

MOCK EXAM 2 – 20th May

You are asked to do FIVE out of the following eight tasks, some of which are based on the brief text below. Each task is worth 2 points. If you do more than five tasks, only the first five which can be read on your exam paper will be considered. Don't forget to transfer your answers to your exam paper, writing the number of the exercises you have chosen clearly.

“By the time we landed in Oslo, it was already pitch dark. Rather than the wintry wonderland I had hoped for, rain was lashing down under the orange airport lights. It was bitterly cold. The airport bus deposited me, tired, hungry and disorientated, in the city centre. After several wrong turns, and having nearly dislocated my shoulders with the weight of my backpack, I finally stumbled into the reception of my chosen, but unbooked, hotel. To my horror, I discovered that every hotel in the centre was fully booked due to a pop concert. The receptionist redirected me to the tramline and some possible bed and breakfast places way out in the suburbs. Two hours later I stood in the rain, peering around in vain, cursing the pop singer to the Oslo night sky. Eventually, I hauled my weary limbs along a dark and muddy path, at the end of which I found the shining lights of a small hotel. ‘Vacancies’ said a sign on the door.”

EXERCISE 1: Collocations

There are several collocations in the text above, such as *pitch dark*, *bitterly cold* or *fully booked*. Complete the collocations in the next sentences (one word). (0.2 points for each correct answer):

1. The system was designed 20 years ago, when everyone thought that electricity was going to be _____ cheap.
2. He was standing there completely _____ naked.
3. It all happened in _____ daylight.
4. The baby was _____ asleep when we arrived.
5. The drug cartels along the US-Mexico border have declared an _____ war against law enforcement.
6. Now wonder the river bed is _____ dry after all these months of drought.
7. The building is in _____ need of restoration.
8. Ten years of recession have led to deep cuts and people becoming completely _____ broke.
9. Cut the onion into _____ thin slices.
10. Terry's old car is a _____ joke among the people at her office.

EXERCISE 2: Idiomatic expressions

Give five idiomatic expressions related to travelling, provide meaning and exemplify. (0.4 points per correct answer).

EXERCISE 3: Spelling

Comment on the spelling of *said* in “‘Vacancies’ said a sign on the door” (1.8 points), and provide another example where the same happens (0.2 points). 80-100 words.

EXERCISE 4: Homonyms

The word *orange* in the text is a homonym, meaning both a fruit and a colour. In the sentences below, the words in bold-type are also homonyms. Provide one other meaning for each of them and exemplify. (0.2 points for each correct answer):

1. Eggs can be fried, boiled or **poached**.
2. This argument **bores** me to death.
3. Can you wait here for a few **minutes**?
4. We sailed past a group of **seals**.
5. This will **shed** light into the argument.
6. My dog has a very loud **bark**.
7. A tree **trunk** was standing in our way and we couldn't go through.
8. The house next to ours was struck by a **bolt** of lightning.
9. He folded his arms across his **chest**.
10. I've lost a **file** containing plenty of important information.

EXERCISE 5: *Due to*

"Every hotel in the centre was fully booked due to a pop concert". Explain the use of *due to* laying emphasis on why it is problematic for our students (1.8 points). Provide 2 alternative linking words for the example sentence provided (0.2 points). 80-100 words.

EXERCISE 6: Spotting mistakes

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. (0.2 points per correct answer):

1. He might like reading, but it is movies what he loves the most.
2. Can you tell me if or not you're interested?
3. No doubt he didn't realise the consequences of his actions.
4. There are thought to be at least two more variants of said disease.
5. Surprising although it may seem, he eventually succeeded.
6. Little we could suspect his involvement in the fraud.
7. It's time you throw away those ripped jeans, don't you think?
8. The British pound has been laying low for some weeks now.
9. The students will certainly complain about this, and so will their parents.
10. It's not as beautiful a house as I'd imagined.

EXERCISE 7: Affixation and word stress

The words below have all suffered a process of suffixation, sometimes affecting the original word stress in the base word. Classify the following words into the corresponding column. (0.2 points per correct answer):

*agreement mountaineer photography comfortable intimacy
familiar meaning referee perfection proverbial*

Stress neutral suffix	Stressed suffixes	Stress imposing suffixes

EXERCISE 8: Cloze test

For questions 1-8, read the text below and fill in each space with the word which best fits. Use one word only in each space. (0.25 points per correct answer).

