

QUESTIONS ON GRAMMAR, VOCABULARY AND DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Practice 1

CLOZE TEST

1. Read the text below and fill in each space with the word which best fits in there. Use one word only in each space.

My new friend's a robot

In fiction robots have a personality, but reality is disappointingly different. Although sophisticated _____ to assemble cars and assist during complex surgery, modern robots are dumb automatons, _____ of striking up relationships with their human operators. However, change is _____ the horizon. Engineers argue that, as robots begin to make _____ a bigger part of society, they will need a way to interact with humans. To this end they will need artificial personalities. The big question is this: what does a synthetic companion need to have so that you want to engage _____ it over a long period of time? Phones and computers have already shown the _____ to which people can develop relationships with inanimate electronic objects.

Looking further _____, engineers envisage robots helping around the house, integrating with the web to place supermarket orders using email. Programming the robot with a human-like persona and _____ it the ability to learn its users' preferences, will help the person feel at ease with it. Interaction with such a digital entity in this context is more natural than sitting with a mouse and keyboard.

IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS – 1 point.

2. The following sentences include idiomatic expressions. Write down the exact word that complete each sentence in the right form. Each item is worth 0.1 point.

- a) I'm not joking. I'm speaking in _____.
- b) Apparently it's not allowed, but, you know, every law has a _____.
- c) So that's all for today. Let's _____ it a day.
- d) She said that her use of the word 'Baldy' was a _____ of endearment.
- e) We found the climb up the cliff to the castle well-_____ impossible.
- f) If you ask me, this restaurant has seen better _____. The décor is very old.
- g) If you will smoke so much it's no _____ you have a bad cough.
- h) We decided to abandon all the work we had done and start again from _____.

- i) She was dressed completely in white from _____ to foot.
j) In Saturday's violent storm, the new sea defences were put to the _____.

LLEXICAL FIELDS – 1 point

3. Choose five of the following verbs expressing ways of moving/walking. Explain what they mean exactly (connotations and nuances of meaning between them) and write a sentence which exemplifies their specific meaning. You will get 0.2 points for each verb successfully defined and exemplified.

SCRAMBLE – SLINK – TRUNDLE – TRUDGE – SKID – SLIP – LIMP

SPOTTING MISTAKES – 1 point

4. Some of the following sentences include a mistake. Write OK for the sentences which are correct and write the sentence correctly for the ones which are wrong. The mistakes may involve changing or adding words or structures. The sentences which are correct cannot be modified. Each item is worth 0.1 point.

- a) I didn't think I would enjoy the course, but the teacher has been great.
b) Now the time is for wise investors to think seriously about buying Treasury Bonds.
c) Rarely the early explorers had encountered such friendly and positive attitudes.
d) Julia hates working. She would be much happier when she was a student.
e) The team is going to complain about this and so is the referee.
f) The sales director is resigning, as most of the marketing team.
g) Do take a seat while I find your records on the computer
h) There are thought to be at least two leading politicians involved in the scandal.
i) The doctor reminded me to not take the tablets before meals.
j) This programme can do a lot of good in rising awareness of endangered species.

REPHRASING – 1 point

5. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one, using the word given.

- a) It isn't often that singers make it as actors, but Christina Aguilera has done so.

RARELY

_____, but Christina Aguilera has done so.

- b) Why do you think your first novel was so successful?

ACCOUNT

How _____ of your first novel?

- c) "Yes, all right, we'll share the bill," said Brenda.

AGREED

Brenda _____.

- d) There were lots of children and all of them sang really well.

WHOM

There were lots of children there, _____.

- e) We expect the peace talks to take place in Helsinki on the 28th-29th July.

DUE

_____ in Helsinki on the 28th-29th July.

- f) Although this may seem difficult now, you'll soon wonder why it caused so many problems.

THOUGH

_____, you'll soon wonder why it caused so many problems.

- g) They regard the eventual collapse of the currency as inevitable.

IT

They regard _____.

- h) If you get a scholarship, you won't need to pay.

CASE

You may get a scholarship, in _____.

