

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

INDEX NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

## English As A Foreign Language

### Schools Monitoring Board

English Language Examination for EFL Teachers

19<sup>th</sup> November 2005

Time 3 hours

#### FOR EXAMINERS' USE ONLY

Section A	Section B	Section C	Section D	TOTAL
/100	/100	/100	/100	/100

## Section A: Language Description

**Part One:** Read this article, and then answer the questions that follow.  
(60 marks)

### Russia-US crew and tourist blast off into space

BAIKONUR

- 1 A RUSSIA-U.S. two-man crew and the world's **third** space tourist blasted off  
2 from Earth yesterday, bound for orbit and the International Space Station.
- 3 The cigar-shaped Soyuz rocket climbed into a blue morning sky from a barren  
4 steppe of Central Asia, arcing **higher** until only a ball of flame could be seen.
- 5 "It was wonderful. It was **magnificent**. It was beautiful," Michael Griffin, the  
6 head of US space agency NASA, told Reuters **at** the Baikonur space centre in  
7 Kazakhstan.
- 8 On Board the Russian spacecraft were US Commander William Mc Arthur,  
9 Russian Flight Engineer Valery Tokarev and American entrepreneur and  
10 scientist Gregory Olsen, **who is due to spend about a week in orbit**. The crew  
11 face a daunting six-month stint.
- 12 Olsen, rich enough to afford a reported \$20 million (Lm7 million) ticket, will  
13 spend his time in space conducting experiments. He then **hitches a ride back**  
14 to Earth with the outgoing US-Russian crew.
- 15 "He's doing much more in space than simply looking out of the window," Eric  
16 Anderson, Chief Executive of Space Adventures, the company which arranged  
17 the trip, said.
- 18 Olsen's daughter said that until the launch she had not **worried** that it **might be**  
19 **dangerous**. "And it's strange that my father is not actually with me on this Earth  
20 right now."
- 21 Flight controllers said the crew were doing well. A live feed showed them  
22 hunched inside the Soyuz, where the only personal touch visible was a  
23 miniature troll with a **shock** of pink hair dangling as if from a car dashboard.
- 24 The Soyuz is **scheduled** to dock with the station tomorrow. At the moment  
25 Russia bears the responsibility for ferrying people and supplies to the \$100  
26 billion station after NASA grounded its shuttle fleet in July, having failed to fix a  
27 technical problem that killed seven astronauts in 2003.

28 Mc Arthur and Tokarev **will be** busy keeping the station ticking over; but the  
29 should also do two or three space walks, according to NASA's Website.  
30 However, only the shuttle is big enough to ship parts needed to finish the station.

31 **Although** the launch went **swimmingly**, one small hitch remains: Mc Arthur, in  
32 theory, has only a one-way ticket.

33 Roskosmos, Russia's space agency, **meets** its obligations to fly NASA  
34 astronauts at the end of this year, and with the shuttle potentially out of action,  
35 the US needs to cut a deal with Moscow to allow him to fly home on the **Soyuz**.

36 The snag is that trade sanctions linked to US fears that Russian technology  
37 and knowhow could help Iran develop nuclear weapons mean NASA **cannot**  
38 pay Roskosmos, but US lawmakers are considering **lifting** the ban.

39 Nobody **expects** Mc Arthur to spin round space forever.

(Reuters)

For each of the questions below, choose only **one** correct answer. Write the relevant letter (a), (b), (c) or (d) in the box at the bottom of the page. If you choose more than one answer to a question, it will be marked as incorrect. **All questions refer to language items in the context of the article "Russia-US crew and tourist blast off into space."**

