ASSESSMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS
Certificate III Advanced English for Further Study 10752

NAME: ____________________________________________

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS WITH YOUR ENROLMENT FORM

Before your enrolment application is accepted we need to see that your English language skills are at a suitable level for the course. Please complete the reading and writing tasks. The whole pre-assessment should take approximately 2 hours. I have asked you to note your start time and finish time

Start time _________ Finish time ___________

Do not get any help from others or copy from the Internet or other sources.

WRITING TASK 1

Write a letter to a friend who has just arrived in Australia and tell them about the options available for them to learn English. Include some strategies that have helped you to improve your English.

Write at least 150 words. You do not need to write an address. Begin your letter as follows:

Dear ……………………….. ,

_____________________________________________________________________

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WRITING TASK 2

Write about the following topic:

Compare the advantages and disadvantages of three of the following as media for communicating information. State which you consider to be the most effective.

- Comics
- Books
- Television
- Film
- theatre.
Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience. Write at least 250 words

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READING ASSESSMENT

Task 1: Identify different points of view

Read the two essays on animal testing and answer the questions that follow.

Essay 1

On a daily basis animals are undergoing excruciating torture or death as a result of scientific research into the effects of drugs, cosmetics and other chemicals. Although many people think animal testing is necessary there are others who are appalled at the senseless suffering of innocent animals. This essay looks at some of the positive and negative aspects of animal testing.

As animals have many similar features to human beings scientists use them to test the safety and efficiency of drugs under development. Once they have proven safe they are then tested on sample groups of people with suitable conditions. As a result there have been thousands of new treatments that have benefited the human race. Therefore, without testing the drugs could have been potentially very dangerous for people.

In contrast, some people view animal testing as inhumane and unnecessary. There are alternatives to animal testing particularly with the rapid development of technology and the ability of computers to generate models to demonstrate drug effectiveness and safety. The other concern of animal rights supporters is that many of the drugs that were successfully tested on animals fail to be used successfully in humans. In addition there are many products like cosmetics and cleaning products that are not life-saving which are also being tested on animals.

It is essential that while we continue to use animals for testing purposes their suffering is minimised and they are treated with respect.

Essay 2

People’s lives are saved every day as a direct result of the successful testing of drugs on animals. Without testing on animals those lives would have been lost. Regardless of these benefits many people are demanding an end to the testing of drugs on animals.

The claims of cruelty against animals used in experiments are unbalanced in the light of the alternative testing of drugs on adults and children. I completely disagree with these claims. This research is essential, particularly as there is no suitable alternative.

Another of the criticisms against animal testing is that often the results are inconclusive or of no use to human beings. It is true that many drugs tested on animals do not have the same success on people. However, the purpose of testing is just that, to find out what does and does not work. It is impossible to guarantee that every drug tested will be beneficial.

It is essential that we ensure stress and cruelty to animals is minimised throughout the testing process. However, I am completely supportive of animal testing because of the benefits to the human race now and in the future.
Activity 1

1. What is the subject of the essays?

________________________________________________________________________

2. What is the opinion of the writer in essay 1?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. Give examples of the words and phrases that identify the writer’s opinion.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

4. What is the opinion of the writer in essay 2?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

5. Give examples of the words and phrases that identify the writer’s opinion.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
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6. Write your opinion about the topic?

________________________________________________________________________
Task 2

Questions 7-13

From the list of headings below, choose the most suitable heading for each paragraph A-G. Write the appropriate numbers (i-x) in boxes 7-12 on your answer sheet on page 10.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of headings</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i  Allow the best fluid intake</td>
<td>7. Paragraph A _____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii Have a joyful time</td>
<td>8. Paragraph B _____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii Overcome difficulties</td>
<td>9. Paragraph C _____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv Mind your own business</td>
<td>10. Paragraph D _____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v  Renew your body cells</td>
<td>11. Paragraph E _____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vi Review your meals</td>
<td>12. Paragraph F _____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vii Become proactive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viii Control your diabetes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ix Be in touch with nature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x  Count your calories</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Food for Thought

Seven steps to a healthier life

A. First of all, dieting does not only consist of dashing to the supermarket and glancing through shelves in search of a miserable, tiny chocolate bar with the word ‘diet’ written in gold letters. Dieting is about balancing the food you eat! In other words, you cannot eat some green salad and sip a glass of grapefruit juice and, then, ask for three hamburgers and a pack of chips. You should think about the food you eat as if you had to put it on a scale. Instead of dragging your feet when you step on a scale, consider a fast handwriting in calorie scale. How many calories am I supposed to have on a daily basis? And how many calories do I actually eat?