UNDERLINE THE CORRECT WORD – 1 point

6. Underline the word which fits.

- a) The age old English tradition of silversmithing is a **fading/waning/dying** art.
- b) The **distress/upset/disturbance** call from the French fishing boat was received at 11.45.
- c) The patient's behaviour seemed to follow a **distinctive/distended/distinguished** pattern.
- d) A(n) **alive/vivacious/animated** discussion evolved within minutes of them being introduced.
- e) Many found his conversational style unnecessarily **verbal/verbose/vocal**.
- f) The news of her promotion spread quickly by word of **lip/mouth/speaking**.
- g) I was told to hold my **words/tongue/breath** even before I could begin to protest.
- h) Before long, his curious activities became the talk of the **town/place/city**.
- i) **Look/Notice/Read** between the lines, and you'll discover what she really means.
- j) His **arising/rousing/risen** speech at the Forum will never be forgotten.

GAP-FILL – 1 point

7. Fill in the gaps with ONE word.

- a) She was intent finishing the report, no matter how long it took.
- b) A good cook will not hesitate to experiment different spices.
- c) I don't intend to book a holiday anywhere the time being.
- d) Christina left Cambridge many years ago, though I still see her time to time.
- e) Visitors are reminded that smoking is not allowed the premises.
- f) I'd love to drive over to see you but my car has been acting recently.
- g) Until negotiations broke, a ceasefire seemed likely.
- h) The eccentric professor broke in mid-sentence and started to frantically scratch his head.
- i) Fortunately, my family were not living in the area when the epidemic broke
- j) The signal started to break before the plane could be guided safely to the landing strip.

MULTIPLE MEANINGS – 1 point

- 8. For questions 1-5, think of one word only which can be used appropriately in all three sentences. (0) is an example. Each correct word is worth 0.2 points.**

0 STRONG

- Some of the tourists are hoping to get compensation for the poor state of the hotel, and I think they have a very ____ case.
- There's no point in trying to wade across the river, the current is far too ____.
- If you're asking me which of the candidates should get the job, I'm afraid I don't have any ____ views either way.

1 _____

- The factory was on the _____ of the valley.
- A river runs through the centre of the village with the church on one _____ and the market place on the other.
- Julia was lying on her _____ on the bed.

2 _____

- Susan is not the _____ to get annoyed.
- Open up the accounts database, and _____ in the amount of each order.

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- Your hair _____ requires a specific shampoo.

3 _____

- Ferguson planned to broaden its product _____ to include internet telephones.
- Joan. Hoped that the others were out of _____ of her mother's voice.
- Prices _____ from around 10€ for a basic keyboard, to 50€ for an ergonomic one.

4 _____

- Barbara Molland has found the box in a _____ that stood under the window in Kate's room.
- As the phrase suggests, a main _____ of cables splits off into branches which supply individual subscribers.
- The enormous tree _____ provided a home for rich colony of bird and insect life.

5 _____

- But the re-organisation means the _____ is now on the other foot as far as money is concerned.
- I wouldn't like to be stuck down a dark alley at night with whoever put the _____ in here.
- This can be accessed even if the machine won't _____ correctly.

ANSWER KEY

1. CLOZE TEST

My new friend's a robot

In fiction robots have a personality, but reality is disappointingly different. Although sophisticated **ENOUGH** to assemble cars and assist during complex surgery, modern robots are dumb automatons, **INCAPABLE** of striking up relationships with their human operators. However, change is **ON** the horizon. Engineers argue that, as robots begin to make **UP** a bigger part of society, they will need a way to interact with humans. To this end they will need artificial personalities. The big question is this: what does a synthetic companion need to have so that you want to engage **WITH** it over a long period of time? Phones and computers have already shown the **EXTENT/DEGREE** to which people can develop relationships with inanimate electronic objects.

Looking further **AHEAD/FORWARD** engineers envisage robots helping around the house, integrating with the web to place supermarket orders using email. Programming the robot with a human-like persona and **GIVING** it the ability to learn its users' preferences, will help the person feel at ease with it. Interaction with such a digital entity in this context is more natural than sitting with a mouse and keyboard.

2. IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS – 1 point.

- a) I'm not joking. I'm speaking in **EARNEST**.
- b) Apparently it's not allowed, but, you know, every law has a **LOOPHOLE**.
- c) So that's all for today. Let's **CALL** it a day.
- d) She said that her use of the word 'Baldy' was a **TERM** of endearment.
- e) We found the climb up the cliff to the castle well-**NIGH** impossible.
- f) If you ask me, this restaurant has seen better **DAYS** The décor is very old.
- g) If you will smoke so much it's no **WONDER** you have a bad cough.
- h) We decided to abandon all the work we had done and start again from **SCRATCH**.
- i) She was dressed completely in white from **HEAD** to foot.
- j) In Saturday's violent storm, the new sea defences were put to the **TEST**.

