



**ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
EXAMINATIONS**

**MAY
2012**

NAME

LAAS

LANGUAGE ATTAINMENT ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Level A2

Certificate Recognised by ICC

INSTRUCTIONS

- Be sure you have written your name at the top of this page.
- Do not open this booklet until the exam starts.
- The order of the exam papers is: PART A Listening, PART B Reading & Usage, PART C Writing.
- Time allowed for all three parts: 90 minutes

A LISTENING (25 points) Time: approximately 20 minutes

- As you listen to the recording, mark your answers in this booklet.
- Answer all the questions. Give only one answer for each question.
- After the end of the recording, you will have 3 minutes to transfer your answers onto your Answer Sheet. Mark them in 2H or HB pencil.

LISTENING EXERCISE 1: Numbers 1 to 7

SHOPPING IN A BIG-BOX STORE

Decide if each statement, 1 to 6, is true or not.

Write A for True or B for False in the space beside each number.

- ___ Ted had an unpleasant experience at a big-box store.
- ___ Sally thinks big-box stores encourage us to use buses.
- ___ Sally says big-box stores want us to walk past everything they are selling.
- ___ Sally says the restaurant is usually near the checkout of a big-box store.
- ___ Ted took his wife and children to help him look for a desk.
- ___ Sally advises us to make a plan before we go shopping.



Buy only what you need.



Take home what you bought.

Choose the correct photo to answer the question.

Circle its letter, A, B or C.

7. What did Ted not buy at the big-box store?



LISTENING EXERCISE 2: Numbers 8 to 15**PLASTIC-CUP LAMPSHADE**

Choose the correct word or phrase to complete each statement.

Circle its letter, A, B or C.

8. To have enough cups for the lamp, Brad says we should ____ .
 A. buy new cups if necessary
 B. save plastic cups after we use them
 C. have a lot of parties very soon
9. You'll need about ____ staples.
 A. 6 or 7 B. 60 or 70 C. 600 or 700
10. Brad is using a ____ lamp for his base.
 A. tall new
 B. short new
 C. short old
11. The first row of cups will form the ____ of the lampshade.
 A. top B. middle C. bottom
12. The second row of cups will be ____ the first row.
 A. smaller than
 B. bigger than
 C. the same size as
13. The ball-shaped lampshade will be ____ .
 A. open at one end
 B. open at both ends
 C. closed at both ends
14. Brad says you may need help to ____ .
 A. make a hole in the lampshade
 B. fasten the shade on the lamp
 C. choose the best lamp
15. You must be careful ____ .
 A. to keep the cups away from heat
 B. not to get the cups wet
 C. to use a new light bulb



Here's how you make it ...



Photos from Bit of Green <http://www.bit-of-green.com/crafts/crafts-plastic-cup-lamp>

Idea from *the art foundation* <http://www.theartfoundation.gr/>

For more ideas for plastic cups <http://www.crookedbrains.net/2011/01/creative-alternative-uses-of-plastic.html>

B

READING & USAGE (50 points)

- You are advised to spend about 40 minutes on this part of the test.
- You may mark your answers on this booklet while you are working on them.
- Answer all the questions. Give only one answer for each question.
- When you have finished, mark your answers on your Answer Sheet using a 2H or HB pencil.

READING & USAGE EXERCISE 1: Numbers 16 to 25

Read the text below about bears and look at the chart.
Then do the exercises on page 4.

BEARS: Now You See Them! Now You Don't!

Of all the large animals in the world, bears are the ones most people feel closest to. Maybe that's because most of us had a teddy bear when we were young. However, bears are large and they can be dangerous. There are many stories of people being injured or even killed by bears.

There are fewer bears in the world now than in the past. Their main problem is us. Our cities and highways get bigger, and the places where bears can live and find food get smaller. Some types may disappear completely. Here are some common types of bear and the problems they face.

Giant Panda

Giant Pandas are found only in the bamboo forests of south-central China. Pandas eat bamboo, which dies down and then grows again. The Pandas need to move from one area to another to find new bamboo that is growing. Because forests are being cut for roads and houses, that's becoming harder. China has protected Pandas for the last 10 years.

Brown Bear

Brown Bears live from the far north to the Mediterranean Sea. In Greece, two small groups live in the Pindos and Rodopi Mountains. Unfortunately, the Egnatia Highway runs through the Pindos area, and some bears have been hit by cars. Since 1992, bears in Greece have been protected and studied by an organization called Arcturos.

Black Bear

Black Bears live all over North America and normally eat plants, insects and small animals. Because people are moving into their home areas – to walk, cycle, camp or build houses – Black Bears have also learned to eat our food and rubbish. So, hungry bears and humans have a greater chance of a dangerous 'meeting'.

Grizzly Bear

Grizzly Bears are a type of very large Brown Bear in North America. Besides the food most other bears eat, they also love fish, especially salmon. This is why they prefer areas near rivers. They like being alone and try to avoid people. Grizzlies can be very dangerous, especially if they are surprised, and so a lot of them have been shot and killed.

