

Here you can find an example of tasks that you will get in the online English language entrance test.

Placement test No. 1

The test consists of three sections (A, B and C). The tasks are to be completed in a presented order following the instructions provided. If you fail to complete a task on time, move to the next one. You can go back to the task failed if you have some time left at the end. **You are not allowed to use any dictionaries during the test.**

Reading

Choose the most suitable heading from the list A–I for each part (1–7) of the article. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning Example (0).

- A Escape the routine
- B A growing trend
- C Back to nature LETS do it!

- D Old and young
- E Who needs money?
- F Save the world

- G Help with the kids
- H Learn about yourself
- I Anything and everything

LETS do it!

Example (0) E

In Totnes, they use 'acorns', in Manchester 'bobbins' and in Cambridge 'cams'. What on earth are these you may ask? These are all currency units used in the Local Exchange Trading Systems (LETS), a scheme that avoids the need to pay cash for goods and service, working instead on a bartering exchange system.

1

If you've never heard of LETS (Local Exchange Trading Systems) you might wonder what the fuss is all about. With more than 400 schemes in the UK, it's obvious that more and more people are catching on to the idea. And if you are tired of seeing your cash disappear in taxes, here's a way of keeping your cash and exchanging your skills instead.

2

Sean Kelly, who edits his local LETS newsletter, lives in a village in Bedfordshire. He works part-time for the BBC as a vision engineer. He and his wife, who works part-time at the Open University, moved to the village from London eight years ago. They wanted 'to spend time doing what we wanted to do,' explains Steve, and LETS fits very well into that plan.

3

They joined the LETS scheme when it began after attending a public meeting advertised in a local newspaper. When, 18 months ago, their first son arrived, the LETS scheme became a godsend. Not only have they acquired everything necessary for a baby, they have found the idea of baby-sitting helpful too. 'We've made more friends locally through LETS than anything else'.

4

One of the most popular things on offer as part of the scheme is fresh fruit and vegetables – especially if it's organic. But there all sorts of skills and goods that people can offer. One member renovates old computers and another member has a selection of ballgowns for hire – not really an everyday service, but she was surprised at the demand.

5

Occasionally the members set up a gardening or decorating gang, where a group gets together and tackles a bigger job in someone's garden or home. There are a lot of gardeners with years of experience. This becomes a social event too and you can hear the laughter from one of these gangs a long way off. Even children become involved in the scheme – car-washing is a particular favourite.

6

Probably around a third of the members come to the scheme through green or social beliefs. Some may be members of organizations such as Greenpeace or Friends of the Earth. They are attracted to LETS by the fact that many goods get recycled. One LETS group was started by a single mother on a council estate who saw the benefits for those on lower incomes.

7

But the most important thing, if you do decide to join, is to get involved. Don't just sit around waiting for it to happen; you need to be active. Go to meetings and social events, get to know people, and soon you could be swapping skills you did not know you had!

Read the text and choose the right answer (A, B, C) to the questions (8-12). The task begins with an Example (0).

### The Early Career of James Whitton

James Whitton founded the travel agency known as the James Whitton Group, which has offices worldwide. He grew up in Kingston Street in the small village of Keighley, in Yorkshire, the first child of Jack and Anne Whitton. Aged 10 James got his first job, working as an assistant to a local market gardener and earning just six pence a week. Once he turned 15, he secured an apprenticeship as a carpenter and did this for five years. He had been brought up as a strict Baptist, and aged just 19 he became a preacher, touring Yorkshire and the surrounding area speaking as a public speaker in religious matters. He was particularly committed to promoting a society without alcohol. He continued with carpentry occasionally in order to earn the money to finance his vocation. Much of this work involved organising prayer meetings, distributing leaflets and encouraging people to avoid alcohol. The idea to offer excursions to travellers came about one day whilst he was waiting for a stage coach into London. The Counties Railway had just reopened following an extension programme, and Whitton wanted to take a group of 600 anti-alcohol campaigners from Leeds to the neighbouring town of Bradford. The railway company agreed each person would pay one shilling for the journey, including food for the journey as well as the rail ticket. This journey, on 7 July 1842, was the first privately chartered excursion train to be publicly advertised although Whitton always acknowledged that there had been earlier, unadvertised private excursion trains. Whitton was paid commission by the railway company as the tickets themselves, being legal contracts between the company and its passengers, couldn't have been issued at his price. The success of this venture led Whitton to plan a series of outings for religious organisations, and in 1845 he formalised an ongoing arrangement with the rail company, whose only insistence was that he brought them the passengers. Thus Whitton established a successful business running rail excursions for pleasure, whereby he took a percentage of the cost of the tickets. His business expanded from there.

