

Centre for Preparatory Studies (CPS)

English Language Unit

English Level 2 (FPE 102B)

MOCK Midterm: Reading & Writing Exams

Term __, __, 20__---25

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|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Student Name | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Student ID | | | | | | | | | | | Date: |
| Section | | | | | | | | | | | Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes |

General Instructions

- Place your DU ID card on your desk throughout the examination period.
- Read the task instructions carefully.
- Use only a blue or black pen. (Pencil is allowed only for writing tasks.)
- Not allowed to use programmable calculators and/or smart-watches/phones or any other smart devices inside the exam hall.
- Must abide by DU's Academic Integrity Policy (AIP) - Policy No. DU-AC-007



Dhofar University's Academic Integrity Policy (AIP) is intended to foster hard work, honesty, and responsibility. It strictly prohibits all forms of academic misconduct, including cheating and collusion, plagiarism, and impersonation. By signing below, I agree to abide by the AIP.

تهدف سياسة النزاهة الأكاديمية بجامعة ظفار إلى تعزيز العمل الجاد والأمانة والمسؤولية و تحظر تمامًا جميع الأشكال التي تخالف النزاهة الأكاديمية، بما في ذلك الغش والتواطؤ والسرقة الأدبية والانتحال. بالتوقيع أدناه ، أوافق على الالتزام بسياسة النزاهة الأكاديمية.

Signature of the student _____

| Reading | | |
|--------------|--|-----------|
| Passage | | 15 |
| Vocabulary | | 5 |
| Total | | 20 |

| Writing | | |
|--------------|--|-----------|
| Grammar | | 5 |
| Essay | | 15 |
| Total | | 20 |

| | |
|---|--|
| Marked by: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____ | Checked by: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____ |
|---|--|

READING EXAM

Passage

Grade ____/15

Questions 1-15

Traffic Jams

- A** Traffic jams are no fun. They affect people around the world, in first-world countries and developing countries. Pollution, of course, is a problem—but the real issue is lost time. According to a *New York Times* article of April 1, 2020, New Yorkers spend an average of one week per year sitting in traffic jams. While there are alternative methods of transportation (for example, New York’s subway system is fast, cheap, and convenient), many people still drive to work because they want the privacy and comfort of their own car. The question is, how can we reduce traffic without inconveniencing people’s daily life?
- B** One way to reduce traffic is congestion pricing. In congestion pricing, you have to pay a toll to drive in certain parts of the city at certain times of day. In theory, if the toll is high—say, \$5 a day—people will use public transport more. In practice, it seems to work. Singapore, London, and Stockholm have all reduced traffic (and pollution) in downtown areas using congestion pricing. This plan, however, makes life economically difficult for the common people.
- C** Another way is for businesses to use a system called ‘flextime’, in which people go to and home from work at different, non-peak traffic times. This spreads traffic throughout the day and leads to fewer traffic jams. People who have to travel during rush hour can still carpool (that is, share a vehicle). Businesses can also let more people telecommute, or work from home, to keep cars off the road altogether. But for this plan, you need businesses to buy into the idea, and some of them might not like moving away from the normal 9 o’clock to 5 o’clock schedule.
- D** Some urban planners still believe that the best way to reduce traffic jams is to build more roads, especially bypass roads that take cars around or over crowded city streets. But plans like this don’t solve the problem: they don’t reduce the number of cars on the road. As the saying goes, if you give people an inch, they’ll take a mile. More roads simply means more cars.
- E** In my opinion, public transport is a better long-term idea. Last year, the American government spent \$7 billion to **upgrade** public transport around the country with the latest technology. That’s good start, but it’s much less than the \$50 billion that was spent on new roads and bridges in the same year. Let’s call on the government to invest more in public transport. That way, we can reduce traffic and protect the environment.

The passage has five paragraphs (A-E). Match the main ideas (1–4) to the paragraphs (B–E) in the article.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1 working with businesses | _____ |
| 2 paying to drive | _____ |
| 3 public problem, public solution | _____ |
| 4 building projects | _____ |

Choose the correct answer. Circle A, B, or C.

5 In Paragraph A, we can infer that the author _____.

- A) has an electric vehicle
- B) is not an environmentalist
- C) doesn't like the subway

8 In Paragraph E, the word **upgrade** means _____.

- A) research
- B) prevent
- C) improve

6. According to the New York Times article, people still drive to work _____.

- A) to get there faster
- B) to have more privacy
- C) to stay less in traffic

9 Who is the intended audience for this article?

- A) university professors
- B) general readers
- C) business executives

7. According to the text, what is one advantage of congestion prices?

- A) improving the economy
- B) reducing pollution
- C) avoiding toll payment

10 What is the author's main purpose in writing this article?

- A) present an opinion
- B) advertise a program
- C) provide information

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR NUMBERS** from the passage for each answer.

11 What is the name of the transport system businesses use?

12 What can businesses let people do to keep cars off the road?

13 What does more roads mean according to the author?

14 How much did the American government spend on new roads and bridges?

Answer the following question with a minimum of 10 words using your own ideas.

15 Do you think public transport is a popular transport option? Why / Why not?

Questions 16-20

Complete the sentences with the words in the box. Not all words are used.

farming
provides
endangered
commuter
major
destination
survive

- 16** Polar bears become _____ due to the melting ice.
- 17** Many villagers cut down trees to clear the land for _____.
- 18** People can't _____ for more than a few days without water.
- 19** The company _____ all employees with a laptop.
- 20** Invasive species can be a _____ threat to ecosystems.

WRITING EXAM

Grammar
Questions 1-5

Grade ____/5

Join the pairs of sentences using the words in brackets ().

1 The air quality is not bad for animals. The air quality is not harmful to humans. (or)

2 You can travel anywhere by bus. The trains usually go to only some major cities. (whereas)

3 The wolf is not a farm animal. The fox is not a farm animal. (neither... nor...)

4 He paid a huge fine last month. He parked in the wrong area. (because)

5 The government starts implementing strict laws. Traffic congestion will be solved. (If)

Choose ONE of the writing topics.

Topic 1:

☐ Read the introduction and conclusion to the essay. Use your notes from the table below to write about the advantages and disadvantages of two solutions to the air pollution problem. Write 150 words.

Write notes about your topic.

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Problem | Goal: solve this problem |
| Air pollution | Cleaner air |

| Body 1 | |
|----------|---------------|
| Solution | Advantages |
| | Disadvantages |
| Body 2 | |
| Solution | Advantages |
| | Disadvantages |

There are many problems with big cities. One of the main reasons for this is that cities have a lot of people. This is a serious problem because it results in more factories that cause air pollution in big cities. We need to try to solve this problem with some solutions. I am going to write about two possible solutions to this problem.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Topic 2:

○ Read the introduction and conclusion to the essay. Use your notes from the table below to write about the advantages and disadvantages of two solutions to the fear of flying. Write 150 words.

Write notes about your topic.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Problem | Goal: solve this problem |
| Fear of flying | Help people overcome their fear of flying |

| Body 1 | |
|----------|---------------|
| Solution | Advantages |
| | Disadvantages |
| Body 2 | |
| Solution | Advantages |
| | Disadvantages |

Air travel is one of the most popular transport options nowadays. However, many people can't benefit from it due to their fear of flying. We can find some solutions to this problem. I am going to write about two possible solutions to this problem.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.