Can the Earth keep up with human consumption?

The long-term consequences of rising consumption have already been demonstrated empirically. In an experiment in sustainability, four intrepid ‘bioneers’ were sealed in Biosphere 2, a massive airtight structure covering 1.25 hectares of the Arizona desert. After two years, the occupants quit due to the inability of the ecosystems to sustain human life and returned to Biosphere 1: Earth.

The experiment clearly shows that 1.25 hectares provide (1) _____ from enough resources for four people. The average Briton requires about five hectares to support their lifestyle, a North American twice that, whereas the average Mexican gets (2) _____ on less than half the UK level. The problem is that we only have so (3) _____ land to share out. The planet’s 10 billion hectares sound a lot (4) _____ one considers the size of the population and the fact that it is going to rise. By 2050, space per global citizen will have reduced to one hectare.

More nations will be approaching US consumption levels in years to (5) _____ and previous data suggests that at least four additional Earths will be needed to sustain (6) _____ a level. (7) _____ the inhabitants of Biosphere 2, when Biosphere 1 fails, we will have (8) _____ else to go.

Answer key – Text analysis 14 – MOCK 2

EXERCISE 1: Collocations

There are several collocations in the text above, such as *pitch dark*, *bitterly cold* or *fully booked*. Complete the collocations in the next sentences (one word). (0.2 points for each correct answer):

1. The system was designed 20 years ago, when everyone thought that electricity was going to be **DIRT** cheap.
2. He was standing there completely **STARK/BUCK** naked.
3. It all happened in **BROAD** daylight.
4. The baby was **FAST/SOUND** asleep when we arrived.
5. The drug cartels along the US-Mexico border have declared an **ALL-OUT** war against law enforcement.
6. Now wonder the river bed is **BONE** dry after all these months of drought.
7. The building is in **DIRE** need of restoration.
8. Ten years of recession have led to deep cuts and people becoming completely **FLAT** broke.
9. Cut the onion into **PAPER** thin slices.
10. Terry's old car is a **STANDING/RUNNING** joke among the people at her office.

EXERCISE 2: Idiomatic expressions

Give five idiomatic expressions related to travelling, provide meaning and exemplify. (0.4 points per correct answer).

- To have itchy feet: "to have a strong desire to travel and explore new places": *ever since she was young, Sarah has had itchy feet: she has travelled to over 30 countries, constantly seeking new adventures and experiences.*
- To hit the road: "start a journey or leave a place": *after months of planning, it's time to hit the road and explore the countryside.*
- Off the beaten track: "going to less popular or unconventional places": *we decided to go off the beaten track and explore the hidden gems of the city.*
- Road rage: "anger or aggressive behaviour exhibited by a driver in response to traffic or other drivers": *The rush hour traffic was so bad that it sparked a case of road rage, with drivers honking and shouting at each other.*
- Put the pedal to the metal: "to accelerate or drive very fast": *we were running late, so I put the pedal to the metal and drove as fast as I could to catch the flight.*
- Live out of a suitcase: "to travel frequently or have a nomadic lifestyle where one's belongs are constantly packed in a suitcase": *As a flight attendant, I live out of a suitcase, constantly travelling to different destinations.*
- To be behind the wheel: "to be the driver of a vehicle": *I was tired of being a passenger, so I decided to be behind the wheel and drive for the rest of the journey.*
- To go down memory lane: "to remember or recall past experiences, often with a sense of nostalgia": *While exploring the old neighbourhood, we went down memory lane, visiting places where we spent our childhood.*
- To run a tight ship: "to have strict control or manage something efficiently and effectively": *The tour director ran a tight ship ensuring that everything was well-organised and ran smoothly throughout the trip.*
- To be in the same boat: "to be in a similar situation or facing the same challenges as others": *We were all delayed due to the cancelled flight, so we were in the same boat, trying to find alternative travel arrangements.*

- To get someone on board: “to convince or persuade someone to join or support a particular plan or idea”: *We needed to get the investors on board with our travel startup, so we presented a compelling business proposal.*
- To row in the same direction: “to work together harmoniously or cooperate towards a common goal”: *in order to successfully complete the project, it was important for the team members to row in the same direction and collaborate effectively.*
- To catch a red-eye flight: “to take an overnight flight”: *I had to catch a red-eye flight to be in the meeting on time.*
- To travel light: “to pack only essential items and avoid carrying excess baggage”: *For our backpacking trip, we made sure to travel light and avoid any unnecessary items.*
- To go the extra mile: “to put in additional effort or do more than what is expected”: *The tour guide went the extra mile to ensure we had an unforgettable experience.*

Not directly related to travelling:

At the crack of dawn

To recharge your batteries

To live it up

On the cheap

EXERCISE 3: Spelling

Comment on the spelling of *said* in “‘Vacancies’ *said* a sign on the door” (1.8 points), and provide another example where the same happens (0.2 points). 80-100 words.