1. In the headline, what grammatical function does the phrase **Russia-US** perform?  
 (a) adjectival      (b) prepositional      (c) nominal      (d) adverbial
2. What part of speech is **"third"** in line 1?  
 (a) an adverb      (b) an adjective      (c) a definite article      (d) a quantifier
3. What function does the suffix **'er'** indicate in the word **"higher"** in line 4?  
 (a) descriptive      (b) adjectival      (c) comparative      (d) superlative
4. What is the word **"magnificent"** in line 5?  
 (a) adverb      (b) adjective      (c) superlative      (d) object
5. What part of speech is **"at"** in line 6?  
 (a) quantifier      (b) qualifier      (c) preposition      (d) adverb
6. What type of clause is **"who is due to spend about a week in orbit"** in line 10?  
 (a) defining relative clause      (b) adverbial clause  
 (c) non-defining relative clause      (d) main clause
7. How can the phrase **"hitches a ride back"** in line 13 be described in context?  
 (a) negative connotation      (b) positive connotation  
 (c) a formal expression      (d) a colloquial expression
8. What is **'s** in **"he's doing"** in line 15?  
 (a) possessive inflection      (b) gerund  
 (c) abbreviation      (d) contraction

1)	2)	3)	4)	5)	6)	7)	8)
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9. What form is "**worried**" in line 18 ?

- (a) past simple (passive voice) (b) past simple (active voice)  
(c) past participle (d) past perfect simple (active voice)

10. What does the phrase "**might be dangerous**" denote in lines 18-19?

- (a) present ability (b) present possibility  
(c) past possibility (d) past ability

11. How does the word "**shock**" in line 23 relate to the word **shock** as in the phrase **electric shock** ?

- (a) antonym (b) homonym  
(c) synonym (d) phoneme

12. What part of speech is the word "**scheduled**" in line 24 ?

- (a) complement (b) past participle  
(c) present participle (d) adverb

13. What type of future action does "**will be**" in line 28 denote ?

- (a) a scheduled future action (b) a desired future action  
(c) a habitual future action (d) a determined future action

14. What part of speech is "**Although**" in line 31?

- (a) conjunction (b) qualifier (c) adverb (d) relative pronoun

15. What part of speech is "**swimmingly**" in line 31?

- (a) adverb (b) adjective (c) verb (d) gerund

9)	10)	11)	12)	13)	14)	15)
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16. What temporal meaning does the word "*meets*" in line 33 denote?

- (a) present    (b) future    (c) present progressive    (d) past

17. What part of speech is expressed by the word "*Soyuz*" in line 35?

- (a) noun    (b) proper noun    (c) pronoun    (d) adjective

18. The modal verb "*cannot*" in line 37 means that NASA

- (a) is unable to pay    (b) refuses to pay    (c) is not permitted to pay  
(d) will not pay

19. What part of speech is "*lifting*" in line 38?

- (a) conjunction    (b) present participle    (c) gerund    (d) infinitive

20. What verb best matches the meaning of "*expects*" in line 39?

- (a) wishes    (b) pretends    (c) believes    (d) hopes

16)

17)

18)

19)

20)

## Section A: Language Description

**Part Two:** Underline the **syllable** that is normally stressed in each of the following words (20 marks)

**EXAMPLE:** example

Arabic	spiritual	commute	diphthong	engagement
flamboyant	gunpowder	infamous	information	justifiable
memorable	opportunity	perspective	phonetically	photography
semitic	telephone	temporary	understand	problematic

**Part Three:** Write out these phonemic transcriptions in normal spelling (10 marks)

1. / θru: / \_\_\_\_\_
2. / predʒudɪʃl / \_\_\_\_\_
3. / rɪsɪ:v / \_\_\_\_\_
4. / vɪʒn / \_\_\_\_\_
5. / gəʊt / \_\_\_\_\_
6. / fɜ:nɪtʃə / \_\_\_\_\_
7. / præs / \_\_\_\_\_
8. / hæŋkətʃɪf / \_\_\_\_\_
9. / əbrɔ:d / \_\_\_\_\_
10. / kənsi:t / \_\_\_\_\_

