

# ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST

Candidate name \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate or candidate parent's email address  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Candidate,

You are about to start doing a placement test which consists of 50 questions designed to check your knowledge of English grammar and vocabulary through the form of multiple-choice questions. In other words, you have to select one of the offered answers.

The content of sentences reflects the situations we all encounter in everyday life, but also some elements of tasks you may come across in the real test material.

The time expected for completion of this test is as follows:

1. 50 questions – grammar and vocabulary – 30 minutes
2. Reading task – reading a passage and answering 6 multiple-choice questions – 20 minutes
3. Writing task – select one of the topics offered and create an essay, consisting of between 150 and 350 words – 30 minutes

The total time you should spend on completion of this test is 80 minutes.

To provide a genuine insight into your knowledge, please refrain from using AI or any technological-based assistance.

1. If I .....well in my exams, I ..... to university.

- a will do; go
- b do; go
- c do; will go

2. She was so upset that she burst ..... tears.

- a into
- b out
- c with

3. Where did you go ..... holiday last year?

- a for
- b on
- c to

4. Tomorrow's a holiday, so we ..... go to work.

- a have to
- b mustn't
- c don't have to

5. We stayed in a lovely villa ..... the sea.

- a it overlooks
- b overlooked
- c overlooking

6. Not until the 1980s ..... for the average person to own a computer.

- a it was possible
- b was it possible
- c was possible

7. My cousin ..... getting a job in Bahrain.

- a would like
- b is planning
- c is thinking of

8. I wish I ..... have an exam tomorrow!

- a don't
- b didn't
- c won't

9. The government plans to ..... taxes on sales of luxury items.

- a increase
- b expand
- c go up

10. When I first moved to Hong Kong, life in a different country was very strange, but now I'm used ..... here.

- a living
- b to live
- c to living

11. Why on earth isn't Josh here yet? ..... for him for over an hour!

- a I'm waiting
- b I've been waiting
- c I've waited

12. Daniel's hair is getting far too long; he should ..... soon.

- a cut it
- b have cut it
- c have it cut

13. Mandy works for a computer software company. She got ..... recently, and so now she's an area manager.

- a made redundant
- b promoted
- c a raise

14. I promise I'll call you as soon as I .....

- a I arrive
- b I arrived
- c I'll arrive

15. The global financial crisis, ..... is forcing lots of small businesses to close, does not look set to end soon.

- a it
- b that
- c which

16. There ..... a terrible accident if the pilot hadn't reacted so quickly.

- a had been
- b was
- c would have been

17. I've been working here ..... about the last two years.

- a during
- b for
- c since

18. "I've got a headache."  
"Maybe you ..... to take an aspirin."

- a should
- b ought
- c don't

19. She won a seat in parliament at the last .....

- a general election
- b opinion poll
- c referendum

20. I'm surprised you didn't get upset. If someone said that to me, ..... really angry.

- a I'm
- b I was
- c I'd be

21. This used to be ..... part of the city, but since the old buildings were renovated it's become a very fashionable area.

- a an affluent
- b a run-down
- c a trendy

22. In the 1960s, computers were ..... expensive that ordinary people couldn't afford them.

- a so
- b such
- c too

23. ..... worries me about society today is how completely we have come to depend on technology.

- a That
- b What
- c Which

24. "What did you use to do on Sundays?"

"We would usually ..... for a walk in the morning."

- a go
- b used to go
- c went

25. Don't you think Sam ..... just like his father?

- a is looking
- b looks
- c has been looking

26. The news caught me completely by .....

- a shock
- b disbelief
- c surprise

27. The country's economy relies heavily on the tourist .....

- a industry
- b company
- c factory.

28. "Shall we meet at seven tonight?"

"No. I'll still ..... then."

- a work
- b be working
- c have been working

29. Call me as soon as you ..... your test results.

- a get
- b will get
- c will have got

30. The man could have been sent to prison if the judge ..... his story.

- a wouldn't have believed
- b wouldn't believe
- c hadn't believed

31. When they thought they had enough evidence, the police ..... the man with murder.

- a arrested
- b charged
- c investigated

32. The new law is ..... the old one.

- a more stricter than
- b much stricter from
- c much stricter than

33. I've got a good chance of getting the job, ..... I do okay in the interview.

- a unless
- b provided
- c in case

34. You may experience some side .... when you take this medicine.

- a results
- b consequences
- c effects

35. If you.... iron, it starts to get red hot and then white hot.

- a would heat
- b heat
- c will heat

36. I'm having my car .... at the moment.

- a servicing
- b serviced
- c to be serviced

37. I got my little brother .....my bedroom for me.

- a tidied
- b tidy
- c to tidy

38. "Maybe that's Stan at the door."

"No, it ... be Stan. He's gone out of town for the weekend."