3. LEXICAL FIELDS – 1 point

(Remember that you should only define and exemplify 5 of the following)

Scramble: “to move quickly, especially with difficulty, using your hands to help you” // “to climb somewhere using your feet and hands” → *She managed to scramble over the wall.*

Slink: “to move somewhere very quietly and slowly so that people will not notice you” → John was trying to slink into the house by the back door.

Trundle: “to move or roll somewhere slowly and noisily on wheels” → “A train trundled across the bridge”.

Trudge: “to walk slowly or with heavy steps, because you are tired or carrying something heavy” → *The men trudged up the hill, laden with supplies.*

Skid: “to slide sideways or forwards in an uncontrolled way” → *The car skidded on the ice and went straight into the wall.*

Slip: “to slide accidentally so that you lose your balance or fall over” / “to go somewhere, especially quickly and quietly without people noticing you or stopping you” → *As I ran up the stairs, my foot slipped and I fell / Several people managed to slip past the guards and into the concert.*

Limp: “to walk slowly or with difficulty because one leg is injured” → *She had twisted her ankle and was limping.*

4. SPOTTING MISTAKES – 1 point

- a) I didn't think I would enjoy the course, but the teacher has been great **OK**.
- b) Now **IS** the time for wise investors to think seriously about buying Treasury Bonds.
- c) Rarely **HAD** the early explorers **ENCOUNTERED** such friendly and positive attitudes.
- d) Julia hates working. She **WAS/USED TO** be much happier when she was a student // She would be much happier **IF** she was/were a student.
- e) The team is going to complain about this and so is the referee. **OK**
- f) The sales director is resigning, as **IS/ARE** most of the marketing team.
- g) Do take a seat while I find your records on the computer. **OK**
- h) There are thought to be at least two leading politicians involved in the scandal. **OK**
- i) The doctor reminded me **NOT TO** take the tablets before meals.
- j) This programme can do a lot of good in **RAISING** awareness of endangered species.

5. REPHRASING – 1 point

- a) Rarely do singers make it as actors, but Christina Aguilera has done so.
- b) How do you account for the success of your first novel?
- c) Brenda agreed to share the bill / on sharing the bill / that they would share the bill.

- d) There were lots of children there, all of whom sang really well.
- e) The peace talks are due (to take place) in Helsinki on the 28th-29th July.
- f) Difficult though this may seem now, you'll soon wonder why it caused so many problems.
- g) They regard it as inevitable that the currency will eventually collapse.
- h) You may get a scholarship, in which case you won't need to pay.

6. UNDERLINE THE CORRECT WORD – 1 point

- a) The age old English tradition of silversmithing is a **fading/waning/dying** art.
- b) The **distress/upset/disturbance** call from the French fishing boat was received at 11.45.
- c) The patient's behaviour seemed to follow a **distinctive/distended/distinguished** pattern.
- d) A(n) **alive/vivacious/animated** discussion evolved within minutes of them being introduced.
- e) Many found his conversational style unnecessarily **verbal/verbose/vocal**.
- f) The news of her promotion spread quickly by word of **lip/mouth/speaking**.
- g) I was told to hold my **words/tongue/breath** even before I could begin to protest.
- h) Before long, his curious activities became the talk of the **town/place/city**.
- i) **Look/Notice/Read** between the lines, and you'll discover what she really means.
- j) His **arising/rousing/risen** speech at the Forum will never be forgotten.

7. GAP-FILLING – 1 point

- a) She was intent **ON** finishing the report, no matter how long it took.
- b) A good cook will not hesitate to experiment **WITH** different spices.
- c) I don't intend to book a holiday anywhere **FOR** the time being.
- d) Christina left Cambridge many years ago, though I still see her **FROM** time to time.
- e) Visitors are reminded that smoking is not allowed **ON** the premises.
- f) I'd love to drive over to see you but my car has been acting **UP** recently.
- g) Until negotiations broke **DOWN** a ceasefire seemed likely.
- h) The eccentric professor broke **OFF** in mid-sentence and started to frantically scratch his head.
- i) Fortunately, my family were not living in the area when the epidemic broke **OUT**.

The signal started to break **UP** before the plane could be guided safely to the landing strip.

8. MULTIPLE MEANINGS – 1 point

1 side

2 type

3 range

4 trunk

5 boot