**Part Four:** Write out these words in phonemic script. (10 marks)For example: /kæt/ cat

Choose from these symbols:

/i:/ /ɪ/ /ʊ/ /u:/ /e/ /ə/ /ɜ:/ /ɔ/ /æ/ /ʌ/ /ɑ/ /ɒ/

/ɪə/ /eɪ/ /ʊə/ /ɔɪ/ /əʊ/ /eə/ /aɪ/ /aʊ/

/p/ /b/ /t/ /d/ /tʃ/ /dʒ/ /k/ /g/ /f/ /v/ /θ/ /ð/ /s/ /z/ /ʃ/ /ʒ/

/m/ /n/ /ŋ/ /h/ /l/ /r/ /w/ /j/

1. cough \_\_\_\_\_

2. succession \_\_\_\_\_

3. thorough \_\_\_\_\_

4. subtlety \_\_\_\_\_

5. autumn \_\_\_\_\_

6. pneumonia \_\_\_\_\_

7. whistle \_\_\_\_\_

8. yellow \_\_\_\_\_

9. fathom \_\_\_\_\_

10. cherub \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR EXAMINERS' USE ONLY**

Part One	Part Two	Part Three	Part Four	Total
/60	/20	/10	/10	



## SECTION B - Language Sensitivity and Awareness

**Part One:** One sentence in each set below is different from the other sentences in the set. This difference can be due to grammatical meaning, grammatical form, communicative function, or pronunciation. Decide which sentence in each set is the odd one out, and say why. (10 marks)

1. (a) **Can** you play the piano?  
 (b) **Can** he decipher these hieroglyphics?  
 (c) **Can** I use your phone?  
 (d) **Can** she reach that high?  
 (e) **Can** they speak Greek?

Sentence \_\_\_\_\_ is the odd one out because: \_\_\_\_\_

2. (a) He had a **narrow** escape.  
 (b) **Low** clouds are rushing across the sky.  
 (c) Water was **flowing** in all directions.  
 (d) The **sow** will give birth to several piglets.  
 (e) The **longbow** was a deadly weapon

Sentence \_\_\_\_\_ is the odd one out because: \_\_\_\_\_

3. (a) It's 12 o'clock. That **must** be the postman.  
 (b) He **must** have finished reading that book by now.  
 (c) You **must** be mad to drive like that.  
 (d) You **must** remember to take your medicine at 5 o'clock.  
 (e) It **must** be really hot in Tunisia in summer.

Sentence \_\_\_\_\_ is the odd one out because: \_\_\_\_\_

4. (a) This is a book for children **about** Africa and its peoples.  
 (b) How **about** going to the cinema?  
 (c) They were talking **about** money.  
 (d) "Macbeth" is a play **about** regicide.  
 (e) Tell me **about** your latest adventure.

Sentence \_\_\_\_\_ is the odd one out because: \_\_\_\_\_

5. (a) The sun **rises** in the East.  
 (b) Water **boils** at 100 degrees Celsius.  
 (c) The train **leaves** at 9 o'clock.  
 (d) Ice **melts** in the sun.  
 (e) The prevailing wind **is** the north-westerly.

Sentence \_\_\_\_\_ is the odd one out because: \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION B - Language Sensitivity and Awareness

**Part Two:** Fill each of the gaps in the following text with only **one** word. Answers which contain more than one word will be marked incorrect. (30 marks)

**Rita crashes into US Gulf Coast**

BEAUMONT

HURRICANE Rita slammed into evacuated towns and oil (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in the swamplands of the Texas-Louisiana border yesterday, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ roofs off buildings, cutting power to more than a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ homes and flooding New Orleans (4) \_\_\_\_\_ again.

Rita (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Houston, the fourth-largest US city, a direct hit. But oil city Beaumont, Texas, gambling- and-chemicals centre Lake Charles, Louisiana and many of the largest US refiners came (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the storm's path. Some refiners were hopeful they would (7) \_\_\_\_\_ little damage from Rita.