B. Taking down the amount of calories you have is not the only step for a healthier life. Exercising, whether we like it or not, is vital to our organs and body systems. Have you got any problems with diabetes? Then, walking is important to help your pancreas reactivate itself so as to burn the sugar and the carbohydrates. Whatever physical activity you take up, you can be certain that the first one to be benefited from it is your own body.

C. Breathing fresh air is as crucial to your body as regular exercise. Wherever you live, wherever you work or study in, there should always be some free time to rest under a tree or a garden for a few minutes. However, a good air quality should also be followed by a deep breath. This way, inhaling and exhaling can actually feed your cells and lungs with oxygen while reinvigorating your
mind and body.

D. As well as oxygen, our bodies need the most wonderful cleansing system – water! Yes, you should drink about two litres of water per day. This is crucial to the function of your kidneys as they do keep kidney stones away. Water hydrates your cells and it is a refreshing drink. No wonder why human body is 60 or 70 percent water.

E. A change in your lifestyle is inevitably important to the quality of your life. No matter how hardworking you are at home and in your workplace, there is a time when you should definitely avoid stress! This includes getting involved in stressful situations, such as family conflicts, heavy workload and unnecessary emotional distress. You are not a hero and if you carry such problems over your shoulders, you will not do anyone any good.

F. At the end of the day, there should be a relaxing night. You have probably heard that you should sleep between 7 and 8 hours per night. This is vital to the replenishment of energy stores, repair of damaged tissues, recovery of cells and maintenance of our bodies and minds. For this reason, the next time you go for a session of sleep deprivation, you should remember the effects you are missing out from a good night’s sleep. Last but not least, you should take some time to relax and smile! Smiling attracts other smiles and can make your life much happier. You will also feel less tense, worried and anxious and your life can be changed into a state of relaxation and happiness.
Now read the information below and answer questions 13-21.

Degree in Human Geography

ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

Fieldtrip –
The first assessment consists of a trip to a London area known as ‘The City of London’ or Square Mile, as its area covers about a mile (2.6km²). It is a modern conurbation and holds the UK financial centres and industry. You will spend a day walking though the monuments and buildings that are of historical and cultural importance and are expected to take leaflets and talk to engineers and architects about the development of this urban area.

Portfolio –
Once the first assessment is completed, you will build up a portfolio on the geographical and urban planning of the ‘City of London’. You are expected to consider both the emergent growth companies that have settled there and the environmental impact on the site.

Further Information:
• The fieldtrip will take place during the week 9. This is a date set between Monday, 4th April and Friday, 8th April. Two tutors will accompany the group and guide them through the major buildings. Introductory information will also be given to the students.

• Professionals such as planning managers, engineers and architects will be available in specific buildings. Students should take the initiative to talk to them, i.e. write down relevant questions and interview them.

• The portfolio should be handed in by the end of the week 14. Therefore, the deadline for this assignment is 13th May. Only under special circumstances will this assignment be considered after this date. Building up a portfolio means that each student will organise a set of appropriate informative leaflets and information sheets, responses during the interviews and their own reflections on it. The development of reflective skills is an important issue and they are to be assessed and evaluated in this assignment.

Questions 13-21

Look at the assessment guidelines for students on how to approach their assignments.
Complete the flow chart below using NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 14-21

13. Undergraduate students have two types of assignments in order to complete their ……………………… course.

14. The first one …………………….. to the ‘City of London’.

15. It will be held on …………………. during week 9.

16. Students will be guided by …………………

17. The second assessment is a ………………………
18. It consists of gathering ………………………….

19. Students are expected to …………………………., i.e. end of week 14.

20. ……………………….. will be evaluated and will count towards the final mark.

