

1000

PTE Academic

Practice Questions

All 20 official question types - Speaking, Writing, Reading, Listening
Complete with answer keys, model responses, and full listening transcripts

About this book

This book brings together 1000 authentic practice questions covering every one of the 20 official task types in the PTE Academic examination. It is published by TypoGrammar as a free resource for learners preparing for the test, whether you are studying independently or with a teacher.

PTE Academic is an integrated, computer-based English test. Many tasks assess more than one skill at once: for example, you might listen to a recording and then write a summary of it. The questions in this book are organised by task type so that you can focus your practice, build familiarity with each format, and track your progress section by section.

Because this is a printed resource rather than the computer-delivered test, every listening and speaking task is supported by a full written transcript or prompt. You can read these aloud, record yourself, or ask a study partner to read them to you so that you can practise the listening tasks as realistically as possible.

How the questions were prepared

Each question has been written to mirror the style, difficulty, and academic register of the real examination. Reading passages, lecture transcripts, and prompts cover a broad range of academic subjects, from science and the environment to history, economics, and the arts, reflecting the variety you will meet on test day.

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Understanding the PTE Academic test

PTE Academic is a computer-based test of English for study, work, and migration. It is taken in a single session of roughly two hours and is divided into three parts: Speaking and Writing (together), Reading, and Listening. Responses are scored automatically, and your results report a single overall score from 10 to 90 along with scores for each communicative skill.

A defining feature of the test is that many tasks are integrated. A single task may draw on two or more skills at once. When you re-tell a lecture, for example, you are tested on both listening and speaking; when you summarise a written text, you are tested on both reading and writing. Understanding which skills each task targets helps you prepare more effectively.

Part	Tasks included	Approx. time
Speaking & Writing	Read aloud, repeat sentence, describe image, re-tell lecture, answer short question, summarise written text, essay	54 to 67 min
Reading	Fill in the blanks, multiple choice, re-order paragraphs	29 to 30 min
Listening	Summarise spoken text, multiple choice, fill in the blanks, highlight correct summary, select missing word, highlight incorrect words, write from dictation	30 to 43 min

Note: exact timings vary slightly between test versions. The figures above are a general guide.

How to use this book

Practise by task type. Each of the 20 sections targets one official task type. Work through a whole section to build fluency with its format, timing, and the kind of thinking it demands.

Time yourself. Every section opens with the official timing for that task. Use a timer so that working at test pace becomes second nature.

Use the transcripts wisely. For listening and speaking tasks, a written transcript or prompt is provided. To simulate the real test, have someone read it aloud once, or record yourself reading it, then attempt the task before checking the text.

Check the answer keys. Reading and listening sections include answer keys. For speaking and writing tasks, model responses and key points show you what a strong answer contains. Compare your work against them honestly.

Review your mistakes. Your errors are the most valuable part of practice. Note the task types you find hardest and return to them. Look for patterns in the kinds of mistakes you make.

Build the underlying skills. Practice tests reveal weaknesses, but they do not fix them on their own. If you struggle with a task, work on the skill behind it, whether that is note-taking, paraphrasing, or vocabulary.

Tip: In the real test, your spoken and written responses are scored by automated systems. They reward clear pronunciation, natural pace, correct grammar, and relevant content. Speak steadily without long pauses, and in writing, answer the question directly and stay within the word limits.

What this task involves

A short text appears on screen and you must read it aloud clearly and fluently. This task assesses both your reading and your speaking, including pronunciation, intonation, and natural pace.

Format and timing

You are given around 30 to 40 seconds to prepare, then the microphone opens and you read the passage aloud. There are normally 6 to 7 of these tasks in the test.

Strategy tips

Use the preparation time to scan for difficult words and to mark natural pauses. Read at a steady, even pace rather than rushing. Do not stop or repeat yourself if you make a small mistake, as long pauses and self-correction lower your fluency score.

Practice questions

1. The discovery of antibiotics in the twentieth century transformed modern medicine. Before their introduction, even minor infections could prove fatal. Today, however, the widespread misuse of these drugs has led to resistant bacteria, posing one of the most serious challenges that global health systems are likely to face this century.
2. Coral reefs support an extraordinary diversity of marine life, yet they cover less than one percent of the ocean floor. Rising sea temperatures and ocean acidification threaten their survival. Scientists warn that if current trends continue, many reef systems could disappear within a few decades, with severe consequences for coastal communities.
3. Language is one of the defining features of human beings. Unlike other forms of communication, it allows us to discuss the past, imagine the future, and express abstract ideas. Researchers continue to debate how language first emerged, but most agree that it played a central role in human social development.
4. Renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power are becoming increasingly important as nations seek to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels. Although the initial costs of installation can be high, the long-term benefits for both the environment and the economy are widely recognised by experts and policymakers alike.
5. The human brain contains billions of neurons connected by trillions of synapses. This remarkable network enables us to think, remember, and learn throughout our lives. Recent advances in neuroscience have revealed that the brain remains far more adaptable in adulthood than scientists once believed possible.

6. Urban planning has a profound influence on the quality of life in modern cities. Well-designed public spaces, efficient transport systems, and accessible green areas can improve health and reduce inequality. As populations continue to grow, the importance of thoughtful and sustainable planning becomes ever more apparent.
7. The printing press, developed in the fifteenth century, revolutionised the spread of knowledge. By making books cheaper and more widely available, it helped to fuel the scientific revolution and the spread of literacy. Few inventions have had such a lasting impact on the course of human history.
8. Photosynthesis is the process by which green plants convert sunlight into chemical energy. This process not only sustains the plants themselves but also produces the oxygen on which most life on Earth depends. Understanding photosynthesis is therefore essential to understanding the balance of our entire ecosystem.
9. Economic globalisation has connected markets and cultures across the world. While it has created opportunities for trade and growth, it has also raised concerns about inequality and the loss of local industries. Balancing these competing interests remains one of the central challenges facing modern governments.
10. The study of history allows us to understand how past events have shaped the present. By examining the decisions of earlier generations, we can gain valuable insights into our own societies. History, far from being merely a record of the past, offers important lessons for the future.
11. Water scarcity is becoming an increasingly urgent problem in many parts of the world. As populations grow and climates change, the demand for fresh water often exceeds the available supply. Developing more efficient methods of conservation and distribution is now a priority for governments and scientists.
12. The invention of the internet has fundamentally changed the way people communicate, work, and access information. Within a single generation, it has reshaped economies and societies across the globe. Yet alongside its many benefits, it has also raised difficult questions about privacy and security.
13. Volcanic eruptions are among the most powerful natural events on Earth. They can reshape entire landscapes, influence the climate, and even affect global temperatures. Although they pose significant dangers, the fertile soils that surround many volcanoes have long attracted human settlement and agriculture.
14. Education plays a vital role in reducing poverty and promoting social mobility. By providing individuals with knowledge and skills, it opens up opportunities that might otherwise remain out of reach. For this reason, access to quality education is widely regarded as a fundamental human right.
15. The migration of birds is one of the most remarkable phenomena in the natural world. Some species travel thousands of kilometres each year between their breeding and wintering grounds. Scientists are still working to fully understand how these creatures navigate such vast distances with such precision.
16. Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming many aspects of daily life, from healthcare to transport. While these technologies offer enormous potential, they also raise important ethical questions. Determining how to develop and regulate them responsibly will be one of the defining tasks of the coming decades.

17. The Industrial Revolution marked a turning point in human history. The shift from manual labour to mechanised production dramatically increased output and transformed societies. However, it also brought pollution, overcrowded cities, and difficult working conditions, the effects of which are still felt today.
18. Sleep is essential for physical and mental health, yet many people fail to get enough of it. During sleep, the body repairs itself and the brain consolidates memories. Chronic sleep deprivation has been linked to a wide range of serious health problems in numerous scientific studies.
19. The Amazon rainforest is often described as the lungs of the planet. It produces a significant proportion of the world's oxygen and is home to an immense variety of species. Protecting this fragile ecosystem from deforestation is one of the great environmental challenges of our age.
20. Music has been a part of human culture for thousands of years. It can express emotions that words alone cannot capture and can bring people together across cultural boundaries. Researchers have found that listening to and playing music can have measurable benefits for the human brain.
21. The discovery of DNA's structure in the twentieth century opened up entirely new fields of scientific research. By revealing how genetic information is stored and passed on, it laid the foundation for modern genetics and biotechnology. Few scientific breakthroughs have proved more influential or far-reaching.
22. Public transport systems are essential to the functioning of large cities. They reduce traffic congestion, lower emissions, and provide affordable mobility for millions of people. Investing in efficient and reliable transport is therefore a key element of any strategy for sustainable urban development.
23. The ozone layer protects life on Earth by absorbing harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun. In recent decades, international cooperation has succeeded in reducing the substances that damage it. This represents one of the most encouraging examples of global action to address an environmental problem.
24. Bees play a crucial role in pollinating crops and wild plants. Without them, many of the foods we rely on would become far more difficult to produce. The recent decline in bee populations has therefore alarmed scientists and farmers across the world.
25. Mathematics is often described as the language of the universe. It allows us to describe patterns, make predictions, and build the technologies that shape modern life. From engineering to economics, a solid understanding of mathematics underpins progress in countless fields of study.
26. The ancient Greeks made remarkable contributions to philosophy, science, and the arts. Their ideas about democracy, ethics, and reason continue to influence the modern world. Studying their achievements helps us to understand the foundations on which much of Western civilisation was built.
27. Climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing humanity today. Rising temperatures, melting ice, and extreme weather events are already affecting communities around the world. Addressing this challenge will require unprecedented cooperation between nations, industries, and individuals alike.

28. The human immune system is a complex network designed to protect the body from disease. It can recognise and destroy harmful invaders while remembering past infections. Vaccination works by training this system to respond more effectively to specific threats before they cause serious harm.
29. Deserts cover roughly a fifth of the Earth's land surface, yet they support a surprising variety of life. Plants and animals living in these harsh environments have developed remarkable adaptations to survive with very little water. Studying them reveals the extraordinary resilience of the natural world.
30. The development of vaccines is widely regarded as one of the greatest achievements in the history of medicine. By preventing the spread of infectious diseases, vaccines have saved countless lives. Their continued use remains essential to protecting public health on a global scale.
31. Reading is a skill that benefits people throughout their lives. It expands vocabulary, improves concentration, and exposes readers to new ideas and perspectives. Studies have consistently shown that regular reading from an early age is strongly associated with later academic success.
32. The world's oceans regulate the climate, produce oxygen, and provide food for billions of people. Despite their importance, they remain among the least explored regions on the planet. Scientists believe that the deep ocean still holds countless species that have yet to be discovered.
33. Architecture reflects the values and priorities of the societies that produce it. From ancient temples to modern skyscrapers, buildings reveal how people lived and what they considered important. The study of architecture therefore offers a unique window into human history and culture.
34. The concept of sustainability has become central to debates about the future. It requires meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. Achieving this balance demands careful management of natural resources and a shift in consumer behaviour.
35. Glaciers store a significant proportion of the world's fresh water. As global temperatures rise, many of them are retreating at an alarming rate. This not only contributes to rising sea levels but also threatens the water supplies of communities that depend on glacial meltwater.
36. The brain's ability to change in response to experience is known as neuroplasticity. This property allows us to learn new skills and recover from certain injuries. Understanding neuroplasticity has important implications for education, rehabilitation, and the treatment of neurological conditions.
37. Trade has connected distant societies for thousands of years. The exchange of goods has also led to the exchange of ideas, technologies, and cultures. In this sense, trade has been one of the most powerful forces shaping the development of human civilisation.
38. The night sky has fascinated humans for as long as we have existed. Early civilisations used the stars to navigate, measure time, and tell stories. Today, astronomers use sophisticated telescopes to explore distant galaxies and to seek answers to the deepest questions about the universe.
39. Forests provide essential services that often go unnoticed. They store carbon, regulate water cycles, and provide habitats for countless species. The continued loss of forests around the world therefore has consequences that extend far beyond the regions where deforestation actually takes place.
40. Nutrition has a powerful influence on health and well-being. A balanced diet provides the energy and nutrients the body needs to function properly. Poor dietary habits, on the other hand, are linked to many of the chronic diseases that burden modern healthcare systems.

41. The telescope transformed our understanding of the universe. By allowing astronomers to observe distant objects in detail, it revealed that the Earth is just one small part of an immense cosmos. Each improvement in telescope technology has expanded the boundaries of human knowledge.
42. Cultural heritage connects communities to their past and gives them a sense of identity. Monuments, traditions, and works of art are passed down from one generation to the next. Preserving this heritage is widely regarded as a responsibility shared by people across the world.
43. The circulatory system transports blood, oxygen, and nutrients throughout the body. At its centre is the heart, a muscular organ that beats continuously throughout our lives. Maintaining the health of this system is essential to overall physical well-being and longevity.
44. Endangered species face threats from habitat loss, pollution, and climate change. Conservation efforts aim to protect these species before they disappear forever. The extinction of any species represents a permanent loss, not only to nature but also to the scientific understanding of life on Earth.
45. The scientific method provides a systematic way of investigating the natural world. By forming hypotheses, conducting experiments, and analysing results, scientists gradually build reliable knowledge. This rigorous approach has been responsible for many of the greatest advances in human history.
46. Cities around the world are experimenting with green spaces to improve urban life. Parks and gardens not only enhance the appearance of a city but also improve air quality and support mental health. Integrating nature into urban environments is increasingly seen as essential.
47. The discovery of electricity laid the foundation for the modern world. From lighting and communication to industry and medicine, almost every aspect of contemporary life depends on it. It is difficult to imagine how society would function without this remarkable source of power.
48. Memory allows us to store and retrieve information about our experiences. It is essential to learning, decision-making, and our sense of identity. Researchers have found that memory is not a perfect recording of events but a process that can be shaped and even distorted over time.
49. The diversity of life on Earth is the result of billions of years of evolution. Through natural selection, organisms have gradually adapted to their environments. Understanding this process is central to biology and helps to explain the extraordinary variety of living things around us.
50. Plastic pollution has become a serious threat to the world's oceans. Vast quantities of waste accumulate in the water, harming marine life and entering the food chain. Reducing the production and improving the disposal of plastic are urgent priorities for protecting the environment.
51. The brain consumes a remarkable amount of energy relative to its size. Although it accounts for only a small fraction of body weight, it uses a significant proportion of the body's total energy. This reflects the constant activity required to keep us thinking and functioning.
52. Democracy is based on the principle that citizens have the right to participate in decisions that affect them. It depends on free elections, the rule of law, and respect for individual rights. Maintaining a healthy democracy requires the active engagement of an informed population.
53. The water cycle describes the continuous movement of water through the environment. Driven by the sun's energy, water evaporates, forms clouds, and falls again as rain or snow. This cycle is fundamental to life on Earth and shapes the climates of every region.

54. Wind energy has become one of the fastest-growing sources of renewable power. Modern turbines can generate electricity efficiently and with minimal emissions. As technology continues to improve, wind energy is expected to play an increasingly important role in the global energy supply.
55. The development of writing was a crucial step in human civilisation. It allowed knowledge to be recorded and transmitted across generations. Without writing, the accumulation of learning that underpins science, law, and literature would simply not have been possible.
56. The Sahara is the largest hot desert in the world, stretching across much of northern Africa. Despite its extreme conditions, it has long been crossed by trade routes connecting distant civilisations. Its shifting sands continue to fascinate scientists, travellers, and historians alike.
57. Exercise offers a wide range of benefits for both body and mind. Regular physical activity strengthens the heart, improves mood, and reduces the risk of many diseases. Health experts therefore recommend that people of all ages incorporate exercise into their daily routines.
58. The Great Barrier Reef is the largest living structure on the planet, visible even from space. It supports thousands of species and attracts visitors from around the world. Protecting it from the effects of climate change has become a matter of international concern.
59. Technology has transformed the way we learn. Online resources, interactive tools, and digital libraries have made information more accessible than ever before. However, educators emphasise that technology should support, rather than replace, the essential role of human teaching.
60. The atmosphere is a thin layer of gases that surrounds the Earth and makes life possible. It provides the air we breathe, shields us from harmful radiation, and helps to regulate temperature. Protecting its delicate balance is essential to the survival of life on the planet.
61. Rivers have shaped human settlement throughout history. They provide water for drinking and agriculture, routes for transport, and sources of energy. Many of the world's greatest cities grew up along riverbanks, and these waterways remain vital to communities even today.
62. The study of psychology seeks to understand human thought and behaviour. It draws on biology, philosophy, and social science to explain why people act as they do. Insights from psychology are now applied in fields ranging from education to medicine to business.
63. Soil is one of the most valuable natural resources, yet it is often taken for granted. It supports the growth of plants, stores carbon, and filters water. The degradation of soil through erosion and intensive farming poses a serious threat to global food security.
64. The exploration of space has expanded our understanding of the universe and our place within it. Satellites, telescopes, and robotic missions have revealed worlds that were once beyond imagination. Space exploration also drives technological innovation that benefits life here on Earth.
65. Biodiversity refers to the variety of life found in a particular habitat or across the planet. It contributes to the stability and resilience of ecosystems. The loss of biodiversity, driven largely by human activity, is now recognised as one of the most pressing environmental concerns.
66. Light travels at an extraordinary speed, faster than anything else in the universe. This fundamental property of nature has profound implications for physics and our understanding of time and space. The study of light has led to many of the most important discoveries in science.

67. Traditional crafts represent skills passed down through generations. They reflect the creativity and ingenuity of the communities that develop them. As mass production becomes ever more dominant, efforts to preserve these crafts have taken on growing cultural significance.
68. The relationship between humans and animals has evolved over thousands of years. Domestication transformed wild species into companions and sources of food and labour. This relationship continues to shape agriculture, science, and even our understanding of our own species.
69. Coffee is one of the most widely consumed beverages in the world. Its cultivation supports the livelihoods of millions of farmers across many countries. The global trade in coffee illustrates how a single agricultural product can connect distant economies and cultures.
70. The preservation of endangered languages has become an urgent concern. When a language disappears, a unique way of understanding the world is lost with it. Linguists are working to document and revive these languages before they vanish entirely from human memory.

What this task involves

You hear a sentence and must repeat it exactly, in the same order, immediately afterwards. This task tests listening and speaking together, especially your ability to hold and reproduce spoken English.

Format and timing

The sentence is played once. After a short beep, you repeat it. Each item is short, and there are typically 10 to 12 in the test. In this book the sentence to be repeated is printed so a partner can read it aloud.

Strategy tips

Focus entirely on meaning as you listen, as understanding the sentence makes it far easier to reproduce. Do not try to write it down. Repeat with good pronunciation and natural rhythm, and attempt the whole sentence even if you miss a word or two.

Practice questions

1. The meeting has been moved to the conference room upstairs.
2. Please remember to bring your student card to the examination.
3. The bus to the city centre leaves every twenty minutes.
4. Most of the reading materials are available in the online library.
5. The deadline for the project has been extended by one week.
6. Could you send me the lecture notes before tomorrow afternoon?
7. The new students will receive their timetables on Monday morning.
8. There is a free workshop on academic writing next week.
9. The cafeteria offers a discount to students after four o'clock.
10. All visitors must sign in at the reception desk first.
11. The professor will not be available during the holiday period.
12. Remember to save your work before you leave the computer lab.
13. The seminar room is located on the second floor of the building.
14. Students are advised to arrive ten minutes before the lecture begins.
15. The results of the survey will be discussed in tomorrow's class.
16. You can borrow up to ten books from the main library.

17. The science building will be closed for repairs next week.
18. Please switch off your mobile phones during the presentation.
19. The application form must be completed and returned by Friday.
20. Several scholarships are offered to students with outstanding academic records.
21. The campus shuttle runs between the two sites every half hour.
22. Group members should meet to plan their presentation in advance.
23. The tutor recommended reading the introduction before the next session.
24. There will be no lectures during the first week of December.
25. The new policy will take effect from the start of term.
26. Students must complete the online registration before attending classes.
27. The library extends its opening hours during the exam period.
28. Could you confirm whether the lecture has been cancelled today?
29. The research paper should include at least ten academic references.
30. All assignments must be submitted through the university's online system.
31. The guest speaker will give a talk on renewable energy sources.
32. Many students find part-time work to help cover their expenses.
33. The department has organised a field trip for next month.
34. Please collect your marked essays from the office after Wednesday.
35. The course requires both written assignments and an oral presentation.
36. Students are reminded to update their contact details online.
37. The workshop will help you improve your time management skills.
38. The final examination will cover all the material from this term.
39. There are several quiet study areas on the upper floors.
40. The lecturer asked the class to form groups of four.
41. The new laboratory will open at the beginning of next year.
42. All students should check their email regularly for important updates.
43. The conference will be held in the main lecture theatre.
44. Please return the equipment to the front desk after use.
45. The assignment counts for thirty percent of the final grade.
46. The university offers free language classes to international students.
47. Most lectures this semester will be recorded and posted online.

48. The committee will announce its decision later this week.
49. Students are encouraged to attend the optional revision sessions.
50. The museum visit is included in the cost of the course.
51. Please read the safety instructions before entering the laboratory.
52. The new term begins on the third of October this year.
53. The library catalogue can be searched from any computer on campus.
54. Students should bring a calculator to the mathematics examination.
55. The presentation will be followed by a short question session.
56. Many of the textbooks are available as electronic versions.
57. The professor will hold extra office hours before the exam.
58. All members of the group will receive the same mark.
59. The seminar focuses on the causes of economic inequality.
60. Please make sure your name appears on every page submitted.
61. The campus health centre is open from nine until five.
62. The lecture will begin promptly at half past nine.
63. Students must wear protective clothing in the chemistry laboratory.
64. The essay should not exceed two thousand words in length.
65. There is a short break halfway through the morning session.
66. The new students will be shown around the campus tomorrow.
67. Please book a study room in advance through the website.
68. The course handbook contains all the information you will need.
69. The results will be released two weeks after the examination.
70. Students may use the gym free of charge after registration.
71. The lecturer explained the assignment requirements in great detail.
72. Please submit your feedback forms before leaving the lecture hall.
73. The research project will continue throughout the academic year.
74. All students are entitled to one free consultation each week.
75. The bookshop offers a discount on textbooks during freshers' week.
76. The tutorial groups will be announced on the noticeboard.
77. Please ensure that all references are listed in alphabetical order.
78. The department will hold an open day for prospective students.

79. The lecture notes will be uploaded shortly after each session.
80. Students should report any technical problems to the help desk.
81. The examination hall opens fifteen minutes before the start time.
82. Most of the assessment this term is based on coursework.
83. Please remember to charge your laptop before the practical class.
84. The guest lecture has been postponed until further notice.
85. All international students must attend the compulsory orientation programme.
86. The new printing system requires a code from your account.
87. Students are advised to keep copies of all submitted work.
88. The careers fair will take place in the sports hall.
89. Please arrive early as seating in the theatre is limited.
90. The module will be assessed entirely through continuous coursework.

What this task involves

An image such as a graph, chart, map, or diagram appears on screen, and you must describe it in detail. This task assesses your speaking and your ability to organise and present information.

Format and timing

You have about 25 seconds to study the image and prepare, then 40 seconds to speak. There are usually 3 to 4 of these tasks. In this book a written prompt describes the image and a response framework guides your answer.

Strategy tips

Begin with a one-sentence overview of what the image shows, then describe the key features or trends, and finish with a brief conclusion. Have a flexible template ready so you never waste time deciding how to begin.

Practice questions

1. **Image prompt:** Bar chart: Annual smartphone sales by region (North America, Europe, Asia, Africa) for 2020 and 2024.
2. **Image prompt:** Line graph: Average global temperature change from 1900 to 2020.
3. **Image prompt:** Pie chart: Sources of household energy consumption (heating, lighting, appliances, water heating).
4. **Image prompt:** Process diagram: The stages of paper recycling from collection to new product.
5. **Image prompt:** Map: A town centre showing the proposed location of a new shopping mall and transport links.
6. **Image prompt:** Bar chart: Number of international students at a university by country of origin.
7. **Image prompt:** Line graph: Unemployment rate in three countries over a ten-year period.
8. **Image prompt:** Pie chart: Breakdown of a typical student's weekly expenditure.
9. **Image prompt:** Table: Comparison of four laptop models by price, weight, battery life, and screen size.
10. **Image prompt:** Flow chart: The decision-making process for approving a bank loan.
11. **Image prompt:** Bar chart: Annual rainfall in four cities across the seasons.
12. **Image prompt:** Line graph: Growth of a company's revenue and profit over five years.
13. **Image prompt:** Diagram: The structure of the human respiratory system.
14. **Image prompt:** Pie chart: Proportion of land use in a region (agriculture, forest, urban, water).

15. **Image prompt:** Bar chart: Average daily screen time by age group.
16. **Image prompt:** Line graph: Population growth of a city from 1950 to projected 2050.
17. **Image prompt:** Process diagram: How rainwater is collected, filtered, and stored for reuse.
18. **Image prompt:** Map: Two possible routes between a residential area and a hospital.
19. **Image prompt:** Bar chart: Percentage of people using different modes of transport to work.
20. **Image prompt:** Table: Nutritional content of four breakfast cereals.
21. **Image prompt:** Line graph: Number of website visitors per month over one year.
22. **Image prompt:** Pie chart: How adults spend their leisure time on an average weekend.
23. **Image prompt:** Diagram: The water cycle, showing evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.
24. **Image prompt:** Bar chart: Comparison of male and female enrolment across five university faculties.
25. **Image prompt:** Line graph: Electricity generated from renewable and non-renewable sources over time.
26. **Image prompt:** Map: Changes to a coastal village between 2000 and 2024.
27. **Image prompt:** Bar chart: Average house prices in five cities.
28. **Image prompt:** Process diagram: The life cycle of a butterfly.
29. **Image prompt:** Pie chart: The main causes of air pollution in a large city.
30. **Image prompt:** Line graph: Daily visitors to a museum during a special exhibition.

Suggested response frameworks

1. Identify the chart type and title, state which region had the highest and lowest sales, compare 2020 with 2024 to show growth or decline, then conclude with the overall trend.
2. Name the graph and axes, describe the overall upward trend, point out any sharp rises or plateaus, and conclude with the highest recorded value and its implication.
3. State the chart type and total, name the largest and smallest segments with approximate percentages, and finish with what the data suggests about energy use.
4. Begin by saying it shows a process with several stages, describe each stage in order using sequencing words, and conclude with the final output.
5. Describe what the map shows, locate the key features relative to one another, mention the transport connections, and conclude with the purpose of the development.
6. Name the chart, identify the country sending the most and fewest students, compare the leading countries, and summarise the overall distribution.
7. Introduce the graph and the three lines, describe the general direction for each country, highlight crossing points, and conclude with the most notable trend.
8. State the chart and total spending, identify the largest and smallest categories, and conclude with what the figures reveal about student budgets.
9. Introduce the table and its columns, point out the model with the best and worst figures for each feature, and conclude with an overall comparison.

10. Explain that it shows a decision process, follow the path from application to outcome, mention the key decision points, and conclude with the possible results.
11. Name the chart, identify the wettest and driest city, compare seasonal patterns, and conclude with the city showing the greatest variation.
12. Introduce the two lines, describe the trend of each, note the gap between revenue and profit, and conclude with the overall performance.
13. State that it is a labelled diagram, name the main parts from top to bottom, describe how they connect, and conclude with the system's function.
14. Name the chart and total area, identify the dominant and smallest land use, and conclude with what this implies about the region.
15. Introduce the chart, identify the age group with the highest and lowest screen time, compare across groups, and conclude with the overall pattern.
16. Name the graph, describe the historical growth, point out the projected future trend, and conclude with the expected population.
17. State that it shows a process, describe each stage in sequence, mention the filtering step, and conclude with the stored result.
18. Describe what the map shows, compare the two routes by length and features passed, and conclude with which route appears more direct.
19. Name the chart, identify the most and least used modes, compare them, and conclude with the dominant form of transport.
20. Introduce the table and columns, identify the highest and lowest values for sugar, fibre, and calories, and conclude with an overall observation.
21. Introduce the graph, describe the overall trend and any seasonal peaks, identify the highest and lowest months, and conclude with the pattern.
22. State the chart and total, name the largest and smallest activities, and conclude with what this reveals about leisure habits.
23. Say it shows a natural cycle, describe each stage in order, explain how they connect, and conclude that the cycle is continuous.
24. Name the chart, identify faculties with the largest gender gap, compare overall enrolment, and conclude with the general trend.
25. Introduce the two lines, describe how renewable generation rises while non-renewable falls, note the crossover, and conclude with the trend.
26. Describe what the two maps show, identify what was added or removed, and conclude with how the village has developed.
27. Name the chart, identify the most and least expensive city, compare the figures, and conclude with the overall range.
28. State that it shows a life cycle with several stages, describe each stage in order, and conclude that the cycle repeats.
29. Name the chart and total, identify the leading and minor causes, and conclude with what the data suggests for policy.
30. Introduce the graph, describe the rise and fall in visitor numbers, identify the peak day, and conclude with the overall pattern.

What this task involves

You listen to a short academic lecture and then re-tell it in your own words. This integrated task tests listening, note-taking, and speaking.

Format and timing

The lecture lasts up to 90 seconds. After it ends you have about 10 seconds to prepare and then 40 seconds to speak. There are usually 1 to 2 of these tasks. The lecture transcript and a set of key points are provided here.

Strategy tips

Take quick notes of the main idea and supporting points as you listen, using abbreviations. In your answer, state the overall topic first, then mention the key points in a logical order. Aim to speak for the full time without long pauses.

Practice questions

1. Lecture transcript:

Today I want to talk about the importance of sleep for learning. When we sleep, the brain does not simply switch off. Instead, it actively processes the information we have gathered during the day. During deep sleep, memories are strengthened and transferred from short-term to long-term storage. Studies show that students who sleep well after studying perform far better in tests than those who stay up late. So the message is simple: if you want to remember what you learn, make sure you get enough sleep.

2. Lecture transcript:

In this lecture we will look at the causes of the Industrial Revolution. Several factors came together in eighteenth-century Britain. First, there was a surplus of capital available for investment. Second, new technologies such as the steam engine made mass production possible. Third, a growing population provided both workers and consumers. Finally, access to raw materials, particularly coal and iron, was abundant. The combination of these factors allowed Britain to lead the world into a new industrial age.

3. Lecture transcript:

Let's consider how vaccines work. A vaccine contains a harmless part of a virus or bacterium. When it is introduced into the body, the immune system recognises it as a threat and produces antibodies. Crucially, the immune system also remembers this encounter. So if the real pathogen ever appears, the body can respond quickly and effectively before the disease takes hold. This is why vaccination has been so successful in controlling infectious diseases worldwide.

