


Sample tests

Units 1–4

Reading

(40 minutes)

 You are going to read a magazine article about a Swedish group Ace of Base who were very popular in the 90s.

- * For questions 1–10, circle the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

ACE OF BASE

5 The Swedes have given lots of nice music to the rest of the world: Abba, Roxette, and now Ace of Base. Ace of Base is a group of four, just like Abba. They have conquered not only Europe but also America and the rest of the world. It's hard to believe but they have made it into the Guinness Book of records for selling 19 million copies of their Happy Nation album. No debut album has sold more.

10 Malin Berggren, 25, blonde and average height, doesn't like being a pop star. She had never dreamed of becoming famous and instead of going forward wants to push backwards. "All this wasn't my plan," she complains. "For me this is far too big, especially with the success in America. It doesn't look like it, but it takes a lot of energy to push yourself to success on this level... The guys wanted success, but not like this; it's too big for all of us. Europe is a big market, we can live on it very well. It would be good to be able to go to America and be left alone."

20 Malin is one of those people who like success at home. She doesn't like travelling. What's worse, poor Malin is terrified of flying, most unfortunate for a pop star popular in countries she hadn't even heard of before. "I don't like it," she sighs. "When the plane takes off, my heart skips a beat and I can't breathe, talk, speak or move. I've been thinking about travelling by train or car and doing very little promotion. They said taking flying lessons might help so I went to look at an airport, but I felt sick."

30 Popularity is not meant to happen like this, especially to a band with no contracts, no sponsor,

nothing but cheaply produced songs — some parts of Happy Nation are demo versions. Jonas Berggren came up with an original idea. He led a five-piece Gothenburg ensemble featuring his young sisters, blonde Malin and dark-haired Jenny, both veterans of their church choir. On August 6, 1990, Jonas had a late-night gig in a club, supported by a band featuring his pal Ekberg. One of Jonas' band was too scared to go on stage and left. Ekberg took over. That's when Ace of Base were born. Eighteen months later, they had played all over Gothenburg and made a demo tape.

"We wanted people to hear our material," remembers Jonas. "We knew it was good and had a message, but never dreamed of such success." They signed a deal with the producer of the original version of Wheel of Fortune, who then sold them to Denmark's Mega Records for a miserable \$2,900. Wheel of Fortune was quite a hit, but what came next was a chart topper all over the world: All That She Wants. Each single became a hit and Happy Nation found itself in the charts for over a year.

But then their popularity started to infringe upon their private lives. "I guess we were afraid of that from the beginning," says Malin. Worse still, a German woman was jailed for a year and banned from Sweden for a decade after attacking Jenny and her parents in their home as they slept. "There are two kinds of fans," says Jenny, "those who become obsessed with the group and those who are perfectly normal. I love the fans but I can't handle lunatics." This has led to the atmosphere of paranoia around the group and the constant presence of private security guards.

1 According to the text

- A. Abba's first album sold less than Ace of Base's.
- B. Ace of Base's first album sold less than Abba's.
- C. Ace of Base have sold the biggest number of records.
- D. Ace of Base have sold the same number of records as Abba.

2 Malin Berggren admits that she

- A. can't stand being in America.
- B. likes their popularity in America.
- C. would rather not have any success.
- D. would prefer the group to give concerts in Europe only.

3 Success

- A. has come easily to the group
- B. has been planned carefully by the group
- C. is the result of a lot of effort
- D. was the inevitable consequence of the group's talent

4 In order to feel less scared in future Malin is going

- A. to take flying lessons.
- B. to arrange fewer public events.
- C. to learn about countries she has never been to.
- D. to visit airports more often.

5 According to the author, the group's way to success is

- A. hard.
- B. not typical.
- C. deserved.
- D. predictable.

6 In the band there are

- A. four relatives.
- B. four friends.
- C. two relatives and two friends.
- D. three relatives and one friend.

7 A year and a half after the group was born

- A. they started making a demo tape.
- B. they had finished making a demo tape.
- C. they were in the process of making a demo tape.
- D. they were thinking of making a demo tape.

8 They liked their own songs because

- A. they knew they would become popular.
- B. producers offered lots of money for them.
- C. people wanted to hear them.
- D. they thought they had something to say to people.

9 The phrase "to infringe upon their private lives" in line 57 means

- A. to limit freedom in their private lives.
- B. to reveal their private lives to public.
- C. to make their private lives impossible.
- D. to make their private lives complicated.

