



THE GYMNASIUM SSST

Entrance Examination

Sample

English Language

Candidate's name: _____

(Please use block capital letters)

To be filled out by the examiners. Please do not fill this out.

Mark awarded: _____ **Recommendation:** _____

1) Provide the past tense of the following verbs (10 pts):

1. Understand _____
2. Get _____
3. Fly _____
4. Hide _____
5. Cost _____
6. Choose _____
7. Sell _____
8. Wear _____
9. Shine _____
10. Read _____

2) In the following sentences insert the verb in the appropriate tense (present simple, present continuous, past simple, past continuous). (10 pts)

1. I _____ (watch) a mystery movie on TV when the electricity went out.
2. How fast _____ (you/run) when you _____ (fall)?
3. He _____ (drive) at enormous speed, when the car suddenly _____ (break) down.
4. Justin _____ (write, currently) a book about his adventures in Tibet. I hope he can find a good publisher when he is finished.
5. I _____ (go) to the seaside on September 2. It is in two weeks from now.
6. I haven't seen Richard for ages. I last _____ (see) him when he _____ (try) to find a job in London.
7. I _____ (go) to the seaside on September 2. It is in two weeks from now.

3) Insert appropriate prepositions into the following sentences (10 pts):

1. Her office is _____ the fifth floor.
2. Jane is arriving _____ 2 o'clock _____ the afternoon.
3. We don't need to go _____ taxi. Let's go _____ foot.
4. It snows here every year _____ December. We always go outside and play in the snow _____ Christmas day.
6. Michael is a brother _____ hers, and he is my neighbour who lives _____ the second floor.
7. He is a university student, but his brother still goes _____ primary school.

4) The words below are not given in their correct order. Place the words in the appropriate order to form complete sentences. Do not leave out any words. (10 pts)

1. nature books I reading wildlife and love about

2. grow lawyer become when up I to want a I

3. New York never before I been have to

4. red a apple the her mother baby gave

5. English you have long how studying been

6. Make the sentences negative (10 pts):

1. Mary likes walking with her friends.

2. I finished my assignment on time.

3. He studies French in Australia.

4. He studies French in Australia.

5. I can type quickly.

6. He had seen the film before.

7. He takes good care of his parents.

8. Jane will lock the door.

9. I have spoken to the director.

10. He is going to watch a film tonight.

11. Complete the questions so that they match the answer given below (10 pts):

1. Who _____? (Someone is knocking at the door.)
2. How _____? (Jane wrote the exam quickly.)
3. When _____? (They saw the film last week.)
4. Who _____? (This book belongs to Emma.)
5. How _____? (Steve entered the exam room quietly.)

7) Make nouns from the verbs and adjectives given in brackets to complete the sentence (10 pts):

1. He considered my _____ unfair. (*decide*)
2. Poets often describe a world full of _____ (*unhappy*).
3. Many of the artist's paintings are part of the _____ (*exhibit*).
4. The playwright is known for his _____ (*brilliant*).
5. His _____ (*understand*) of the matter is astonishing.

8) Read the passage about a cameraman called Matt Howard and then answer the questions below (30 pts).

1 Matt Howard is a cameraman who works on nature documentaries. He has filmed all over the world, in jungles, rainforests and deserts. Here he tells us about his job.

2 'To film nature documentaries, it's important to be good with a camera, obviously. But, in my opinion, it's more important to be interested in plants and animals. If you aren't, the work can be really boring. To make a two-minute film of a bird, insect or animal, you can sometimes spend a day or a week looking for them. And animals aren't like actors. They don't just appear when you want them to. Sometimes they never appear!'

3 Matt knows that his job is very important. When he travels to ice caps or deserts, he sees that the environment is changing. His job is to film a world that may **vanish** one day. 'If the environment continues to change because of global warming, the only place where you'll be able to see some animals and insects is in nature documentaries. I hope our work helps people to understand that we all need to do something to save the planet.'

4 Generally, **changes** in technology make Matt's life easier. 'High-definition (HD) cameras help to get better pictures. But if you make a small mistake with an HD camera, it looks much worse than with an old camera. It's true that the new cameras aren't as heavy as the old ones.' But sometimes Matt carries 35 kilos, climbs up a mountain, and tries to film at the same time!

5 Matt knows what he wants when he makes films. 'I want to film things that people have never seen before. Or I want to film things they've seen, but in a new way. I want it to be a unique experience for the people watching.'

6 And the most **alarming** experience he's ever had? 'We're making a TV programme about polar bears in the Arctic ice cap. We weren't filming at the time, we were sleeping. Suddenly I heard the sound of a polar bear right next to my ear. I was too frightened to open my eyes. It stayed there for five minutes and then left. Believe me, they were the longest five minutes of my life!'

1. According to the passage, what holds true for Matt:
 - A. Filming fauna is more important than filming flora
 - B. His job is one of the highest paying in the world
 - C. Animals are better than actors
 - D. None of the above

2. Matt Howard's mission is to:
 - A. Save from oblivion forms of wildlife, nature and places that one day may not exist anymore
 - B. Promote the use of HD cameras among nature documentary cameramen
 - C. Establish nature documentaries as the leading TV genre
 - D. Visit as many ice caps as desert as he can

3. As used in paragraph 3, the word **vanish** most nearly means:
 - A. Expand
 - B. Change
 - C. Dislocate
 - D. Disappear

4. The nearest synonym of the word **changes** (paragraph 4) is:
 - A. Degradation
 - B. Alterations
 - C. Fabrications
 - D. Distinctions

5. As used in paragraph 6, the word **alarming** most nearly means:
 - A. Terrifying
 - B. Exciting
 - C. Disappointing
 - D. Amazing

10 pts

6. Write on only ONE of the questions below (a., b. or c.).

Do you agree that global warming is one of the greatest threats to our planet?

- a. If you agree, explain how you think global warming could negatively affect or has already impacted adversely life on Earth and what can be done to reduce the effects of this global danger.
- b. If you disagree, make a case against the threats of global warming or why you think its dangers have potentially been exaggerated. What other more significant dangers to our planet are there do you think and how can they be countered.

Your response should include at least seven sentences.

10 pts