Said is the past simple and past participle forms of the verb *say*. As regards spelling, it is an irregular form because of two reasons:

- Treatment of final -y: before the addition of a suffix, final -y changes into -i when it is preceded by a consonant, as is the case of *study – studied*, *cry – cried*, *try – tried*. However, it does not change when it is preceded by a vowel, as is the case of *stay – stayed*. Following this rule, the -y should be kept in the past and participle forms of *say*, but it is not.
- Additionally, the -e from the past ending -ed is dropped.

Therefore, what should be *sayed* according to the spelling rules in the English language, becomes *said* instead.

This also happens in, at least, two other verbs: *pay – paid* and *lay – laid*.

EXERCISE 4: Homonyms

The word *orange* is a homonym in the text, meaning both a fruit and a colour. In the sentences below, the words in bold-type are also homonyms. Provide one other meaning for each of them and exemplify. (0.2 points for each correct answer):

1. Eggs can be fried, boiled or *poached*.

– Poach (verb): “to hunt illegally”: *elephants are poached for their tusks.*

– Poach (verb): “to steal something, especially in a secret, dishonest or unfair way”: *The company poached the contract from their main rivals / she accused him of poaching her ideas.*

2. This argument *bore* me to death.

– Bore (past simple form of the verb *bear*):

- “to accept and deal with something unpleasant”: *my aunt bore a big pain after her operation.*
- “to take responsibility for something”: *Her parents bore the whole cost of tuition fees.*

- “to have a feeling, specially a negative one”: *He bore a grudge against me I don't know for how many years.*
 - Bore (verb): “to make a long deep hole with a tool or by digging”: *the drill is strong enough to bore through solid rock.*
- 3. Can you wait here for a few *minutes*?**
- Minute (adjective): “extremely small”: *you may find minute amounts of chemicals in the water.*
 - Minutes (noun, always in the plural): a summary or record of what is said or decided at a formal meeting: *We read through the minutes of the last meeting.*
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- 4. We sailed past a group of *seals* (The plan has the Governor's seal of approval.)**
- Seal (noun): “an official design or mark, stamped on a document to show that it is real and carries the authority of a particular person or organisation”: *The letter bore the president's seal.*
 - Seal (verb): “to close something, e.g. an envelope, by sticking the edges of the opening together: *Make sure you've signed the cheque before sealing the envelope.*
 - Seal (verb): “to close a container tightly, so that air, liquid, etc. cannot get in or out”: *He sealed the bag tightly with sticky tape.*
- 5. This will *shed* light into the argument.**
- Shed (noun): “a small simple building, usually built of wood or metal, used for keeping things in”: *could you please put the garden tools in the shed?*
- 6. My dog has a very loud *bark***
- Bark (noun): “the outer layer of a tree”: *The bark peels off in summer / People strip the bark and use it in medicines.*
- 7. A tree *trunk* was standing in our way and we couldn't go through.**
- Trunk (noun): “the space at the back of a car that you put bags, cases, etc. in (AmE)”: *She opened the trunk and we tossed the stuff inside.*
 - Trunk (noun): “the long nose of an elephant”: *the elephant lifted the apple to its mouth using its trunk.*
 - Trunk (noun): “a large, strong box with a lid, used for storing or transporting clothes, books, etc.”: *I found the documents at the bottom of an old tin trunk in the attic.*
- 8. The house next to ours was struck by a *bolt* of lightning.**
- Bolt (noun): “a long, narrow piece of metal that you slide across the inside of a door or window in order to lock it”: *he slid back the bolt on the door.* It can also be a verb.
 - Bolt (noun): “a fastener with nut”: *Ned needs two more bolts to repair the garage door.*
 - Bolt (noun – Old English): “a short heavy arrow from a crossbow”: *in classical mythology, anyone struck by a bolt from Cupid's arrow would fall in love.*
 - Bolt (verb): “to run off suddenly”: *the rabbit bolted at the sound of the car door slumming shut.*
- 9. He folded his arms across his *chest***
- Chest (noun): “a large wooden box used for storage”: *we keep blankets in that old chest by the bed.*
 - Chest (noun – chest of drawers): “a piece of furniture with drawers”: *we bought a mahogany chest of drawers for £200.*
- 10. I've lost a *file* containing plenty of important information. a tool and a container for documents**
- File (noun): “a metal tool with a rough surface for cutting or shaping hard substances or for making them smooth”: *Use a file to smooth that edge, will you?*