4. Lecture transcript:

Today's topic is the greenhouse effect. The sun's energy reaches the Earth and warms its surface. Some of this heat is radiated back towards space. However, certain gases in the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide and methane, trap part of this heat. This natural process keeps the planet warm enough to support life. The problem arises when human activities increase these gases, intensifying the effect and causing global temperatures to rise.

5. Lecture transcript:

I want to discuss the concept of supply and demand, a foundation of economics. When the supply of a product is low but demand is high, prices tend to rise. Conversely, when supply is plentiful and demand is weak, prices fall. Markets constantly adjust as buyers and sellers respond to these signals. Understanding this relationship helps explain why prices change and how resources are allocated in an economy.

6. Lecture transcript:

Let's examine the role of forests in the global climate. Forests absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in their wood and soil. They also release oxygen and help regulate rainfall. When forests are cut down, this stored carbon is released, contributing to climate change. Protecting and restoring forests is therefore one of the most effective natural strategies we have for limiting global warming.

7. Lecture transcript:

Today I'll explain the water cycle. Water on the Earth's surface evaporates due to the heat of the sun, turning into vapour. This vapour rises, cools, and condenses to form clouds. Eventually the water falls back to the ground as precipitation, such as rain or snow. It then flows into rivers and oceans, and the cycle begins again. This continuous movement of water is essential for life on the planet.

8. Lecture transcript:

Let's look at the importance of biodiversity. Biodiversity refers to the variety of living things in an ecosystem. A diverse ecosystem is more stable and resilient because different species perform different roles. If one species disappears, others can sometimes compensate. However, when biodiversity declines, ecosystems become fragile and may collapse. Protecting biodiversity is therefore vital for maintaining the health of our environment.

9. Lecture transcript:

In this lecture we consider the psychology of motivation. Researchers distinguish between two types: intrinsic and extrinsic motivation. Intrinsic motivation comes from within, such as the enjoyment of an activity itself. Extrinsic motivation comes from external rewards, such as money or praise. Studies suggest that intrinsic motivation often leads to deeper learning and greater persistence, whereas relying solely on rewards can sometimes reduce genuine interest.

10. Lecture transcript:

Today's subject is the structure of the Earth. The Earth is made up of several layers. At the centre is the core, which is extremely hot and composed mainly of iron. Surrounding it is the mantle, a thick layer of semi-molten rock. The outermost layer is the crust, which is relatively thin and on which we live. Movements within these layers cause earthquakes and shape the surface of the planet.

11. Lecture transcript:

Let's discuss how memory works. Psychologists often describe three stages of memory: encoding, storage, and retrieval. Encoding is the process of taking in information. Storage is keeping that information over time. Retrieval is bringing it back when needed. Memory is not perfect, however; information can be forgotten or distorted. Techniques such as repetition and association can help improve how well we remember.

12. Lecture transcript:

Today I want to talk about renewable energy. Unlike fossil fuels, which are finite and polluting, renewable sources such as solar, wind, and hydro power are naturally replenished. They produce little or no greenhouse gas during operation. Although they require significant initial investment and depend on weather conditions, advances in technology and storage are steadily making them more reliable and affordable.

13. Lecture transcript:

Let's examine the spread of the printing press. Before its invention, books were copied by hand, making them rare and expensive. The printing press allowed texts to be reproduced quickly and cheaply. As a result, ideas spread more widely and literacy increased. This had profound effects, contributing to religious reform, scientific progress, and the rise of an informed public.

14. Lecture transcript:

Today we will discuss ocean currents. Ocean currents are large movements of seawater driven by wind, temperature, and salinity differences. They transport warm water from the equator towards the poles and cold water back again. This circulation plays a major role in regulating the global climate. Disruptions to these currents could have significant consequences for weather patterns around the world.

15. Lecture transcript:

In this lecture we'll look at the benefits of exercise on the brain. Physical activity increases blood flow to the brain, delivering more oxygen and nutrients. It also stimulates the release of chemicals that improve mood and support the growth of new brain cells. Regular exercise has been linked to better memory, sharper concentration, and a reduced risk of cognitive decline in later life.

16. Lecture transcript:

Let's consider the concept of cultural identity. Cultural identity is shaped by the language, traditions, and values that a person grows up with. It gives individuals a sense of belonging to a group. In an increasingly globalised world, people often hold multiple cultural identities. Understanding and respecting these identities is important for building harmonious and inclusive societies.

17. Lecture transcript:

Today's topic is photosynthesis. Plants capture sunlight using a green pigment called chlorophyll. They combine carbon dioxide from the air with water from the soil to produce glucose, which they use for energy and growth. Oxygen is released as a by-product. This process is fundamental to life on Earth, as it provides both the food and the oxygen on which most organisms depend.

18. Lecture transcript:

Let's look at the importance of clean water. Access to clean water is essential for health, agriculture, and economic development. Yet millions of people around the world still lack a safe supply. Contaminated water spreads disease and causes enormous suffering. Investing in water infrastructure and protecting water sources are among the most effective ways to improve global health.

19. Lecture transcript:

In this lecture I'll explain the basics of plate tectonics. The Earth's outer shell is divided into large plates that slowly move over the mantle beneath. Where plates collide, mountains can form or one plate may slide beneath another. Where they pull apart, new crust is created. The movement of these plates explains the distribution of earthquakes, volcanoes, and mountain ranges around the world.

20. Lecture transcript:

Today we'll discuss the role of sleep in physical health. Beyond rest, sleep allows the body to repair tissues, regulate hormones, and strengthen the immune system. Lack of sleep has been linked to weight gain, heart disease, and weakened immunity. Experts recommend that adults aim for seven to nine hours each night to maintain good physical and mental health.

21. Lecture transcript:

Let's examine the history of writing. The earliest writing systems developed independently in several ancient civilisations. They began as simple pictures representing objects and gradually became more abstract symbols representing sounds. Writing allowed societies to keep records, codify laws, and pass on knowledge. It is regarded as one of the most important inventions in human history.

22. Lecture transcript:

Today's topic is the economics of recycling. Recycling reduces the need to extract raw materials, saving energy and reducing pollution. It can also create jobs and generate income from waste. However, recycling is not free; it requires collection, sorting, and processing. For recycling to be effective, the costs must be balanced against the environmental and economic benefits it provides.

23. Lecture transcript:

In this lecture we'll consider the importance of pollinators. Insects such as bees and butterflies transfer pollen between flowers, allowing plants to reproduce. A large proportion of the crops we eat depend on this pollination. The decline of pollinator populations, caused by pesticides and habitat loss, therefore poses a serious threat to global food production.

24. Lecture transcript:

Let's discuss the concept of urbanisation. Urbanisation is the movement of people from rural areas to cities. It is driven by the search for jobs, education, and better services. While cities offer many opportunities, rapid urbanisation can lead to overcrowding, pollution, and pressure on infrastructure. Managing this growth sustainably is one of the great challenges of the modern world.

25. Lecture transcript:

Today I'll talk about the human heart. The heart is a muscular organ that pumps blood throughout the body. It has four chambers that work together to keep blood flowing in one direction. With each beat, oxygen-rich blood is delivered to the tissues and oxygen-poor blood is returned to the lungs. The heart beats around one hundred thousand times a day, sustaining life without rest.

Key points to include

1. Sleep is active, not passive; it processes daily information; deep sleep strengthens memories and moves them to long-term storage; well-rested students perform better; conclusion: sleep aids learning.
2. Topic: causes of the Industrial Revolution in Britain; factors were surplus capital, new technology like the steam engine, a growing population providing workers and consumers, and abundant raw materials such as coal and iron; together they made Britain the industrial leader.
3. Vaccines contain a harmless part of a pathogen; the immune system produces antibodies and remembers it; later real infections are fought off quickly; vaccination has successfully controlled infectious diseases.
4. The greenhouse effect: sunlight warms the Earth, heat radiates back, gases like carbon dioxide and methane trap some heat; this is natural and supports life; but human activity increases these gases, intensifying warming and raising global temperatures.
5. Supply and demand is a foundation of economics; low supply with high demand raises prices; high supply with low demand lowers prices; markets adjust as buyers and sellers respond; this explains price changes and resource allocation.
6. Forests absorb and store carbon dioxide, release oxygen, and regulate rainfall; deforestation releases stored carbon and worsens climate change; protecting and restoring forests is an effective strategy against global warming.
7. The water cycle: the sun evaporates surface water into vapour, which rises, cools, and condenses into clouds; water falls as precipitation, flows into rivers and oceans, and the cycle repeats; it is essential for life.
8. Biodiversity is the variety of living things; diverse ecosystems are more stable and resilient because species play different roles; loss of biodiversity makes ecosystems fragile and prone to collapse; protecting it is vital.
9. Motivation has two types: intrinsic, from within such as enjoyment, and extrinsic, from external rewards like money or praise; intrinsic motivation tends to produce deeper learning and persistence, while relying only on rewards can reduce genuine interest.
10. The Earth has layers: a hot iron core at the centre, a thick semi-molten mantle around it, and a thin outer crust where we live; movements within these layers cause earthquakes and shape the surface.
11. Memory has three stages: encoding (taking in information), storage (keeping it), and retrieval (recalling it); memory is imperfect and can be forgotten or distorted; repetition and association improve recall.
12. Renewable energy from solar, wind, and hydro is naturally replenished and produces little greenhouse gas, unlike finite, polluting fossil fuels; it needs high initial investment and depends on weather, but technology and storage are making it more reliable and affordable.
13. Before the printing press, books were copied by hand and were rare and expensive; the press reproduced texts quickly and cheaply, spreading ideas and increasing literacy; this contributed to religious reform, scientific progress, and an informed public.
14. Ocean currents are large seawater movements driven by wind, temperature, and salinity; they carry warm water poleward and cold water back; this regulates global climate, and disruptions could significantly affect weather worldwide.
15. Exercise increases blood flow to the brain, delivering oxygen and nutrients, and releases chemicals that improve mood and grow new brain cells; it is linked to better memory, concentration, and reduced cognitive decline.
16. Cultural identity is shaped by language, traditions, and values, giving a sense of belonging; in a globalised world people often hold multiple identities; understanding and respecting them helps build harmonious, inclusive societies.
17. Photosynthesis: plants use chlorophyll to capture sunlight, combine carbon dioxide and water to make glucose for energy and growth, and release oxygen; it is fundamental to life, providing food and oxygen.
18. Clean water is essential for health, agriculture, and development, but millions lack a safe supply; contaminated water spreads disease; investing in water infrastructure and protecting sources greatly improves global health.

- 19.** Plate tectonics: the Earth's outer shell is divided into moving plates; collisions form mountains or cause subduction, while separation creates new crust; plate movement explains the distribution of earthquakes, volcanoes, and mountains.
- 20.** Sleep lets the body repair tissues, regulate hormones, and strengthen immunity; lack of sleep is linked to weight gain, heart disease, and weak immunity; adults should aim for seven to nine hours nightly.
- 21.** The earliest writing systems arose independently in several civilisations, starting as pictures and becoming abstract sound symbols; writing enabled record-keeping, laws, and knowledge transfer; it is one of humanity's most important inventions.
- 22.** Recycling reduces raw material extraction, saving energy and cutting pollution, and can create jobs and income; but it has costs for collection, sorting, and processing; effectiveness depends on balancing costs against environmental and economic benefits.
- 23.** Pollinators like bees and butterflies transfer pollen, enabling plant reproduction; many crops depend on them; their decline, caused by pesticides and habitat loss, threatens global food production.
- 24.** Urbanisation is the movement from rural areas to cities, driven by jobs, education, and services; cities offer opportunities but rapid growth causes overcrowding, pollution, and infrastructure strain; managing it sustainably is a major modern challenge.
- 25.** The heart is a muscular pump with four chambers that keep blood flowing one way; each beat delivers oxygen-rich blood to tissues and returns oxygen-poor blood to the lungs; it beats about one hundred thousand times a day.

What this task involves

You hear a short question and must answer it in a single word or a few words. This task tests listening, speaking, and general knowledge of common topics.

Format and timing

The question is played once, and you give a brief spoken answer after the beep. There are usually 5 to 6 of these tasks. Each question here is printed with the expected answer.

Strategy tips

Listen for the key word in the question. The answers are short and factual, so do not over-explain. A single accurate word, clearly pronounced, is all that is required.

Practice questions

1. What do we call the person who teaches students at a university?
2. What is the frozen form of water called?
3. If you want to find the meaning of a word, which book do you use?
4. What do we call a doctor who treats animals?
5. What instrument is used to measure temperature?
6. How many days are there in a week?
7. What do you call the study of living organisms?
8. Which planet is known as the Red Planet?
9. What do we call a person who flies an aeroplane?
10. What is the opposite of 'ancient'?
11. Where would you go to borrow a book for free?
12. What do we call frozen rain?
13. What is the capital city of Japan?
14. Which organ pumps blood around the human body?
15. What do we call water that falls from clouds?
16. How many legs does a spider have?
17. What is the largest ocean on Earth?

18. What do we call a baby dog?
19. Which gas do plants absorb from the air?
20. What do we call the first meal of the day?
21. Who treats people's teeth?
22. What do we call a shape with three sides?
23. What is the chemical symbol for water?
24. What do we call the money charged for a journey by bus or train?
25. Which season comes after winter?
26. What do we call a person who studies the stars and planets?
27. How many colours are there in a rainbow?
28. What do we call the place where you catch a train?
29. What do bees make?
30. What is the opposite of 'expensive'?
31. What do we call a group of fish?
32. Which part of the body do we use to smell?
33. What do we call the leader of a country with a president?
34. What is the hard outer covering of an egg called?
35. What do we call a place where you can see paintings and sculptures?
36. How many minutes are there in an hour?
37. What do we call the study of the past?
38. Which natural satellite orbits the Earth?
39. What do we call a person who cooks food in a restaurant?
40. What is the opposite of 'increase'?
41. What do we call the document that lets you travel between countries?
42. Which liquid do we drink that comes from cows?
43. What do we call the study of numbers and shapes?
44. What is the tallest land animal?
45. What do we call the time of day when the sun rises?
46. Where do you go to send a letter or post a parcel?
47. What do we call a person who designs buildings?
48. What is the opposite of 'victory'?

49. Which sense organ allows us to hear?
50. What do we call a young sheep?
51. What is the name of the force that pulls objects toward the Earth?
52. What do we call the list of dishes available at a restaurant?
53. How many sides does a square have?
54. What do we call the study of the weather?
55. Which colour is made by mixing blue and yellow?
56. What do we call a doctor who performs operations?
57. What is the opposite of 'temporary'?
58. Where would you go to watch a film on a big screen?
59. What do we call a baby cat?
60. What gas do humans need to breathe to stay alive?
61. What do we call the part of a plant that grows underground?
62. Which meal is usually eaten in the middle of the day?
63. What do we call a person who writes books?
64. What is the opposite of 'artificial'?
65. How many wheels does a bicycle have?
66. What do we call the study of chemical substances?
67. Which large mammal lives in the sea and is not a fish?
68. What do we call the money you put in a bank to save?
69. What is the opposite of 'arrive'?
70. What do we call the person in charge of a school?
71. Which fruit is traditionally associated with keeping the doctor away?
72. What do we call a piece of writing that gives news?
73. How many months are there in a year?
74. What do we call the study of the human mind and behaviour?
75. Which insect produces silk?
76. What do we call the edge of the sea where it meets the land?
77. What is the opposite of 'success'?
78. Where do you go to buy fresh meat?
79. What do we call a journey to a foreign country for pleasure?

80. What do plants need from the sun to make food?
81. What do we call a person who plays music professionally?
82. What is the opposite of 'expand'?
83. Which metal is liquid at room temperature?
84. What do we call the long sleep some animals take in winter?
85. How many continents are there on Earth?
86. What do we call a person who studies rocks and the Earth?
87. Which organ is mainly responsible for filtering blood and producing urine?
88. What do we call a story that is not true and is invented?
89. What is the opposite of 'accept'?
90. Where would you keep your money safe outside the home?
91. What do we call the path a planet takes around the sun?
92. What do we call a person who repairs cars?
93. Which part of a tree carries water from the roots to the leaves?
94. What is the opposite of 'employ'?
95. How many hours are there in a day?
96. What do we call a person who treats mental health problems?
97. Which natural disaster involves the shaking of the ground?
98. What do we call the money paid to a worker for their work?
99. What is the opposite of 'export'?
100. Where do you go to catch an aeroplane?
101. What do we call a person learning a trade from a skilled worker?
102. Which body of water is completely surrounded by land?
103. What do we call the study of foreign languages and how they work?
104. What is the opposite of 'majority'?
105. What do we call a doctor who specialises in children?
106. Which device do we use to take photographs?
107. What do we call the official count of a country's population?
108. What is the opposite of 'borrow'?
109. Where would you go to watch a live theatrical performance?
110. What do we call frozen water that floats in the sea?

111. What do we call a person who studies ancient human remains and artefacts?
112. Which season has the shortest days in the northern hemisphere?
113. What do we call money lent by a bank that must be repaid with interest?
114. What is the opposite of 'liquid' as a state of matter?
115. What do we call a person who manages a company or organisation?
116. Which gas makes up most of the Earth's atmosphere?
117. What do we call the yearly celebration of the day you were born?
118. What is the opposite of 'ascend'?
119. Where do students go to attend lectures and earn degrees?
120. What do we call a person who designs computer programs?
121. Which organ in the body produces insulin?
122. What do we call the money the government collects from citizens?
123. What is the opposite of 'fertile' land?
124. What do we call a person who studies the economy?
125. Which part of the eye controls how much light enters?
126. What do we call the practice of growing crops and raising animals?
127. What is the opposite of 'profit'?
128. What do we call a doctor who treats the eyes?
129. Which renewable energy source comes from the sun?
130. What do we call a written agreement that is legally binding?

Answer key

1. A professor (or lecturer).
2. Ice.
3. A dictionary.
4. A veterinarian (vet).
5. A thermometer.
6. Seven.
7. Biology.
8. Mars.
9. A pilot.
10. Modern.
11. A library.
12. Hail (or snow).
13. Tokyo.

14. The heart.
15. Rain.
16. Eight.
17. The Pacific Ocean.
18. A puppy.
19. Carbon dioxide.
20. Breakfast.
21. A dentist.
22. A triangle.
23. H₂O.
24. The fare.
25. Spring.
26. An astronomer.
27. Seven.
28. A station.
29. Honey.
30. Cheap (or inexpensive).
31. A school.
32. The nose.
33. A president.
34. The shell.
35. An art gallery (or museum).
36. Sixty.
37. History.
38. The Moon.
39. A chef (or cook).
40. Decrease (or reduce).
41. A passport.
42. Milk.
43. Mathematics.
44. The giraffe.
45. Dawn (or sunrise).
46. The post office.
47. An architect.
48. Defeat (or loss).
49. The ears.
50. A lamb.
51. Gravity.
52. A menu.
53. Four.
54. Meteorology.
55. Green.
56. A surgeon.

57. Permanent.
58. A cinema.
59. A kitten.
60. Oxygen.
61. The roots.
62. Lunch.
63. An author (or writer).
64. Natural.
65. Two.
66. Chemistry.
67. A whale (or dolphin).
68. Savings (or a deposit).
69. Depart (or leave).
70. The principal (or headteacher).
71. An apple.
72. An article (or report).
73. Twelve.
74. Psychology.
75. The silkworm.
76. The coast (or shore).
77. Failure.
78. A butcher's (or butcher shop).
79. A holiday (or vacation).
80. Light (sunlight).
81. A musician.
82. Contract (or shrink).
83. Mercury.
84. Hibernation.
85. Seven.
86. A geologist.
87. The kidneys.
88. Fiction.
89. Reject (or refuse).
90. In a bank.
91. An orbit.
92. A mechanic.
93. The trunk (or stem).
94. Dismiss (or fire).
95. Twenty-four.
96. A psychiatrist (or psychologist).
97. An earthquake.
98. Wages (or a salary).
99. Import.

100. An airport.
101. An apprentice.
102. A lake.
103. Linguistics.
104. Minority.
105. A paediatrician.
106. A camera.
107. A census.
108. Lend.
109. A theatre.
110. An iceberg.
111. An archaeologist.
112. Winter.
113. A loan.
114. Solid (or gas).
115. A manager (or director).
116. Nitrogen.
117. A birthday.
118. Descend.
119. A university (or college).
120. A programmer (or software developer).
121. The pancreas.
122. Tax (or taxes).
123. Barren (or infertile).
124. An economist.
125. The pupil (or iris).
126. Agriculture (or farming).
127. Loss.
128. An optometrist (or ophthalmologist).
129. Solar energy (or solar power).
130. A contract.

What this task involves

You read a passage and write a one-sentence summary of it. This integrated task tests reading and writing, especially your ability to identify the main idea and express it concisely.

Format and timing

You have about 10 minutes per text to write a single sentence of between 5 and 75 words. There are usually 1 to 2 of these tasks. A passage and a model summary are provided for each item.

Strategy tips

Find the central idea and the most important supporting point, then combine them into one grammatically correct sentence. Because the response must be a single sentence, practise joining ideas with linking words such as 'while', 'because', and 'although'. Stay within the word limit.

Practice questions

1. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

For centuries, people believed that the continents had always occupied their current positions. In the early twentieth century, however, the scientist Alfred Wegener proposed that the continents had once been joined together in a single landmass and had slowly drifted apart. His theory was initially rejected because he could not explain the force driving such movement. Decades later, the discovery of plate tectonics confirmed that the Earth's surface is divided into moving plates, vindicating Wegener's revolutionary idea and transforming our understanding of geology.

2. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Sleep deprivation has become increasingly common in modern society, driven by demanding work schedules, electronic devices, and the constant availability of entertainment. Research has shown that insufficient sleep impairs concentration, weakens the immune system, and increases the risk of serious conditions such as heart disease and diabetes. Furthermore, chronic lack of sleep affects emotional regulation, leading to irritability and poor decision-making. Experts therefore stress that adequate sleep should be regarded not as a luxury but as an essential component of good health.

3. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

The rapid growth of online shopping has transformed the retail industry. Consumers now enjoy greater convenience, wider choice, and the ability to compare prices instantly. At the same time, traditional shops have struggled to compete, leading to the closure of many high-street stores and the loss of local jobs. Online retail has also raised environmental concerns due to packaging waste and the emissions associated with home delivery. Retailers and policymakers must therefore find ways to balance the benefits of convenience with these economic and environmental costs.

4. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Bees and other pollinators play a vital role in agriculture, fertilising the flowers of many of the crops on which human nutrition depends. In recent years, however, pollinator populations have declined sharply, a trend that scientists attribute to the use of pesticides, the loss of natural habitats, and the spread of disease. If this decline continues, it could threaten food security and disrupt entire ecosystems. Researchers are therefore urging governments to restrict harmful chemicals and to protect the natural environments on which these crucial insects depend.

5. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

The invention of the printing press in the fifteenth century is widely regarded as one of the most important developments in human history. Before its introduction, books were copied laboriously by hand, making them rare and accessible only to the wealthy. The printing press allowed texts to be produced quickly and cheaply, dramatically increasing literacy and enabling ideas to spread across Europe. This transformation contributed to religious reform, scientific advancement, and the emergence of a more informed and educated public.

6. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Coral reefs are among the most diverse ecosystems on the planet, supporting roughly a quarter of all marine species despite occupying a tiny fraction of the ocean. They also protect coastlines from storms and provide food and income for millions of people. Yet rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, and pollution are causing widespread coral bleaching and death. Scientists warn that without urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, many of the world's reefs could be lost within decades, with devastating consequences for both nature and humanity.

7. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Artificial intelligence is increasingly being used to support medical diagnosis. By analysing vast quantities of data, AI systems can detect patterns in medical images and patient records that might escape the human eye, often identifying diseases at an earlier and more treatable stage. However, the use of such technology also raises concerns about accuracy, accountability, and patient privacy. Doctors emphasise that AI should be treated as a tool to assist clinicians rather than a replacement for human judgement, which remains essential in the practice of medicine.

8. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Cities around the world are increasingly turning to green spaces as a way of improving urban life. Parks, gardens, and tree-lined streets help to clean the air, reduce temperatures during heatwaves, and provide habitats for wildlife. They also offer residents places to relax and exercise, which benefits both physical and mental health. As urban populations continue to grow, planners are recognising that integrating nature into the built environment is not merely decorative but essential to creating healthy and liveable cities.

9. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

The decline of indigenous languages is occurring at an alarming rate, with experts estimating that a language disappears somewhere in the world every few weeks. When a language is lost, so too is a unique way of perceiving and describing the world, along with the cultural knowledge, stories, and traditions it carries. Efforts to document and revive endangered languages are growing, supported by communities, linguists, and digital technology. Preserving linguistic diversity is increasingly seen as an important part of protecting humanity's cultural heritage.

10. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Volunteering offers significant benefits both to individuals and to society as a whole. For volunteers, it provides opportunities to learn new skills, build social connections, and gain a sense of purpose, all of which contribute to improved well-being. For communities, volunteers provide valuable services that might otherwise be unaffordable, from supporting the elderly to protecting the environment. Research suggests that societies with high levels of volunteering tend to be more cohesive and resilient, making the encouragement of volunteering a worthwhile goal for governments and organisations alike.

11. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

The Industrial Revolution brought enormous changes to society, dramatically increasing the production of goods and raising living standards over time. Yet it also had a darker side. Rapid industrialisation led to overcrowded cities, dangerous working conditions, and widespread pollution. Many workers, including children, endured long hours in factories for low pay. The social problems created during this period eventually prompted reforms in labour laws, public health, and education, the legacy of which continues to shape modern societies.

12. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Microplastics, tiny fragments of plastic less than five millimetres in size, have been found in oceans, rivers, soil, and even the air we breathe. They originate from the breakdown of larger plastic items as well as from products such as cosmetics and synthetic clothing. Once in the environment, microplastics are nearly impossible to remove and can enter the food chain, with unknown consequences for wildlife and human health. Scientists are calling for reductions in plastic production and improvements in waste management to address this growing problem.

13. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Regular physical exercise is one of the most effective ways to maintain good health. It strengthens the heart, controls weight, and reduces the risk of chronic diseases such as diabetes and certain cancers. Exercise also has powerful effects on mental health, easing stress, anxiety, and depression while improving mood and sleep. Despite these well-documented benefits, many people lead increasingly sedentary lives, prompting health authorities to launch campaigns encouraging populations to become more physically active.

14. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

The concept of a circular economy challenges the traditional model of producing, using, and discarding goods. Instead, it aims to keep materials in use for as long as possible through repair, reuse, and recycling. By designing products that last longer and can be easily broken down into their components, a circular economy reduces waste and the demand for raw materials. Supporters argue that this approach not only protects the environment but also creates economic opportunities and reduces dependence on scarce resources.

15. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Reading fiction has been shown to offer benefits beyond simple entertainment. Studies suggest that immersing oneself in stories can improve empathy, as readers imagine the thoughts and feelings of characters whose lives differ from their own. Fiction also expands vocabulary, strengthens concentration, and provides a means of relaxation that can reduce stress. For these reasons, many educators and psychologists argue that encouraging a habit of reading from an early age can have lasting positive effects on both intellectual and emotional development.

16. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Renewable energy has experienced remarkable growth in recent years, driven by falling costs and growing concern about climate change. Solar and wind power, once considered expensive alternatives, are now among the cheapest sources of electricity in many parts of the world. This shift is reshaping energy markets and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. However, challenges remain, particularly the need to store energy for times when the sun does not shine and the wind does not blow, an obstacle that improving battery technology is gradually helping to overcome.

17. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Bilingualism, the ability to speak two languages fluently, offers a range of cognitive and social advantages. Research indicates that bilingual individuals often have better problem-solving skills, greater mental flexibility, and an enhanced ability to focus attention. Speaking more than one language also opens doors to other cultures and improves communication in an increasingly globalised world. Some studies even suggest that bilingualism may help delay the onset of age-related cognitive decline, making it valuable throughout the entire course of life.

18. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

The night-time lighting of modern cities has created a phenomenon known as light pollution. Excessive artificial light not only obscures the stars but also disrupts natural ecosystems. Many animals, including birds, insects, and sea turtles, rely on natural light cues for navigation and breeding, and bright city lights can interfere with these behaviours. Light pollution also affects human health by disturbing sleep patterns. Researchers recommend using shielded lighting and reducing unnecessary illumination to lessen these harmful effects.

19. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Fast fashion, the rapid production of inexpensive clothing to match the latest trends, has transformed the way people consume garments. While it allows consumers to buy fashionable clothes cheaply, it carries significant environmental and social costs. The industry consumes vast amounts of water and energy, generates enormous quantities of textile waste, and often relies on poorly paid labour in unsafe conditions. Growing awareness of these problems has led some consumers to seek more sustainable alternatives, such as buying fewer, higher-quality items.

20. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

The human gut is home to trillions of microorganisms, collectively known as the gut microbiome. Far from being mere passengers, these microbes play a crucial role in digestion, the production of certain vitamins, and the functioning of the immune system. Recent research suggests that the microbiome may even influence mood and brain function through its connection with the nervous system. As scientists learn more, they are discovering that maintaining a healthy and diverse microbiome may be far more important to overall health than previously realised.

21. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Space exploration, though enormously expensive, has produced benefits that extend far beyond the discoveries made in space itself. Technologies originally developed for space missions, including advances in materials, medical devices, and communications, have found widespread applications in everyday life. Moreover, satellites now play an essential role in weather forecasting, navigation, and global communication. Supporters argue that, in addition to satisfying humanity's curiosity about the universe, investment in space exploration continues to deliver practical returns on Earth.

22. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Deforestation in tropical regions continues at an alarming pace, driven largely by agriculture, logging, and the demand for land. These forests store vast amounts of carbon and harbour an extraordinary diversity of plant and animal life. When they are cleared, stored carbon is released into the atmosphere, accelerating climate change, while countless species lose their habitats. Although international efforts to curb deforestation have achieved some success, experts agree that far stronger action is needed to protect these irreplaceable ecosystems.

23. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

The way children learn has been a subject of study for generations. Modern research emphasises that children learn best when they are actively engaged rather than passively receiving information. Play, exploration, and hands-on activities help children to develop problem-solving skills and a genuine understanding of concepts. In addition, supportive relationships with teachers and caregivers provide the security children need to take risks and learn from mistakes. These insights are increasingly shaping the design of educational programmes around the world.

24. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Antibiotic resistance has emerged as one of the most serious threats to global public health. The overuse and misuse of antibiotics, both in medicine and in agriculture, have allowed bacteria to evolve defences against these once-reliable drugs. As a result, infections that were previously easy to treat are becoming dangerous once again. Health organisations are urging more responsible use of antibiotics and greater investment in the development of new treatments to prevent a future in which common infections could once more become deadly.

25. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Remote working, once a rare arrangement, has become widespread in many industries. It offers employees greater flexibility, eliminates time-consuming commutes, and can improve the balance between work and home life. Employers, meanwhile, may save on office costs and gain access to a wider pool of talent. However, remote working also presents challenges, including feelings of isolation, difficulties in communication, and the blurring of boundaries between work and personal time. Organisations are still learning how best to manage this new way of working.

26. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

The preservation of historic buildings often generates debate between those who wish to protect the past and those who favour modern development. Historic structures connect communities to their heritage and can attract tourism, generating economic benefits. However, maintaining old buildings is costly, and they may stand in the way of new housing or infrastructure. Striking a balance between conservation and progress requires careful judgement, weighing cultural and economic value against the practical needs of a growing population.

27. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Honey bees communicate the location of food sources through a remarkable behaviour known as the waggle dance. By moving in a specific pattern and angle relative to the sun, a returning bee can convey both the direction and the distance of flowers to other members of the hive. This sophisticated form of communication, discovered in the twentieth century, demonstrates that complex information can be transmitted even among creatures with very small brains, and it continues to fascinate scientists studying animal behaviour.

28. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Tourism can bring significant economic benefits to a region, creating jobs and generating income for local businesses. At the same time, large numbers of visitors can place enormous strain on the environment and on local communities. Popular destinations may suffer from overcrowding, pollution, and the erosion of natural and cultural sites. In response, many places are now promoting sustainable tourism, which seeks to ensure that the benefits of tourism are enjoyed without causing lasting damage to the places that attract visitors in the first place.

29. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

The brain's capacity to reorganise itself, known as neuroplasticity, was once thought to exist only in childhood. Modern research, however, has revealed that the brain remains capable of forming new connections throughout adult life. This discovery has profound implications, suggesting that people can continue to learn new skills, adapt to change, and recover from certain injuries well into old age. It has also inspired new approaches to rehabilitation and education that aim to harness the brain's remarkable adaptability.

30. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

The growing reliance on smartphones has raised concerns about their effect on attention and well-being. Constant notifications and the temptation to check devices can fragment concentration and reduce productivity. Some researchers also link heavy smartphone use to increased anxiety and disrupted sleep, particularly among young people. While smartphones offer undeniable benefits in communication and access to information, experts increasingly advise users to develop healthier habits, such as setting boundaries on screen time, to protect both focus and mental health.

31. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems on Earth, yet they are also among the most threatened. They filter pollutants from water, store floodwaters, and provide habitats for a wide variety of species. Despite these valuable functions, wetlands have historically been drained for agriculture and development, often dismissed as wasteland. Growing recognition of their importance has led to conservation efforts, as scientists emphasise that protecting and restoring wetlands is essential for biodiversity, water quality, and flood prevention.

32. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

The study of ancient climates, known as paleoclimatology, allows scientists to reconstruct the Earth's environmental history. By examining tree rings, ice cores, and ocean sediments, researchers can determine how temperatures and atmospheric conditions changed over thousands or even millions of years. This knowledge provides essential context for understanding present-day climate change, helping scientists distinguish natural variability from the effects of human activity and improving the accuracy of predictions about the planet's future.

33. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Public libraries continue to play an important role in modern society, despite the rise of digital media. Beyond lending books, they offer free access to the internet, host educational programmes, and provide quiet spaces for study and community gatherings. For many people, especially those on low incomes, libraries are a vital source of information and opportunity. Far from becoming obsolete, libraries are adapting to changing needs, demonstrating their enduring value as centres of learning and community life.

34. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

The domestication of animals was a turning point in human history. By taming wild species, early humans gained reliable sources of food, materials, and labour, which supported the growth of settled communities. Dogs, for instance, assisted in hunting and guarding, while cattle and sheep provided meat, milk, and wool. This relationship transformed not only human societies but also the animals themselves, which evolved over generations to live alongside people, shaping the development of agriculture and civilisation.

35. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Noise pollution, often overlooked compared with other environmental problems, can have serious effects on health and quality of life. Prolonged exposure to high levels of noise from traffic, industry, and urban activity has been linked to stress, sleep disturbance, and even cardiovascular problems. Wildlife is also affected, as noise can interfere with animals' ability to communicate and find food. Urban planners are increasingly recognising the need to reduce noise through better design, regulation, and the creation of quieter green spaces.

36. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

The rise of social media has fundamentally changed how people share information and form opinions. While these platforms enable rapid communication and give a voice to many who were previously unheard, they have also facilitated the spread of misinformation. False or misleading content can travel quickly, influencing public attitudes and even political outcomes. As awareness of these dangers grows, there are increasing calls for better regulation, improved media literacy, and greater responsibility on the part of the companies that operate these platforms.

37. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

The Mediterranean diet, rich in vegetables, fruits, whole grains, fish, and olive oil, has long been associated with good health. Numerous studies have linked this way of eating to a reduced risk of heart disease, stroke, and certain other chronic conditions. Researchers believe that the combination of healthy fats, fibre, and antioxidants found in these foods contributes to these benefits. As a result, the Mediterranean diet is frequently recommended by health professionals as a model for healthy and sustainable eating.

38. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

The growth of megacities, urban areas with populations exceeding ten million, presents both opportunities and challenges. These vast centres of population drive economic growth, foster innovation, and offer diverse opportunities to their residents. However, they also struggle with problems such as traffic congestion, inadequate housing, pollution, and strain on public services. Managing megacities effectively requires careful planning and substantial investment in infrastructure, so that their economic potential can be realised without sacrificing the well-being of the people who live in them.

39. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

The discovery of penicillin in 1928 by Alexander Fleming marked the beginning of the antibiotic age. Fleming noticed that a mould had killed the bacteria growing in a laboratory dish, an observation that eventually led to the development of drugs capable of curing previously fatal infections. Antibiotics have since saved countless lives and transformed medicine. Yet Fleming himself warned that misuse of these drugs could lead to resistance, a prediction that has proved remarkably accurate in the decades that followed.

40. Read the passage and write a one-sentence summary.

Electric vehicles are increasingly seen as a key part of the transition to a cleaner transport system. By replacing petrol and diesel engines with electric motors, they produce no exhaust emissions, helping to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gases. However, their environmental benefits depend heavily on how the electricity used to charge them is generated, and concerns remain about the mining of materials for their batteries. Continued progress in clean energy and battery technology is expected to enhance their overall sustainability.

Model summaries

1. Although Alfred Wegener's early twentieth-century theory that the continents had drifted apart from a single landmass was initially rejected because he could not explain the driving force, the later discovery of plate tectonics confirmed his revolutionary idea and transformed the science of geology.
2. Because the sleep deprivation that has become common in modern society impairs concentration, weakens immunity, raises the risk of serious diseases, and harms emotional regulation, experts argue that adequate sleep is an essential component of good health rather than a luxury.
3. While the rapid growth of online shopping has given consumers greater convenience, choice, and price transparency, it has also harmed traditional high-street stores and raised environmental concerns, meaning retailers and policymakers must balance these benefits against the economic and environmental costs.
4. Because pollinators such as bees, which fertilise many essential food crops, are declining sharply as a result of pesticides, habitat loss, and disease, researchers warn that this trend threatens food security and ecosystems and are urging governments to restrict harmful chemicals and protect natural habitats.
5. The fifteenth-century invention of the printing press, by replacing slow hand-copying with rapid, inexpensive production, dramatically increased literacy and spread ideas across Europe, thereby contributing to religious reform, scientific advancement, and the rise of a more educated public.
6. Although coral reefs are extraordinarily diverse ecosystems that protect coastlines and support millions of livelihoods, rising sea temperatures, acidification, and pollution are killing them, leading scientists to warn that without urgent cuts to greenhouse gas emissions many reefs could disappear within decades.
7. While artificial intelligence can support medical diagnosis by detecting patterns in images and records that allow earlier disease detection, concerns about accuracy, accountability, and privacy mean it should be treated as a tool to assist rather than replace the human judgement that remains essential in medicine.
8. As urban populations grow, city planners increasingly recognise that green spaces such as parks and tree-lined streets are essential rather than merely decorative, because they clean the air, reduce heat, support wildlife, and improve residents' physical and mental health.
9. Because the rapid disappearance of indigenous languages, occurring every few weeks, destroys unique worldviews and the cultural knowledge they carry, communities, linguists, and digital technology are increasingly working to document and revive them as a vital part of protecting humanity's cultural heritage.
10. Because volunteering benefits individuals by building skills, connections, and a sense of purpose while providing communities with valuable services and greater cohesion and resilience, encouraging it is a worthwhile goal for governments and organisations.
11. Although the Industrial Revolution greatly increased production and eventually raised living standards, it also caused overcrowded cities, dangerous working conditions, child labour, and pollution, problems that ultimately prompted lasting reforms in labour, public health, and education.
12. Because microplastics from broken-down plastics and products such as cosmetics and synthetic clothing have spread throughout the environment and food chain with unknown health effects and are almost impossible to remove, scientists are urging reductions in plastic production and better waste management.
13. Because regular exercise strongly benefits both physical health, by strengthening the heart and reducing chronic disease, and mental health, by easing stress and improving mood and sleep, health authorities are running

campaigns to counter increasingly sedentary lifestyles.

14. The circular economy, which keeps materials in use through repair, reuse, and recycling rather than discarding them, reduces waste and demand for raw materials while, supporters argue, protecting the environment, creating economic opportunities, and reducing dependence on scarce resources.

15. Because reading fiction can improve empathy by helping readers imagine others' thoughts and feelings while also expanding vocabulary, strengthening concentration, and reducing stress, educators and psychologists argue that encouraging early reading benefits both intellectual and emotional development.

16. Driven by falling costs and climate concern, renewable sources such as solar and wind have become among the cheapest forms of electricity and are reshaping energy markets, though the challenge of storing energy for periods without sun or wind is only gradually being overcome by improving battery technology.

17. Bilingualism offers cognitive advantages such as better problem-solving, mental flexibility, and attention, along with social and cultural benefits and possible protection against age-related cognitive decline, making the ability to speak two languages valuable throughout life.

18. Because the light pollution produced by excessive artificial lighting in modern cities obscures the stars, disrupts the navigation and breeding of animals, and harms human sleep, researchers recommend using shielded lighting and reducing unnecessary illumination.

19. Although fast fashion lets consumers buy trendy clothes cheaply, its heavy water and energy use, enormous textile waste, and reliance on poorly paid, unsafe labour have prompted growing awareness and a shift among some consumers toward more sustainable, higher-quality purchases.

20. Research increasingly shows that the trillions of microbes in the gut microbiome are crucial to digestion, vitamin production, immunity, and possibly even mood and brain function, suggesting that maintaining a healthy, diverse microbiome is more important to overall health than previously realised.

21. Although space exploration is enormously expensive, supporters argue it delivers practical returns on Earth, since technologies developed for missions have benefited materials, medicine, and communications, and satellites are now essential to forecasting, navigation, and communication, in addition to satisfying human curiosity.

22. Because tropical deforestation, driven by agriculture, logging, and land demand, releases stored carbon and destroys the habitats of countless species, experts agree that, despite some success from international efforts, far stronger action is needed to protect these irreplaceable ecosystems.

23. Modern research showing that children learn best through active engagement, play, exploration, and hands-on activities, supported by secure relationships with teachers and caregivers, is increasingly shaping the design of educational programmes worldwide.

24. Because the overuse and misuse of antibiotics in medicine and agriculture have driven bacteria to develop resistance, making once-treatable infections dangerous again, health organisations are urging more responsible antibiotic use and greater investment in new treatments to avoid a deadly future.

25. Although remote working offers employees flexibility and better work-life balance while saving employers on costs and widening talent pools, it also brings isolation, communication difficulties, and blurred boundaries, leaving organisations still learning how best to manage it.

26. Because preserving historic buildings protects heritage and attracts tourism but is costly and can obstruct new development, striking a balance between conservation and progress requires careful judgement that weighs cultural and economic value against the needs of a growing population.

27. The honey bee's waggle dance, in which a bee conveys the direction and distance of food through movement relative to the sun, demonstrates that complex information can be transmitted even among small-brained creatures and continues to fascinate scientists studying animal behaviour.

28. Because tourism brings economic benefits such as jobs and income but can also cause overcrowding, pollution, and damage to natural and cultural sites, many destinations now promote sustainable tourism to enjoy its benefits without lasting harm.

29. Because modern research has shown that neuroplasticity, once thought limited to childhood, allows the brain to form new connections throughout adult life, people can keep learning, adapting, and recovering from injury into old age, inspiring new approaches to rehabilitation and education.

- 30.** Although smartphones offer clear benefits in communication and information access, concerns that their constant notifications fragment attention, reduce productivity, and increase anxiety and sleep problems, especially among young people, are leading experts to advise healthier habits such as limiting screen time.
- 31.** Because wetlands, despite being highly productive ecosystems that filter pollutants, store floodwaters, and shelter diverse species, have historically been drained as wasteland, growing recognition of their value has spurred conservation efforts essential for biodiversity, water quality, and flood prevention.
- 32.** Paleoclimatology, which reconstructs the Earth's environmental history through evidence such as tree rings, ice cores, and ocean sediments, provides essential context for understanding present-day climate change by distinguishing natural variability from human effects and improving predictions about the planet's future.
- 33.** Despite the rise of digital media, public libraries remain valuable by offering not only books but free internet access, educational programmes, and community spaces, proving especially important for low-income people and adapting to changing needs as enduring centres of learning and community life.
- 34.** The domestication of animals, by providing early humans with reliable food, materials, and labour from species such as dogs, cattle, and sheep, supported settled communities and transformed both human societies and the animals themselves, shaping the development of agriculture and civilisation.
- 35.** Because noise pollution from traffic, industry, and urban activity, though often overlooked, harms human health through stress, sleep disturbance, and cardiovascular problems while also disrupting wildlife, urban planners increasingly recognise the need to reduce it through better design, regulation, and quieter green spaces.
- 36.** Although social media enables rapid communication and gives voice to the previously unheard, its facilitation of rapidly spreading misinformation that influences public attitudes and politics has prompted growing calls for better regulation, improved media literacy, and greater responsibility from platform companies.
- 37.** Because numerous studies link the Mediterranean diet, rich in vegetables, fruits, whole grains, fish, and olive oil, to reduced risk of heart disease, stroke, and other chronic conditions through its healthy fats, fibre, and antioxidants, health professionals frequently recommend it as a model for healthy eating.
- 38.** Because megacities of over ten million people drive economic growth and innovation but also face congestion, inadequate housing, pollution, and strained services, managing them effectively requires careful planning and infrastructure investment to realise their potential without harming residents' well-being.
- 39.** Alexander Fleming's 1928 discovery of penicillin, prompted by noticing a mould that killed bacteria, launched the antibiotic age and saved countless lives by curing once-fatal infections, though his warning that misuse could cause resistance has proved remarkably accurate.
- 40.** Although electric vehicles improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gases by eliminating exhaust emissions, their overall environmental benefit depends on how their electricity is generated and on concerns about battery materials, with continued progress in clean energy and battery technology expected to enhance their sustainability.

What this task involves

You are given a prompt and must write an argumentative or discursive essay. This task tests your written English, including the development of ideas, structure, grammar, and vocabulary.

Format and timing

You have 20 minutes to write an essay of 200 to 300 words. There is normally 1 essay task. A range of essay prompts is provided here for practice.

Strategy tips

Spend a few minutes planning before you write. Use a clear structure: an introduction that states your position, two or three body paragraphs each developing one point with examples, and a conclusion. Leave time to check grammar and spelling.

Practice questions

1. Some people believe that university education should be free for all students, while others argue that students should pay for their own education. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.
2. Many people think that the increasing use of technology in education has more advantages than disadvantages. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
3. Some argue that governments should invest more in public transport than in building new roads. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this approach.
4. In many countries, the gap between the rich and the poor is widening. What are the causes of this problem, and what measures can be taken to address it?
5. Some people believe that children should begin formal education at a very early age, while others think they should be allowed to play for longer before starting school. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
6. The use of social media has transformed the way people communicate. Do the benefits of social media outweigh its drawbacks?
7. Some people think that protecting the environment is the responsibility of governments, while others believe individuals must also play a role. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.
8. Many people choose to work from home rather than commute to an office. Do you think this trend has more positive or negative effects on society?
9. Some believe that financial success is the most important measure of a person's achievement. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
10. It is sometimes argued that tourism damages the places it is meant to celebrate. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of mass tourism.

11. Some people think that all students should study science subjects, while others believe the arts are equally important. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
12. Many governments are encouraging citizens to reduce their use of private cars. What are the benefits of this policy, and what problems might it cause?
13. Some argue that the news media has too much influence on people's lives. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
14. In some countries, an increasing number of people are choosing to live alone. What are the reasons for this trend, and is it a positive or negative development?
15. Some people believe that competition among children at school is beneficial, while others think cooperation is more valuable. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.
16. The amount of waste produced by modern societies is growing rapidly. What are the main causes of this problem, and what solutions can you suggest?
17. Some people think that governments should spend money on space exploration, while others believe this money should be spent on solving problems on Earth. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
18. Many people argue that traditional skills and crafts are being lost in the modern world. Do you think this is a problem, and what can be done about it?
19. Some believe that advertising has a powerful and negative effect on society. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
20. In many countries, people are living longer than ever before. What are the advantages and disadvantages of an ageing population?
21. Some people think that learning a foreign language is essential in the modern world, while others believe translation technology makes it unnecessary. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
22. Many cities are becoming increasingly crowded. What problems does urban overcrowding cause, and how might these problems be solved?
23. Some argue that art and music should be a compulsory part of the school curriculum. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
24. The internet has made it possible for people to work and study from anywhere in the world. Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?
25. Some people believe that strict laws are the best way to reduce crime, while others think education and social support are more effective. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.
26. Many people believe that international sporting events promote peace and understanding between nations. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
27. Some argue that zoos are cruel and should be abolished, while others believe they play an important role in conservation. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
28. The consumption of fast food has increased dramatically in recent decades. What are the causes of this trend, and what effects does it have on society?

29. Some people think that the government should provide free healthcare for all citizens. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
30. Many young people today spend a great deal of time playing video games. Do you think this is a harmful or beneficial activity?
31. Some believe that economic growth is the best way to improve people's lives, while others argue it harms the environment. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
32. In many countries, large numbers of people move from rural areas to cities. What are the causes of this migration, and what problems can it create?
33. Some people think that famous individuals such as actors and athletes are paid too much money. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
34. Many schools are now using tablets and computers instead of textbooks. Do the advantages of this change outweigh the disadvantages?
35. Some argue that people should be required to retire at a fixed age, while others believe they should be allowed to work as long as they wish. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
36. The pace of life in modern society has increased dramatically. What are the effects of this on people's health and well-being?
37. Some people believe that reducing meat consumption is essential for protecting the environment. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
38. Many governments invest heavily in encouraging tourism. Do you think this is the best use of public money?
39. Some argue that children today are given too much freedom, while others believe they need independence to develop. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.
40. The increasing use of automation and robots in the workplace is changing employment. Do the benefits of this trend outweigh the drawbacks?
41. Some people think that all citizens should be required to vote in elections. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
42. Many people believe that the family is becoming less important in modern society. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
43. Some argue that money spent on the arts, such as music and theatre, is wasted and should be spent elsewhere. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
44. In recent years, online shopping has grown rapidly. What effects has this had on traditional shops and on society as a whole?
45. Some people think that strict punishment is the most effective way to deal with young offenders, while others favour rehabilitation. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.
46. Many people argue that we are too dependent on technology and would struggle to cope without it. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
47. Some believe that companies should be responsible for reducing pollution, while others think individuals should bear this responsibility. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

48. The number of students studying abroad has increased significantly. What are the benefits and drawbacks of studying in a foreign country?
49. Some people think that creativity cannot be taught and is something a person is born with. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
50. Many believe that governments should limit the working hours of employees to improve their quality of life. Do the advantages of this policy outweigh the disadvantages?

What this task involves

A passage appears with several blanks. For each blank you choose the correct word from a drop-down list of options. This task tests reading, writing, and vocabulary in context.

Format and timing

Each passage has several blanks, and each blank offers four choices. You manage your own time within the Reading part. There are usually 5 to 6 of these tasks. Options are listed beneath each passage here.

Strategy tips

Read the whole passage first to understand its meaning. For each blank, consider grammar and collocation, not just meaning. Eliminate options that do not fit grammatically, then choose the word that reads most naturally.

Practice questions

- The committee **(1)** _____ the proposal after a lengthy discussion, concluding that it would **(2)** _____ significant benefits to the local community.
(1) A) approved B) refused C) declined D) ignored
(2) A) take B) make C) do D) bring
- Scientists have long been **(1)** _____ by the ability of certain animals to navigate over vast distances without any apparent **(2)** _____ of error.
(1) A) fascinated B) bored C) annoyed D) confused
(2) A) amount B) number C) piece D) margin
- The new policy is **(1)** _____ to reduce traffic congestion in the city centre and to **(2)** _____ the use of public transport.
(1) A) intended B) forbidden C) reluctant D) opposed
(2) A) discourage B) prevent C) forbid D) encourage
- Despite the **(1)** _____ weather conditions, the expedition team managed to **(2)** _____ the summit before nightfall.
(1) A) adverse B) favourable C) pleasant D) mild
(2) A) lose B) avoid C) abandon D) reach
- The research **(1)** _____ that regular exercise can significantly **(2)** _____ the risk of heart disease.
(1) A) suggests B) denies C) conceals D) ignores
(2) A) increase B) raise C) worsen D) reduce

6. Many traditional industries have been **(1)** _____ by automation, forcing workers to **(2)** _____ new skills.
(1) A) transformed B) ignored C) preserved D) abandoned
(2) A) forget B) lose C) reject D) acquire
7. The author argues that economic growth should not come at the **(1)** _____ of environmental **(2)** _____.
(1) A) expense B) benefit C) advantage D) profit
(2) A) destruction B) pollution C) damage D) sustainability
8. The professor **(1)** _____ her students to think critically rather than simply **(2)** _____ facts.
(1) A) encouraged B) forbade C) prevented D) discouraged
(2) A) ignoring B) questioning C) analysing D) memorising
9. The bridge was **(1)** _____ to withstand earthquakes, an innovation that proved **(2)** _____ during the recent tremor.
(1) A) designed B) forced C) reluctant D) unable
(2) A) worthless B) useless C) harmful D) invaluable
10. A balanced diet, **(1)** _____ with regular exercise, is essential for **(2)** _____ good health.
(1) A) combined B) compared C) contrasted D) replaced
(2) A) losing B) wasting C) abandoning D) maintaining
11. The discovery **(1)** _____ new questions about the origins of the universe that scientists are still trying to **(2)** _____.
(1) A) raised B) lowered C) reduced D) settled
(2) A) avoid B) ignore C) create D) answer
12. The company decided to **(1)** _____ its operations overseas in order to **(2)** _____ access to new markets.
(1) A) expand B) reduce C) close D) abandon
(2) A) lose B) prevent C) refuse D) gain
13. Although the theory was initially **(1)** _____, it later gained widespread **(2)** _____ among researchers.
(1) A) dismissed B) embraced C) praised D) accepted
(2) A) rejection B) criticism C) doubt D) acceptance
14. The museum **(1)** _____ a remarkable collection of ancient artefacts that **(2)** _____ thousands of years of history.
(1) A) houses B) hides C) destroys D) sells
(2) A) ignore B) avoid C) reduce D) span
15. Effective leadership requires the ability to **(1)** _____ decisions quickly while remaining **(2)** _____ to new information.
(1) A) make B) avoid C) delay D) refuse
(2) A) closed B) hostile C) indifferent D) open
16. The novel **(1)** _____ the struggles of a family during a period of profound social **(2)** _____.
(1) A) depicts B) ignores C) conceals D) avoids
(2) A) stability B) calm C) peace D) change

17. Renewable energy sources are becoming increasingly **(1)** _____ as their costs continue to **(2)** _____.
- (1) A) popular B) unpopular C) rare D) obsolete
(2) A) rise B) remain C) increase D) fall
18. The teacher **(1)** _____ the complex concept into simpler parts so that students could **(2)** _____ it more easily.
- (1) A) broke B) joined C) combined D) merged
(2) A) ignore B) reject C) forget D) grasp
19. The government has **(1)** _____ strict measures to **(2)** _____ the spread of the disease.
- (1) A) introduced B) abolished C) removed D) ignored
(2) A) spread B) encourage C) promote D) contain
20. Critics **(1)** _____ the film for its slow pace, but praised its **(2)** _____ cinematography.
- (1) A) criticised B) celebrated C) admired D) applauded
(2) A) dull B) ordinary C) poor D) stunning
21. The experiment was repeated several times to **(1)** _____ that the results were **(2)** _____.
- (1) A) ensure B) doubt C) question D) ignore
(2) A) random B) false C) misleading D) reliable
22. Volunteers played a **(1)** _____ role in the relief effort, **(2)** _____ food and shelter to those affected.
- (1) A) crucial B) minor C) trivial D) negligible
(2) A) denying B) refusing C) withholding D) providing
23. The lecture **(1)** _____ on the economic factors that **(2)** _____ to the financial crisis.
- (1) A) focused B) ignored C) avoided D) skipped
(2) A) objected B) opposed C) reacted D) contributed
24. Her argument was so **(1)** _____ that even her opponents found it difficult to **(2)** _____.
- (1) A) persuasive B) weak C) unclear D) confusing
(2) A) accept B) support C) endorse D) refute
25. The ancient city was **(1)** _____ beneath layers of sand for centuries before being **(2)** _____ by archaeologists.
- (1) A) buried B) displayed C) exposed D) revealed
(2) A) hidden B) buried C) concealed D) uncovered
26. Modern technology has **(1)** _____ communication, allowing people to stay **(2)** _____ across great distances.
- (1) A) revolutionised B) hindered C) prevented D) slowed
(2) A) isolated B) separated C) divided D) connected
27. The report **(1)** _____ several recommendations aimed at **(2)** _____ the efficiency of the system.
- (1) A) outlines B) conceals C) ignores D) rejects
(2) A) reducing B) worsening C) limiting D) improving

28. Although the journey was **(1)** _____, the travellers felt that the breathtaking views had made it **(2)** _____.
- (1) A) exhausting B) effortless C) relaxing D) easy
(2) A) pointless B) unnecessary C) regrettable D) worthwhile
29. The scientist **(1)** _____ a bold hypothesis that **(2)** _____ the established view of the time.
- (1) A) proposed B) accepted C) followed D) supported
(2) A) confirmed B) supported C) reinforced D) challenged
30. The company's success can be **(1)** _____ to its willingness to **(2)** _____ to changing market conditions.
- (1) A) attributed B) opposed C) denied D) reduced
(2) A) resist B) object C) refuse D) adapt
31. The negotiations **(1)** _____ for several days before the two sides finally reached an **(2)** _____.
- (1) A) continued B) stopped C) ended D) collapsed
(2) A) argument B) obstacle C) impasse D) agreement
32. The athlete trained **(1)** _____ for months, determined to **(2)** _____ her previous record.
- (1) A) rigorously B) carelessly C) casually D) reluctantly
(2) A) match B) lose C) abandon D) surpass
33. The article **(1)** _____ the importance of preserving biodiversity for the **(2)** _____ of future generations.
- (1) A) emphasises B) denies C) conceals D) overlooks
(2) A) harm B) loss C) detriment D) benefit
34. The new law was **(1)** _____ by many citizens, who believed it **(2)** _____ their basic rights.
- (1) A) opposed B) welcomed C) praised D) supported
(2) A) protected B) guaranteed C) ensured D) violated
35. The teacher noticed a **(1)** _____ improvement in the student's work after she began to **(2)** _____ more effort.
- (1) A) marked B) slight C) negligible D) minimal
(2) A) withhold B) reduce C) avoid D) apply
36. The corporation was **(1)** _____ for polluting the river and ordered to **(2)** _____ the damage.
- (1) A) fined B) rewarded C) praised D) thanked
(2) A) ignore B) worsen C) extend D) repair
37. The documentary **(1)** _____ light on a problem that had long been **(2)** _____ by the authorities.
- (1) A) shed B) cast C) threw D) placed
(2) A) addressed B) solved C) resolved D) overlooked
38. Researchers are **(1)** _____ new methods to **(2)** _____ the efficiency of solar panels.
- (1) A) developing B) abandoning C) rejecting D) ignoring
(2) A) reduce B) limit C) lower D) enhance
39. The witness gave a **(1)** _____ account of the events, which helped the jury **(2)** _____ a verdict.
- (1) A) detailed B) vague C) confused D) unclear
(2) A) avoid B) delay C) prevent D) reach

40. The festival **(1)** _____ thousands of visitors each year, **(2)** _____ a substantial boost to the local economy.
(1) A) attracts B) repels C) discourages D) deters
(2) A) denying B) preventing C) reducing D) providing
41. The medicine should be taken **(1)** _____ to the doctor's instructions to avoid any harmful **(2)** _____ effects.
(1) A) according B) contrary C) opposite D) similar
(2) A) main B) primary C) central D) side
42. The scientist's findings were **(1)** _____ in a prestigious journal, earning her **(2)** _____ recognition.
(1) A) published B) hidden C) destroyed D) rejected
(2) A) limited B) minimal C) scarce D) widespread
43. Many species are at risk of **(1)** _____ due to the rapid **(2)** _____ of their natural habitats.
(1) A) extinction B) survival C) growth D) recovery
(2) A) protection B) restoration C) preservation D) destruction
44. The manager **(1)** _____ the team's hard work and **(2)** _____ each member for their contribution.
(1) A) acknowledged B) ignored C) dismissed D) overlooked
(2) A) blamed B) criticised C) scolded D) thanked
45. The new software is designed to be **(1)** _____, so that even beginners can use it without **(2)** _____.
(1) A) intuitive B) complex C) confusing D) difficult
(2) A) ease B) comfort C) pleasure D) difficulty
46. The committee **(1)** _____ the budget carefully before deciding how to **(2)** _____ the available funds.
(1) A) reviewed B) ignored C) wasted D) spent
(2) A) waste B) hide C) lose D) allocate
47. The storm caused **(1)** _____ damage to the coastal towns, leaving many residents **(2)** _____.
(1) A) extensive B) minor C) trivial D) slight
(2) A) wealthy B) secure C) comfortable D) homeless
48. Her speech was both **(1)** _____ and inspiring, leaving a lasting **(2)** _____ on the audience.
(1) A) powerful B) dull C) tedious D) boring
(2) A) object B) item C) figure D) impression
49. The factory has **(1)** _____ its emissions significantly in an effort to **(2)** _____ environmental regulations.
(1) A) reduced B) increased C) raised D) expanded
(2) A) ignore B) break C) violate D) comply with
50. The expedition was **(1)** _____ by bad weather, forcing the team to **(2)** _____ their plans.
(1) A) hampered B) assisted C) supported D) aided
(2) A) follow B) keep C) maintain D) revise