*Example (0): In which village did Whitton live as a child?*

- A) Kingston*
- B) Keighley***
- C) Yorkshire*

**8. What was the main reason for Whitton's ongoing work as a carpenter?**

- A) It funded his preaching work.
- B) He felt it was his vocation.
- C) He couldn't break his contract

**9. What was the main purpose of Whitton's work as a preacher?**

- A) It meant he could continue to work in Yorkshire.
- B) He really enjoyed organising prayer meetings.
- C) He wanted people to stop drinking alcohol.

**10. Why did Whitton start organising private excursions?**

- A) He had to wait a long time for a stage coach to London.
- B) He needed to transport a large group of passengers.
- C) Ordinary rail tickets didn't include food for the journey.

**11. His charter train from Leeds to Bradford was the first**

- A) unadvertised private excursion train.
- B) privately chartered excursion train.
- C) widely publicised excursion train.

**12. The Counties Railway gave Whitton a permanent contract to run excursions on condition that**

- A) he found all the customers for them.
- B) the excursions had a religious purpose.
- C) all arrangements were very formal.

Are the following statements (13-18) True (T) or False (F) according to the text? The task begins with an Example (0).

### Sixty per cent of wildlife gone since 1970

Earth is losing wildlife at a faster rate than at any time in history. This is according to the new "Living Planet Report" from the World Wildlife Fund. The report says the global wildlife population shrank by 60 per cent between 1970 and 2014. The WWF warned that: "Earth is losing biodiversity at a rate seen only during mass extinctions." Researchers state that most of the decline in our animal population is because of "exploding human consumption". There are more and more humans on this planet. We are eating more, overfishing, cutting down trees for beef production, consuming more, and using more energy and natural resources. This has resulted in a massive loss of habitat for animals. The report estimates that only a quarter of the world's land has been untouched by humans. This means human activity has greatly affected animals on three-quarters of Earth's surface. Researchers tracked more than 4,000 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians. They say the loss of animal life is worst in South and Central America. These regions saw an 89 per cent loss in the population of vertebrates in the past four decades. The WWF wrote: "The astonishing decline in wildlife population...is a [depressing] reminder, and perhaps the ultimate indicator, of the pressure we [put] on the planet." It warned: "We can be the generation that had its chance and failed to act; that let Earth slip away."

Example (0): Earth is losing domestic animals T/F Answer: F

13. Earth has never lost so many species so fast. T / F
14. The WWF said all species will become extinct in 60 years. T / F
15. Researchers said human consumption was behind the loss of wildlife. T / F
16. Only a quarter of the world's land has been untouched by humans. T / F
17. Researchers said they found 4,000 dead mammals. T / F
18. The WWF said this generation had a chance to act and save Earth. T / F

## Grammar

For questions 19-25, read the text. Use the words in the column to the right of the text to form one word that fits the same numbered space in the text. Write the new word in the correct box on the answer sheet. The task begins with an Example (0).

Every weekend in Britain thousands of walkers head off into the (Example 0) \_\_\_\_\_ with the necessary (19) \_\_\_\_\_ to enjoy their hiking. One thing they will not leave behind because it is considered an absolute (20) \_\_\_\_\_ is their Ordnance Survey Map. These maps are (21) \_\_\_\_\_ to the hiker as they are very (22) \_\_\_\_\_, with up-to-date details about every part of the country. The Ordnance Survey (23) \_\_\_\_\_ in the eighteenth century and was intended to provide the army of the time with maps. Before this, most maps were inaccurate and (24) \_\_\_\_\_. Better maps were thought to be important because the country felt (25) \_\_\_\_\_ by invasion from abroad.

Example 0: COUNTRY countryside

(19) EQUIP

(20) NECESSARY

(21) VALUE

(22) INFORM

(23) BEGIN

(24) RELY

(25) THREAT

Read the text and fill in the gaps (26-30) with the words provided. You do not need to change the form of the words. The task begins with an Example (0).

### Jobless young people a big problem

currently rate report last coming find

A new (Example 0) report says the number of young people without a job is still very high in many countries. There are (26) \_\_\_\_\_ 73 million people around the world aged 15-24 who want to work but cannot (27) \_\_\_\_\_ a job. The International Labour Organization (ILO) said that although youth unemployment is (28) \_\_\_\_\_ down in rich countries, it is rising in most of Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and Brazil. The youth unemployment (29) \_\_\_\_\_ in China increased from 9.3 per cent in 2010 to 10.6 per cent (30) \_\_\_\_\_ year.

## Writing

You have received a letter from your English-speaking pen friend John who writes:

*...In Great Britain young people don't go to museums these days, they prefer cafes, clubs and cinemas. Last Sunday my grandmother invited me to the British museum and I was surprised we had so much fun there. The British museum is very interactive and its technological environment allows you to take away information that interests you and not get bored. Are there many museums in Russia? Do you often visit museums with your friends and family? Do museums make you feel good?*

*As for the latest news, I am planning my trip to Ireland...*

Write a letter to John.

In your letter

- answer his questions
- ask **3 questions** about his coming trip to Ireland.

Write **100 – 140 words**.

Remember the rules of letter writing.