The storm crashed into (8) \_\_\_\_\_ US Gulf Coast with 193 km/h winds and (9) \_\_\_\_\_ rains, then (10) \_\_\_\_\_ from Category 3 to Category 1, with 122 km/h winds as it moved inland.

However, it threatened to stall over Texas and could (11) \_\_\_\_\_ over half a metre of rain (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the coming days, raising the prospect of more (13) \_\_\_\_\_. Authorities urged the more than two million people who fled Rita not to return (14) \_\_\_\_\_ yet. US President George W. Bush, monitoring federal storm preparations from a military (15) \_\_\_\_\_ in Colorado said, "The situation is still dangerous (16) \_\_\_\_\_ of potential flooding."

Several (17) \_\_\_\_\_ in New Orleans were flooded again, less than a month after Hurricane Katrina killed more than 1,000 people in Louisiana and Mississippi, as (18) \_\_\_\_\_ poured over the low-lying city's protective levees. High winds had (19) \_\_\_\_\_ stately oak trees, torn apart some buildings and (20) \_\_\_\_\_ numerous fires across the region, officials said. (21) \_\_\_\_\_ than two million people were without electricity in Texas and Louisiana.

The hurricane (22) \_\_\_\_\_ an estimated \$2.5 billion to \$5 billion in insured losses (23) \_\_\_\_\_ eastern Texas and western Louisiana, catastrophe risk modeler AIR Worldwide said. That was far less (24) \_\_\_\_\_ than Katrina caused three weeks ago.

In Lake Charles, the storm knocked a huge container (25) \_\_\_\_\_ loose from its moorings. Gordon Nelson, assistant secretary of operations for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, said. Beaumont, (26) \_\_\_\_\_ the US oil age began with the Spindletop well in 1901, was also one of the hardest (27) \_\_\_\_\_ cities, and warehouses and other light buildings (28) \_\_\_\_\_ but disappeared. A fire (29) \_\_\_\_\_ three buildings in Galveston's historic downtown and another building collapsed as Rita raked the island city, which escaped a feared (30) \_\_\_\_\_ hit.

(Reuters)

## SECTION B - Language Sensitivity and Awareness

**Part Three:** In the following letter identify and correct any mistakes in punctuation, spelling, grammar (including word order), vocabulary or style. **Each line has either no mistakes or one mistake only.**

In each line, if there are no mistakes, write O in the margin. If there is a mistake, underline it and write the correction in the margin. The first two have been done for you as an example.

(60 marks)

Dear Bob,

Thanking you for your letter. You write so rarely that it's always a surprise to hear from you.

Thank  
0

Why do you find it so difficult to get down to write to me? Well I've been very busy lately. a new manager has taken over my department and he's proofed to be very unpopular. So much so, that many of the staff have resigned. Eight people had left in the last six months. Many of my colleagues are worried about their future, but some doesn't seem to care. In the light of these events, I've written to the General Manager because I wanted that he should know what's happening. He didn't reply yet. I hope he does soon. If the situation doesn't improve I'll start looking for another job. However, things might get better as hapened when employees complained about a manager in the past. In fact, he was fired.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
11. \_\_\_\_\_

I definitely cannot risk to leave my job until I find another one. My financial expenses are such that it would be crazy to contemplate quitting my present job. My bank loan, for one thing, is a major headache.

12. \_\_\_\_\_  
13. \_\_\_\_\_  
14. \_\_\_\_\_

Tom and I have wandered whether we shouldn't emigrate to Australia. I'm telling you all this so that you won't be surprised if you were to find us behind your door one day

15. \_\_\_\_\_  
16. \_\_\_\_\_  
17. \_\_\_\_\_

Well, anyways, life isn't all tears around here. Jane will be twenty-one next month. We're making a surprise party. If you call to wish her a happy birthday, please don't upset the beans. Tom and I would like to invite lots of people. It promises to be a smashing party and we hope Jane will be amused. We have some disagreements about the music. I would love to make 60s music while Tom favours the modern, noisier stuff.