- File (noun): “a line of people or things, one behind the other”: *they set off in file behind the teacher / they marched in single file.*

EXERCISE 5: Affixation and word stress

The words below have all suffered a process of suffixation, sometimes affecting the original word stress in the base word. Classify the following words into the corresponding column. (0.2 points per correct answer):

Stress neutral suffix	Stressed suffixes	Stress imposing suffixes
<i>Agreement</i> <i>Comfortable</i> <i>Meaning</i>	<i>Mountaineer</i> <i>Referee</i>	<i>Photography</i> <i>Familiar</i> <i>Perfection</i> <i>Proverbial</i> <i>Intimacy</i>

EXERCISE 6: Due to

Every hotel in the centre was fully booked due to a pop concert. Explain the use of *due to* laying emphasis on why it is problematic for our students (1.8 points). Provide 2 alternative linking words for the example sentence provided (0.2 points). 80-100 words.

Due to is a linked used to express “cause”. It is a Prepositional Phrase (Prep P), and so it needs to be followed by a Noun Phrase (NP), as in the example *due to a pop concert*. It is particularly tricky for students, who confuse it with *because* (conjunction) and use it in the same way, i.e. followed by a clause: *because there was a pop concert / *due to there was a pop concert*. In the case that we wished to use a clause, we would have to insert the formula “the fact that”, thus inserting the NP that *due to* needs: *due to the fact that there was a pop concert*. This option might be considered as too wordy and far-fetched, though.

Other alternatives for *due to* in this example could be *owing to*, *because of* or *on account of*.

~~*Caused by*, *thanks to*.~~

EXERCISE 7: Spotting mistakes

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. (0.2 points per correct answer):

1. He might like reading, but it is movies **THAT** he loves the most
2. Can you tell me **WHETHER OR NOT** you’re interested? / **IF YOU’RE INTERESTED OR NOT**
3. No doubt he didn’t realise the consequences of his actions. **OK**
4. There are thought to be at least two more variants of said disease. **OK**
5. Surprising **AS/THOUGH** it may seem, he eventually succeeded.
6. Little **COULD WE** suspect his involvement in the fraud.
7. It’s time you **THREW** away/**FOR YOU TO THROW AWAY** those ripped jeans, don’t you think?
8. The British pound has been **LYING** low for some weeks now.
9. The students will certainly complain about this, and so will their parents. **OK**
10. It’s not as beautiful a house as I’d imagined. **OK**

EXERCISE 8: Cloze test

For questions 1-8, read the text below and fill in each space with the word which best fits. Use one word only in each space. (0.25 points per correct answer).

Can the Earth keep up with human consumption?

The long-term consequences of rising consumption have already been demonstrated empirically. In an experiment in sustainability, four intrepid 'bioneers' were sealed in Biosphere 2, a massive airtight structure covering 1.25 hectares of the Arizona desert. After two years, the occupants quit due to the inability of the ecosystems to sustain human life and returned to Biosphere 1: Earth.

The experiment clearly shows that 1.25 hectares provide (1) **FAR** from enough resources for four people. The average Briton requires about five hectares to support their lifestyle, a North American twice that, whereas the average Mexican gets (2) **BY** on less than half the UK level. The problem is that we only have so (3) **MUCH** land to share out. The planet's 10 billion hectares sound a lot (4) **UNLESS/UNTIL** one considers the size of the population and the fact that it is going to rise. By 2050, space per global citizen will have reduced to one hectare.

More nations will be approaching US consumption levels in years to (5) **COME** and previous data suggests that at least four additional Earths will be needed to sustain (6) **SUCH** a level. (7) **UNLIKE** the inhabitants of Biosphere 2, when Biosphere 1 fails, we will have (8) **NOWHERE** else to go.