51. The teacher **(1)** _____ the assignment so that students could **(2)** _____ on their own areas of interest.
(1) A) structured B) disrupted C) confused D) complicated
(2) A) ignore B) avoid C) skip D) focus
52. The new vaccine has proven highly **(1)** _____, reducing infection rates by a **(2)** _____ margin.
(1) A) effective B) useless C) harmful D) ineffective
(2) A) negligible B) tiny C) slight D) substantial
53. The painting was **(1)** _____ to be a forgery, which significantly **(2)** _____ its value.
(1) A) found B) proven C) shown D) determined
(2) A) increased B) raised C) boosted D) reduced
54. Employees who feel **(1)** _____ tend to be more productive and **(2)** _____ to their organisations.
(1) A) valued B) ignored C) neglected D) dismissed
(2) A) hostile B) indifferent C) opposed D) loyal
55. The river has been **(1)** _____ by industrial waste, posing a serious **(2)** _____ to wildlife.
(1) A) contaminated B) purified C) cleaned D) filtered
(2) A) benefit B) advantage C) help D) threat
56. The book **(1)** _____ a vivid picture of life in a small village during the war **(2)** _____.
(1) A) paints B) erases C) hides D) conceals
(2) A) figures B) amounts C) items D) years
57. The students were **(1)** _____ to submit their essays online, a system that proved far more **(2)** _____.
(1) A) required B) forbidden C) prevented D) banned
(2) A) awkward B) difficult C) troublesome D) convenient
58. The economy has shown signs of **(1)** _____, with unemployment falling for the third **(2)** _____ month.
(1) A) recovery B) decline C) collapse D) failure
(2) A) random B) occasional C) irregular D) consecutive
59. The lawyer presented **(1)** _____ evidence that ultimately **(2)** _____ the defendant.
(1) A) compelling B) weak C) flimsy D) doubtful
(2) A) convicted B) condemned C) sentenced D) acquitted
60. The charity aims to **(1)** _____ poverty by providing education and **(2)** _____ training to communities.
(1) A) alleviate B) worsen C) increase D) aggravate
(2) A) useless B) irrelevant C) trivial D) vocational
61. The new regulations are expected to **(1)** _____ a major impact on the way businesses **(2)** _____.
(1) A) have B) take C) make D) do
(2) A) ignore B) resist C) refuse D) operate
62. The hikers were **(1)** _____ by the beauty of the landscape, which far **(2)** _____ their expectations.
(1) A) overwhelmed B) disappointed C) unimpressed D) bored
(2) A) met B) matched C) equalled D) exceeded

63. The article (1) _____ a number of myths about nutrition that have (2) _____ for decades.
(1) A) dispels B) creates C) spreads D) reinforces
(2) A) vanished B) disappeared C) faded D) persisted
64. The new employee quickly (1) _____ herself as a (2) _____ member of the team.
(1) A) established B) doubted C) questioned D) limited
(2) A) useless B) worthless C) redundant D) valuable
65. The drought had a (1) _____ effect on crop yields, threatening the (2) _____ of the entire region.
(1) A) devastating B) beneficial C) positive D) minor
(2) A) entertainment B) scenery C) climate D) food supply
66. The teacher (1) _____ the importance of revision, reminding students that consistent effort (2) _____ off.
(1) A) stressed B) ignored C) dismissed D) downplayed
(2) A) gives B) brings C) puts D) pays
67. The proposal was (1) _____ rejected by the board, who felt it lacked sufficient (2) _____.
(1) A) unanimously B) partially C) reluctantly D) narrowly
(2) A) brevity B) simplicity C) vagueness D) detail
68. The medicine works by (1) _____ the symptoms while the body's immune system (2) _____ the infection.
(1) A) relieving B) worsening C) aggravating D) increasing
(2) A) ignores B) spreads C) feeds D) fights
69. The author's latest work (1) _____ from her earlier novels in both style and (2) _____.
(1) A) differs B) copies C) imitates D) resembles
(2) A) silence B) absence C) blankness D) tone
70. The new bridge will (1) _____ travel time between the two cities and (2) _____ trade in the region.
(1) A) cut B) extend C) lengthen D) delay
(2) A) reduce B) hinder C) slow D) boost
71. The scientists (1) _____ the data carefully before drawing any firm (2) _____.
(1) A) analysed B) ignored C) discarded D) fabricated
(2) A) questions B) mistakes C) errors D) conclusions
72. Despite (1) _____ criticism, the director (2) _____ to defend his controversial decision.
(1) A) mounting B) fading C) decreasing D) vanishing
(2) A) refused B) failed C) declined D) continued
73. The training programme is designed to (1) _____ employees with the skills they need to (2) _____ in their roles.
(1) A) equip B) deprive C) strip D) rob
(2) A) fail B) struggle C) stumble D) excel
74. The discovery of the fossil (1) _____ valuable insights into how the species (2) _____ over time.
(1) A) provided B) hid C) withheld D) denied
(2) A) vanished B) remained C) stagnated D) evolved

75. The new manager **(1)** _____ several changes that dramatically **(2)** _____ the company's performance.
(1) A) implemented B) ignored C) resisted D) blocked
(2) A) damaged B) ruined C) worsened D) improved
76. The lecture **(1)** _____ a wide range of topics, from history to modern **(2)** _____.
(1) A) covered B) avoided C) skipped D) omitted
(2) A) silence B) absence C) emptiness D) technology
77. The patient made a **(1)** _____ recovery, surprising the doctors who had given a **(2)** _____ prognosis.
(1) A) remarkable B) poor C) weak D) disappointing
(2) A) cheerful B) hopeful C) bright D) grim
78. The organisation is **(1)** _____ to transparency and **(2)** _____ all its financial records publicly.
(1) A) committed B) opposed C) resistant D) hostile
(2) A) conceals B) hides C) destroys D) publishes
79. The teacher's **(1)** _____ approach to discipline helped to **(2)** _____ a positive learning environment.
(1) A) consistent B) erratic C) unpredictable D) random
(2) A) destroy B) damage C) undermine D) foster
80. The findings **(1)** _____ doubt on the long-held assumption that the two events were **(2)** _____.
(1) A) cast B) removed C) cleared D) dispelled
(2) A) connected B) linked C) associated D) unrelated

Answer key

1. (1) approved, (2) bring
2. (1) fascinated, (2) margin
3. (1) intended, (2) encourage
4. (1) adverse, (2) reach
5. (1) suggests, (2) reduce
6. (1) transformed, (2) acquire
7. (1) expense, (2) sustainability
8. (1) encouraged, (2) memorising
9. (1) designed, (2) invaluable
10. (1) combined, (2) maintaining
11. (1) raised, (2) answer
12. (1) expand, (2) gain
13. (1) dismissed, (2) acceptance
14. (1) houses, (2) span
15. (1) make, (2) open
16. (1) depicts, (2) change
17. (1) popular, (2) fall
18. (1) broke, (2) grasp

19. (1) introduced, (2) contain
20. (1) criticised, (2) stunning
21. (1) ensure, (2) reliable
22. (1) crucial, (2) providing
23. (1) focused, (2) contributed
24. (1) persuasive, (2) refute
25. (1) buried, (2) uncovered
26. (1) revolutionised, (2) connected
27. (1) outlines, (2) improving
28. (1) exhausting, (2) worthwhile
29. (1) proposed, (2) challenged
30. (1) attributed, (2) adapt
31. (1) continued, (2) agreement
32. (1) rigorously, (2) surpass
33. (1) emphasises, (2) benefit
34. (1) opposed, (2) violated
35. (1) marked, (2) apply
36. (1) fined, (2) repair
37. (1) shed, (2) overlooked
38. (1) developing, (2) enhance
39. (1) detailed, (2) reach
40. (1) attracts, (2) providing
41. (1) according, (2) side
42. (1) published, (2) widespread
43. (1) extinction, (2) destruction
44. (1) acknowledged, (2) thanked
45. (1) intuitive, (2) difficulty
46. (1) reviewed, (2) allocate
47. (1) extensive, (2) homeless
48. (1) powerful, (2) impression
49. (1) reduced, (2) comply with
50. (1) hampered, (2) revise
51. (1) structured, (2) focus
52. (1) effective, (2) substantial
53. (1) found, (2) reduced
54. (1) valued, (2) loyal
55. (1) contaminated, (2) threat
56. (1) paints, (2) years
57. (1) required, (2) convenient
58. (1) recovery, (2) consecutive
59. (1) compelling, (2) acquitted
60. (1) alleviate, (2) vocational
61. (1) have, (2) operate

- 62. (1) overwhelmed, (2) exceeded
- 63. (1) dispels, (2) persisted
- 64. (1) established, (2) valuable
- 65. (1) devastating, (2) food supply
- 66. (1) stressed, (2) pays
- 67. (1) unanimously, (2) detail
- 68. (1) relieving, (2) fights
- 69. (1) differs, (2) tone
- 70. (1) cut, (2) boost
- 71. (1) analysed, (2) conclusions
- 72. (1) mounting, (2) continued
- 73. (1) equip, (2) excel
- 74. (1) provided, (2) evolved
- 75. (1) implemented, (2) improved
- 76. (1) covered, (2) technology
- 77. (1) remarkable, (2) grim
- 78. (1) committed, (2) publishes
- 79. (1) consistent, (2) foster
- 80. (1) cast, (2) unrelated

What this task involves

A passage appears with several blanks, and a set of words is provided below. You drag the correct word into each blank. Some words are distractors that fit nowhere. This task tests reading and vocabulary.

Format and timing

Each passage has several blanks and a shared bank of words, some of which are not used. You manage your own time within the Reading part. There are usually 4 to 5 of these tasks. The word bank is shown beneath each passage.

Strategy tips

Read for overall meaning first. Match each blank by considering both meaning and grammar. Place the words you are most confident about first, which narrows the choices for the remaining blanks.

Practice questions

1. The human body is remarkably good at **(1)** _____ its internal temperature. When we are too hot, we sweat, and when we are too cold, we **(2)** _____. These automatic responses help to **(3)** _____ a stable environment for our vital organs.

Word bank: forget | regulating | shiver | ignoring | maintain | destroy

2. Ancient civilisations **(1)** _____ heavily on rivers for survival. The fertile soil along the banks allowed them to **(2)** _____ crops, while the water itself provided a means of **(3)** _____ for trade and travel.

Word bank: relied | objected | transport | grow | destroy | silence

3. The scientific method **(1)** _____ researchers to test their ideas systematically. By forming a hypothesis and then **(2)** _____ experiments, scientists can either confirm or **(3)** _____ their theories.

Word bank: accept | requires | forbids | conducting | reject | avoiding

4. Coral reefs are highly **(1)** _____ to changes in temperature. Even a small **(2)** _____ in the surrounding water can cause the coral to expel the algae that give it colour, a process known as **(3)** _____.

Word bank: sensitive | resistant | fall | bleaching | greening | rise

5. The invention of writing allowed knowledge to be **(1)** _____ across generations. Before this, information had to be **(2)** _____ orally, which meant that much of it was eventually **(3)** _____.

Word bank: transmitted | saved | lost | preserved | destroyed | ignored

6. Bees play a vital role in **(1)** _____ plants. As they move from flower to flower collecting nectar, they **(2)** _____ pollen, which is essential for the **(3)** _____ of many crops.

Word bank: hide | pollinating | decay | reproduction | transfer | destroying

7. Regular exercise has numerous (1) _____ for both body and mind. It strengthens the heart, (2) _____ stress, and can even (3) _____ the quality of sleep.
Word bank: worsen | improve | increases | drawbacks | reduces | benefits
8. The economy entered a period of (1) _____ following the crisis. Many businesses were forced to (2) _____ staff, and unemployment rose to its highest (3) _____ in decades.
Word bank: dismiss | level | recession | hire | growth | bottom
9. The artist was known for his (1) _____ use of colour. Critics often (2) _____ his bold style, although a few (3) _____ that it lacked subtlety.
Word bank: agreed | ordinary | praised | ignored | argued | distinctive
10. Forests (1) _____ a crucial role in regulating the climate. They (2) _____ carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and (3) _____ oxygen, which is essential for life.
Word bank: release | avoid | absorb | play | emit | consume
11. The new law was introduced to (1) _____ consumers from fraud. It (2) _____ companies to provide clear information and (3) _____ heavy penalties for those who break the rules.
Word bank: expose | removes | requires | imposes | forbids | protect
12. The brain continues to (1) _____ throughout our lives. Far from being fixed, it can form new (2) _____ in response to experience, a quality that allows us to (3) _____ new skills at any age.
Word bank: barriers | forget | connections | decline | acquire | develop
13. Renewable energy is (1) _____ increasingly important as concerns about climate change (2) _____. Many countries are now (3) _____ heavily in solar and wind power.
Word bank: withdrawing | becoming | fade | remaining | grow | investing
14. The expedition faced (1) _____ challenges in the mountains. Severe weather (2) _____ their progress, and at times it seemed they would have to (3) _____ the climb altogether.
Word bank: aided | continue | few | numerous | hindered | abandon
15. Good communication is (1) _____ to the success of any team. When members (2) _____ their ideas clearly, misunderstandings are (3) _____ and projects run more smoothly.
Word bank: essential | reduced | conceal | express | increased | irrelevant
16. The ancient manuscript was carefully (1) _____ by experts. Although parts of it had (2) _____ over time, scholars were able to (3) _____ much of the original text.
Word bank: brightened | reconstruct | examined | faded | ignored | destroy
17. Tourism can bring significant (1) _____ to a region, but it must be managed carefully. Without proper planning, large numbers of visitors can (2) _____ the environment and (3) _____ local communities.
Word bank: losses | damage | disrupt | protect | support | benefits
18. The researchers (1) _____ a clear link between the two variables. However, they were careful to note that correlation does not necessarily (2) _____ causation, and further study was (3) _____.
Word bank: needed | deny | hid | found | unnecessary | imply

19. The factory was forced to (1) _____ production after a fault was discovered. Engineers worked around the clock to (2) _____ the problem before operations could (3) _____.
- Word bank:** cause | stop | fix | resume | expand | halt
20. A healthy diet should be (1) _____ in fruit and vegetables. These foods are (2) _____ in vitamins and fibre, which help to (3) _____ the immune system.
- Word bank:** low | weaken | poor | high | strengthen | rich
21. The historian (1) _____ years of research into the project. By (2) _____ original documents from the period, she was able to (3) _____ a detailed picture of daily life.
- Word bank:** wasted | examining | construct | ignoring | destroy | devoted
22. The company's reputation (1) _____ after the scandal. Sales fell sharply, and it took several years before consumer (2) _____ was finally (3) _____.
- Word bank:** improved | suffered | doubt | restored | destroyed | trust
23. The volcano had been (1) _____ for centuries before it suddenly (2) _____. The eruption (3) _____ ash over a wide area, disrupting air travel for days.
- Word bank:** gathered | spread | active | erupted | dormant | slept
24. Learning a second language can (1) _____ the brain in surprising ways. Studies (2) _____ that bilingual people often have better concentration and may even (3) _____ the onset of cognitive decline.
- Word bank:** speed | deny | harm | delay | suggest | benefit
25. The charity (1) _____ funds to build schools in remote areas. Thanks to its efforts, thousands of children now have (2) _____ to an education they would otherwise have been (3) _____.
- Word bank:** denied | raised | lost | barriers | granted | access
26. The negotiations were (1) _____ and difficult. After weeks of discussion, the two parties finally (2) _____ a compromise that both could (3) _____.
- Word bank:** avoided | accept | brief | reached | lengthy | reject
27. The disease spreads (1) _____ in crowded conditions. Public health officials urged people to (2) _____ good hygiene and to (3) _____ contact with those showing symptoms.
- Word bank:** ignore | practise | avoid | rapidly | slowly | seek
28. The bridge is an (1) _____ feat of engineering. It (2) _____ the river at its widest point and can (3) _____ thousands of vehicles every day.
- Word bank:** impressive | stop | ordinary | carry | blocks | spans
29. The author's argument is (1) _____ supported by evidence. Each claim is (2) _____ by examples and statistics, making the case difficult to (3) _____.
- Word bank:** accept | dispute | poorly | weakened | well | backed
30. Climate change is already (1) _____ communities around the world. Rising sea levels (2) _____ coastal regions, while droughts (3) _____ food production in many countries.
- Word bank:** threaten | increase | reduce | protect | ignoring | affecting

31. The new policy aims to (1) _____ waste across the city. Residents are (2) _____ to recycle, and businesses face fines if they fail to (3) _____ with the rules.
Word bank: increase | reduce | comply | encouraged | forbidden | conflict
32. The scientist's theory was (1) _____ ahead of its time. Although it was initially (2) _____, it eventually became widely (3) _____ within the scientific community.
Word bank: far | barely | accepted | dismissed | praised | rejected
33. The garden was carefully (1) _____ to attract wildlife. Native plants (2) _____ insects, which in turn (3) _____ birds and other creatures.
Word bank: draw | scare | neglected | repel | attract | designed
34. The report (1) _____ serious flaws in the current system. It (2) _____ urgent reforms and (3) _____ that delay would only make matters worse.
Word bank: warned | revealed | recommended | opposed | concealed | assured
35. Sleep is (1) _____ for both physical and mental health. During sleep, the body (2) _____ itself, while the brain (3) _____ the memories of the day.
Word bank: essential | consolidates | damages | forgets | repairs | harmful
36. The museum's new exhibition has (1) _____ record numbers of visitors. Many have travelled great distances to (2) _____ the rare artefacts on (3) _____.
Word bank: storage | hide | attracted | display | view | repelled
37. The river ecosystem is (1) _____ balanced. The removal of a single species can (2) _____ the entire food chain and (3) _____ unexpected consequences.
Word bank: delicately | disrupt | crudely | stabilise | trigger | prevent
38. The pilot was praised for his (1) _____ response to the emergency. By remaining calm, he (2) _____ the aircraft safely and (3) _____ the lives of all on board.
Word bank: slow | swift | saved | endangered | crashed | landed
39. Modern farming methods have greatly (1) _____ crop yields. However, the heavy use of chemicals has (2) _____ concerns about their effect on (3) _____ health.
Word bank: reduced | raised | human | plant | lowered | increased
40. The committee (1) _____ the application before reaching a decision. After much (2) _____, they finally (3) _____ the funding.
Word bank: reviewed | approved | ignored | deliberation | haste | rejected
41. The drought has (1) _____ the region for three years. Reservoirs are running (2) _____, and farmers fear that their crops will (3) _____.
Word bank: blessed | low | thrive | high | fail | plagued
42. The author (1) _____ the reader into a richly imagined world. Through vivid description, she (2) _____ scenes that linger in the memory long after the book is (3) _____.
Word bank: destroys | creates | pushes | started | finished | draws
43. The economy is heavily (1) _____ on tourism. When visitor numbers (2) _____, the entire region (3) _____ the effects.
Word bank: feels | ignores | fall | dependent | independent | rise

44. The new treatment offers (1) _____ to patients with the disease. Early trials have shown (2) _____ results, although doctors urge (3) _____.

Word bank: disappointing | promising | hope | recklessness | despair | caution

45. The ancient ruins (1) _____ much about the civilisation that built them. Archaeologists continue to (2) _____ the site, hoping to (3) _____ further secrets.

Word bank: excavate | hide | conceal | uncover | reveal | bury

46. The athlete (1) _____ from her injury with remarkable speed. Within months she was able to (2) _____ training and soon (3) _____ her old form.

Word bank: recovered | stop | lost | regained | resume | suffered

47. The policy was designed to (1) _____ inequality. By providing free education, the government hoped to (2) _____ opportunities for all and (3) _____ social mobility.

Word bank: increase | reduce | limit | expand | prevent | promote

48. The storm (1) _____ without warning. Within minutes, calm skies had (2) _____ into a violent tempest that (3) _____ the small village.

Word bank: spared | calmed | struck | faded | turned | battered

49. The scientist's curiosity (1) _____ her to question accepted ideas. This (2) _____ of established theories eventually (3) _____ to a major breakthrough.

Word bank: led | challenging | accepting | objected | contributed | forced

50. The company has (1) _____ a reputation for quality. Customers (2) _____ its products, and demand continues to (3) _____ year after year.

Word bank: lost | fall | doubt | grow | trust | earned

51. The lecture (1) _____ a complex subject in an accessible way. The professor (2) _____ difficult concepts with everyday examples, helping students to (3) _____ them.

Word bank: confused | presented | ignore | illustrated | hid | grasp

52. The wetland (1) _____ as a natural filter for the water supply. It (2) _____ pollutants and provides a (3) _____ for countless species.

Word bank: acts | removes | barrier | fails | habitat | adds

53. The negotiations nearly (1) _____ at the final stage. Only a last-minute (2) _____ from both sides prevented the talks from (3) _____ altogether.

Word bank: collapsed | succeeded | concession | failing | demand | succeeding

54. The teacher (1) _____ each student's progress closely. By offering regular (2) _____, she helped them to (3) _____ their weaknesses.

Word bank: feedback | address | worsen | monitored | ignored | silence

55. The factory's emissions have been (1) _____ sharply in recent years. New filters (2) _____ harmful gases before they can (3) _____ the atmosphere.

Word bank: leave | enter | cut | raised | release | capture

56. The novel (1) _____ themes of loss and redemption. Through its characters, the author (2) _____ questions that have no easy (3) _____.

Word bank: problems | answers | avoids | explores | raises | settles

57. The migration of the herd is an (1) _____ sight. Thousands of animals (2) _____ vast plains in search of fresh (3) _____.
- Word bank:** astonishing | cross | ordinary | avoid | grazing | shelter
58. The new technology has (1) _____ the manufacturing process. Tasks that once took hours can now be (2) _____ in minutes, greatly (3) _____ productivity.
- Word bank:** reducing | transformed | boosting | delayed | completed | abandoned
59. The committee (1) _____ the safety of the new building. After a thorough (2) _____, they (3) _____ it fit for public use.
- Word bank:** inspection | denied | declared | assessed | glance | ignored
60. The desert (1) _____ surprisingly diverse life. Plants and animals have (2) _____ ingenious ways to (3) _____ with very little water.
- Word bank:** survive | supports | perish | lacks | forgotten | developed
61. The strike (1) _____ the city's transport network. Commuters were (2) _____ to find alternative routes, and many were (3) _____ late for work.
- Word bank:** leaving | assisted | arriving | free | forced | paralysed
62. The professor's research has (1) _____ our understanding of memory. Her experiments (2) _____ that recollection is far more (3) _____ than once believed.
- Word bank:** demonstrate | deny | hindered | unreliable | advanced | reliable
63. The coastline is (1) _____ eroding. Each year, powerful waves (2) _____ away the cliffs, threatening the homes that (3) _____ above.
- Word bank:** wear | sink | never | build | steadily | stand
64. The festival (1) _____ the region's rich cultural heritage. Visitors can (2) _____ traditional music and (3) _____ local crafts.
- Word bank:** admire | avoid | celebrates | hides | enjoy | destroy
65. The medicine must be stored (1) _____ to remain effective. Exposure to heat can (2) _____ the active ingredients and (3) _____ its benefits.
- Word bank:** increase | reduce | correctly | carelessly | destroy | preserve
66. The young entrepreneur (1) _____ a gap in the market. By offering a unique service, she quickly (2) _____ customers and (3) _____ her business.
- Word bank:** spotted | attracted | missed | shrank | grew | repelled
67. The ice caps are (1) _____ at an alarming rate. As they (2) _____, sea levels rise, (3) _____ low-lying regions around the world.
- Word bank:** freezing | expand | melting | shrink | protecting | threatening
68. The orchestra (1) _____ a flawless performance. The musicians (2) _____ in perfect harmony, (3) _____ the audience to its feet.
- Word bank:** delivered | played | sending | argued | bringing | ruined
69. The report (1) _____ that immediate action is needed. It (2) _____ the risks of inaction and (3) _____ a detailed plan for reform.
- Word bank:** conceals | concludes | proposes | outlines | rejects | denies

70. The vaccine (1) _____ the body to recognise the virus. By (2) _____ a harmless fragment, it (3) _____ the immune system to respond.

Word bank: removing | weakens | trains | prevents | prepares | introducing

Answer key

1. (1) regulating, (2) shiver, (3) maintain
2. (1) relied, (2) grow, (3) transport
3. (1) requires, (2) conducting, (3) reject
4. (1) sensitive, (2) rise, (3) bleaching
5. (1) preserved, (2) transmitted, (3) lost
6. (1) pollinating, (2) transfer, (3) reproduction
7. (1) benefits, (2) reduces, (3) improve
8. (1) recession, (2) dismiss, (3) level
9. (1) distinctive, (2) praised, (3) argued
10. (1) play, (2) absorb, (3) release
11. (1) protect, (2) requires, (3) imposes
12. (1) develop, (2) connections, (3) acquire
13. (1) becoming, (2) grow, (3) investing
14. (1) numerous, (2) hindered, (3) abandon
15. (1) essential, (2) express, (3) reduced
16. (1) examined, (2) faded, (3) reconstruct
17. (1) benefits, (2) damage, (3) disrupt
18. (1) found, (2) imply, (3) needed
19. (1) halt, (2) fix, (3) resume
20. (1) rich, (2) high, (3) strengthen
21. (1) devoted, (2) examining, (3) construct
22. (1) suffered, (2) trust, (3) restored
23. (1) dormant, (2) erupted, (3) spread
24. (1) benefit, (2) suggest, (3) delay
25. (1) raised, (2) access, (3) denied
26. (1) lengthy, (2) reached, (3) accept
27. (1) rapidly, (2) practise, (3) avoid
28. (1) impressive, (2) spans, (3) carry
29. (1) well, (2) backed, (3) dispute
30. (1) affecting, (2) threaten, (3) reduce
31. (1) reduce, (2) encouraged, (3) comply
32. (1) far, (2) dismissed, (3) accepted
33. (1) designed, (2) attract, (3) draw
34. (1) revealed, (2) recommended, (3) warned
35. (1) essential, (2) repairs, (3) consolidates
36. (1) attracted, (2) view, (3) display
37. (1) delicately, (2) disrupt, (3) trigger

38. (1) swift, (2) landed, (3) saved
39. (1) increased, (2) raised, (3) human
40. (1) reviewed, (2) deliberation, (3) approved
41. (1) plagued, (2) low, (3) fail
42. (1) draws, (2) creates, (3) finished
43. (1) dependent, (2) fall, (3) feels
44. (1) hope, (2) promising, (3) caution
45. (1) reveal, (2) excavate, (3) uncover
46. (1) recovered, (2) resume, (3) regained
47. (1) reduce, (2) expand, (3) promote
48. (1) struck, (2) turned, (3) battered
49. (1) led, (2) challenging, (3) contributed
50. (1) earned, (2) trust, (3) grow
51. (1) presented, (2) illustrated, (3) grasp
52. (1) acts, (2) removes, (3) habitat
53. (1) collapsed, (2) concession, (3) failing
54. (1) monitored, (2) feedback, (3) address
55. (1) cut, (2) capture, (3) enter
56. (1) explores, (2) raises, (3) answers
57. (1) astonishing, (2) cross, (3) grazing
58. (1) transformed, (2) completed, (3) boosting
59. (1) assessed, (2) inspection, (3) declared
60. (1) supports, (2) developed, (3) survive
61. (1) paralysed, (2) forced, (3) arriving
62. (1) advanced, (2) demonstrate, (3) unreliable
63. (1) steadily, (2) wear, (3) stand
64. (1) celebrates, (2) enjoy, (3) admire
65. (1) correctly, (2) destroy, (3) reduce
66. (1) spotted, (2) attracted, (3) grew
67. (1) melting, (2) shrink, (3) threatening
68. (1) delivered, (2) played, (3) bringing
69. (1) concludes, (2) outlines, (3) proposes
70. (1) trains, (2) introducing, (3) prepares

What this task involves

You read a passage and answer a multiple-choice question by selecting the single best option. This task tests reading comprehension and inference.

Format and timing

Each passage is followed by one question with several options, only one of which is correct. There are usually 1 to 2 of these tasks. Answer keys are provided at the end of the section.

Strategy tips

Read the question before re-reading the passage so you know what to look for. Beware of options that are true but do not answer the question, and of options that twist the wording of the text.

Practice questions

1. Passage:

The platypus is one of nature's most unusual creatures. It is one of only a few mammals that lay eggs rather than giving birth to live young. With a duck-like bill, webbed feet, and a beaver-like tail, it puzzled European scientists so greatly when first described that many assumed the specimen was a hoax stitched together from different animals.

Q: Why did early European scientists doubt the platypus was real?

- (A) Because it lived only in remote areas
- (B) Because its strange combination of features seemed artificial
- (C) Because it could not be photographed
- (D) Because it laid eggs like a bird

2. Passage:

Coffee originated in the highlands of Ethiopia, where, according to legend, a goat herder noticed his animals becoming energetic after eating certain berries. From there, the practice of brewing the beans spread through the Arabian Peninsula and eventually across the globe. Today coffee is among the most traded commodities in the world.

Q: According to the passage, where did coffee first originate?

- (A) The Arabian Peninsula
- (B) Ethiopia
- (C) South America
- (D) Southeast Asia

3. Passage:

While solar power is often praised as a clean energy source, its effectiveness depends heavily on location. Regions with abundant sunshine can generate large amounts of electricity, whereas areas with frequent cloud cover produce far less. Improvements in storage technology, however, are gradually reducing this dependence on consistent sunlight.

Q: What does the passage suggest about the future of solar power?

- (A) It will only ever work in sunny regions
- (B) Storage technology may reduce its dependence on weather
- (C) It is no longer considered clean energy
- (D) It produces the same output everywhere

4. Passage:

The Great Wall of China was not built in a single effort but over many centuries by successive dynasties. Far from being one continuous structure, it consists of numerous walls, some of which overlap or run parallel. Much of what tourists visit today was constructed during the Ming dynasty.

Q: Which statement is true according to the passage?

- (A) The wall was built in one continuous project
- (B) The wall is a single unbroken structure
- (C) The wall was built over many centuries by different dynasties
- (D) Tourists mainly visit the oldest sections

5. Passage:

Sleep researchers have found that the brain is far from inactive during sleep. In fact, certain stages of sleep show patterns of activity similar to waking life. It is during these stages that much of the consolidation of memory and the processing of emotion are believed to occur.

Q: What does the passage indicate about the brain during sleep?