18. \_\_\_\_\_  
19. \_\_\_\_\_  
20. \_\_\_\_\_  
21. \_\_\_\_\_  
22. \_\_\_\_\_  
23. \_\_\_\_\_  
24. \_\_\_\_\_

By the way, have you heard about my cousin's accident. He had a car accident, but I don't know which caused it. Of course, there's always the possibility that he was going very fast. Luckily, nobody was hurt and I can ensure you that he'll be very careful in future.

25. \_\_\_\_\_  
26. \_\_\_\_\_  
27. \_\_\_\_\_  
28. \_\_\_\_\_

Well, I must stop now as Tom just arrived from the office. I promise to write again after the party. Do answer back soon.

29. \_\_\_\_\_  
30. \_\_\_\_\_

Love,  
Maria

FOR EXAMINERS' USE ONLY: Section B

Part One	Part Two	Part Three	Total
/10	/30	/60	/100



**SECTION C - Language in Context****Part One:**

Imagine you are writing to a manufacturing company to complain about the service offered by its local agent. You have to complete the letter. For questions 1 to 18, read the situation and use the information it provides you with to complete the letter of complaint. You will not find the words you need in the description of the situation. Use no more than **one** word for each blank space. (54 marks)

**The Situation:**

You bought a toaster for your daughter to celebrate her moving into a new house. You immediately filled in the guarantee and sent it to the manufacturer. Unfortunately, the toaster didn't work well and you returned it to the company's sole agent, who at first didn't want to fix it. The agent finally agreed to do so and kept it for a month. When you got it back it was as good as new. However, two weeks later it stopped working once more. You returned it to the agent who didn't want to fix it again. Therefore, you are now writing to the manufacturer to give him the opportunity to rectify the matter and to inform you what the company's policy on the matter is. If not satisfied, you will complain to the Department of Consumer Protection.

**Letter of Complaint:**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September of this year, I purchased a Rooney toaster from an (1) \_\_\_\_\_ agent in Sliema. The toaster (2) \_\_\_\_\_ with a guarantee which I immediately (3) \_\_\_\_\_ and (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to you.

Two days later I gave the toaster to my daughter as a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ present, only to (6) \_\_\_\_\_, to my dismay, that it didn't work properly and only (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the bread on one side. I took it back to the agent who at first tried to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ responsibility for it. (9) \_\_\_\_\_, he (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the toaster, keeping it for a month before (11) \_\_\_\_\_ it. It worked (12) \_\_\_\_\_ until the same problem (13) \_\_\_\_\_ just after two weeks. This time, your agent (14) \_\_\_\_\_ to accept the toaster, (15) \_\_\_\_\_ that it was not the (16) \_\_\_\_\_ of the agent to repair toasters.

(17) \_\_\_\_\_ I approach the Department for Consumer Protection, it seems (18) \_\_\_\_\_ that I should ask you to repair the faulty toaster or replace it with a new one.



## SECTION C - Language in Context

**Part Two:** For questions 1-12, use a maximum of **two words** to complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using idiomatic English. You will need to change the **italicised** words. (24 marks)

EXAMPLE:

It is imperative that you do not **fall asleep** during the lecture.  
Do try not to **drop off** while the lecture is going on.

1. Muscle cramp forced the runner to **abandon** the race within an ace of crossing the finishing line.

Just as he was on the point of winning the race, the runner \_\_\_\_\_ due to cramp.

2. Alice's skill at **evading** company rules is proving very disconcerting for her colleagues.

Alice's colleagues are annoyed at her ability to \_\_\_\_\_ company rules.

3. His impulsive nature often lands him into **embarrassing** situations.

He is so impulsive that he often puts \_\_\_\_\_ in it.