- a mustn't
- b can't
- c wouldn't

39. Most fast food .... to be unhealthy but I'm not sure that's true.

- a said
- b has said
- c is said

40. Inviting both Tom and Shirley to the party is a ..... for disaster.

- a prescription
- b receipt
- c recipe

41. The first feature-length film..... by Charlie Chaplin.

- a has been created
- b was created
- c been created

42. The roof of the car can ..... by pressing this button here.

- a being lowered
- b be lowered
- c lowered

43. Two suspects ..... at this moment by police in connection with the burglary.

- a are questioned
- b are being questioned
- c are questioning

44. Assessment of this course **includes/consists of** coursework (30%) and examinations (70%).

45. If somebody has a diet which is **deficient/inadequate** in vitamins, he/she may suffer poor health as a result.

46. Extreme religious groups living in isolated **communes/societies** have been responsible for a number of violent crimes.

47. **Medium- /Middle-** size companies are often more flexible than larger organisations.

48. If you are taking medicine, you should avoid alcohol as the two may **interact/cooperate** and make you ill.

49. Government safety inspectors found **abnormal/unlikely** levels of radiation in the area around the nuclear power plant.

50. More than 30,000 people **participated/contributed** in the experiment.

Questions 1 – 5 are based on the following passage.

The following is an excerpt from a book on genomics, the new science of gathering and using the information encoded in the genes of an organism.

Biology is being reborn as an information science, a progeny of the Information Age. As information scientists, biologists concern themselves with the message that sustains life, such as the intricate series of signals that tell a fertilized egg to develop into a full-grown organism, or the orchestrated response (**bold 1**) the immune system makes to an invading pathogen. Molecules convey information, and it is their messages that are of paramount importance. Each molecule interacts with a set of other molecules and each set communicates with another set such that all are interconnected. Networks of molecules give rise to cells; networks of cells produce multicellular organisms; networks of people bring about cultures and societies; and networks of species encompass ecosystems. Life is a web and the web is life.

Ironically, it was the euphoria for molecules that touched off this scientific revolution. In the 1980s only a tiny percentage of the millions of different molecular components of living beings were known. In order to gain access to these molecules, a new science and even a new industry had to be created. Genomics is the development and application of research tools that uncover and analyze thousands of different molecules at a time. This new approach to biology has been so successful that universities have created entire departments devoted to it, and all major pharmaceuticals companies now have large genomics divisions. Genomics has granted biologists unprecedented access to the molecules of life, but this is more than just a technological revolution. Through genomics massive amounts of biological information can be converted into an electronic format. This directly links the life sciences to the information sciences, thereby facilitating a dramatically new framework (**bold 2**) for understanding life.

Information is a message, a bit of news. It may be encoded or decoded. It may be conveyed by smoke signals, pictures, sound waves, electromagnetic waves, or innumerable other media, but information itself is not made of anything. It has no mass. Furthermore, information always has a sender and an intended receiver. This implies an underlying intent, meaning, or purpose. Information theory thus may seem unfit for the cold objectivism of science (**bold 3**). The focus of the information sciences, however, is not so much on information content, but rather on how messages are conveyed, processed, and stored.

Advances in this area have been great and have helped to propel the remarkable development of the computer and telecommunication industries. Could these forces be harnessed to better understand the human body and to improve human health?

1. The primary purpose of this passage is to
  - (A) Refute a theory.
  - (B) Describe the origins of a misconception.
  - (C) Analyze different perspectives on a phenomenon.
  - (D) Describe a new trend in a field of study.
  - (E) Suggest a new method of teaching.
  
2. The passage mentions each of the following as an example of elements interrelating to form a larger whole EXCEPT
  - (A) Molecules forming a cell.
  - (B) Organisms forming an ecosystem.
  - (C) Pathogens forming the immune system.
  - (D) Individuals forming a society.
  - (E) Cells forming an organism.
  
3. The passage mentions the “orchestrated response” (bold 1) primarily as an example of
  - (A) The coordinated efforts of scientists.
  - (B) Molecules conveying information.
  - (C) The work being done to promote genomics.
  - (D) The similarity between cells and computers.
  - (E) An unrealized potential of the cell.
  
4. According to the passage, the “dramatically new framework” (bold 2) is on in which
  - (A) New university buildings are being built.
  - (B) The immune system attacks a pathogen.
  - (C) Network of molecules give rise to cells.
  - (D) Genomics research receives more fundamental.
  - (E) Biological data is translated into a new form.
  
5. According to the passage, information theory “may seem unfit for the cold objectivism of science” (bold 3)
  - (A) It is better suited to commercial industry than to academic study.
  - (B) It can be conveyed by sound waves.
  - (C) It suggests that messages may have meaning or purpose.
  - (D) It is not rigorously studied.
  - (E) It analyzes biological information.
  
6. Which of the following best describes the function of the final paragraph in relation to the rest of the passage?
  - (A) It modifies a theory presented earlier.
  - (B) It provides a solution to a problem mentioned earlier.
  - (C) It raises doubts about the value of genomics.
  - (D) It indicates actual and potential consequences of genomics.
  - (E) It mentions a viable alternative to genomics.

## WRITING PLACEMENT TEST

Choose one topic and write an essay:

1. Some people say that the Internet provides people with a lot of valuable information. Others think access to so much information creates problems. Which view do you agree with?
2. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Childhood is the happiest time of a person's life.
3. Some people believe that nowadays we have too many choices. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
4. Living in a country where you have to speak a foreign language can cause serious social problems, as well as practical problems. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?