

Student Name _____

Beyond English Coaching Selective High School Practice Test

Reading Question Paper Free Practice Test 1

40 Minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES



Please read this page carefully.

There are 30 multiple-choice questions in this paper.

For each question, choose the one correct answer and record your choice on the separate answer sheet. If you make a mistake, erase thoroughly and try again.

You will not lose marks for incorrect answers, so you should attempt all 30 questions.

You must complete the answer sheet within the time limit. There will not be any extra time at the end of the exam to record your answers on the answer sheet.

You can use the question paper for notes, but no extra paper is allowed.

Please note that some words and phrases are in bold in the texts as they are referred to in some questions.

Dictionaries and calculators may NOT be used.

Note: Writing Practice Exam is at the bottom of the this document

Extracts A and B — Theme: Waiting

Read the two extracts below on the theme of waiting. Then answer the questions that follow.

Extract A

The bell above the bakery door gave a weary jingle each time it opened, a sound that had begun to lose its meaning after so many repetitions. Sam stood near the back of the line, shifting his weight from one foot to the other as though the tiled floor beneath him were gradually tilting. He had arrived just before the lunch rush, but somehow the queue had grown instead of shrinking, stretching past the display of pastries and curling towards the shelves stacked with loaves.

The air inside was thick with the smell of fresh bread and sugar, comforting at first but increasingly distracting as time dragged on. Sam tried not to stare at the clock above the counter, though he felt its presence constantly, like an unblinking eye measuring his patience. Every few minutes, someone ahead of him changed their order, asking for an extra roll or debating between two identical cakes, and the delay felt personal, almost deliberate.

Outside, rain streaked down the windows in thin, crooked lines. Cars crawled past, their tyres hissing on the wet road. Sam imagined the places he could already have reached if he had chosen a different shop, but the thought only made him tighten his grip on the coins in his pocket. Leaving now would mean starting again, and that seemed worse than waiting a little longer. With a quiet sigh, he stayed where he was, resigned to the slow rhythm of the queue and the steady ticking of time.

Extract B

We arrived at the station earlier than necessary, a habit my parents had never managed to abandon. By the time we pulled into the car park, the platform was already busy, yet our train was nowhere in sight. A digital sign above the entrance flashed a sequence of messages — ON TIME, then DELAYED, then CHECK PLATFORM — each change greeted with a collective groan from the waiting crowd.

My father remained in the driver's seat even after switching off the engine, his hands resting on the steering wheel as if ready to move at a moment's notice. My sister leaned against the window, watching her reflection blur and sharpen as the fog thickened. I stepped out of the car and joined a small group huddled near the entrance, all of us pretending to be absorbed in our phones while secretly watching the sign for updates.

Announcements echoed across the platform, cheerful in tone but vague in detail. Minutes stretched into something heavier, more tiring than movement ever was. No one complained openly, yet impatience showed itself in small ways — tapping feet, deep sighs, glances at watches. Somewhere beyond the station walls, trains arrived and departed on schedule, but ours remained stubbornly absent. As the sign flickered again, I realised that waiting, especially without clear answers, could be just as exhausting as the journey itself.

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Questions

- In both extracts, the people waiting
 - are uncertain about how long the wait will last
 - become angry with those around them
 - are given clear explanations for the delay
 - decide to leave before the waiting ends
- Which extract shows waiting becoming more frustrating over time due to other people's actions?
 - Extract A
 - Extract B
 - Both
 - Neither
- In Extract A, the description of the bakery mainly helps to
 - show why Sam enjoys being there
 - emphasise how slowly time is passing
 - explain how the bakery is organised
 - suggest that the bakery is poorly run
- Which detail in Extract B best shows the family's impatience without directly stating it?
 - The fog in the car park
 - The father staying in the driver's seat
 - The cheerful announcements
 - The busy platform
- In both extracts, the writers use references to time in order to
 - show that waiting is relaxing
 - suggest that the wait is carefully planned
 - highlight the emotional impact of waiting
 - explain why the wait is unavoidable
- In Extract A, why does Sam decide not to leave the bakery?
 - He believes the service will suddenly speed up
 - He does not want to waste the time he has already spent
 - He is worried about the weather outside
 - He is asked to stay by a staff member
- How do the writers' attitudes to waiting differ between the two extracts?
 - Extract A presents waiting as exciting, while Extract B presents it as frightening
 - Extract A focuses on personal frustration, while Extract B emphasises shared experience
 - Extract A is humorous, while Extract B is angry
 - Extract A is optimistic, while Extract B is dismissive
- Which statement best compares the endings of both extracts?
 - Both end with the waiting suddenly ending
 - Both suggest that waiting has a positive outcome

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- C. Both show the characters accepting the situation
- D. Both show the characters deciding to leave

Fill in the Blank- Question 9

Read the text below and select the correct word or phrase for each gap from the options below

Early Weather Forecasting

Before the development of modern technology, weather forecasting was far less accurate than it is today. Early scientists relied on careful observation of the sky, wind patterns, and changes in air pressure, _____ (1) limited tools to predict future conditions.