PART 3

Beyond the limits of land exploited

Despite deforestation within the last few centuries, rainforests still remain a biodiversity treasure hidden from human touch

Throughout the centuries, rainforests have played a significant role in enriching society. Firstly, there were the indigenous tribes, who worshiped the rainforests with their own culture and their love and respect for nature. Then, there were the members of a new civilisation, and wherever they stepped on, forests faced devastation. Whether they looked for gold and precious stones or a new land to settle down, the result was deforestation.

Life changed, and so did the meaning of richness. Nowadays, there are those who seek to do business with the wood being cut illegally. And there are the members of the science community – they are biologists, chemists, naturalists and health professionals who have been struggling to learn about the secrets of biodiversity.

The name rainforests designates the forests which are under heavy rainfall throughout the year. They are located in the intertropical convergence zone, i.e. the area surrounding the equator. They fall into two categories – the tropical rainforest and the temperate one. The first one is found in the tropical areas, including Central America, South America, Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. The second one is located in the temperate regions of North America, South America, Europe, East Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

Studies have shown that a rainforest is comprised of four layers. The emergent layer carries a small amount of large trees, which are home to eagles, bats and butterflies.

The canopy layer contains the densest areas of biodiversity since adjacent treetops are thought to protect 50 percent of the flora that live on Earth. Underneath the canopy we can find the understory layer and its variety of birds, snakes, lizards and predators, such as jaguars and leopards. The last one is the forest floor, a mysterious area with only 2 percent of sunlight and living beings that can survive under this condition.

Thus, an inconceivable diversity of ecosystems is believed to live underneath the magnificent treetops in both temperate and tropical rainforests. Furthermore, the importance of flow of information has meant that wealth lies in the provision of new information to this postmodern society. Therefore, recent government intervention to save the Brazilian rainforest from deforestation, for example, has clearly contributed to scientific research since the object of study is to be kept away from destruction.

In fact, 50 percent of the fauna found in the world is thought to inhabit in the rainforest. There is a wide range of species, including mammals, reptiles, birds and invertebrates, and an incredible flora that live in natural ecosystems. Biodiversity is a singular feature of the rainforests. As they protect amazing species, they are also home to the natural resources for new medicine and a healthier life. Yet, the more we learn about them, the more there is to discover.
Questions 21-22

Choose the appropriate letter A-D and write them in boxes 21-22 on your answer sheet.

21. What do you learn about the rainforests in the first paragraph?

A the reasons why different civilisations came to the rainforests
B the amount of wealth that is found in the rainforests
C the degree of deforestation so far
D the lack of respect humans have for the rainforests.

22. In the second paragraph, what piece of information is accurate about the human beings who have been to the rainforests?

A The scientists who explore the rainforest are very rich.
B Biologists and chemists aim to gain knowledge on biodiversity.
C Criminals gave up cutting wood illegally.
D Naturalists and health professionals intend to live there.

Questions 23-25

Choose THREE letters A-G and write them in boxes 23-25 on your answer sheet.
Which THREE of the following does the writer highlight when describing the rainforests?

A the etymological origin of the word ‘rainforest’.
B all the countries where portions of rainforest are found.
C the rainforests subdivisions.
D the reason behind the name ‘rainforest’.
E the difference between tropical and temperate rainforests.
F the area where rainforests are located.
G the biodiversity available in the rainforests.

Questions 26-28

Using NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS, answer the following questions. Write your answers in boxes 26-28 on your answer sheet.

27. Which layer holds a high degree of biodiversity?

28. What is the name of the third layer mentioned in the passage?

29. What does the term ‘under this condition’ refer to?
**Questions 29-31**

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the reading passage? In boxes 29-31 on your answer sheet write

**TRUE** if the statement is true

**FALSE** if the statement is false

**NOT GIVEN** if the information is not given in the passage

1. Postmodern society seeks information as a source of wealth.
2. Government intervention in activities of deforestation is the result of a partnership with the scientific community.
3. Biodiversity is the only characteristic of the remaining rainforests.


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**Your answer sheet, please write your answers here.**

| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. | 8. | 9. | 10. | 11. | 12. | 13. | 14. | 15. | 16. | 17. | 18. | 19. | 20. | 21. | 22. | 23. | 24. | 25. | 26. | 27. | 28. | 29. | 30. | 31. |