- (A) It shuts down completely
- (B) It is highly active in some stages
- (C) It only processes physical sensations
- (D) It works less than during the day at all times

6. Passage:

The introduction of the wheel transformed transport and trade in ancient societies. Yet some advanced civilisations, such as those of the Americas before European contact, did not use wheeled vehicles for transport, partly because they lacked large domesticated animals to pull them and faced challenging terrain.

Q: Why did some American civilisations not use wheeled vehicles?

- (A) They had not invented the wheel
- (B) They lacked suitable draft animals and faced difficult terrain
- (C) They preferred boats
- (D) They were forbidden from using them

7. Passage:

Octopuses are remarkably intelligent. They can solve puzzles, open jars, and even use tools. Their intelligence is especially surprising given that it evolved entirely independently from that of mammals, offering scientists a rare opportunity to study how complex cognition can arise along very different evolutionary paths.

Q: Why is octopus intelligence of special interest to scientists?

- (A) It is greater than human intelligence
- (B) It evolved independently of mammalian intelligence
- (C) It depends on living in groups
- (D) It only appears in captivity

8. Passage:

The term 'food desert' describes an area where residents have limited access to affordable, nutritious food. Such areas are often found in both rural regions and poorer urban neighbourhoods. The lack of nearby supermarkets can force residents to rely on convenience stores, where fresh produce is scarce and expensive.

Q: What is a 'food desert' according to the passage?

- (A) A region with no rainfall
- (B) An area with poor access to affordable healthy food
- (C) A place where only desert plants grow
- (D) A wealthy area with many restaurants

9. Passage:

Honeybees communicate the location of food through a behaviour called the waggle dance. The angle and duration of the dance convey the direction and distance of a food source relative to the sun. Through this elegant system, a single bee can guide many others to a distant patch of flowers.

Q: What information does the waggle dance convey?

- (A) The colour of nearby flowers
- (B) The direction and distance of food
- (C) The age of the bee
- (D) The temperature of the hive

10. Passage:

Although bamboo looks like a tree, it is actually a type of grass. It is among the fastest-growing plants on Earth, with some species capable of growing nearly a metre in a single day. This rapid growth makes bamboo an attractive sustainable material for construction and manufacturing.

Q: Why is bamboo considered a sustainable material?

- (A) Because it is a type of tree
- (B) Because it grows extremely quickly
- (C) Because it never needs water
- (D) Because it cannot be cut down

11. Passage:

The placebo effect occurs when a patient experiences a real improvement in symptoms after receiving a treatment with no active ingredient. Researchers believe this happens because the patient's expectation of recovery can trigger genuine physiological changes, demonstrating the powerful connection between mind and body.

Q: What does the placebo effect demonstrate?

- (A) That all medicines are useless
- (B) That the mind can influence physical health
- (C) That patients always recover on their own
- (D) That treatments never work

12. Passage:

Venice, built on a series of small islands in a lagoon, faces an ongoing battle against rising water. Centuries of construction and the extraction of groundwater have caused parts of the city to sink, while sea levels continue to rise. Engineers have developed flood barriers in an attempt to protect the historic city.

Q: What two factors threaten Venice according to the passage?

- (A) Earthquakes and storms
- (B) Sinking land and rising sea levels
- (C) Tourism and pollution
- (D) Fire and drought

13. Passage:

The concept of zero as a number was a major mathematical breakthrough. While many ancient cultures had ways of indicating the absence of quantity, treating zero as a number in its own right, which could be used in calculations, developed gradually and proved essential to the advanced mathematics we use today.

Q: Why was the concept of zero important?

- (A) It made counting impossible
- (B) It became essential to advanced mathematics
- (C) It was used only for decoration
- (D) It replaced all other numbers

14. Passage:

Migratory birds are capable of extraordinary feats of navigation. Some species travel thousands of kilometres, returning to the same breeding grounds year after year. Scientists believe they rely on a combination of the sun, the stars, landmarks, and even the Earth's magnetic field to find their way.

Q: How do migratory birds navigate, according to the passage?

- (A) Only by following other birds
- (B) By using several cues including the magnetic field
- (C) Purely by chance
- (D) By memorising human-made maps

15. Passage:

The Rosetta Stone proved crucial to deciphering ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs. It contained the same text written in three scripts, one of which was Greek, a language scholars could already read. By comparing the versions, researchers were finally able to unlock the meaning of the long-mysterious symbols.

Q: Why was the Rosetta Stone so valuable?

- (A) It was made of gold
- (B) It contained the same text in a known and unknown script
- (C) It was the oldest stone ever found
- (D) It depicted Egyptian kings

16. Passage:

Trees communicate and share resources through underground fungal networks, sometimes called the 'wood wide web'. Through these connections, older trees can transfer nutrients to younger or struggling neighbours. This discovery has challenged the traditional view of forests as collections of isolated, competing individuals.

Q: What does the 'wood wide web' allow trees to do?

- (A) Move from place to place
- (B) Share nutrients through fungal networks
- (C) Communicate by sound
- (D) Grow without sunlight

17. Passage:

The phenomenon of bioluminescence, in which living organisms produce their own light, is widespread in the deep ocean. For creatures living in perpetual darkness, this light serves many purposes, including attracting prey, deterring predators, and communicating with potential mates.

Q: What is one purpose of bioluminescence mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Generating heat
- (B) Attracting prey
- (C) Producing oxygen
- (D) Building shelters

18. Passage:

The Dust Bowl of the 1930s was an environmental disaster caused largely by poor farming practices combined with severe drought. The removal of native grasses left the soil exposed, and when the rains failed, winds carried away vast quantities of topsoil, devastating agriculture across the region.

Q: What was a major cause of the Dust Bowl?

- (A) Heavy rainfall
- (B) Poor farming practices and drought
- (C) Volcanic eruptions
- (D) Excessive irrigation

19. Passage:

Antarctica, despite being covered in ice, is technically classified as a desert. This is because it receives very little precipitation. The continent holds the vast majority of the world's fresh water, locked away in its enormous ice sheets, which have built up over millions of years.

Q: Why is Antarctica classified as a desert?

- (A) Because it is very hot
- (B) Because it receives very little precipitation
- (C) Because it has no ice
- (D) Because no animals live there

20. Passage:

The printing press is often credited with accelerating the spread of literacy. As books became cheaper and more widely available, reading was no longer confined to the wealthy or the clergy. This broader access to information had far-reaching effects on religion, science, and politics.

Q: What was one effect of the printing press?

- (A) Books became more expensive
- (B) Reading spread beyond the wealthy and clergy
- (C) Literacy declined
- (D) Information became harder to obtain

21. Passage:

Some plants have evolved to attract insects not for pollination but for nutrition. Carnivorous plants such as the Venus flytrap grow in poor soils that lack essential nutrients. By trapping and digesting insects, they obtain the nitrogen they cannot get from the ground.

Q: Why do carnivorous plants trap insects?

- (A) To assist pollination
- (B) To obtain nutrients lacking in the soil
- (C) To attract larger animals
- (D) To produce flowers faster

22. Passage:

The human appendix was long considered a useless evolutionary leftover. Recent research, however, suggests it may serve as a reservoir for beneficial gut bacteria, helping to repopulate the digestive system after illness. This has prompted scientists to reconsider its role in the body.

Q: What new role of the appendix does the passage describe?

- (A) Producing hormones
- (B) Storing beneficial bacteria
- (C) Digesting food directly
- (D) Filtering blood

23. Passage:

The northern lights, or aurora borealis, are produced when charged particles from the sun collide with gases in the Earth's atmosphere. The colours depend on which gases are involved and at what altitude the collisions occur, with oxygen producing green and red hues and nitrogen contributing blues and purples.

Q: What determines the colours of the northern lights?

- (A) The time of year
- (B) The gases involved and the altitude of collisions
- (C) The phase of the moon
- (D) The temperature of the ground

24. Passage:

Glass is often described as a solid, but its structure is unusual. Unlike most solids, its molecules are arranged in a disordered way, more like a liquid that has been frozen in place. For this reason, some scientists describe glass as an 'amorphous solid'.

Q: Why is glass described as an 'amorphous solid'?

- (A) Because it is always liquid
- (B) Because its molecules are disordered like a frozen liquid
- (C) Because it cannot be broken
- (D) Because it has no colour

25. Passage:

The Silk Road was not a single route but a vast network of trade paths connecting East and West. Along it travelled not only goods such as silk and spices but also ideas, technologies, and religions, making it one of history's great channels of cultural exchange.

Q: According to the passage, the Silk Road was significant because it carried:

- (A) Only silk
- (B) Goods as well as ideas and religions
- (C) Soldiers between empires
- (D) A single type of spice

26. Passage:

Sharks have existed for hundreds of millions of years, predating even the dinosaurs. Their long survival is often attributed to a highly efficient body design that has changed relatively little over time, allowing them to remain effective predators across vastly different eras.

Q: What does the passage suggest about sharks' survival?

- (A) They evolved only recently
- (B) Their efficient design has helped them survive
- (C) They are no longer effective predators
- (D) They appeared after the dinosaurs

27. Passage:

The phenomenon known as the 'urban heat island' causes cities to be significantly warmer than surrounding rural areas. Buildings and roads absorb and retain heat, while the lack of vegetation reduces natural cooling. This effect can intensify the impact of heatwaves on city dwellers.

Q: What contributes to the urban heat island effect?

- (A) An abundance of vegetation
- (B) Heat-absorbing buildings and a lack of vegetation
- (C) Cool ocean breezes
- (D) Frequent rainfall

28. Passage:

Vincent van Gogh sold very few paintings during his lifetime and struggled financially. It was only after his death that his work gained widespread recognition, eventually becoming among the most valuable and admired in the history of art.

Q: What does the passage say about van Gogh's success?

- (A) He was wealthy during his life
- (B) His fame came mostly after his death
- (C) He never painted
- (D) He sold many works while alive

29. Passage:

The body's sense of balance relies partly on the inner ear, which contains fluid-filled canals. As the head moves, the fluid shifts, sending signals to the brain about the body's position. Disturbances to this system can cause dizziness and a loss of equilibrium.

Q: What role does the inner ear play according to the passage?

- (A) Producing sound
- (B) Helping the body maintain balance
- (C) Filtering air
- (D) Controlling vision

30. Passage:

Many languages are at risk of disappearing as younger generations adopt more dominant tongues. Linguists warn that when a language dies, an entire way of understanding and describing the world is lost. Efforts are now under way to record and revive these endangered languages before it is too late.

Q: Why do linguists consider language loss serious?

- (A) It makes travel difficult
- (B) A unique way of understanding the world is lost
- (C) It increases the number of languages
- (D) It only affects written texts

31. Passage:

The tuatara, a reptile found only in New Zealand, is sometimes called a living fossil. It is the sole survivor of an order of reptiles that flourished alongside the dinosaurs, and it has changed remarkably little over many millions of years.

Q: Why is the tuatara called a living fossil?

- (A) It is made of stone
- (B) It has changed little over millions of years
- (C) It is extinct
- (D) It lives only in museums

32. Passage:

Photosynthesis not only feeds plants but also produces most of the oxygen in the atmosphere. Marine algae, often overlooked, are responsible for a large share of this oxygen, making the health of the oceans vital to the air that all animals breathe.

Q: What surprising source of oxygen does the passage highlight?

- (A) Desert cacti
- (B) Marine algae
- (C) Mountain snow
- (D) Animal respiration

33. Passage:

The discovery of penicillin was largely accidental. Alexander Fleming noticed that a mould contaminating one of his laboratory dishes had killed the surrounding bacteria. This chance observation led to the development of antibiotics, which have since saved countless lives.

Q: How was penicillin discovered according to the passage?

- (A) Through a planned experiment
- (B) By an accidental observation of mould
- (C) By studying ancient texts
- (D) Through a computer simulation

34. Passage:

The Sahara was not always a desert. Evidence shows that thousands of years ago it was a green landscape with lakes and grasslands that supported a variety of wildlife and human settlements. Gradual climatic changes transformed it into the vast desert it is today.

Q: What does the passage reveal about the Sahara's past?

- (A) It was always a desert
- (B) It was once green with lakes and wildlife
- (C) It was covered in ice
- (D) It was an ocean

35. Passage:

Some animals enter a state called torpor to survive harsh conditions. During torpor, the body's functions slow dramatically, conserving energy when food is scarce. Unlike full hibernation, torpor may last only hours, allowing animals to become active again quickly when conditions improve.

Q: How does torpor differ from full hibernation?

- (A) It lasts longer
- (B) It may last only hours
- (C) It requires more food
- (D) It speeds up body functions

36. Passage:

The colour of a flamingo comes from its diet. These birds feed on algae and small crustaceans that contain natural pigments. As the pigments accumulate, the flamingo's feathers turn pink. A flamingo deprived of such food would gradually lose its distinctive colour.

Q: Why are flamingos pink?

- (A) They are born that colour
- (B) Their diet contains natural pigments
- (C) They live in pink water
- (D) They absorb sunlight

37. Passage:

Earthquakes are measured using instruments called seismometers, which detect the vibrations travelling through the ground. The data they collect allow scientists not only to determine the strength of a quake but also to locate its origin deep beneath the surface.

Q: What do seismometers detect?

- (A) Changes in temperature
- (B) Vibrations travelling through the ground
- (C) Ocean currents
- (D) Wind speed

38. Passage:

The idea that we use only ten percent of our brains is a popular myth. In reality, brain imaging shows that virtually all regions of the brain are active at some point, and even simple tasks engage multiple areas. The myth persists despite being thoroughly disproven.

Q: What does the passage say about the 'ten percent' idea?

- (A) It is scientifically proven
- (B) It is a myth that has been disproven
- (C) It applies only to children
- (D) It explains intelligence

39. Passage:

Mangrove forests grow along tropical coastlines, their tangled roots rising above the water. These ecosystems protect shorelines from erosion, provide nurseries for fish, and store large amounts of carbon, making their conservation important for both wildlife and the climate.

Q: What is one benefit of mangrove forests mentioned in the passage?

- (A) They increase coastal erosion
- (B) They protect shorelines and store carbon
- (C) They prevent fish from breeding
- (D) They release large amounts of carbon

40. Passage:

The Mona Lisa's fame grew dramatically after the painting was stolen from the Louvre in 1911. The theft generated enormous publicity, and crowds came to view the empty space where it had hung. When it was recovered, the painting was more celebrated than ever.

Q: What contributed to the Mona Lisa's fame according to the passage?

- (A) A famous exhibition
- (B) Its theft in 1911
- (C) A royal purchase
- (D) A scientific study

41. Passage:

Deep beneath the ocean surface, hydrothermal vents release mineral-rich water heated by volcanic activity. Remarkably, entire ecosystems thrive around these vents without sunlight, relying instead on bacteria that convert chemicals into energy, a process known as chemosynthesis.

Q: How do organisms near hydrothermal vents obtain energy?

- (A) Through photosynthesis
- (B) Through chemosynthesis using bacteria
- (C) By absorbing sunlight
- (D) By eating surface fish

42. Passage:

The QWERTY keyboard layout was designed in the era of mechanical typewriters, partly to prevent the keys from jamming by spacing out commonly used letters. Although the original problem no longer exists, the layout has remained the standard, an example of how early designs can persist long after their purpose has gone.

Q: Why was the QWERTY layout originally designed?

- (A) To make typing faster
- (B) To prevent typewriter keys from jamming
- (C) To save space
- (D) To match the alphabet

43. Passage:

Some species of jellyfish are considered biologically immortal. Under certain conditions, they can revert to an earlier stage of their life cycle, effectively beginning again. This unusual ability has attracted the interest of scientists studying ageing.

Q: Why are certain jellyfish of interest to ageing researchers?

- (A) They live in groups
- (B) They can revert to an earlier life stage
- (C) They cannot reproduce
- (D) They glow in the dark

44. Passage:

The Amazon River discharges an enormous volume of water into the Atlantic Ocean, so much that the sea is noticeably less salty for many kilometres from its mouth. The river carries more water than the next several largest rivers combined.

Q: What effect does the Amazon's discharge have on the ocean?

- (A) It raises the sea temperature
- (B) It reduces the saltiness near its mouth
- (C) It creates new islands
- (D) It freezes the surrounding water

45. Passage:

In many species, camouflage is a vital survival strategy. By blending into their surroundings, animals can avoid predators or ambush prey. Some creatures can even change their colour rapidly to match different backgrounds, a remarkable adaptation that continues to fascinate biologists.

Q: What is the main purpose of camouflage according to the passage?

- (A) To attract mates
- (B) To aid survival by blending in
- (C) To regulate temperature
- (D) To communicate

46. Passage:

The Library of Alexandria was one of the ancient world's greatest centres of learning, said to have housed hundreds of thousands of scrolls. Its gradual decline, caused by a combination of fires, conflict, and neglect, represented an immense loss of accumulated human knowledge.

Q: What does the passage say about the Library of Alexandria's decline?

- (A) It was caused by a single fire
- (B) It resulted from fires, conflict, and neglect
- (C) It was deliberately preserved
- (D) It never actually declined

47. Passage:

Caffeine works by blocking a chemical in the brain that promotes sleepiness. By preventing this chemical from taking effect, caffeine helps people feel more alert. However, regular consumption can lead the body to adapt, reducing the stimulant's effect over time.

Q: How does caffeine make people feel more alert?

- (A) By increasing sleepiness
- (B) By blocking a chemical that causes drowsiness
- (C) By slowing the heart
- (D) By lowering body temperature

48. Passage:

The peppered moth became a famous example of evolution in action. During the Industrial Revolution, soot darkened the trees, and darker moths, better camouflaged, survived more often than pale ones. As pollution declined, the lighter form once again became more common.

Q: Why did darker peppered moths become more common during the Industrial Revolution?

- (A) They reproduced faster
- (B) They were better camouflaged on sooty trees
- (C) They migrated from elsewhere
- (D) They were larger

49. Passage:

Spider silk is one of the strongest natural materials known, stronger by weight than steel and extremely elastic. Scientists are studying its remarkable properties in the hope of developing new materials for use in medicine, engineering, and other fields.

Q: Why are scientists interested in spider silk?

- (A) It is cheap to produce in factories
- (B) Its strength and elasticity could inspire new materials
- (C) It is brightly coloured
- (D) It dissolves in water

50. Passage:

The Maya developed a sophisticated calendar system based on careful astronomical observation. Their calculations of the cycles of the sun, moon, and planets were remarkably accurate, reflecting an advanced understanding of mathematics and astronomy that flourished long before similar developments elsewhere.

Q: What does the Maya calendar reveal about their civilisation?

- (A) They had no interest in the stars
- (B) They possessed advanced mathematical and astronomical knowledge
- (C) They borrowed all their ideas from Europe
- (D) They could not measure time

Answer key

- 1. B
- 2. B
- 3. B

- 4. C
- 5. B
- 6. B
- 7. B
- 8. B
- 9. B
- 10. B
- 11. B
- 12. B
- 13. B
- 14. B
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- 39. B
- 40. B
- 41. B
- 42. B
- 43. B
- 44. B
- 45. B
- 46. B

47. B

48. B

49. B

50. B

What this task involves

You read a passage and answer a multiple-choice question by selecting all the correct options. This task tests detailed reading comprehension.

Format and timing

Each passage is followed by one question with several options, more than one of which is correct. Incorrect choices can lose marks, so choose carefully. Answer keys are at the end of the section.

Strategy tips

Identify every option that is directly supported by the passage. Do not select an option just because it sounds reasonable; it must be stated or clearly implied. Because wrong answers can reduce your score, only choose options you are sure of.

Practice questions

1. Passage:

Urban green spaces offer a range of benefits to city dwellers. They improve air quality by filtering pollutants, provide habitats for wildlife, and offer residents places to exercise and relax. Studies have also linked access to parks with reduced stress and better mental health. However, maintaining these spaces requires ongoing funding, which can be a challenge for cash-strapped local governments.

Q: Which of the following are benefits of urban green spaces mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Improved air quality
- (B) Reduced maintenance costs
- (C) Habitats for wildlife
- (D) Better mental health
- (E) Increased traffic

2. Passage:

The transition to renewable energy faces several obstacles. The initial cost of installing solar and wind infrastructure can be high, and these sources are intermittent, depending on weather conditions. Storing energy for later use remains technically challenging. Nevertheless, falling prices and improving battery technology are gradually making renewables more competitive with fossil fuels.

Q: According to the passage, which are obstacles to renewable energy?

- (A) High initial installation costs
- (B) Falling prices
- (C) Intermittent supply
- (D) Energy storage challenges
- (E) Improving battery technology

3. Passage:

A balanced diet provides numerous health benefits. Consuming a variety of fruits and vegetables supplies essential vitamins, while whole grains offer fibre that aids digestion. Lean proteins help build and repair tissues, and adequate water keeps the body hydrated. By contrast, diets high in processed foods and added sugars are linked to a range of health problems.

Q: Which of the following are described as components of a balanced diet?

- (A) Fruits and vegetables
- (B) Processed foods
- (C) Whole grains
- (D) Lean proteins
- (E) Added sugars

4. Passage:

Effective study techniques can greatly improve learning. Spacing out study sessions over time helps information move into long-term memory, while testing oneself strengthens recall far more than simply rereading notes. Teaching the material to someone else also reinforces understanding. In contrast, cramming the night before an exam tends to produce only short-lived retention.

Q: Which study techniques does the passage recommend?

- (A) Spacing out study sessions
- (B) Cramming before exams
- (C) Self-testing
- (D) Teaching others
- (E) Rereading notes repeatedly

5. Passage:

Bees face multiple threats that have contributed to their decline. The widespread use of certain pesticides can harm their nervous systems, while the loss of wildflower habitats reduces their food supply. Parasites and diseases also weaken colonies. Some researchers point to climate change as an additional pressure, altering the timing of flowering plants.

Q: Which threats to bees are mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Certain pesticides
- (B) Increased wildflower habitats
- (C) Loss of habitat
- (D) Parasites and diseases
- (E) Falling global temperatures

6. Passage:

The benefits of regular physical activity extend beyond fitness. Exercise strengthens the cardiovascular system and helps control body weight. It also stimulates the release of chemicals that improve mood and reduce anxiety. Furthermore, physically active people often report better sleep. Despite these advantages, many people struggle to maintain a consistent exercise routine.

Q: Which benefits of exercise does the passage mention?

- (A) Stronger cardiovascular system
- (B) Increased anxiety
- (C) Improved mood
- (D) Better sleep
- (E) Weight control

7. Passage:

Volcanic eruptions can have wide-ranging effects. In the short term, they may destroy nearby settlements and disrupt air travel with clouds of ash. Over longer periods, large eruptions can even lower global temperatures by releasing particles that block sunlight. Yet volcanic soils are often highly fertile, attracting agriculture to the very regions that face such risks.

Q: Which effects of volcanic eruptions are described in the passage?

- (A) Destruction of settlements
- (B) Permanent global warming
- (C) Disruption of air travel
- (D) Temporary cooling of the climate
- (E) Fertile soils

8. Passage:

Reading regularly offers cognitive and emotional advantages. It expands vocabulary and improves the ability to concentrate over long periods. Engaging with stories can increase empathy by exposing readers to other perspectives. Reading before bed can also aid relaxation. Educators therefore encourage reading habits from an early age.

Q: Which advantages of reading does the passage mention?

- (A) Expanded vocabulary
- (B) Reduced concentration
- (C) Increased empathy
- (D) Improved relaxation
- (E) Weaker memory

9. Passage:

Successful teamwork depends on several factors. Clear communication ensures that everyone understands their responsibilities, while mutual trust allows members to rely on one another. Shared goals keep the group focused, and a willingness to give and receive feedback helps the team improve. Conflict, if handled poorly, can undermine all of these.

Q: Which factors contribute to successful teamwork according to the passage?

- (A) Clear communication
- (B) Avoiding all feedback
- (C) Mutual trust
- (D) Shared goals
- (E) Unresolved conflict

10. Passage:

Plastic pollution harms the environment in numerous ways. Marine animals may become entangled in debris or mistake plastic for food, leading to injury or death. As plastic breaks down, it forms microplastics that enter the food chain. The production of plastic also consumes fossil fuels and generates greenhouse gases.

Q: Which harms of plastic pollution are mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Entanglement of animals
- (B) Improved water quality
- (C) Microplastics in the food chain
- (D) Greenhouse gas emissions
- (E) Increased biodiversity

11. Passage:

Cities are experimenting with various measures to reduce traffic congestion. Investing in reliable public transport encourages people to leave their cars at home. Congestion charges discourage unnecessary journeys into busy areas. Promoting cycling and walking through dedicated lanes also helps. Such measures often face resistance from drivers, however.

Q: Which measures to reduce congestion does the passage describe?

- (A) Reliable public transport
- (B) Building more car parks
- (C) Congestion charges
- (D) Dedicated cycling lanes
- (E) Lowering fuel prices

12. Passage:

The human immune system has several lines of defence. The skin acts as a physical barrier against invaders. White blood cells identify and destroy harmful microbes. The system can also produce antibodies that target specific threats and remember them for the future. Fever, though uncomfortable, can help by creating conditions hostile to many pathogens.

Q: Which defences of the immune system are mentioned in the passage?

- (A) The skin barrier
- (B) Increased blood sugar
- (C) White blood cells
- (D) Antibody production
- (E) Fever

13. Passage:

Sustainable agriculture aims to produce food while protecting the environment. Crop rotation maintains soil health and reduces the need for chemical fertilisers. Conserving water through efficient irrigation lessens strain on resources. Encouraging natural predators can control pests without heavy pesticide use. These practices, however, may require more knowledge and effort from farmers.

Q: Which sustainable farming practices are described in the passage?

- (A) Crop rotation
- (B) Heavy pesticide use
- (C) Efficient irrigation
- (D) Encouraging natural predators
- (E) Removing all vegetation

14. Passage:

Effective public speaking relies on more than just words. Maintaining eye contact helps a speaker connect with the audience, while varying the tone of voice keeps listeners engaged. Good preparation reduces nervousness and ensures the content is well organised. Distracting habits, such as fidgeting, can undermine an otherwise strong presentation.

Q: Which elements of effective public speaking does the passage mention?

- (A) Eye contact
- (B) Fidgeting
- (C) Varied tone of voice
- (D) Good preparation
- (E) Reading word for word

15. Passage:

Deforestation produces a number of harmful consequences. It releases stored carbon into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change. The loss of trees destroys habitats and reduces biodiversity. Without roots to hold the soil, erosion increases and water cycles are disrupted. Reforestation efforts seek to reverse some of this damage.

Q: Which consequences of deforestation are described in the passage?

- (A) Release of stored carbon
- (B) Increased biodiversity
- (C) Loss of habitats
- (D) Soil erosion
- (E) Stronger water cycles

16. Passage:

Good sleep hygiene can improve the quality of rest. Keeping a consistent sleep schedule helps regulate the body's internal clock. Avoiding screens before bed reduces exposure to stimulating light. A cool, dark, quiet room creates ideal conditions for sleep. Consuming caffeine late in the day, by contrast, can make falling asleep more difficult.

Q: Which practices improve sleep according to the passage?

- (A) A consistent sleep schedule
- (B) Using screens before bed
- (C) Avoiding screens before bed
- (D) A cool, dark room
- (E) Late-day caffeine

17. Passage:

Museums serve multiple roles in society. They preserve objects of historical and cultural value for future generations. They educate the public through exhibitions and programmes. Many also support scholarly research. In addition, popular museums can boost local economies by attracting tourists. Funding shortages, however, threaten some of these functions.

Q: Which roles of museums does the passage mention?

- (A) Preserving cultural objects
- (B) Manufacturing goods
- (C) Educating the public
- (D) Supporting research
- (E) Boosting local economies

18. Passage:

Several factors influence a country's level of economic development. Investment in education builds a skilled workforce, while stable institutions encourage long-term planning and investment. Good infrastructure supports trade and industry. Access to technology can accelerate growth. Political instability and corruption, on the other hand, tend to hold development back.

Q: Which factors are said to support economic development?

- (A) Investment in education
- (B) Political instability
- (C) Stable institutions
- (D) Good infrastructure
- (E) Access to technology

19. Passage:

Coral reefs are threatened by a combination of pressures. Warmer ocean temperatures cause coral to expel the algae it depends on, leading to bleaching. Ocean acidification weakens coral skeletons. Pollution and overfishing further disturb the delicate balance of reef ecosystems. Conservationists are working to reduce these pressures before more reefs are lost.

Q: Which threats to coral reefs does the passage mention?

- (A) Warmer temperatures
- (B) Cooler temperatures
- (C) Ocean acidification
- (D) Pollution
- (E) Overfishing

20. Passage:

The benefits of bilingualism are well documented. Speaking two languages can improve mental flexibility and the ability to focus attention. It opens access to other cultures and communities. Some research suggests it may delay age-related cognitive decline. These advantages persist even when the second language is learned later in life.

Q: Which benefits of bilingualism are mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Improved mental flexibility
- (B) Reduced attention span
- (C) Access to other cultures
- (D) Possible delay of cognitive decline
- (E) Loss of the first language

21. Passage:

A healthy office environment depends on several conditions. Adequate natural light improves mood and productivity. Good ventilation maintains air quality. Comfortable, well-designed furniture reduces physical strain. Opportunities for short breaks help workers stay focused. Excessive noise, however, can significantly reduce concentration.

Q: Which conditions support a healthy office according to the passage?

- (A) Natural light
- (B) Excessive noise
- (C) Good ventilation
- (D) Comfortable furniture
- (E) Opportunities for breaks

22. Passage:

Migration brings both benefits and challenges to host countries. Migrants often fill labour shortages and contribute new skills and ideas. They can enrich the cultural life of a society. At the same time, rapid migration may strain public services and housing if not well managed. Successful integration policies can help maximise the benefits.

Q: Which benefits of migration to host countries are mentioned?

- (A) Filling labour shortages
- (B) Straining public services
- (C) Bringing new skills
- (D) Cultural enrichment
- (E) Reducing housing supply

23. Passage:

Forests provide a wide range of services. They store carbon, helping to regulate the climate. They protect watersheds and prevent soil erosion. They offer habitats for an enormous variety of species. Many communities also depend on forests for food, fuel, and medicine. Yet these services are often undervalued in economic decisions.

Q: Which services provided by forests does the passage mention?

- (A) Carbon storage
- (B) Increasing erosion
- (C) Protecting watersheds
- (D) Providing habitats
- (E) Supplying food and medicine

24. Passage:

Several strategies can help reduce household energy consumption. Improving insulation keeps heat in during winter and out during summer. Using energy-efficient appliances lowers electricity use. Switching off devices rather than leaving them on standby saves power. Installing smart thermostats allows more precise control of heating and cooling.

Q: Which energy-saving strategies does the passage describe?