Polar Bear

Polar Bears live in the Arctic, around the North Pole, where they swim from one piece of ice to another to find food. In the last 20 years, there has been less sea ice. So, the bears have to swim longer distances. Many become tired and die. Scientists say there are fewer Polar Bears every year.

Use the text to decide which problem, A to F, completes the information in the chart.
Mark its letter on your Answer Sheet. You will use only five of the letters.

					
Bear	Giant Panda	Brown Bear	Black Bear	Grizzly Bear	Polar Bear
Usual Food	Leaves and stems of the bamboo plant	Fruit, leaves, insects, and small animals	Fruit, animals or human food and rubbish	Fruit, nuts, insects, small animals and fish	Sea animals in winter; plants in summer
Main Problem	16. ____	17. ____	18. ____	19. ____	20. ____
Number Alive	1600 wild ones in China	150 to 250 in Greece	750,000 in North America	40,000 mostly in Alaska	20,000 around Arctic Sea

- A. People moving into bears' areas have changed their natural food.
 B. Cutting areas of forest keeps them from finding fresh food.
 C. They get tired and die while travelling long distances.
 D. Fast cars and lorries have killed some of them in recent years.
 E. An organization that that studies them does little to protect them.
 F. Because people are afraid of them, many have been killed.

Choose the correct phrase to complete each sentence.
Mark its letter, A, B or C, on your Answer Sheet.

21. The text says our ideas about bears are ____ .
 A. not always completely correct
 B. formed by living near them
 C. based on a fear of big animals
22. The main problem bears face is the increase in ____ .
 A. the number of bears in the world
 B. old factories and airports near cities
 C. human activity that affects their area
23. The chart tells us that all bears eat some ____ .
 A. plants or fruit
 B. plants and small animals
 C. animals and humans
24. The text and chart show that most bears live in the ____ .
 A. land areas near the sea
 B. northern half of the world
 C. south-central part of the world
25. The ____ lives the farthest north.
 A. Brown Bear
 B. Polar Bear
 C. Black Bear

READING & USAGE EXERCISE 2: Numbers 26 to 35

Read this text about a way to use less petrol.

Choose the correct word to fill each gap.

Mark its letter, A, B or C, on your Answer Sheet.

Check the Air in Your Tyres!

We don't have to buy an electric car to help save the environment. There's a **(26)** way to save petrol and put less *CO₂ pollution into the air. And it's **(27)** under our cars. It's the tyres! If we keep the correct amount of air in the tyres, the car will need less petrol to drive the same **(28)**.

Bridgestone, **(29)** of the world's biggest tyre makers, studied 38,000 cars in nine European countries. They found that 71% of drivers didn't have as much air in their tyres as they should have. Those tyres **(30)** their drivers an extra £2.8 billion per year, for the extra 2 billion litres of petrol they use.

For each car, that's only about 1.8 grams of petrol **(31)** kilometre. But when you multiply that by the all the cars on the road, that's almost 5 million tonnes of CO₂ every year. That's 5 million tonnes **(32)** we wouldn't put into the environment, if we checked the air in our tyres **(33)**.

Besides the environmental problem and the extra money it's costing them, these drivers may also be making the roads more **(34)**. A car is harder to drive and it takes longer to stop when there isn't enough air in the tyres.

When you think about all these together – environment, cost, and safe driving – it's a good idea to check the air in the tyres every time we fill **(35)** the petrol tank.

From an article at www.gizmag.com

* CO₂ = carbon dioxide, a gas that causes global warming



- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 26. | A. difficult | B. simple | C. surprised |
| 27. | A. rarely | B. never | C. right |
| 28. | A. distance | B. space | C. departure |
| 29. | A. one | B. some | C. most |
| 30. | A. charge | B. cost | C. spend |
| 31. | A. per | B. of | C. to |
| 32. | A. who | B. whom | C. that |
| 33. | A. generally | B. usually | C. regularly |
| 34. | A. smooth | B. dangerous | C. crowded |
| 35. | A. up | B. out | C. in |

READING & USAGE EXERCISE 3: Numbers 36 to 40**WHY WAS JOHN LATE FOR SCHOOL?**

Match one of John's replies from the box with each of Sally's questions on the left. Mark its letter, A to F, on your Answer Sheet. You will use only five of the letters.

Sally: Why were you late for school today?

John: __ (36) __

Sally: I bet you missed breakfast, didn't you?

John: __ (37) __

Sally: What did you do when you realised that?

John: __ (38) __

Sally: So far, so good. Then what happened?

John: __ (39) __

Sally: I knew it! When did the next one come?

John: __ (40) __

Sally: No wonder you were late!

A. I ran back home to get it, of course!

B. Oh, about half an hour later.

C. Well, first of all I woke up late. And then I couldn't find my socks.

D. By the time I got back to the bus stop, I'd missed the bus.

E. I really need to try to get to bed earlier!

F. No, I ate some toast as I ran to the bus stop, but I forgot to take my book bag with me.

READING & USAGE EXERCISE 4: Numbers 41 to 45**JAMIE OLIVER'S SCHOOL LUNCHES**

Put the parts of the article in the correct order.