4. The auditor insisted on **investigating** every aspect of the company's affairs.

Every detail of the company's business was \_\_\_\_\_ by the auditor.

5. The teenagers were **refused entrance** to the party because they hadn't been invited.

The organiser had to \_\_\_\_\_ the teenagers \_\_\_\_\_ as they had no invitations.

6. The students found it rather difficult to **understand** the Theory of Relativity as explained by the young physics teacher.

None of the students found it easy to \_\_\_\_\_ the Theory of Relativity as explained by the young physics teacher.

7. The executive deeply regretted **not having taken advantage** of his new position to introduce some badly needed changes in the company.

The opportunity to make some important changes in the company was unfortunately \_\_\_\_\_ by the new executive.

8. She tried in vain to **minimise** the consequences of her actions once the damage had been done.

Her efforts to \_\_\_\_\_ the damage caused by her actions proved fruitless.

9. Pierre's love for **ostentation** far outweighed his artistic skills.

Pierre was a poor artist but a great \_\_\_\_\_

10. Although Alice worked hard to **rally** support for the charity in Africa, she met with poor public response

Alice struggled in vain to \_\_\_\_\_ public support for the charity in Africa.

11. The con artist found it very easy to **deceive** many old-age pensioners.

Many old-age pensioners were easily \_\_\_\_\_ by the clever confidence trickster

12. The young lady was in tears after her boyfriend **failed to keep his date** with her.

It broke her heart at being \_\_\_\_\_ by her boyfriend.

## SECTION C - Language in Context

**Part Three:** Rewrite each of the following sentences using an appropriate idiomatic expression that reflects as far as possible the meaning of the original sentence. The words in **bold** and in *italics* must feature in the idiomatic expression used.

(22marks)

**Example:** We've had to postpone our plans for a while.

**burner**

We've had to put our plans **on the back burner** for a while.

1. The incessant ringing of his mobile phone made him really mad.

**Wall**

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2. He really made a fool of himself at the dinner party.

**Clanger**

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3. Jane was overjoyed when she received her examination results.

**Moon**

---

---

4. He tried in vain to tell the police that they were blaming the wrong person.

**Barking**

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5. His tactless and rough manners upset everybody during meetings.

**Bull**

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6. He does everything by the book and can quote the regulations by heart.

**Back**

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7. The party thought it best not to change the leader half way through the legislature.

**Horses**

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8. He found it very easy to solve the puzzle.

**Cake**

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9. She didn't want to get involved with the choir as she didn't care much for music.

**Cup**

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10. All this talk about the bird-flu pandemic could be a case of false alarm.

**Wolf**

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11. Although Tom was disappointed at being bypassed for promotion, he still hoped that his turn would come some day.

**Dog**

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**FOR EXAMINERS' USE ONLY: Section C**

Part One	Part Two	Part Three	Total
/54	/24	/22	/100



## Section D: Writing

On the adjacent lined pages, write between 400-500 words on **one** of the following topics.  
(100 marks)

1. Imagine that you are living 100 years from now. You have been carrying out some research for an article for a popular magazine describing what daily life was like in Malta in the first years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Write the article.
2. A recently formed political party is inviting members of the general public to contribute proposals for its policy statement. List some of the proposals you would like to make and go on to give reasons why you think they should be included in the party's manifesto. Make your contribution in the form of a letter to the party's Secretary General.
3. A local paper has invited you to write a review of a film that is taking the local cinemas by storm. Write this review highlighting the film's artistic qualities, and give reasons why, in your opinion, the film has met with such popular acclaim among local film goers.
4. The Ministry of Education has organised an essay writing competition with the title "Write a Story to Show the Importance of Grabbing an Opportunity when it Comes". Write the essay.
5. You are about to engage a young and promising architect to build your dream house. Provide your architect with as detailed a picture of your desires and requirements as possible in order to ensure that his plans will match your dreams.