- (A) Better insulation
- (B) Leaving devices on standby
- (C) Energy-efficient appliances
- (D) Switching off devices
- (E) Smart thermostats

25. Passage:

Stress affects the body in numerous ways. In the short term, it raises heart rate and sharpens alertness, which can be useful in emergencies. Chronic stress, however, can weaken the immune system, disturb sleep, and contribute to high blood pressure. Managing stress through exercise, relaxation, and social support is therefore important for health.

Q: Which effects of chronic stress are mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Weakened immune system
- (B) Improved long-term health
- (C) Disturbed sleep
- (D) Higher blood pressure
- (E) Permanent alertness

26. Passage:

Successful language learning involves several practices. Regular exposure to the language through listening and reading builds familiarity. Speaking, even imperfectly, develops fluency and confidence. Learning vocabulary in context aids memory. Making and correcting mistakes is a natural and valuable part of the process, rather than something to be feared.

Q: Which practices aid language learning according to the passage?

- (A) Regular exposure
- (B) Avoiding all speaking
- (C) Speaking despite mistakes
- (D) Learning vocabulary in context
- (E) Fearing errors

27. Passage:

Renewable energy sources differ in their characteristics. Solar power works well in sunny regions but produces nothing at night. Wind power depends on the strength of the wind. Hydroelectric power provides steady output but requires suitable rivers and dams. Geothermal energy is reliable but limited to areas with the right geology.

Q: Which statements about renewable sources are supported by the passage?

- (A) Solar produces nothing at night
- (B) Wind output is constant
- (C) Wind depends on wind strength
- (D) Hydroelectric needs suitable rivers
- (E) Geothermal works everywhere

28. Passage:

Cities can become more resilient to climate change in various ways. Planting trees and creating green spaces reduces urban heat. Improving drainage systems helps cope with heavier rainfall. Protecting coastlines guards against rising seas. Encouraging energy efficiency lowers emissions. Such measures require coordinated planning and investment.

Q: Which measures improve a city's climate resilience according to the passage?

- (A) Planting trees
- (B) Removing all vegetation
- (C) Improving drainage
- (D) Protecting coastlines
- (E) Encouraging energy efficiency

29. Passage:

Effective leadership combines several qualities. A good leader communicates a clear vision and listens to the concerns of others. Integrity builds trust, while decisiveness allows progress even under uncertainty. The ability to adapt to changing circumstances is also essential. Arrogance and an unwillingness to listen, by contrast, often lead to poor decisions.

Q: Which qualities of effective leadership are mentioned?

- (A) Communicating a clear vision
- (B) Arrogance
- (C) Integrity
- (D) Decisiveness
- (E) Adaptability

30. Passage:

The decline of pollinators could have serious consequences for agriculture. Many fruits, vegetables, and nuts depend on animal pollination. A shortage of pollinators could reduce crop yields and raise food prices. It could also threaten the survival of wild plants that rely on the same insects. Protecting pollinators is therefore a matter of food security.

Q: Which consequences of pollinator decline does the passage mention?

- (A) Reduced crop yields
- (B) Lower food prices
- (C) Higher food prices
- (D) Threats to wild plants
- (E) Improved food security

31. Passage:

Good urban design improves quality of life in several ways. Walkable neighbourhoods encourage physical activity and reduce car use. Mixed-use developments place homes, shops, and workplaces close together. Accessible public transport connects communities. Well-lit, well-maintained streets enhance safety. Poorly planned sprawl, however, can increase isolation and congestion.

Q: Which features of good urban design does the passage describe?

- (A) Walkable neighbourhoods
- (B) Urban sprawl
- (C) Mixed-use developments
- (D) Accessible public transport
- (E) Well-lit streets

32. Passage:

Healthy ecosystems depend on biodiversity. A variety of species ensures that different ecological roles are filled, from pollination to decomposition. Diversity also makes ecosystems more resilient to disturbances such as disease or drought. The loss of even a single key species can have cascading effects throughout the food web.

Q: Which points about biodiversity are supported by the passage?

- (A) Variety fills ecological roles
- (B) Diversity reduces resilience
- (C) Diversity increases resilience
- (D) Loss of a key species can cause cascading effects
- (E) Biodiversity has no effect on ecosystems

33. Passage:

The rise of remote work has reshaped the modern workplace. It offers employees flexibility and removes the need for daily commuting. Employers can reduce office costs and recruit talent from anywhere. However, remote work can lead to isolation, make collaboration harder, and blur the line between work and home life.

Q: Which advantages of remote work are mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Flexibility for employees
- (B) Increased isolation
- (C) No daily commute
- (D) Reduced office costs
- (E) Wider talent pool

34. Passage:

Water conservation can be achieved through a range of habits. Fixing leaks prevents constant waste. Installing low-flow taps and showerheads reduces consumption. Watering gardens in the cool early morning limits evaporation. Collecting rainwater provides a free supply for outdoor use. Together, these measures can significantly cut household water use.

Q: Which water-saving habits does the passage describe?

- (A) Fixing leaks
- (B) Watering at midday
- (C) Low-flow fixtures
- (D) Watering in the early morning
- (E) Collecting rainwater

35. Passage:

Healthy rivers benefit both nature and people. They supply drinking water and support agriculture. They provide habitats for fish and other wildlife. They can offer opportunities for recreation and tourism. Pollution, over-extraction, and the construction of barriers, however, can severely damage river systems.

Q: Which benefits of healthy rivers are mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Drinking water
- (B) Pollution
- (C) Wildlife habitats
- (D) Recreation and tourism
- (E) Over-extraction

36. Passage:

Effective time management improves both productivity and well-being. Setting clear priorities ensures that important tasks come first. Breaking large projects into smaller steps makes them less daunting. Avoiding multitasking helps maintain focus. Scheduling regular breaks prevents burnout. Constant distractions, however, can derail even the best-laid plans.

Q: Which time-management strategies does the passage recommend?

- (A) Setting clear priorities
- (B) Constant multitasking
- (C) Breaking projects into steps
- (D) Maintaining focus
- (E) Scheduling breaks

37. Passage:

Trees in cities deliver measurable benefits. They provide shade that lowers temperatures during hot weather. Their leaves absorb pollutants and produce oxygen. They can reduce noise and provide habitats for birds and insects. Studies suggest that streets lined with trees are also associated with higher property values.

Q: Which benefits of city trees are mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Providing shade
- (B) Increasing temperatures
- (C) Absorbing pollutants
- (D) Reducing noise
- (E) Raising property values

38. Passage:

A strong economy is not the only measure of a country's progress. Indicators of well-being also include the health and life expectancy of the population, the quality of education, and access to clean water and sanitation. Levels of inequality and the state of the environment matter too. Focusing only on growth can obscure these important dimensions.

Q: Which indicators of progress beyond economic growth does the passage mention?

- (A) Health and life expectancy
- (B) Stock market prices
- (C) Quality of education
- (D) Access to clean water
- (E) Levels of inequality

39. Passage:

Recycling helps the environment in multiple ways. It reduces the need to extract raw materials, saving energy and habitats. It diverts waste from landfills, where it would otherwise produce harmful emissions. It can also create jobs in collection and processing. For recycling to work well, however, materials must be sorted properly.

Q: Which benefits of recycling does the passage mention?

- (A) Reducing raw material extraction
- (B) Increasing landfill waste
- (C) Saving energy
- (D) Diverting waste from landfills
- (E) Creating jobs

40. Passage:

Successful conservation programmes share several features. They involve local communities, whose cooperation is essential for long-term success. They are based on sound scientific evidence. They secure stable funding to continue over many years. They also set clear, measurable goals so that progress can be tracked. Ignoring local people often causes such programmes to fail.

Q: Which features of successful conservation programmes are mentioned?

- (A) Involving local communities
- (B) Ignoring scientific evidence
- (C) Sound scientific evidence
- (D) Stable funding
- (E) Clear measurable goals

Answer key

- 1. A, C, D
- 2. A, C, D
- 3. A, C, D
- 4. A, C, D
- 5. A, C, D
- 6. A, C, D, E
- 7. A, C, D, E
- 8. A, C, D
- 9. A, C, D
- 10. A, C, D
- 11. A, C, D
- 12. A, C, D, E
- 13. A, C, D
- 14. A, C, D
- 15. A, C, D
- 16. A, C, D
- 17. A, C, D, E
- 18. A, C, D, E
- 19. A, C, D, E

- 20. A, C, D
- 21. A, C, D, E
- 22. A, C, D
- 23. A, C, D, E
- 24. A, C, D, E
- 25. A, C, D
- 26. A, C, D
- 27. A, C, D
- 28. A, C, D, E
- 29. A, C, D, E
- 30. A, C, D
- 31. A, C, D, E
- 32. A, C, D
- 33. A, C, D, E
- 34. A, C, D, E
- 35. A, C, D
- 36. A, C, D, E
- 37. A, C, D, E
- 38. A, C, D, E
- 39. A, C, D, E
- 40. A, C, D, E

What this task involves

Several text boxes appear in a jumbled order and you must arrange them into a single, logical paragraph. This task tests your understanding of cohesion and the structure of written English.

Format and timing

Each item has four or five boxes to be placed in the correct order. There are usually 2 to 3 of these tasks. In this book the boxes are labelled, and the correct order is given in the answer key.

Strategy tips

Find the topic sentence that can stand on its own as an opening. Then use linking words, pronouns, and references to earlier ideas to decide what follows. Read your final order through to check that it flows naturally.

Practice questions

1. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	Within a few decades, telephone lines had spread across many countries.
B	The invention of the telephone is usually credited to Alexander Graham Bell.
C	Today, the descendants of that early invention fit easily into a pocket.
D	He was granted a patent for the device in 1876.

2. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	Soon a small root pushes downwards and a shoot rises towards the light.
B	A seed begins its life buried in the soil.
C	In time, the young plant develops leaves and begins to make its own food.
D	When conditions are right, it absorbs water and begins to swell.

3. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	These hunting spiders rely on speed and keen senses rather than silk traps.
B	Many people assume that all spiders spin webs.
C	Their varied strategies show how diverse the spider family truly is.
D	In fact, a large number of species hunt their prey directly instead.

4. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	Next, the spices are stirred in to release their aroma.
B	The recipe begins by heating oil in a large pan.
C	Finally, the remaining ingredients are combined and left to simmer.
D	Once the oil is hot, the onions are added and cooked until soft.

5. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	Governments responded by agreeing to phase out these substances.
B	Scientists first detected the hole in the ozone layer in the 1980s.
C	As a result, the ozone layer has slowly begun to recover.
D	They traced the damage to chemicals used in everyday products.

6. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	Her dedication eventually earned her a place on the national team.
B	The young athlete had dreamed of competing since childhood.
C	At last she stood on the podium, a medal around her neck.
D	For years she trained every morning before school.

7. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	European traders later introduced it to the rest of the world.
B	Coffee was first cultivated in the highlands of Ethiopia.
C	Today it is one of the most widely consumed drinks on the planet.
D	From there, its use spread across the Arabian Peninsula.

8. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	The eruption then releases lava, ash, and gas into the air.
B	A volcano forms where molten rock rises towards the surface.
C	Over many such events, a towering cone gradually takes shape.
D	Pressure builds beneath the ground until it can no longer be contained.

9. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	The town therefore raised funds for a larger, modern building.
B	The library was once housed in a small, crowded building.
C	Visitors now enjoy bright reading rooms and thousands of new books.
D	As its collection grew, the old space became inadequate.

10. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	After gathering the data, they analysed the results carefully.
B	The experiment started with a clear and testable hypothesis.
C	Their findings, once published, prompted further studies by others.
D	The researchers then designed a procedure to test their idea.

11. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	The discovery of iron later transformed weapons and farming.
B	Early humans relied entirely on stone tools for survival.
C	Each new material marked a major step in human development.
D	Gradually they learned to work with copper and then bronze.

12. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	After a short rest, they continued along the steep mountain path.
B	The hikers set out early to make the most of the daylight.
C	As the sun set, they finally arrived, exhausted, at the summit hut.
D	By midday they had reached a clearing with a stunning view.

13. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	Encouraged by this success, they expanded into a larger factory.
B	The company began as a small workshop run by two friends.
C	Within a decade, the business had become a household name.
D	Their first product proved unexpectedly popular with customers.

14. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	At the meeting, the directors firmly denied any such plans.
B	A rumour about the factory closing spread quickly through the town.
C	Reassured, the employees returned to their work the next morning.
D	Worried workers demanded a meeting with the management.

15. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	The conductor raised his baton, and the first notes rang out.
B	The orchestra members took their places on the stage.
C	When the final chord faded, the hall erupted in applause.
D	A hush fell over the audience as the lights dimmed.

16. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	These waterways eventually transport it out to sea.
B	Plastic waste often begins its journey on land.
C	There it can persist for centuries, harming marine life.
D	Rain and wind carry it into rivers and drains.

17. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	After careful study, they confirmed its great historical value.
B	The ancient manuscript was discovered in a forgotten cellar.
C	It now takes pride of place in the national museum.
D	Experts were called in to examine the fragile pages.

18. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	When the diet is poor, however, health begins to suffer.
B	A healthy diet provides the body with essential nutrients.
C	For this reason, doctors stress the importance of eating well.
D	These nutrients fuel everyday activities and support growth.

19. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	As it cools, the vapour condenses to form clouds.
B	The first stage of the water cycle is evaporation.
C	Eventually the water returns to the ground as rain or snow.
D	Heated by the sun, water rises into the air as vapour.

20. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	By lunchtime she had already met most of the team.
B	The new employee felt nervous on her first day.
C	By the end of the week, she felt completely at home.
D	A friendly colleague offered to show her around the office.

21. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	Later, satellite systems provided pinpoint accuracy.
B	For centuries, sailors navigated using the stars.
C	Today, a small device can guide a ship anywhere on Earth.
D	The invention of the compass made their journeys safer.

22. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	The new owners spent the spring clearing and replanting.
B	The garden had been neglected for many years.
C	By summer, the garden was blooming once more.
D	Weeds had overrun the once-tidy flower beds.

23. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	Opposing views should be acknowledged and addressed.
B	A good argument begins with a clear central claim.
C	Finally, a strong conclusion ties the reasoning together.
D	This claim must then be supported with relevant evidence.

24. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	As the story unfolds, dark secrets are gradually revealed.
B	The film opens in a quiet, unremarkable village.
C	In the dramatic finale, the truth is finally brought to light.
D	A mysterious stranger soon arrives, unsettling the residents.

25. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	This dance tells the others where the flowers can be found.
B	Bees leave the hive in search of nectar.
C	Soon many bees set off towards the newly discovered source.
D	On returning, a successful forager performs a special dance.

26. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	Construction was then delayed by unexpectedly poor weather.
B	The bridge project faced many obstacles from the start.
C	Despite everything, the bridge finally opened to great celebration.
D	Funding was secured only after years of negotiation.

27. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	The processor carries out these instructions one by one.
B	A computer program is written in a programming language.
C	The result is the behaviour the programmer intended.
D	This human-readable code is then translated into instructions.

28. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	Once the results came back, a diagnosis was confirmed.
B	The patient arrived at the clinic complaining of pain.
C	A course of treatment was then prescribed without delay.
D	The doctor examined her and ordered several tests.

29. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	Under cover of darkness, many animals emerge to hunt.
B	The desert appears lifeless during the heat of the day.
C	By dawn they have retreated once more from the rising heat.
D	Yet as the sun sets, the temperature begins to drop.

30. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	After a long debate, a compromise was finally reached.
B	The committee gathered to discuss the proposed new park.
C	The plan was approved, with a slightly reduced budget.
D	Several members raised concerns about the cost.

31. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	Words and simple phrases soon follow.
B	Language begins with the sounds a baby hears around it.
C	In time, the child masters the grammar of the language.
D	Gradually the child learns to imitate these sounds.

32. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	New regulations eventually forced the factory to change.
B	The factory once dumped its waste directly into the river.
C	Within years, the river slowly returned to health.
D	Local people protested as fish populations declined.

33. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	Over the following months, the idea grew into a novel.
B	An idea for the story came to the writer in a dream.
C	When it was published, readers praised its originality.
D	She jotted down the details before they could fade.

34. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	On arrival, it began to orbit the distant planet.
B	The spacecraft was launched on a clear autumn morning.
C	The data it sent back transformed our understanding of the world.
D	It spent several months travelling through deep space.

35. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	The boy confided that he was struggling at home.
B	The teacher noticed that one pupil seemed withdrawn.
C	With her support, his confidence slowly returned.
D	She quietly asked whether anything was troubling him.

36. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	Strong winds can drive the fire across great distances.
B	A forest fire often starts from a single spark.
C	Only rain or determined firefighting can finally stop it.
D	Dry vegetation allows the flames to spread quickly.

37. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	On opening day, long queues formed outside the entrance.
B	The museum announced a major new exhibition.
C	Critics later hailed the show as the finest in years.
D	Tickets sold out within hours of going on sale.

38. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	Samples were sent to laboratories for detailed analysis.
B	A new species was spotted deep in the rainforest.
C	The discovery was eventually confirmed and given a name.
D	Researchers carefully documented its appearance and habits.

39. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	Local leaders worked hard to attract new industries.
B	The town relied heavily on a single coal mine for work.
C	Years later, the town had reinvented itself entirely.
D	When the mine closed, unemployment rose sharply.

40. Arrange the boxes into the correct order.

A	The plates were arranged to look as good as they tasted.
B	The chef began by selecting the freshest ingredients.
C	The diners, delighted, praised every course of the meal.
D	Each dish was then prepared with great precision.

Answer key (box order)

1. B - D - A - C
2. B - D - A - C
3. B - D - A - C
4. B - D - A - C
5. B - D - A - C
6. B - D - A - C
7. B - D - A - C
8. B - D - A - C
9. B - D - A - C
10. B - D - A - C
11. B - D - A - C
12. B - D - A - C
13. B - D - A - C
14. B - D - A - C
15. B - D - A - C
16. B - D - A - C
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26. B - D - A - C
27. B - D - A - C
28. B - D - A - C
29. B - D - A - C
30. B - D - A - C
31. B - D - A - C
32. B - D - A - C
33. B - D - A - C
34. B - D - A - C

- 35. B - D - A - C
- 36. B - D - A - C
- 37. B - D - A - C
- 38. B - D - A - C
- 39. B - D - A - C
- 40. B - D - A - C

What this task involves

You listen to a lecture and write a summary of it. This integrated task tests listening and writing.

Format and timing

The recording lasts up to 90 seconds. You then have 10 minutes to write a summary of 50 to 70 words. There are usually 1 to 2 of these tasks. A transcript and a model summary are provided here.

Strategy tips

Take notes of the main idea and key supporting points as you listen. Then write a clear summary that captures the central message, using your own words where possible. Check that you are within the 50 to 70 word range.

Practice questions

1. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

Today I want to talk about the concept of the carbon footprint. A carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases produced by our activities, such as driving, heating our homes, and the food we eat. By measuring it, individuals and organisations can identify where they have the greatest impact. Many are now taking steps to reduce their footprint, from using public transport to switching to renewable energy.

2. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

In this lecture we examine why some businesses fail. Research suggests that the most common reasons are poor cash flow management, a lack of genuine demand for the product, and weak leadership. Many entrepreneurs underestimate how much money they need to survive the early years. Understanding these pitfalls can help new business owners plan more carefully and improve their chances of long-term success.

3. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

I'd like to discuss the importance of biodiversity. Biodiversity refers to the variety of life in an ecosystem, and it makes that system more stable and resilient. When many species are present, the loss of one can often be absorbed. But as biodiversity declines, ecosystems become fragile. Protecting biodiversity is therefore essential, not only for nature but also for the food, water, and medicines that humans depend on.

4. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

Today's topic is the psychology of habit formation. Habits develop through a loop of cue, routine, and reward. A cue triggers a behaviour, the behaviour becomes routine, and a reward reinforces it. Once established, habits require little conscious effort. This is why bad habits are hard to break and good ones, once formed, can be powerful. Understanding the loop helps us change our behaviour deliberately.

5. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

Let's look at how sleep affects learning. During sleep, particularly deep sleep, the brain consolidates the information gathered during the day, transferring it from short-term to long-term memory. Studies show that students who sleep well after studying perform significantly better than those who stay awake. The lesson is clear: sleep is not wasted time but an essential part of the learning process.

6. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

I want to discuss the rise of remote working. The widespread availability of fast internet has allowed many people to work from home. This brings benefits such as flexibility and the elimination of commuting, but it also presents challenges, including isolation and difficulty separating work from personal life. Organisations are still learning how to support employees effectively in this new environment.

7. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

Today we'll consider the value of public libraries. Despite the rise of digital media, libraries remain important. They offer free access to books and the internet, provide quiet spaces for study, and host educational programmes. For people on low incomes, they can be a vital source of opportunity. Far from becoming obsolete, libraries are adapting to serve their communities in new ways.

8. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

Let's examine the effects of deforestation. Forests store huge amounts of carbon and provide habitats for countless species. When they are cleared, this carbon is released, accelerating climate change, while wildlife loses its home. Deforestation also disrupts water cycles and increases soil erosion. Protecting and restoring forests is one of the most effective ways to fight climate change.

9. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

I'd like to talk about the importance of clean water. Access to safe water is essential for health, yet millions of people still lack it. Contaminated water spreads disease and causes immense suffering, particularly among children. Investing in water infrastructure and protecting natural sources are among the most effective measures for improving public health worldwide.

10. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

Today's subject is the benefits of music education. Learning to play an instrument develops discipline, patience, and concentration. It also exercises memory and can improve mathematical ability. Beyond these cognitive benefits, music offers a powerful means of self-expression and brings people together. For these reasons, many educators argue that music should remain a core part of the school curriculum.

11. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

Let's discuss the concept of supply and demand. When a product is scarce but many people want it, its price tends to rise. When it is plentiful but few want it, the price falls. Markets constantly adjust as buyers and sellers respond to these signals. This simple relationship lies at the heart of economics and explains much about how prices are set.

12. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

I want to talk about renewable energy. Unlike fossil fuels, sources such as solar and wind are naturally replenished and produce little pollution. Their main drawback is that they depend on the weather, generating power only when the sun shines or the wind blows. Improvements in battery storage, however, are gradually overcoming this problem and making renewables more reliable.

13. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

Today we examine the impact of social media. These platforms allow rapid communication and give a voice to people who were previously unheard. At the same time, they can spread misinformation quickly and may harm mental health, particularly among the young. Society is still grappling with how to enjoy the benefits while limiting the harms.

14. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

Let's consider the process of evolution by natural selection. Within any population, individuals vary, and some variations make survival and reproduction more likely. Those advantageous traits are passed on to the next generation. Over very long periods, this process can lead to dramatic changes and even the emergence of new species. It is the central mechanism behind the diversity of life.

15. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

I'd like to discuss urbanisation. Around the world, people are moving from the countryside to cities in search of work, education, and better services. Cities offer many opportunities, but rapid growth can cause overcrowding, pollution, and pressure on housing and infrastructure. Managing this growth in a sustainable way is one of the great challenges of our time.

16. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

Today's topic is the importance of vaccines. A vaccine introduces a harmless part of a pathogen so that the immune system learns to recognise it. If the real disease later appears, the body can respond quickly and effectively. Through this mechanism, vaccines have prevented countless deaths and even eliminated some diseases entirely. They remain one of medicine's greatest achievements.

17. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

Let's look at the role of forests as carbon stores. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air and lock it away in their wood and in the soil. A healthy forest can store this carbon for centuries. This is why planting trees and protecting existing forests are seen as important tools in the effort to slow climate change.

18. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

I want to discuss the science of memory. Psychologists describe three stages: encoding, when we take in information; storage, when we keep it; and retrieval, when we recall it. Memory is not a perfect recording, however. Information can fade or become distorted over time. Techniques such as repetition and linking new facts to existing knowledge can improve how well we remember.

19. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

Today we'll consider the effects of exercise on the brain. Physical activity increases blood flow, delivering oxygen and nutrients, and stimulates chemicals that support the growth of new brain cells. Regular exercise is linked to better memory, sharper concentration, and a lower risk of cognitive decline in old age. The benefits of staying active are therefore mental as well as physical.

20. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

Let's examine the greenhouse effect. The sun warms the Earth, and some of this heat radiates back towards space. Certain gases in the atmosphere trap part of that heat, keeping the planet warm enough for life. The problem arises when human activity adds extra gases, intensifying the effect and causing global temperatures to rise beyond natural levels.

21. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

I'd like to talk about the benefits of reading fiction. Immersing ourselves in stories can increase empathy, as we imagine the thoughts and feelings of others. Reading also expands vocabulary, strengthens concentration, and offers relaxation. For these reasons, psychologists and educators encourage a habit of reading from an early age, believing it benefits both the mind and the emotions.

22. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

Today's subject is plate tectonics. The Earth's outer shell is divided into large plates that move slowly over the molten layer beneath. Where plates collide, mountains rise or one plate slides under another. Where they pull apart, new crust forms. This movement explains the distribution of earthquakes, volcanoes, and mountain ranges across the globe.

23. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

Let's discuss antibiotic resistance. The overuse of antibiotics in medicine and farming has allowed bacteria to evolve defences against them. As a result, infections that were once easily treated are becoming dangerous again. Health experts urge more careful use of these drugs and greater investment in new treatments to avoid returning to an era when common infections could be deadly.

24. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

I want to talk about the importance of soil. Soil supports the growth of plants, stores carbon, and filters water. Yet it is often taken for granted. Intensive farming and erosion are degrading soils around the world, threatening food production. Protecting and restoring healthy soil is therefore vital for both agriculture and the environment.

25. Listen and write a 50 to 70 word summary. (transcript below)

Today we examine the phenomenon of light pollution. Excessive artificial light at night not only hides the stars but also disrupts wildlife, interfering with the navigation and breeding of many animals. It can disturb human sleep as well. Researchers recommend using shielded lighting and reducing unnecessary illumination to lessen these surprising and harmful effects.

Model summaries

1. A carbon footprint is the total greenhouse gas produced by activities such as transport, heating, and food, and measuring it helps individuals and organisations identify their greatest impacts so that they can take steps to reduce it, for example by using public transport or renewable energy.
2. This lecture explains that businesses commonly fail because of poor cash-flow management, a lack of real demand, and weak leadership, with many entrepreneurs underestimating the money needed to survive early years, so understanding these pitfalls helps new owners plan carefully and improve their chances of long-term success.
3. Biodiversity, the variety of life in an ecosystem, makes that system more stable and resilient because the loss of one species can be absorbed, but declining biodiversity makes ecosystems fragile, so protecting it is essential both for nature and for the food, water, and medicines that humans depend on.
4. Habits form through a loop of cue, routine, and reward, in which a cue triggers a behaviour that becomes routine and is reinforced by a reward, and because established habits require little conscious effort, understanding this loop helps explain why habits are hard to break and how we can deliberately change our behaviour.
5. During sleep, especially deep sleep, the brain consolidates the day's information, moving it from short-term to long-term memory, and studies show students who sleep well after studying perform far better than those who stay awake, so sleep is not wasted time but an essential part of learning.

- 6.** The widespread availability of fast internet has enabled remote working, bringing benefits such as flexibility and no commuting but also challenges including isolation and difficulty separating work from personal life, and organisations are still learning how to support employees effectively in this new working environment.
- 7.** Despite the rise of digital media, public libraries remain important because they offer free access to books and the internet, quiet study spaces, and educational programmes, serving as a vital source of opportunity for low-income people, and rather than becoming obsolete they are adapting to serve their communities in new ways.
- 8.** Forests store large amounts of carbon and shelter countless species, so clearing them releases carbon and accelerates climate change while destroying wildlife habitats, disrupting water cycles, and increasing soil erosion, which is why protecting and restoring forests is one of the most effective ways to fight climate change.
- 9.** Access to clean water is essential for health, yet millions still lack it, and because contaminated water spreads disease and causes great suffering, especially among children, investing in water infrastructure and protecting natural sources are among the most effective measures for improving public health worldwide.
- 10.** Music education develops discipline, patience, and concentration, exercises memory, and can improve mathematical ability, while also offering a powerful means of self-expression that brings people together, which is why many educators argue that music should remain a core part of the school curriculum.
- 11.** Supply and demand describes how prices rise when a product is scarce but wanted and fall when it is plentiful but unwanted, with markets constantly adjusting as buyers and sellers respond to these signals, a simple relationship that lies at the heart of economics and explains much about how prices are set.
- 12.** Renewable sources such as solar and wind are naturally replenished and produce little pollution, unlike fossil fuels, but their main drawback is dependence on the weather, generating power only with sun or wind, although improvements in battery storage are gradually overcoming this problem and making renewables more reliable.
- 13.** Social media allows rapid communication and gives a voice to the previously unheard, but it can also spread misinformation quickly and may harm mental health, especially among the young, and society is still grappling with how to enjoy these benefits while limiting the harms.
- 14.** Evolution by natural selection occurs because individuals in a population vary, and traits that aid survival and reproduction are passed on to the next generation, so over long periods this process can lead to dramatic changes and even new species, making it the central mechanism behind the diversity of life.
- 15.** Urbanisation, the movement of people from the countryside to cities in search of work, education, and services, brings many opportunities, but rapid growth can cause overcrowding, pollution, and pressure on housing and infrastructure, making the sustainable management of this growth one of the great challenges of our time.
- 16.** Vaccines work by introducing a harmless part of a pathogen so the immune system learns to recognise it and can respond quickly if the real disease appears, a mechanism that has prevented countless deaths and even eliminated some diseases, making vaccines one of medicine's greatest achievements.
- 17.** Forests act as carbon stores because trees absorb carbon dioxide and lock it away in their wood and soil, with a healthy forest storing it for centuries, which is why planting trees and protecting existing forests are seen as important tools in the effort to slow climate change.
- 18.** Memory involves three stages, encoding, storage, and retrieval, but it is not a perfect recording, since information can fade or become distorted over time, so techniques such as repetition and linking new facts to existing knowledge can improve how well we remember.
- 19.** Exercise benefits the brain by increasing blood flow that delivers oxygen and nutrients and by stimulating chemicals that support new brain cells, and because regular activity is linked to better memory, sharper concentration, and lower risk of cognitive decline in old age, its benefits are mental as well as physical.
- 20.** In the greenhouse effect, the sun warms the Earth and some heat radiates back, but certain atmospheric gases trap part of it, keeping the planet warm enough for life, and the problem arises when human activity adds extra gases, intensifying the effect and causing global temperatures to rise beyond natural levels.
- 21.** Reading fiction can increase empathy by helping us imagine others' thoughts and feelings, while also expanding vocabulary, strengthening concentration, and offering relaxation, which is why psychologists and educators encourage an early reading habit, believing it benefits both the mind and the emotions.

