none C) not D) nowhere
7. I wish you _____ keep poking your nose into other people's business!
A) wouldn't B) hadn't C) couldn't D) shouldn't
8. I do not intend to _____ any tears over what has happened to him.
A) shed B) drop C) fall D) release
9. Because of the fog it was difficult to make _____ the words on the sign-post.
A) up B) out C) over D) away
10. The effect of the anaesthetic wore _____ more quickly than the nurse had expected.
A) off B) out C) over D) away

PART 2

Complete gaps 11-20 in the text with a word formed from the word given in brackets. Gap 0) has been done as an example.

A Las Vegas Wedding

Las Vegas is known as the 0) marriage (**MARRY**) capital of the world because of the ease of obtaining a marriage license. The process can be completed 11)

_____ (**WITH**) minutes in Las Vegas while it often takes several weeks and involves lots of paperwork in other parts of the world. It is also 12) _____ (**COMPARE**) cheap at just \$60.

This and the variety of weddings available have made Las Vegas a popular 13) _____ (**DESTINY**) among couples wanting to get married. The fact that it is 14) _____ (**NECESSARY**) to plan in advance means there are also plenty of spontaneous weddings in Las Vegas each year of couples on holidays.

Wedding ceremonies can be civil or 15) _____ (**RELIGION**) depending on where they take place and can follow all sorts of different and 16) _____ (**ORIGIN**) themes. There are a large number of 17) _____ (**LOCATE**) to choose from; weddings can be performed by one of the many 18) _____ (**DEPEND**) wedding chapels or in local churches, restaurants and golf courses. Most major hotels have their own wedding chapels. It's also possible to have a wedding ceremony outside in the area surrounding Las Vegas. The 19) _____ (**COMPETE**) between different venues keeps the prices relatively low and their 20) _____ (**AFFORD**) adds to the general popularity of such events.

PART 3

For questions 21-30, 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 **three** and **six** words, including the word given. Here is an example 0.

Example: 0. I haven't seen him for the last 2 years.

TIME

The last time I saw him was more than 2 years ago.

21. Aaron is much better at managing the company than his predecessor.

A

Aaron is _____ of the company than the last one.

22. I regret not telling them the truth sooner.

TOLD

I wish _____ the truth sooner.

23. I've never heard this band play live before.

TIME

This is _____ ever heard this band play live.

24. You mustn't eat or drink anywhere inside the theatre.

IS

Eating and drinking _____ inside the theatre.

25. 'We'll probably go to the cinema on Saturday night.'

LIKELY

They said they _____ to the cinema on Saturday night.

26. You should go now or you'll miss the train.

HAD

You _____ now or you'll miss the train.

27. He usually gets home before I do.

GET

He _____ home before I do.

28. Dave goes running at 7 o'clock every morning despite it still being dark at that time.

EVEN

Dave goes running at 7 o'clock every morning
_____ still dark at that time.

29. As well as burning the steaks, I also overcooked the potatoes!

DID

Not _____, but I also overcooked the potatoes.

30. The novelist is just about to sign a million pound contract.

VERGE

The novelist is _____ a million pound contract.

READING

You are going to read a magazine article in which five career consultants give advice about starting a career. For questions 1 – 10 choose from the consultants (A – E). The consultants may be chosen more than once.

Which consultant makes the following statements?

Keep your final objective in mind when you are planning to change jobs.	1	
It takes time to become familiar with the characteristics of a company you have joined.	2	
You should demonstrate determination to improve your job prospects.	3	
Make sure your approach for information is positive in tone.	4	
It is not certain that you will be given very much support in your job initially.	5	
Stay optimistic in spite of setbacks.	6	
Promotion isn't the only way to increase your expertise.	7	
Ask for information about your shortcomings.	8	
Some information you are given may not give a complete picture.	9	
It will be some time before you start giving your employers their money's worth.	10	

Starting out on your career

Are you a graduate trying to plan out the best career path for yourself? We've asked five career consultants to give some tips on how to go about it.

Consultant A

A university degree is no guarantee of a job, and job hunting in itself requires a whole set of skills. If you find you are not getting past the first interview, ask yourself what is happening. Is it a failure to communicate or are there some skills you lack? Once you see patterns emerging, it will help you decide whether the gaps you have identified can be filled relatively easily. If you cannot work out what the mismatch is, get back to the selection panel with more probing questions, and find out what you need to do to bring yourself up to the level of qualification that would make you more attractive to them, but be careful to make this sound like a genuine request rather than a challenge or complaint.

Consultant B

Do not be too dispirited if you are turned down for a job, but think about the reasons the employers give. They often say it is because others are 'better qualified', but they use the term loosely. Those who made the second interview might have been studying the same subject as you and be of similar ability level, but they had something which made them a closer match to the selector's ideal. That could be experience gained through projects or vacation work, or it might be that they were better at communicating what they could offer. Do not take the comments at face value: think back to the interviews that generated them and make a list of where you think the shortfall in your performance lies. With this sort of analytical approach you will eventually get your foot in the door.

Consultant C

Deciding how long you should stay in your first job is a tough call. Stay too long and future employers may question your drive and ambition. Of course, it depends where you are aiming. There can be advantages in moving sideways rather than up, if you want to gain real depth of knowledge.

If you are a graduate, spending five or six years in the same job is not too long provided that you take full advantage of the experience. However, do not use this as an excuse for apathy. Graduates sometimes fail to take ownership of their careers and take the initiative. It is up to you to make the most of what's available within a company, and to monitor your progress in case you need to move on. This applies particularly if you are still not sure where your career path lies.

Consultant D

It is helpful to think through what kind of experience you need to get your dream job, and it is not a problem to move around to a certain extent. But in the early stages of your career you need a definite strategy for reaching your goal, so think about that carefully before deciding to move on from your first job. You must cultivate patience

to master any role. There is no guarantee that you will get adequate training, and research has shown that if you do not receive proper help in a new role, it can take 18 months to master it.

Consultant E

A prospective employer does not want to see that you have changed jobs every six months with no thread running between them. You need to be able to demonstrate the quality of your experience to a future employer, and too many moves too quickly can be a bad thing. In any company it takes three to six months for a new employee to get up to speed with the structure and the culture of the company. From the company's perspective, they will not receive any return on the investment in your salary until you have been there for 18 months. This is when they begin to get most value from you – you are still fired up and enthusiastic. If you leave after six months, it has not been a good investment – and may make other employers wary.

WRITING

Choose one of the topics below and write an essay. Write between 250 and 300 words.

1. In what ways can teenagers get ready for their future work life while they are still at school? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
2. Creativity is said to be the most important 21st century skill. Do you agree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.