Under the _____ (2) of scientific curiosity, these early attempts laid the foundation for more reliable forecasting. It may be hard to _____ (3) now, but forecasts were often based on handwritten records and personal experience rather than precise instruments.

As knowledge improved, new devices were introduced to measure temperature and pressure more accurately. Forecasts that once took hours to produce could eventually be completed in a _____ (4) of the time. However, even with improved tools, predicting the weather remained an uncertain task, requiring _____ (5) interpretation of complex data.

Today, advanced satellites and computer models allow meteorologists to track storms in real time, _____ (6) both accuracy and reliability. While technology continues to advance, weather forecasting still depends on human judgement, reminding us of the _____ (7) balance between science and uncertainty in understanding the natural world, as well as humanity's ongoing _____ (8) to anticipate what lies ahead.

Options

- (1)
- A. depending on
 - B. restricted by
 - C. surrounded by
 - D. focused on

- (2)
- A. influence
 - B. pressure
 - C. demand
 - D. control

- (3)
- A. accept
 - B. imagine

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- C. confirm
- D. describe

(4)

- A. portion
- B. fraction
- C. sequence
- D. volume

(5)

- A. careless
- B. cautious
- C. accidental
- D. reluctant

(6)

- A. reducing
- B. disguising
- C. enhancing
- D. replacing

(7)

- A. fragile
- B. permanent
- C. obvious
- D. equal

(8)

- A. hesitation
- B. curiosity
- C. resistance
- D. indifference

Poem

Read the poem below by William Blake then answer the questions below

The Tyger

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

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In what distant deeps or skies
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand, dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder, & what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And when thy heart began to beat,
What dread hand? & what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain?
In what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? what dread grasp
Dare its deadly terrors clasp?

When the stars threw down their spears
And water'd heaven with their tears:
Did he smile his work to see?
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

Tyger Tyger burning bright,
In the forests of the night:
What immortal hand or eye,
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

Questions

10. The title of this poem
- prepares us for a gentle and peaceful description.
 - contrasts with the fear expressed in the poem.
 - directly explains the poet's message.
 - refers to a mythical creature rather than a real one.
11. What is meant by 'fearful symmetry'?
- the tiger's physical balance and beauty
 - the danger of the forest
 - the tiger's movement through the night
 - the poet's fear of darkness
12. What is suggested by the repeated questions throughout the poem?
- the poet's certainty about creation
 - the speaker's admiration mixed with uncertainty
 - the tiger's confusion
 - the poet's anger
13. Which image suggests that the tiger was created with great force and power?
- 'forests of the night'
 - 'burning bright'

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- c. 'hammer', 'chain', and 'furnace'
 - d. 'stars threw down their spears'
14. Why does the poet mention 'the Lamb'?
- a. to compare two different creators
 - b. to show that tigers are more powerful than lambs
 - c. to contrast innocence with fearsome strength
 - d. to suggest the tiger is dangerous
15. What does the form and repetition of the poem as a whole reflect?
- a. the calm rhythm of nature
 - b. the steady movement of the tiger
 - c. the speaker's growing confidence
 - d. the intensity and mystery surrounding the tiger

Fill in the Statement-Question 16

Read the text below.

Six sentences have been removed from the text so that there are six gaps.

Urban Beekeeping

In recent years, beekeeping has expanded beyond rural farms and into major cities around the world. Rooftops, balconies, and community gardens are increasingly being used to house beehives. Supporters argue that urban environments may actually offer advantages for bees, including greater plant diversity and fewer agricultural chemicals. (A) _____.

Critics, however, question whether cities are suitable habitats for such delicate creatures. They argue that pollution, limited green space, and human activity could place additional stress on bee colonies. (B) _____. As a result, some local councils have introduced regulations to limit where and how beehives can be kept.

Researchers studying urban bee populations have found mixed results. While some colonies thrive, others struggle to survive through winter months. (C) _____. These findings suggest that success depends heavily on careful management and suitable locations.

Another concern relates to the impact of urban beekeeping on native pollinators. Some ecologists warn that high densities of honeybees may compete with local insect species for nectar and pollen. (D) _____. This has led to calls for more research before urban beekeeping is promoted further.