22. Plate tectonics describes how the Earth's outer shell is divided into large plates moving slowly over the molten layer beneath, with collisions forming mountains or causing subduction and separations creating new crust, a movement that explains the global distribution of earthquakes, volcanoes, and mountain ranges.

23. Antibiotic resistance has developed because overuse in medicine and farming has allowed bacteria to evolve defences, making once-treatable infections dangerous again, so health experts urge more careful use of these drugs and greater investment in new treatments to avoid an era when common infections could be deadly.

24. Soil is vital because it supports plant growth, stores carbon, and filters water, yet it is often taken for granted, and because intensive farming and erosion are degrading soils worldwide and threatening food production, protecting and restoring healthy soil is essential for both agriculture and the environment.

25. Light pollution from excessive artificial light at night not only hides the stars but also disrupts wildlife by interfering with animals' navigation and breeding and can disturb human sleep, so researchers recommend using shielded lighting and reducing unnecessary illumination to lessen these surprising and harmful effects.

What this task involves

You listen to a recording and answer a multiple-choice question by selecting the single best option. This task tests listening comprehension.

Format and timing

Each recording is followed by one question with several options, only one of which is correct. There are usually 1 to 2 of these tasks. Transcripts are provided here, with answer keys at the end of the section.

Strategy tips

Read the question and options before the recording begins so you know what to listen for. Listen for the overall meaning rather than individual words, as the correct option often paraphrases what you hear.

Practice questions

1. Transcript:

Good morning everyone. Before we begin today's lecture, I want to remind you that the deadline for your research proposals has been moved forward to the fifteenth of the month. This is because the review committee needs additional time to provide feedback before the end of term. Please make sure your proposals are submitted through the online portal, not by email.

Q: Why has the proposal deadline been moved forward?

- (A) The portal is closing
- (B) The committee needs more time to give feedback
- (C) Students requested it
- (D) The term has been shortened

2. Transcript:

In today's session we'll focus on the water cycle. Many students think of it as a simple loop, but it's actually driven by the sun's energy. Without solar radiation, water would not evaporate, clouds would not form, and rain would not fall. So when we study the water cycle, we are really studying how the sun's energy moves water around the planet.

Q: According to the speaker, what drives the water cycle?

- (A) The wind
- (B) The sun's energy
- (C) Ocean currents
- (D) Gravity alone

3. Transcript:

I'd like to talk about the history of the bicycle. The earliest versions, developed in the nineteenth century, had no pedals at all. Riders simply pushed themselves along with their feet. It was only later that pedals were added, first to the front wheel and eventually to a chain driving the rear wheel, much as we see today.

Q: What is true of the earliest bicycles?

- (A) They had pedals on the rear wheel
- (B) They had no pedals at all
- (C) They used a chain
- (D) They were powered by steam

4. Transcript:

Now, a common misconception is that the Great Wall of China is a single continuous structure. In fact, it is made up of many separate walls built by different dynasties over many centuries. Some sections even run parallel to one another. Much of what visitors see today dates from the Ming dynasty, a relatively late period in its long history.

Q: What does the speaker say about the Great Wall?

- (A) It is one continuous wall
- (B) It was built in a single dynasty
- (C) It consists of many separate walls
- (D) It was built mainly by tourists

5. Transcript:

Today I'll discuss why we forget. Forgetting is often seen as a failure of the brain, but researchers increasingly view it as useful. By discarding unimportant details, the brain frees up capacity and helps us focus on what matters. In this view, forgetting is not simply a flaw but an active and beneficial process.

Q: How does the speaker describe forgetting?

- (A) As entirely harmful
- (B) As a useful and active process
- (C) As impossible to study
- (D) As a sign of illness

6. Transcript:

Let me say a few words about the field trip next week. We will leave from the main entrance at eight in the morning sharp. The bus will not wait for latecomers, so please arrive early. Remember to bring suitable footwear, as we will be walking over rough ground for much of the day.

Q: What are students specifically asked to bring?

- (A) A packed lunch
- (B) Suitable footwear
- (C) A camera
- (D) Their textbooks

7. Transcript:

In economics, we often talk about opportunity cost. This is the value of the next best alternative that you give up when you make a choice. For example, if you spend an evening studying, the opportunity cost might be the enjoyment of seeing friends. Recognising opportunity cost helps us make more rational decisions.

Q: What is opportunity cost?

- (A) The money spent on a purchase
- (B) The value of the best alternative given up
- (C) The total cost of a project
- (D) A type of tax

8. Transcript:

Today's lecture concerns the migration of monarch butterflies. These insects travel thousands of kilometres each year, yet no single butterfly completes the entire journey. Instead, the migration spans several generations, with each generation flying part of the way. How they navigate so accurately remains one of nature's great mysteries.

Q: What is remarkable about the monarch butterfly migration?

- (A) One butterfly makes the whole trip
- (B) It spans several generations
- (C) They never return
- (D) They fly only at night

9. Transcript:

I want to address a question I'm often asked: does money make people happy? The research suggests that, up to a point, it does. Having enough to meet basic needs and avoid financial stress matters greatly. Beyond that level, however, additional income brings surprisingly little extra happiness.

Q: What does the research suggest about money and happiness?

- (A) Money never affects happiness
- (B) Money matters only up to a point
- (C) More money always means more happiness
- (D) Poverty increases happiness

10. Transcript:

Let's consider the design of medieval castles. Their thick stone walls were built to withstand attack, and their high towers gave defenders a clear view of approaching enemies. Many castles were also surrounded by a moat, a deep ditch often filled with water, to make it harder for attackers to reach the walls.

Q: What was the purpose of a moat?

- (A) To store drinking water
- (B) To make it harder for attackers to reach the walls
- (C) To provide fish for food
- (D) To mark the castle boundary

11. Transcript:

Today I'll talk briefly about coral bleaching. When sea temperatures rise too high, corals expel the colourful algae that live within them and provide most of their food. Without these algae, the coral turns white and, if the stress continues, may eventually die. This is why even small increases in ocean temperature are so concerning.

Q: What causes coral bleaching according to the speaker?

- (A) Lack of sunlight
- (B) Rising sea temperatures
- (C) Too many fish
- (D) Heavy rainfall

12. Transcript:

A quick announcement about the library. Starting next week, the opening hours will be extended during the examination period. The library will remain open until midnight on weekdays. However, the group study rooms must still be booked in advance through the website, as demand is always very high at this time of year.

Q: What change to the library is being announced?

- (A) It will close earlier
- (B) Opening hours will be extended
- (C) Study rooms no longer need booking
- (D) It will close on weekdays

13. Transcript:

In this lecture we examine the origins of agriculture. The shift from hunting and gathering to farming, which began thousands of years ago, was one of the most significant changes in human history. It allowed people to settle in one place, store food, and support larger populations, paving the way for the rise of cities and civilisations.

Q: What did the shift to farming make possible?

- (A) Constant migration
- (B) Settlement and larger populations
- (C) The end of all hunting
- (D) Smaller communities

14. Transcript:

Let me describe how a suspension bridge works. The weight of the bridge deck is supported by cables that hang from tall towers. These cables transfer the load down through the towers and into the ground. This clever design allows suspension bridges to span much greater distances than would otherwise be possible.

Q: What allows suspension bridges to span great distances?

- (A) Solid stone arches
- (B) Cables that transfer the load to the towers
- (C) Floating platforms
- (D) Steel beams alone

15. Transcript:

Today's topic is the human sense of taste. For a long time it was thought that we could detect only four basic tastes: sweet, sour, salty, and bitter. More recently, scientists have recognised a fifth, called umami, which is the savoury taste associated with foods such as meat and cheese.

Q: What is the fifth taste mentioned by the speaker?

- (A) Spicy
- (B) Umami
- (C) Minty
- (D) Metallic

16. Transcript:

I'd like to discuss the concept of keystone species. A keystone species is one that has a disproportionately large effect on its ecosystem relative to its abundance. If it is removed, the entire ecosystem can change dramatically. Predators such as wolves are often cited as examples, since they control the populations of other animals.

Q: What defines a keystone species?

- (A) It is the most abundant species
- (B) It has a large effect relative to its abundance
- (C) It lives the longest
- (D) It is always a plant

17. Transcript:

Now, regarding the upcoming exam, I want to clarify the format. There will be two sections. The first consists of short-answer questions worth forty percent of the marks. The second is a single essay worth the remaining sixty percent. You will have three hours in total, and no notes are permitted.

Q: How is the exam weighted?

- (A) Equal halves
- (B) Short answers 40%, essay 60%
- (C) Short answers 60%, essay 40%
- (D) Essay only

18. Transcript:

Let's look at the phenomenon of echolocation. Some animals, such as bats and dolphins, produce sounds and then listen to the echoes that bounce back. By interpreting these echoes, they can determine the location, size, and even the texture of objects around them. It is a remarkable adaptation for navigating and hunting in darkness or murky water.

Q: How do animals use echolocation?

- (A) By smelling their surroundings
- (B) By interpreting echoes of sounds they produce
- (C) By following light
- (D) By tasting the water

19. Transcript:

Today I want to explain inflation. Inflation is the general rise in prices over time, which reduces the purchasing power of money. A moderate level is usually considered healthy for an economy, but if inflation rises too quickly, it can erode savings and create uncertainty. Central banks therefore try to keep it within a target range.

Q: What does inflation do to the purchasing power of money?

- (A) Increases it
- (B) Reduces it
- (C) Has no effect
- (D) Doubles it

20. Transcript:

I'll now turn to the topic of renewable energy storage. The main challenge with solar and wind power is that they are intermittent. Batteries can store surplus energy for later use, but on a large scale this remains expensive. Some engineers are exploring alternatives, such as pumping water uphill when energy is plentiful and releasing it to generate power when needed.

Q: What alternative storage method does the speaker mention?

- (A) Burning coal
- (B) Pumping water uphill and releasing it
- (C) Storing energy in sunlight
- (D) Using more solar panels

21. Transcript:

Let me say something about note-taking. Research shows that writing notes by hand, rather than typing them, often leads to better understanding. This may be because handwriting is slower, forcing students to summarise ideas in their own words rather than copying them word for word. The act of summarising deepens learning.

Q: Why might handwritten notes aid understanding?

- (A) They are faster to write
- (B) They force students to summarise ideas
- (C) They look neater
- (D) They can be typed later

22. Transcript:

Today's subject is the immune system's memory. After fighting off an infection, the immune system keeps a record of the invader. If the same pathogen returns, the body can respond much faster and prevent illness. This is the principle behind vaccination, which trains the immune system without causing the disease itself.

Q: What principle of the immune system does vaccination rely on?

- (A) Its ability to forget infections
- (B) Its memory of past invaders
- (C) Its production of heat
- (D) Its physical barriers

23. Transcript:

I want to discuss the urban heat island effect. Cities tend to be warmer than the surrounding countryside because buildings and roads absorb and retain heat, while there is little vegetation to provide cooling. This effect can make heatwaves in cities especially dangerous, which is why planners are increasingly adding parks and green roofs.

Q: Why are cities often warmer than the countryside?

- (A) They are closer to the sun
- (B) Buildings and roads absorb heat and there is little vegetation
- (C) They have more rivers
- (D) They are at higher altitudes

24. Transcript:

Let's examine the role of sleep in athletic performance. Athletes who get sufficient sleep show faster reaction times, better accuracy, and quicker recovery from training. Lack of sleep, on the other hand, increases the risk of injury and impairs decision-making. For this reason, many professional teams now treat sleep as seriously as training and diet.

Q: How do many professional teams now regard sleep?

- (A) As unimportant
- (B) As seriously as training and diet
- (C) As a sign of laziness
- (D) As optional for athletes

25. Transcript:

Today I'll talk about the discovery of penicillin. In 1928, Alexander Fleming returned to his laboratory and noticed that a mould had contaminated one of his dishes. Around the mould, the bacteria had died. This chance observation led to the development of antibiotics, one of the most important advances in the history of medicine.

Q: How was penicillin discovered?

- (A) Through a planned experiment
- (B) By a chance observation of mould
- (C) By studying other scientists' work
- (D) Through a computer model

26. Transcript:

Let me explain the concept of a balanced ecosystem. In a balanced ecosystem, the populations of predators and prey remain relatively stable over time. If predators become too numerous, they reduce the prey population, which in turn limits the predators. This natural feedback helps keep the system in balance, although human interference can easily upset it.

Q: What keeps a balanced ecosystem stable?

- (A) Constant human management
- (B) Natural feedback between predators and prey
- (C) The absence of predators
- (D) A lack of plants

27. Transcript:

I'd like to talk about how languages change over time. No language stays the same. New words are coined, old ones fall out of use, and pronunciation gradually shifts. This is a natural process driven by the way people actually speak. Attempts to freeze a language in place have rarely succeeded for long.

Q: What does the speaker say about language change?

- (A) Languages never change
- (B) It is a natural and ongoing process
- (C) Only governments can change a language
- (D) Change always harms a language

28. Transcript:

Today's lecture concerns the function of sleep stages. Sleep is not uniform; it cycles through several stages, including light sleep, deep sleep, and the dreaming stage known as REM. Deep sleep is thought to be important for physical recovery, while REM sleep appears to play a role in processing emotions and consolidating certain memories.

Q: What is deep sleep thought to be important for?

- (A) Processing emotions
- (B) Physical recovery
- (C) Dreaming
- (D) Waking up

29. Transcript:

Let me describe the process of photosynthesis briefly. Plants use a green pigment called chlorophyll to capture sunlight. They then combine carbon dioxide from the air with water from the soil to produce sugar, which provides energy. Oxygen is released as a by-product. Without this process, most life on Earth could not exist.

Q: What is released as a by-product of photosynthesis?

- (A) Carbon dioxide
- (B) Oxygen
- (C) Nitrogen
- (D) Water vapour

30. Transcript:

I want to address the importance of biodiversity hotspots. These are regions that contain an exceptionally high number of species, many of which are found nowhere else. Because they are so rich yet often under threat, conservationists argue that protecting these hotspots offers one of the most efficient ways to preserve global biodiversity.

Q: Why do conservationists focus on biodiversity hotspots?

- (A) They are easy to reach
- (B) Protecting them efficiently preserves many species
- (C) They contain no rare species
- (D) They are not under threat

Answer key

1. B

- 2. B
- 3. B
- 4. C
- 5. B
- 6. B
- 7. B
- 8. B
- 9. B
- 10. B
- 11. B
- 12. B
- 13. B
- 14. B
- 15. B
- 16. B
- 17. B
- 18. B
- 19. B
- 20. B
- 21. B
- 22. B
- 23. B
- 24. B
- 25. B
- 26. B
- 27. B
- 28. B
- 29. B
- 30. B

What this task involves

You listen to a recording and select all the correct options. This task tests detailed listening comprehension.

Format and timing

Each recording is followed by one question with several options, more than one of which is correct. Incorrect choices can lose marks. Transcripts are provided, with answer keys at the end of the section.

Strategy tips

Note the key points as you listen. Select only the options that are clearly supported by the recording. Because wrong answers can reduce your score, avoid guessing and choose only what you are confident about.

Practice questions

1. Transcript:

In today's talk I'll outline the main causes of soil erosion. The most significant are the removal of vegetation, which leaves soil exposed; overgrazing by livestock, which strips the land bare; and poor farming practices, such as ploughing up and down slopes. Heavy rainfall and strong winds then carry the loosened soil away. Planting trees and rotating crops can help prevent this.

Q: Which causes of soil erosion does the speaker mention?

- (A) Removal of vegetation
- (B) Crop rotation
- (C) Overgrazing
- (D) Poor farming practices
- (E) Planting trees

2. Transcript:

Let me describe the benefits of a plant-rich diet. Eating plenty of vegetables, fruits, and whole grains provides fibre, which aids digestion. These foods are also rich in vitamins and antioxidants that support the immune system. A plant-rich diet is generally lower in saturated fat, which benefits heart health. It tends to have a smaller environmental footprint as well.

Q: Which benefits of a plant-rich diet does the speaker mention?

- (A) More fibre for digestion
- (B) Higher saturated fat
- (C) Vitamins and antioxidants
- (D) Better heart health
- (E) Smaller environmental footprint

3. Transcript:

Today I want to discuss what makes a city liveable. Reliable public transport is essential, as is access to green spaces where residents can relax. Affordable housing matters greatly, and so does personal safety. Good schools and healthcare complete the picture. Cities that neglect any of these tend to see their residents' quality of life decline.

Q: Which features of a liveable city does the speaker mention?

- (A) Reliable public transport
- (B) High pollution
- (C) Access to green spaces
- (D) Affordable housing
- (E) Personal safety

4. Transcript:

Let's look at the challenges facing coral reefs. Warming oceans cause bleaching, and acidification weakens coral skeletons. Pollution from the land smothers reefs, and destructive fishing methods cause direct physical damage. These pressures often act together, making recovery especially difficult. Reducing carbon emissions is the single most important step we can take.

Q: Which threats to coral reefs are mentioned?

- (A) Warming oceans
- (B) Reduced carbon emissions
- (C) Ocean acidification
- (D) Pollution from the land
- (E) Destructive fishing

5. Transcript:

I'll now describe the qualities of a good research question. It should be clear, so that its meaning is obvious. It should be focused, addressing a specific issue rather than a vast topic. It must be researchable, meaning evidence can actually be gathered. And ideally it should be original, contributing something new to the field.

Q: Which qualities of a good research question are mentioned?

- (A) Clear
- (B) Vague
- (C) Focused
- (D) Researchable
- (E) Original

6. Transcript:

Today's session concerns the effects of regular exercise. Physically, it strengthens the heart and helps control weight. Mentally, it reduces stress and improves mood by releasing certain chemicals in the brain. It also tends to improve the quality of sleep. The main barrier, for many people, is simply finding the time and motivation.

Q: Which effects of exercise does the speaker mention?

- (A) A stronger heart
- (B) Increased stress
- (C) Better mood
- (D) Improved sleep
- (E) Weight control

7. Transcript:

Let me outline why bees are so important. They pollinate a huge proportion of the crops we eat, supporting global food supplies. They also pollinate wild plants, maintaining natural ecosystems. The honey and wax they produce have economic value too. Their decline, driven by pesticides and habitat loss, is therefore a serious concern.

Q: Which points about bees does the speaker make?

- (A) They pollinate food crops
- (B) They harm ecosystems
- (C) They pollinate wild plants
- (D) They produce honey and wax
- (E) Their decline is a concern

8. Transcript:

I want to discuss effective revision strategies. Spreading study over many days works far better than cramming. Testing yourself strengthens memory more than rereading. Explaining ideas in your own words deepens understanding. And taking regular short breaks helps maintain concentration. Combining these methods produces the best results.

Q: Which revision strategies does the speaker recommend?

- (A) Spacing study over days
- (B) Cramming the night before
- (C) Self-testing
- (D) Explaining ideas in your own words
- (E) Taking regular breaks

9. Transcript:

Today I'll describe the impacts of tourism on a local area. On the positive side, it creates jobs and brings income to local businesses. On the negative side, large crowds can cause pollution, damage natural sites, and drive up housing costs for residents. Sustainable tourism aims to keep the benefits while limiting these harms.

Q: Which negative impacts of tourism are mentioned?

- (A) Pollution
- (B) Job creation
- (C) Damage to natural sites
- (D) Higher housing costs
- (E) More income for businesses

10. Transcript:

Let me explain the features of a strong essay. It opens with a clear thesis that states the main argument. Each paragraph develops a single point supported by evidence. The ideas flow logically from one to the next. And it closes with a conclusion that draws the argument together rather than introducing new material.

Q: Which features of a strong essay are mentioned?

- (A) A clear thesis
- (B) Random ordering of ideas
- (C) One point per paragraph
- (D) Logical flow
- (E) A conclusion that introduces new ideas

11. Transcript:

I'll outline the benefits of urban trees. They provide shade that cools the streets in summer. Their leaves filter pollutants from the air. They reduce noise from traffic and provide homes for birds and insects. Studies even link tree-lined streets with higher property values. For all these reasons, cities are planting more trees.

Q: Which benefits of urban trees are mentioned?

- (A) Providing shade
- (B) Raising air pollution
- (C) Filtering pollutants
- (D) Reducing noise
- (E) Raising property values

12. Transcript:

Today's topic is the digital divide. This refers to the gap between those who have good access to digital technology and those who do not. The divide can follow lines of income, age, and geography. Those without access may struggle to find work, access services, or take part in education, deepening existing inequalities.

Q: Along which lines can the digital divide follow, according to the speaker?

- (A) Income
- (B) Eye colour
- (C) Age
- (D) Geography
- (E) Height

13. Transcript:

Let me describe the stages of the design process. First, designers research the needs of users. Next, they generate many possible ideas. They then build prototypes to test the most promising ones. Finally, they gather feedback and refine the design. Skipping the testing stage often leads to costly mistakes later.

Q: Which stages of the design process are mentioned?

- (A) Researching user needs
- (B) Generating ideas
- (C) Building prototypes
- (D) Ignoring feedback
- (E) Refining the design

14. Transcript:

I'll now discuss the causes of traffic congestion. A rising number of private cars is the most obvious factor. Poor road design and inadequate public transport make matters worse. Accidents and roadworks cause temporary jams. Some cities also suffer because too many journeys happen at the same peak times. Better planning can ease all of these.

Q: Which causes of congestion does the speaker mention?

- (A) More private cars
- (B) Excellent public transport
- (C) Poor road design
- (D) Accidents and roadworks
- (E) Concentrated peak-time travel

15. Transcript:

Today I want to highlight the value of sleep. It allows the body to repair tissues and the brain to consolidate memories. It regulates hormones that control appetite and mood. It strengthens the immune system. People who consistently lack sleep face higher risks of several health problems. Yet sleep is often the first thing people sacrifice.

Q: Which functions of sleep are mentioned?

- (A) Repairing tissues
- (B) Consolidating memories
- (C) Weakening immunity
- (D) Regulating hormones
- (E) Strengthening the immune system

16. Transcript:

Let me outline the advantages of learning a musical instrument. It develops patience and discipline through regular practice. It exercises memory and coordination. It offers a creative outlet and a means of self-expression. And playing with others builds teamwork and social bonds. These benefits extend well beyond music itself.

Q: Which advantages of learning an instrument are mentioned?

- (A) Patience and discipline
- (B) Worse memory
- (C) Memory and coordination
- (D) Self-expression
- (E) Teamwork

17. Transcript:

I'll describe the threats facing freshwater supplies. Pollution from industry and agriculture contaminates rivers and lakes. Over-extraction for irrigation lowers water tables. Climate change alters rainfall patterns, causing droughts in some regions. And growing populations simply demand more water. Together these pressures make water security a pressing global issue.

Q: Which threats to freshwater are mentioned?

- (A) Pollution
- (B) Falling demand
- (C) Over-extraction
- (D) Climate change
- (E) Growing populations

18. Transcript:

Today I'll talk about effective teamwork. Teams perform best when roles are clearly defined and members trust one another. Open communication prevents misunderstandings, and shared goals keep everyone aligned. Celebrating small successes maintains motivation. Without these, even talented groups can struggle to achieve their potential.

Q: Which elements of effective teamwork are mentioned?

- (A) Clearly defined roles
- (B) Mutual distrust
- (C) Open communication
- (D) Shared goals
- (E) Celebrating successes

19. Transcript:

Let me discuss the impact of light on plant growth. Plants need light for photosynthesis, but the amount and type of light matter. Too little light slows growth, while the right intensity promotes strong, healthy plants. The colour of light also has effects, with blue light encouraging leafy growth and red light supporting flowering.

Q: Which points about light and plants does the speaker make?

- (A) Light is needed for photosynthesis
- (B) Light never affects growth
- (C) Too little light slows growth
- (D) Blue light encourages leafy growth
- (E) Red light supports flowering

20. Transcript:

I want to outline the reasons people volunteer. Many do so to help others and contribute to their community. Some seek to gain new skills or experience. Others value the social connections it brings. And for many, volunteering provides a strong sense of purpose. Whatever the reason, both volunteers and communities benefit.

Q: Which reasons for volunteering are mentioned?

- (A) Helping others
- (B) Avoiding all people
- (C) Gaining skills
- (D) Social connections
- (E) A sense of purpose

21. Transcript:

Today I'll describe what makes a good presentation. The content should be well organised, with a clear beginning, middle, and end. Visual aids should support the message, not distract from it. The speaker should make eye contact and vary their tone. And keeping to time shows respect for the audience.

Q: Which features of a good presentation are mentioned?

- (A) Clear organisation
- (B) Distracting visuals
- (C) Supportive visual aids
- (D) Eye contact and varied tone
- (E) Keeping to time

22. Transcript:

Let me discuss the benefits of green roofs. They absorb rainwater, reducing the risk of flooding. They provide insulation, lowering heating and cooling costs. They create habitats for wildlife in the city. And they help cool the surrounding air, easing the urban heat island effect. Their main drawback is the cost of installation.

Q: Which benefits of green roofs are mentioned?

- (A) Absorbing rainwater
- (B) Raising flood risk
- (C) Providing insulation
- (D) Creating wildlife habitats
- (E) Cooling the air

23. Transcript:

I'll now outline the factors that influence climate. The amount of solar energy a region receives is fundamental, and this varies with latitude. Proximity to the ocean moderates temperatures. Altitude affects how cold a place is, and mountain ranges can block or channel weather systems. Together these factors shape the climate of any location.

Q: Which factors influencing climate are mentioned?

- (A) Latitude
- (B) Population size
- (C) Proximity to the ocean
- (D) Altitude
- (E) Mountain ranges

24. Transcript:

Today's topic is reducing household waste. Buying only what we need cuts waste at the source. Reusing containers and repairing items extends their life. Composting food scraps returns nutrients to the soil. And recycling, when done correctly, keeps materials in use. Small changes by many households add up to a large effect.

Q: Which waste-reduction methods are mentioned?

- (A) Buying only what is needed
- (B) Buying in excess
- (C) Reusing and repairing
- (D) Composting food scraps
- (E) Recycling correctly

25. Transcript:

Let me describe the qualities of a good mentor. A good mentor listens carefully and offers honest, constructive feedback. They share their experience without imposing their views. They encourage the mentee to think independently. And they remain patient, recognising that growth takes time. Such mentors can have a lasting influence on those they guide.

Q: Which qualities of a good mentor are mentioned?

- (A) Listening carefully
- (B) Imposing their views
- (C) Constructive feedback
- (D) Encouraging independent thinking
- (E) Patience

Answer key

- 1. A, C, D
- 2. A, C, D, E
- 3. A, C, D, E
- 4. A, C, D, E
- 5. A, C, D, E
- 6. A, C, D, E
- 7. A, C, D, E
- 8. A, C, D, E
- 9. A, C, D
- 10. A, C, D
- 11. A, C, D, E
- 12. A, C, D
- 13. A, B, C, E
- 14. A, C, D, E
- 15. A, B, D, E
- 16. A, C, D, E
- 17. A, C, D, E
- 18. A, C, D, E
- 19. A, C, D, E
- 20. A, C, D, E
- 21. A, C, D, E
- 22. A, C, D, E
- 23. A, C, D, E
- 24. A, C, D, E
- 25. A, C, D, E

What this task involves

A transcript of a recording appears with several blanks, and you type the missing words as you hear them. This task tests listening and writing.

Format and timing

The recording is played once while you read the transcript and fill the gaps. There are usually 2 to 3 of these tasks. The transcript with blanks is shown here, and the answers follow each item.

Strategy tips

Keep your eyes on the upcoming blanks as you listen so you are ready for each missing word. Spelling matters, so write carefully. If you miss a word, do not dwell on it; stay with the recording for the next blank.

Practice questions

1. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The lecture will begin with a brief (1) _____ of the main concepts before moving on to a more (2) _____ discussion of recent (3) _____.

2. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

Students are (1) _____ to complete the reading before the (2) _____, as the session will (3) _____ heavily on the assigned material.

3. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The experiment was designed to (1) _____ the effect of temperature on the (2) _____ of the reaction, and the results were carefully (3) _____.

4. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

Climate scientists have (1) _____ a steady increase in global temperatures, a trend that is widely (2) _____ to human (3) _____.

5. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The new policy aims to (1) _____ traffic in the city centre by (2) _____ the use of public transport and (3) _____ cycling.

6. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

Researchers found a strong (1) _____ between exercise and improved mental health, although they cautioned that further (2) _____ would be (3) _____.

7. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The committee will (1) _____ the proposal next week and is expected to (2) _____ its decision before the end of the (3) _____.

8. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

Effective communication (1) _____ both speaking clearly and (2) _____ carefully to what others have to (3) _____.

9. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The museum has (1) _____ a remarkable collection of artefacts that (2) _____ thousands of years of human (3) _____.

10. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The professor (1) _____ that students think (2) _____ about the evidence rather than simply (3) _____ the conclusions presented.

11. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The decline in bee populations has (1) _____ concern among scientists, who (2) _____ it to pesticides and the (3) _____ of natural habitats.

12. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The bridge was (1) _____ to withstand earthquakes, an innovation that proved (2) _____ when a major tremor (3) _____ the region.

13. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

Regular reading from an early age is strongly (1) _____ with later academic (2) _____, according to a number of (3) _____ studies.

14. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The factory has (1) _____ its emissions significantly and now (2) _____ strict environmental (3) _____.

15. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The research team (1) _____ their findings at an international conference, where they (2) _____ considerable (3) _____.

16. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

Good time management can (1) _____ both productivity and well-being by helping people (2) _____ tasks and (3) _____ burnout.

17. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The ancient city was (1) _____ beneath layers of sand for centuries before being (2) _____ by a team of (3) _____.

18. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The new treatment has shown (1) _____ results in early trials, although doctors (2) _____ that more (3) _____ is required.

19. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

Renewable energy is becoming increasingly (1) _____ as its costs continue to (2) _____ and storage technology continues to (3) _____.

20. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The lecturer (1) _____ a complex topic into simple parts so that students could (2) _____ it more (3) _____.

21. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The survey (1) _____ responses from over two thousand participants and (2) _____ valuable (3) _____ into consumer behaviour.

22. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The expedition was (1) _____ by severe weather, forcing the team to (2) _____ their plans and (3) _____ the climb.

23. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The report (1) _____ several recommendations aimed at (2) _____ efficiency and (3) _____ waste across the organisation.

24. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

Volunteers played a (1) _____ role in the relief effort, (2) _____ food and shelter to those (3) _____ by the disaster.

25. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The author (1) _____ a vivid picture of village life, drawing on her own (2) _____ and extensive (3) _____.

26. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The disease spreads (1) _____ in crowded conditions, so officials urged people to (2) _____ good hygiene and (3) _____ close contact.

27. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The orchestra (1) _____ a flawless performance, and the audience (2) _____ to its feet to (3) _____ the musicians.

28. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The new software is highly (1) _____, allowing even beginners to (2) _____ complex tasks with (3) _____.

29. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The charity has (1) _____ funds to build schools in remote areas, giving thousands of children (2) _____ to an (3) _____.

30. Fill the blanks as you listen. (transcript below)

The findings (1) _____ doubt on a long-held assumption and (2) _____ researchers to (3) _____ the original theory.

Answer key

1. (1) overview, (2) detailed, (3) research

2. (1) expected, (2) seminar, (3) rely
3. (1) measure, (2) rate, (3) recorded
4. (1) observed, (2) attributed, (3) activity
5. (1) reduce, (2) encouraging, (3) promoting
6. (1) link, (2) study, (3) needed
7. (1) review, (2) announce, (3) month
8. (1) requires, (2) listening, (3) say
9. (1) acquired, (2) span, (3) history
10. (1) emphasised, (2) critically, (3) accepting
11. (1) raised, (2) attribute, (3) loss
12. (1) engineered, (2) crucial, (3) struck
13. (1) associated, (2) success, (3) recent
14. (1) reduced, (2) meets, (3) standards
15. (1) presented, (2) attracted, (3) interest
16. (1) improve, (2) prioritise, (3) avoid
17. (1) buried, (2) uncovered, (3) archaeologists
18. (1) promising, (2) caution, (3) testing
19. (1) competitive, (2) fall, (3) improve
20. (1) broke, (2) understand, (3) easily
21. (1) collected, (2) provided, (3) insight
22. (1) hampered, (2) revise, (3) postpone
23. (1) outlines, (2) improving, (3) reducing
24. (1) crucial, (2) providing, (3) affected
25. (1) paints, (2) experience, (3) research
26. (1) rapidly, (2) practise, (3) avoid
27. (1) delivered, (2) rose, (3) applaud
28. (1) intuitive, (2) complete, (3) ease
29. (1) raised, (2) access, (3) education
30. (1) cast, (2) prompted, (3) reconsider

What this task involves

You listen to a recording and then choose the summary that best matches it from several options. This task tests listening and reading.

Format and timing

After the recording you select one summary from several. There are usually 1 to 2 of these tasks. Transcripts and the candidate summaries are provided, with the answer key at the end.

Strategy tips

As you listen, note the main idea and overall purpose. The correct summary captures the whole message accurately; wrong options often distort the meaning, focus on a minor detail, or add ideas that were not stated.

Practice questions

1. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The speaker explains that bees are vital pollinators responsible for fertilising many of the crops humans rely on. However, bee populations are declining due to pesticides, habitat loss, and disease. The speaker warns that if this continues, food production and natural ecosystems could be seriously affected, and urges action to protect these crucial insects.

- (A) Bees are vital pollinators of many crops, but their decline from pesticides, habitat loss, and disease threatens food production and ecosystems, so the speaker urges action to protect them.
- (B) Bees produce honey, which is a valuable food, and the speaker explains how honey is harvested and sold around the world.
- (C) The speaker argues that pesticides should be used more widely to protect crops from insects that damage them.
- (D) The talk focuses on how bees build their hives and the structure of a typical bee colony.

2. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The lecture describes how sleep helps the brain consolidate memories. During deep sleep, information gathered during the day is transferred to long-term storage. The speaker notes that students who sleep well after studying perform better than those who stay awake, concluding that sleep is an essential part of learning rather than wasted time.

- (A) The speaker explains that staying awake to study all night is the best way to remember information before an exam.
- (B) Sleep helps the brain consolidate memories during deep sleep, and students who sleep after studying perform better, so sleep is essential to learning.
- (C) The lecture is mainly about the different stages of sleep and how long each one lasts.
- (D) The talk argues that students do not need much sleep and should focus on studying instead.

3. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The speaker discusses renewable energy, noting that solar and wind power are clean and naturally replenished but depend on the weather. The main challenge is storing energy for when the sun does not shine or the wind does not blow. Improvements in battery technology, the speaker says, are gradually solving this problem.

- (A) The speaker claims that renewable energy is too unreliable ever to replace fossil fuels.
- (B) The talk is about how fossil fuels are formed and why they are still widely used today.
- (C) Solar and wind power are clean but weather-dependent, and the main challenge is energy storage, which improving battery technology is gradually solving.
- (D) The speaker argues that battery technology has no role in the future of renewable energy.

4. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The talk explains that forests store large amounts of carbon and provide habitats for countless species. When forests are cleared, this carbon is released, accelerating climate change, and wildlife loses its home. The speaker concludes that protecting and restoring forests is one of the most effective ways to combat climate change.

- (A) The speaker says forests are unimportant and that clearing them has few consequences.
- (B) Forests store carbon and shelter species, so clearing them accelerates climate change and harms wildlife; protecting and restoring forests is an effective way to combat climate change.
- (C) The lecture is mainly about the different types of trees found in tropical forests.
- (D) The talk argues that planting trees is the only cause of climate change.

5. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The speaker outlines the benefits of regular exercise. It strengthens the heart, helps control weight, and reduces the risk of chronic diseases. It also improves mood and sleep by releasing certain chemicals in the brain. Despite these benefits, the speaker notes that many people find it hard to stay active consistently.

- (A) Regular exercise strengthens the heart, controls weight, reduces disease risk, and improves mood and sleep, though many people struggle to stay active consistently.
- (B) The speaker explains that exercise is dangerous and should be avoided by most people.
- (C) The talk focuses only on which sports are the most popular around the world.
- (D) Exercise has no effect on mental health, according to the speaker.

6. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The lecture concerns the digital divide, the gap between those with good access to technology and those without. This divide often follows lines of income, age, and geography. The speaker warns that people without access may struggle to find work, use services, or access education, which deepens existing inequalities.

- (A) The talk is about how to build faster internet networks in major cities.
- (B) The speaker argues that everyone already has equal access to technology.
- (C) The digital divide is the gap in technology access along lines of income, age, and geography, and it deepens inequality by limiting work, services, and education.
- (D) The lecture explains how to repair common faults in computers and phones.

7. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The speaker describes the urban heat island effect, in which cities are warmer than surrounding areas because buildings and roads absorb heat while vegetation is scarce. This makes heatwaves in cities more dangerous. The speaker explains that planners are responding by adding parks and green roofs to cool the urban environment.

- (A) Cities are warmer than their surroundings because buildings absorb heat and vegetation is scarce, making heatwaves more dangerous, so planners add parks and green roofs to cool cities.
- (B) The talk argues that cities are always cooler than the countryside.
- (C) The lecture is mainly about how tall buildings are constructed in modern cities.
- (D) The speaker says nothing can be done to reduce heat in cities.

8. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The talk explains how vaccines work. A vaccine introduces a harmless part of a pathogen, prompting the immune system to produce antibodies and to remember the invader. If the real disease later appears, the body responds quickly. Through this mechanism, vaccines have prevented countless deaths and even eliminated some diseases.

- (A) The speaker claims that vaccines cause the diseases they are meant to prevent.
- (B) Vaccines introduce a harmless part of a pathogen so the immune system makes antibodies and remembers it, allowing a fast response later, which has prevented many deaths.
- (C) The lecture is about the history of hospitals and how they are organised.
- (D) The talk argues that the immune system has no memory of past infections.

9. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The speaker discusses the value of public libraries in the digital age. Beyond lending books, libraries offer free internet access, quiet study spaces, and educational programmes. For people on low incomes, they provide vital opportunities. The speaker concludes that libraries are not obsolete but are adapting to serve modern communities.

- (A) The talk argues that libraries are now obsolete and should be closed.
- (B) The lecture is mainly about how to organise books on shelves by subject.
- (C) Public libraries remain valuable by offering books, free internet, study spaces, and programmes, especially for low-income people, and are adapting rather than becoming obsolete.
- (D) The speaker says libraries should only lend printed books and nothing else.

10. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The lecture describes how habits form through a loop of cue, routine, and reward. A cue triggers a behaviour, which becomes routine, and a reward reinforces it. Once established, habits need little conscious effort. The speaker explains that understanding this loop helps us break bad habits and build good ones.

- (A) Habits form through a loop of cue, routine, and reward, and once established need little effort, so understanding the loop helps us break bad habits and build good ones.
- (B) The talk argues that habits cannot be changed once they have formed.
- (C) The lecture is mainly about the chemical structure of the human brain.
- (D) The speaker claims that rewards have no role in forming habits.

11. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The speaker explains the greenhouse effect. Sunlight warms the Earth, and some heat radiates back towards space. Certain gases trap part of this heat, keeping the planet warm enough for life. The problem, the speaker says, arises when human activity adds extra gases, intensifying the effect and raising global temperatures.

- (A) The talk argues that the greenhouse effect is entirely harmful and should be eliminated.
- (B) The greenhouse effect, in which gases trap some of the sun's heat, keeps Earth warm enough for life, but human activity adds extra gases that intensify it and raise temperatures.
- (C) The lecture is mainly about how greenhouses are used to grow vegetables.
- (D) The speaker says human activity has no effect on global temperatures.

12. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The talk concerns antibiotic resistance. Overuse of antibiotics in medicine and farming has allowed bacteria to evolve defences. As a result, once-treatable infections are becoming dangerous again. The speaker urges more careful use of antibiotics and greater investment in new treatments to avoid a future where common infections are deadly.

- (A) Overuse of antibiotics has driven bacterial resistance, making once-treatable infections dangerous, so the speaker urges careful use and investment in new treatments.
- (B) The speaker argues that antibiotics should be used as often as possible.
- (C) The lecture is mainly about how bacteria reproduce inside the body.
- (D) The talk claims that antibiotic resistance is not a real problem.

13. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The speaker describes evolution by natural selection. Individuals within a population vary, and some variations improve the chances of survival and reproduction. These advantageous traits are passed on. Over long periods, this leads to gradual change and even new species. The speaker calls it the central mechanism behind life's diversity.

- (A) The talk argues that all living things have remained unchanged since they first appeared.
- (B) The lecture is mainly about how to classify animals into different groups.
- (C) Evolution by natural selection occurs as advantageous variations are passed on, leading over time to gradual change and new species, the central mechanism behind life's diversity.
- (D) The speaker says that survival has no effect on which traits are inherited.

14. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The lecture discusses the effects of social media. It enables rapid communication and gives a voice to many who were previously unheard. However, it can also spread misinformation quickly and may harm mental health, particularly among young people. The speaker says society is still learning how to balance these benefits and harms.

- (A) Social media enables rapid communication and empowers the unheard but can spread misinformation and harm young people's mental health, and society is still learning to balance these.
- (B) The talk argues that social media has only positive effects on society.
- (C) The lecture is mainly about how social media companies make money.
- (D) The speaker claims that social media has no effect on mental health.

15. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The speaker explains why clean water is essential. It is vital for health, yet millions still lack a safe supply. Contaminated water spreads disease and causes great suffering, especially among children. Investing in water infrastructure and protecting natural sources, the speaker argues, are among the most effective ways to improve public health.

- (A) The talk argues that clean water is unimportant for human health.
- (B) Clean water is essential for health, but millions lack it, and since contaminated water spreads disease, investing in infrastructure and protecting sources greatly improves public health.
- (C) The lecture is mainly about how rivers and lakes are formed.
- (D) The speaker says contaminated water has no effect on children.

16. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The talk describes the process of urbanisation, the movement of people from rural areas to cities for work, education, and services. While cities offer opportunities, rapid growth can cause overcrowding, pollution, and pressure on housing. The speaker concludes that managing this growth sustainably is a major challenge of our time.

- (A) Urbanisation, the move from rural areas to cities for opportunity, brings benefits but rapid growth causes overcrowding, pollution, and housing pressure, making sustainable management a major challenge.
- (B) The speaker argues that everyone should move from cities back to the countryside.
- (C) The lecture is mainly about the history of one particular city.
- (D) The talk claims that cities offer no opportunities at all.

17. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The speaker outlines the benefits of reading fiction. It can increase empathy by helping readers imagine others' thoughts and feelings, and it expands vocabulary and strengthens concentration. It also offers relaxation. For these reasons, the speaker says, educators encourage a reading habit from an early age.

- (A) The talk argues that reading fiction is a waste of time with no real benefits.
- (B) The lecture is mainly about the history of the printing press.
- (C) Reading fiction can increase empathy, expand vocabulary, strengthen concentration, and aid relaxation, which is why educators encourage an early reading habit.
- (D) The speaker claims that only non-fiction has any educational value.

18. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The lecture concerns plate tectonics. The Earth's outer shell is divided into large plates that move slowly. Where they collide, mountains form or one plate slides under another; where they separate, new crust forms. This movement, the speaker explains, accounts for the distribution of earthquakes, volcanoes, and mountains worldwide.

- (A) Plate tectonics describes how moving plates collide or separate, forming mountains, subduction, or new crust, which explains the global distribution of earthquakes, volcanoes, and mountains.
- (B) The talk argues that the Earth's surface never moves at all.
- (C) The lecture is mainly about how to predict the weather.
- (D) The speaker says earthquakes and volcanoes have no connection to plate movement.

19. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The speaker discusses memory, describing three stages: encoding, storage, and retrieval. Memory is not a perfect recording, and information can fade or become distorted over time. The speaker notes that techniques such as repetition and linking new information to existing knowledge can improve how well we remember.

- (A) The talk argues that human memory records events perfectly and never changes.
- (B) Memory involves encoding, storage, and retrieval, is imperfect and can be distorted, but techniques such as repetition and linking to existing knowledge improve recall.
- (C) The lecture is mainly about how computers store data.
- (D) The speaker says nothing can be done to improve memory.

20. Listen, then choose the best summary.

The talk highlights the importance of soil. It supports plant growth, stores carbon, and filters water, yet it is often taken for granted. Intensive farming and erosion are degrading soils worldwide, threatening food production. The speaker concludes that protecting and restoring healthy soil is vital for agriculture and the environment.

- (A) Soil supports plants, stores carbon, and filters water, but intensive farming and erosion are degrading it and threatening food production, so protecting healthy soil is vital.
- (B) The speaker argues that soil has no role in food production.
- (C) The lecture is mainly about the different colours of soil around the world.
- (D) The talk claims that erosion improves the quality of soil.

Answer key

- 1. A
- 2. B
- 3. C
- 4. B
- 5. A
- 6. C
- 7. A
- 8. B
- 9. C
- 10. A
- 11. B
- 12. A
- 13. C
- 14. A
- 15. B
- 16. A
- 17. C
- 18. A
- 19. B
- 20. A

What this task involves

You listen to a recording in which the final word or words have been replaced by a beep, and you choose the option that best completes it. This task tests listening and prediction.

Format and timing

After the recording you select the missing word from several options. There are usually 1 to 2 of these tasks. The transcript is shown with the missing word marked, and the answer key follows the section.

Strategy tips

Listen closely to the meaning and tone of the whole recording, as the missing word must fit the overall sense. Predicting where the speaker is heading helps you choose the option that completes the idea logically.

Practice questions

1. Choose the word that completes the recording.

Scientists have long studied how migratory birds find their way across vast distances. Recent research suggests that, in addition to using the sun and landmarks, they can sense the Earth's magnetic _____.

- (A) field
- (B) music
- (C) barrier
- (D) colour

2. Choose the word that completes the recording.

The new policy is designed to reduce the city's carbon emissions. To achieve this, the council plans to expand public transport and encourage residents to leave their cars at _____.

- (A) work
- (B) home
- (C) school
- (D) once

3. Choose the word that completes the recording.

A balanced diet provides the body with the nutrients it needs to function. Eating a wide variety of fruits and vegetables is one of the simplest ways to stay _____.

- (A) awake
- (B) healthy
- (C) busy
- (D) quiet

4. Choose the word that completes the recording.

The experiment was repeated several times to ensure the results were reliable. Only when the same outcome appeared again and again did the researchers feel _____.

- (A) confident
- (B) tired
- (C) confused
- (D) bored

5. Choose the word that completes the recording.

Forests play a crucial role in regulating the climate. They absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and, in return, release the oxygen that most living things need to _____.

- (A) sleep
- (B) breathe
- (C) travel
- (D) grow

6. Choose the word that completes the recording.

The lecture covered a wide range of topics, from ancient history to modern technology. The professor encouraged students to ask questions whenever something was not entirely _____.

- (A) finished
- (B) clear
- (C) wrong
- (D) late

7. Choose the word that completes the recording.

Renewable energy sources such as solar and wind are becoming increasingly important. As their costs continue to fall, they are now able to compete directly with traditional fossil _____.

- (A) fuels
- (B) forests
- (C) fields
- (D) figures

8. Choose the word that completes the recording.

Good communication is essential for any successful team. When members share their ideas openly, misunderstandings are far less likely to _____.

- (A) happen
- (B) spread
- (C) listen
- (D) arrive

9. Choose the word that completes the recording.

The museum's new exhibition has attracted record numbers of visitors. Many have travelled great distances simply to see the rare artefacts on _____.

- (A) sale
- (B) display
- (C) loan
- (D) paper

10. Choose the word that completes the recording.

Regular exercise benefits both the body and the mind. As well as strengthening the heart, it releases chemicals in the brain that can improve a person's _____.

- (A) height
- (B) mood
- (C) weight
- (D) memory

11. Choose the word that completes the recording.

The river had been heavily polluted by years of industrial waste. After new regulations were introduced, however, the fish gradually began to _____.

- (A) disappear
- (B) return
- (C) sink
- (D) float

12. Choose the word that completes the recording.

Learning a second language offers many advantages. Besides making travel easier, it can improve concentration and may even delay age-related cognitive _____.

- (A) growth
- (B) decline
- (C) success
- (D) memory

13. Choose the word that completes the recording.

The bridge was engineered to withstand powerful earthquakes. When a major tremor finally struck the region, this careful design proved absolutely _____.

- (A) useless
- (B) essential
- (C) ordinary
- (D) optional

14. Choose the word that completes the recording.

Sleep is far more important than many people realise. During deep sleep, the brain consolidates memories and the body repairs its own _____.

- (A) mistakes
- (B) tissues
- (C) schedule
- (D) habits

15. Choose the word that completes the recording.

The charity has raised enough funds to build several new schools. As a result, thousands of children will finally gain access to an _____.

- (A) adventure
- (B) education
- (C) income
- (D) argument

16. Choose the word that completes the recording.

The discovery of penicillin transformed modern medicine. It allowed doctors to treat infections that had previously been almost always _____.

- (A) harmless
- (B) fatal
- (C) minor
- (D) temporary

17. Choose the word that completes the recording.

Coral reefs support an extraordinary variety of marine life. Unfortunately, rising sea temperatures are causing widespread bleaching and putting these fragile ecosystems at _____.

- (A) ease
- (B) risk
- (C) rest
- (D) peace

18. Choose the word that completes the recording.

The new software was designed to be simple to use. Its developers wanted even complete beginners to feel comfortable from the very _____.

- (A) end
- (B) start
- (C) middle
- (D) problem

19. Choose the word that completes the recording.

The professor emphasised the importance of regular revision. Consistent effort over many weeks, she explained, almost always _____ off.

- (A) pays
- (B) falls
- (C) puts
- (D) goes

20. Choose the word that completes the recording.

The expedition faced severe weather throughout the climb. At times the conditions were so dangerous that the team considered turning _____.

- (A) up
- (B) back
- (C) over
- (D) in

21. Choose the word that completes the recording.

Public libraries continue to serve their communities in many ways. Far from becoming obsolete, they are constantly adapting to meet their users' changing _____.

- (A) minds
- (B) needs
- (C) books
- (D) hours

22. Choose the word that completes the recording.

The factory has cut its emissions dramatically in recent years. New filters now capture harmful gases before they can ever reach the _____.

- (A) workers
- (B) atmosphere
- (C) machines
- (D) customers

23. Choose the word that completes the recording.

Bees are essential to the pollination of many crops. Their recent decline has therefore alarmed both scientists and the farmers who depend on their _____.

- (A) honey
- (B) work
- (C) colour
- (D) sound

24. Choose the word that completes the recording.

The report identified several serious flaws in the current system. It recommended urgent reforms and warned that any delay would only make matters _____.

- (A) better
- (B) worse
- (C) simpler
- (D) clearer

25. Choose the word that completes the recording.

A good presentation depends on more than just words. Maintaining eye contact and varying the tone of voice help to keep the audience fully _____.

- (A) asleep
- (B) engaged
- (C) silent
- (D) absent

Answer key

- 1. A (field)
- 2. B (home)
- 3. B (healthy)
- 4. A (confident)
- 5. B (breathe)
- 6. B (clear)
- 7. A (fuels)
- 8. A (happen)
- 9. B (display)
- 10. B (mood)
- 11. B (return)
- 12. B (decline)

- 13. B (essential)
- 14. B (tissues)
- 15. B (education)
- 16. B (fatal)
- 17. B (risk)
- 18. B (start)
- 19. A (pays)
- 20. B (back)
- 21. B (needs)
- 22. B (atmosphere)
- 23. B (work)
- 24. B (worse)
- 25. B (engaged)

What this task involves

You read a transcript while listening to a recording. Some printed words differ from what is spoken, and you must identify them. This task tests listening and reading together.

Format and timing

The recording is played once while you follow the printed transcript and mark the words that do not match. There are usually 2 to 3 of these tasks. Here the printed transcript is shown, and the answer key lists any words that differ from the spoken version.

Strategy tips

Read along closely and listen for the exact words. The differences are often single words that sound or look similar. Keep pace with the recording, because once it moves on you cannot go back.

Practice questions

1. Find the words that differ from the recording.

The human brain contains billions of neurons connected by trillions of synapses. This remarkable network enables us to think, remember, and learn throughout our lives.

2. Find the words that differ from the recording.

Coral reefs support an extraordinary diversity of marine life, yet they cover less than one percent of the ocean floor.

3. Find the words that differ from the recording.

The invention of the printing press dramatically increased literacy and allowed ideas to spread quickly across Europe in the fifteenth century.

4. Find the words that differ from the recording.

Renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power are becoming increasingly important as nations seek to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels.

5. Find the words that differ from the recording.

Photosynthesis is the process by which green plants convert sunlight into chemical energy and produce the oxygen on which most life depends.

6. Find the words that differ from the recording.

The migration of birds is one of the most remarkable phenomena in the natural world, with some species traveling thousands of kilometres each year.

7. Find the words that differ from the recording.

Bees play a crucial role in pollinating crops and wild plants, and the recent decline in their populations has alarmed scientists and farmers across the world.

8. Find the words that differ from the recording.

The discovery of antibiotics transformed modern medicine, but their widespread misuse has led to the rise of resistant bacteria.

9. Find the words that differ from the recording.

Education plays a vital role in reducing poverty and promoting social mobility by providing individuals with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.

10. Find the words that differ from the recording.

Sleep is essential for both physical and mental health, yet many people fail to get enough of it because of busy and demanding schedules.

11. Find the words that differ from the recording.

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming many aspects of daily life, raising important ethical questions about how these technologies should be regulated.

12. Find the words that differ from the recording.

The Industrial Revolution marked a turning point in history, dramatically increasing production but also bringing pollution and difficult working conditions.

13. Find the words that differ from the recording.

Water scarcity is becoming an increasingly urgent problem as populations grow and the demand for fresh water often exceeds the available supply.

14. Find the words that differ from the recording.

The human immune system is a complex network designed to protect the body from disease by recognising and destroying harmful invaders.

15. Find the words that differ from the recording.

Volcanic eruptions are among the most powerful natural events on Earth and can reshape entire landscapes and even influence the global climate.

16. Find the words that differ from the recording.

Public transport systems are essential to the functioning of large cities, reducing congestion and providing affordable mobility for millions of people.

17. Find the words that differ from the recording.

The ozone layer protects life on Earth by absorbing harmful ultraviolet radiation, and international cooperation has helped to reduce the substances that damage it.

18. Find the words that differ from the recording.

Forests provide essential services that often go unnoticed, including storing carbon, regulating water cycles, and providing habitats for countless species.

19. Find the words that differ from the recording.

Nutrition has a powerful influence on health, and a balanced diet provides the energy and nutrients the body needs to function properly.

20. Find the words that differ from the recording.

The telescope transformed our understanding of the universe by allowing astronomers to observe distant objects in remarkable detail.

Answer key

1. lifes -> lives
2. live -> life
3. centery -> century
4. dependance -> dependence
5. live -> life
6. traveling -> travelling
7. No incorrect words (the transcript matches the recording).
8. medecine -> medicine
9. suceed -> succeed
10. No incorrect words (the transcript matches the recording).
11. technologys -> technologies
12. condditions -> conditions
13. suply -> supply
14. No incorrect words (the transcript matches the recording).
15. climat -> climate
16. citys -> cities
17. No incorrect words (the transcript matches the recording).
18. speceis -> species
19. properley -> properly
20. No incorrect words (the transcript matches the recording).

What this task involves

You hear a sentence and must type it exactly as spoken. This task tests listening and writing, and it carries significant weight towards both scores.

Format and timing

Each sentence is played once. You type what you hear. There are usually 3 to 4 of these tasks. In this book the sentence is printed so a partner can dictate it to you.

Strategy tips

Listen for the whole sentence and try to hold it in memory. Jot down key words immediately, then reconstruct the full sentence. Correct spelling and word order are essential, as every correct word earns marks.

Practice questions

1. The university library provides extended opening hours during the examination period.
2. Students must submit their assignments before the published deadline.
3. The lecture on molecular biology has been rescheduled to next Thursday.
4. Research methods are taught in the second semester of the course.
5. All international applicants are required to provide evidence of English proficiency.
6. The seminar will explore the relationship between economics and the environment.
7. Practical sessions are held in the laboratory on the third floor.
8. The professor encouraged students to participate actively in group discussions.
9. Financial support is available for postgraduate students who qualify.
10. The conference attracted scholars from a wide range of disciplines.
11. Attendance at tutorials is compulsory for all first-year undergraduates.
12. The new curriculum places greater emphasis on independent learning.
13. Examination results will be published on the departmental website.
14. The committee approved the proposal to expand the science faculty.
15. Effective time management is essential for academic success.
16. The journal publishes peer-reviewed articles on contemporary social issues.
17. Field trips give students valuable experience outside the classroom.

18. The department offers a range of scholarships to talented applicants.
19. Critical thinking is a fundamental skill in higher education.
20. The workshop aims to improve students' academic writing abilities.
21. Lecturers are available during their scheduled office hours each week.
22. The dissertation must be submitted electronically by the end of term.
23. Collaboration between universities and industry benefits both parties.
24. The campus offers excellent facilities for sports and recreation.
25. Students are advised to back up their work regularly.
26. The reading list contains both core texts and supplementary materials.
27. Plagiarism is treated as a serious breach of academic integrity.
28. The orientation programme helps new students adjust to university life.
29. Funding for the project was secured from several external sources.
30. The module introduces the principles of sustainable development.
31. Graduate employment rates have improved over the past decade.
32. The survey collected responses from more than two thousand participants.
33. Academic staff are expected to maintain accurate records of attendance.
34. The presentation should last no longer than fifteen minutes.
35. Online resources have transformed the way students access information.
36. The faculty is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion.
37. Laboratory safety procedures must be followed at all times.
38. The textbook provides a comprehensive overview of the subject.
39. Many students choose to study abroad for one academic year.
40. The assessment combines coursework with a final written examination.
41. Regular feedback helps students monitor their own progress.
42. The research findings were presented at an international conference.
43. The college library has recently acquired a large digital collection.
44. Effective communication is a key competency for modern graduates.
45. The timetable for the spring semester is now available online.
46. Postgraduate researchers receive supervision from experienced academics.
47. The grant will fund a three-year investigation into renewable energy.
48. Students with disabilities can request reasonable adjustments to assessments.

49. The debate highlighted differing views on educational policy.
50. Lectures are recorded and made available to students afterwards.
51. The programme combines theoretical knowledge with practical application.
52. A strong personal statement can strengthen a university application.
53. The institute conducts research on climate change and its effects.
54. Group projects develop both teamwork and leadership skills.
55. The examination board reviewed all the marks before publication.
56. The course covers the historical development of modern science.
57. Students should familiarise themselves with the assessment criteria.
58. The laboratory equipment was upgraded during the summer break.
59. International collaboration has become essential in scientific research.
60. The handbook explains the regulations governing student conduct.
61. Many lectures are now delivered in a blended learning format.
62. The tutor provided detailed comments on each draft essay.
63. Access to the archive is restricted to registered researchers.
64. The committee will meet to discuss the revised assessment policy.
65. Practical experience is highly valued by prospective employers.
66. The department has invested heavily in new computing facilities.
67. Students are encouraged to attend optional revision sessions.
68. The study examined the impact of social media on adolescents.
69. Academic referencing must follow the prescribed citation style.
70. The scholarship covers tuition fees and living expenses.
71. The lecture theatre can accommodate up to four hundred students.
72. Reflection is an important part of the learning process.
73. The university promotes a culture of lifelong learning.
74. The experiment was repeated several times to ensure accuracy.
75. The careers service offers guidance on writing applications.
76. The module assessment includes a group presentation and a report.
77. Researchers must obtain ethical approval before collecting data.
78. The transition from school to university can be challenging.
79. The faculty hosts regular guest lectures by leading experts.

80. Students are responsible for managing their own study schedules.
81. The library subscribes to a wide range of academic databases.
82. The findings were published in a leading scientific journal.
83. The course is designed to develop analytical and problem-solving skills.
84. All coursework must be the original work of the student.
85. The university maintains strong links with the local community.
86. The seminar encouraged students to challenge established assumptions.
87. Continuous assessment reduces the pressure of final examinations.
88. The campus provides accommodation for both staff and students.
89. The proposal outlines the aims and methods of the research.
90. Many graduates pursue further study at the postgraduate level.
91. The lecturer emphasised the importance of clear and concise writing.
92. The data were analysed using specialised statistical software.
93. The department welcomes applications from mature students.
94. The conference programme features both keynote speeches and workshops.
95. Students must register for their modules before the start of term.
96. The study compared educational outcomes across different regions.
97. The library offers training sessions on academic search techniques.
98. The new policy aims to reduce the university's carbon footprint.
99. Independent research forms a major component of the final year.
100. The examination will assess both knowledge and application.
101. The induction week introduces students to essential university services.
102. The report recommends several improvements to the current system.
103. Academic integrity underpins the credibility of all qualifications.
104. The lecture series explores key themes in contemporary philosophy.
105. Students should consult their academic adviser before changing modules.
106. The research team published its results in an open-access journal.
107. The university provides extensive support for international students.
108. The assignment requires a critical evaluation of the existing literature.
109. Effective note-taking improves both comprehension and retention.
110. The laboratory was closed temporarily for essential maintenance work.

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