Mark the letter of each part, A to G, on your Answer Sheet.

You will use only five of the letters. The first one is done for you.

EX. Part 1

The answer is A. Schools, Jamie said, served ...

A B C D E F G H



In 2005, TV chef Jamie Oliver decided it was time to improve school lunches in the UK. His reason was simple.

EX. Part 1 A

41. Part 2

42. Part 3

43. Part 4

44. Part 5

45. Part 6

A. Schools, Jamie said, served too much fast food and not enough healthy food.

B. To teach the children, he went to their classrooms. He told them that healthy food can also be delicious. Everyone enjoyed the lessons.

C. But Jamie also knew that children – and not just schools – needed to learn about food.

D. So, he suggested that they should stop serving fast food. Instead, he said, they should offer delicious meals with plenty of fresh fruit and salads.

E. The TV programme was a huge success, and parents and others joined in and made the government change the meals at schools around the country.

F. If they want to lose weight, children should eat plenty of hamburgers, chips and sweets.

G. Some of the children from his lessons appeared on his television programme. Of course, their parents thought this was great.

The "Feed Me Better" plan, as it was called, worked well. Some schools even found that children did better in class and in exams after their food improved.

Read more at <http://www.jamieoliver.com/school-dinners>

Photo Credit: ABC TV

READING & USAGE EXERCISE 5: Numbers 46 to 50

Each of the paragraphs in the web article has one sentence missing.

Choose the correct sentence from the box to fill each gap.

Mark its letter, A to F, on your Answer Sheet. You will use only five of the letters.

- A. You can polish shoes and silver with it. It's also good for your skin.
- B. Water from a small mountain stream tastes delicious.
- C. When we turn on the tap, clean water that is safe to drink comes out.
- D. What comes out of it, into the mouth, is safe, clean water.
- E. It doesn't have to be this way!
- F. If the sun is strong, it will heat the water to 50°C or more.

CLEAN WATER FOR ALL!

Four ways to get safe water to drink



More than one billion people, one sixth of the world's population, do not have safe water to drink. About half of the world's poor suffer from diseases carried by dirty water, and, of these, over 6,000, mainly children, die each day by drinking unsafe water. **__(46)__**



Life Straw

This could be one of the greatest life-savers in history. It's a plastic pipe filter – only 25 cm long. It has no moving parts and only needs someone strong enough to suck the water up through it. **__(47)__** Each straw costs less than €20 to make and has a life of 700 litres. That's a year of drinking water for one person. It would take less than €20 billion a year to save everyone who needs clean water!

<http://www.indesignlive.com/articles/90-inspiration#axzz1qu1ZqvnX>



Banana Peel

We used to hear jokes about people who slip on a banana peel and fall down. But, banana skin isn't really funny. There are a lot of serious uses for it. You can dig it in around rose bushes to feed them. **__(48)__** And, now, scientists have found they can cut banana peel up into tiny pieces and use it to remove dangerous metals from water. Such metals can make people very sick. The method is cheap and it works well.

<http://www.gizmag.com/banana-peel-finds-use-as-water-purifier/18126/>



SODIS - The Sun in a Bottle

SODIS is a simple way to make dirty water safe. Clear plastic bottles are filled with unsafe water and left in the sun. The sun and the heat it makes work together to clean the water. **__(49)__** At this temperature, it only takes about five hours to make the water safe to drink. If the sky is cloudy, it can take as long as two days. And if it rains all the time ... it's better to collect rainwater to drink.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Indonesia-sodis-gross.jpg>



City Water

Most towns and cities have clean water from a well, a river or a lake, like Lake Marathona near Athens. The water is cleaned with chemicals and it's sent to every home through pipes. **__(50)__** If the pipes or the factory that cleans the water are broken, many people have a problem. This doesn't happen often, but maybe it's a good idea to keep a few clean plastic bottles – or some bananas – just in case.

C

WRITING (25 points)

- You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this part of the test.
- You may use a blank sheet of paper as a draft.
- Write your task in the space provided on the back of your Answer Sheet in blue or black pen.

You have **ONE** writing task to do. Choose either **Topic A** or **Topic B**.

Write your task in about **120** words on your Answer Sheet.

TOPIC A: You've heard about a summer camp that helps younger children with their school work. The camp needs older students to help the younger ones. It doesn't pay anything, but you're a good student, and you'd like to help.

Write an **email** to the head teacher at the camp.

Be sure to:

- say why you want to help
- say what you think you could do
- ask for more information about the camp



OR

TOPIC B: Who is the newest friend you've made? Can you describe him or her? What did you expect your friend to be like? Did he or she turn out to be as you expected?

Write a **description** of the friend you've made most recently.

Be sure to say:

- your friend's name and what he or she looks like
- how you met this new friend
- what you expected him or her to be like
- whether your friend is what you expected