Despite these concerns, interest continues to grow. Educational programs and community projects have helped raise awareness of pollinators and their role in food production. (E) _____. Advocates believe that, when managed responsibly, urban beekeeping can encourage environmental engagement rather than cause harm.

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However, experts caution against viewing it as a simple solution to declining bee populations. (F) _____. Protecting wild habitats and reducing pesticide use remain essential steps in supporting pollinators worldwide.

Choose from the sentences below the one which fits each gap.

There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

1. In some cities, honey produced locally is sold at markets and used by nearby restaurants.
2. Poorly managed hives can spread disease to other bees in the area.
3. Access to diverse flowering plants appears to be a key factor in colony health.
4. These species often have narrower diets and fewer nesting options.
5. Many participants report that caring for bees has changed how they view urban nature.
6. Urban beekeeping alone cannot reverse the complex causes of pollinator decline.
7. Bees have adapted quickly to artificial light and noise in busy city centres.

Extracts A–D — Theme: Failure and Learning

Read the four extracts below. Then answer the questions that follow.

For each question, choose the correct extract (**A, B, C or D**).

The extracts may be chosen more than once.

Extract A

I still remember the day my model bridge collapsed. I had stayed back after school for weeks, carefully measuring, gluing, reinforcing every joint until it looked solid enough to hold anything. When the teacher placed the weights on top, the structure held for a moment, then folded in on itself with a sharp crack. I felt heat rush to my face as the room went quiet.

Later, while packing up the broken pieces, I noticed where I had gone wrong. The base had been too narrow, and one weak joint had caused the entire structure to fail. It was frustrating, but I also knew that if I ever tried again, I wouldn't make the same mistake.

Extract B

Failure is often viewed as something to avoid, yet research in psychology suggests it plays a crucial role in learning. Studies show that when people are allowed to make mistakes and reflect on them, they develop stronger problem-solving skills over time. This process encourages adaptability and resilience.

In contrast, environments that discourage failure can limit growth. When success is the only acceptable outcome, individuals may avoid challenges altogether. Learning, therefore, is not

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just about achieving correct answers, but about understanding why errors occur and how to respond to them.

Extract C

My first attempt at baking bread was a disaster. The loaf came out dense and pale, nothing like the golden crust I'd imagined. For a moment, I considered throwing it away and forgetting the whole thing. Instead, I sat at the kitchen table and reread the recipe, noticing details I'd rushed past before.

The next time, I waited longer for the dough to rise and paid closer attention to the oven temperature. The result wasn't perfect, but it was better. Each failed attempt taught me something new, even when the outcome was disappointing.

Extract D

When learning a new skill, mistakes are inevitable. Rather than seeing them as setbacks, it can be helpful to treat them as feedback. Ask yourself what went wrong, what could be adjusted, and what should be done differently next time.

Keeping a record of errors and improvements can also be useful. Over time, patterns emerge, allowing learners to refine their approach and build confidence through gradual progress rather than immediate success.

Questions

1. Which extract describes a public failure that caused embarrassment?
2. Which extract explains failure from a scientific or research-based perspective?
3. Which extract suggests that mistakes can prevent future errors?
4. Which extract involves learning through a practical, everyday activity?
5. Which extract directly advises the reader on how to respond to failure?
6. Which extract shows the writer analysing a mistake after it happens?
7. Which extract argues that avoiding failure can be harmful?
8. Which extract focuses on emotional reactions as well as learning?
9. Which extract presents failure as part of a long-term improvement process?
10. Which extract implies that failure can increase confidence over time?

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A new family has recently moved into your neighbourhood from interstate. They are unfamiliar with the area and unsure about what to expect.

Your local council has asked young residents to create a short guide that will help new families settle in quickly and feel welcomed.

Write an advice guide for the new family explaining how they can adjust to life in your community and make the most of the opportunities available.

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Student Name _____

Beyond English Coaching Selective High School Practice Test

Writing Paper Free Practice Test 1

30 Minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Please read this page carefully.

This question paper contains one task.



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There is space on the question paper for notes. Your answer must be written on the answer sheet provided. No additional answer sheets may be used.

The task provides an opportunity for you to show how well you can select, develop and organise ideas and communicate them effectively in writing.

Before you begin writing, take time to think carefully about what you need to say and the ways in which the organisation and layout of your response might help express your message.

You must complete your response within 30 minutes.

Dictionaries and calculators are NOT permitted.

You can use this space and the back page for any planning or notes.

Read the task below and write your answer on a separate answer sheet.

A new family has recently moved into your neighbourhood from interstate. They are unfamiliar with the area and unsure about what to expect.

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Write an advice guide for the new family explaining how they can adjust to life in your community and make the most of the opportunities available.