10 Malin thinks that

- A. they have achieved what they wanted to achieve.
- B. life won't always be a big party.
- C. they should not have started singing at all.
- D. their life is bright and exciting.

Total 20

2 You are going to read three encyclopaedia entries describing different festivals.

- ☞ For questions 11–20 choose answers from the texts A–C.
- ☞ The festivals may be chosen more than once.
- ☞ There is an example at the beginning.

A

THE LOVE PARADE

Every July Berlin as host of the annual Love Parade, becomes the centre of the world of electronic dance music. Organised in 1989 by a fan club, the parade was registered with the city as a political demonstration for "peace, joy, and pancakes" and until 1997 was held on the West Berlin's main shopping street. The first Love Parade consisted of a couple of vans playing techno music for a crowd of about 300 fans, but the event soon grew into a festival that attracted corporate sponsorship, heavy coverage by MTV Europe, and many more spectators; in 1997 the crowd size ranged from 750,000 to

1,500,000 people. Each year the city threatens to ban the Love Parade for environmental or safety reasons, but politicians have found it advantageous to support the event. Although the parade itself gets most of the media attention, the real point for the fans is the hundreds of parties in Berlin's clubs during the weekend, when nearly every major star of the electronic dance music world appears.

B

THE PALIO

The Palio or "Course of the Banner" is a festival of medieval origin held annually in certain Italian cities and featuring bareback horse races. Best known to foreigners is the Palio of Siena, which was first held in 1482 as a civic celebration. The current course was formally established in 1659 and has been held since 1701, except during wartime. Lasting about a minute, the race consists of three turns around the main city square.

Before the horse race, a splendid parade is staged by representatives of the city organisations, which now function as social clubs but which in the European Middle Ages were rival military companies. Ten city areas compete in each race and each of them hires a professional jockey to dress in the 15th-century costume in its colours. Riding without saddle, whipping their competitors' horses as they race for the Palio (a silk standard painted in black and gold), the riders finish with cannon fire signalling the end of the race. The festival is enhanced by drummers and flag throwers who demonstrate their arts using the colourful banners.

C

ROSE BOWL

The Tournament of Roses is the oldest American postseason college football contest, held annually in Pasadena, California, USA, on New Year's Day or January 2, if New Year's Day falls on a Sunday. Each Rose Bowl game is preceded by a Tournament of Roses Parade, or Rose Parade, which is one of the world's most elaborate and famous annual parades.

The first festival, originally called the Battle of Flowers, was held on January 1, 1890, with the help and support of the Valley Hunt Club and consisted of local citizens decorating their carriages and buggies with flowers and driving over a prearranged route; the parade was followed by amateur athletic events. In 1902 the first football game was held in Tournament Park; but football was not introduced as the annual contest until 1916.

The morning parade now consists of about 60 floats of intricate design, elaborately decorated with flowers and illustrating some aspect of the parade's theme of the year. Among the floats are marching bands and costumed horses and riders; and included in the five-and-a-half-mile-long procession are a grand marshal and a Rose queen.

Which of the festivals...

...has been held in Europe since medieval times?
...involves the participants wearing fancy dress?
...has some political aims?
... is closely connected with a sport?
...has grown in popularity lately?
...is world famous?
...was interrupted by historical events?
...is visited by international celebrities?
...changes its topic each year?

0. B	
11.	12.
13.	
14.	
15.	
16.	17.
18.	
19.	
20.	Total 10

Writing

(40 minutes)

This is a part of a letter you have received from an English pen friend.

In our class, we've been assigned a task to do some research about Russian schools. I'd be really grateful if you could write about school rules in your country. I'm interested in what you are allowed and not allowed to do at school. Is there anything you'd like to change?

Write a reply to your pen friend. (Maximum 180 words.)

Total 30

English in Use

(40 minutes)

Read the text below. Use the words given in capitals at the end of some lines to form the word that fits the space in the same line.

* There is an example at the beginning (0).

LOOKING BACK ON MY SCHOOL DAYS

When I was eleven years old I was (0) delighted to pass the eleven plus exam so that I could go to the local grammar school.

On my first day there I felt a mixture of (1) _____ and (2) _____.

There seemed to be so many other boys who were much bigger than us. They were so (3) _____ and seemed to know everybody. The worst thing was the

(4) _____ prefects ordering us around. Of course, such feelings did not last long. After a few weeks, I was (5) _____, had friends and was beginning to

be (6) _____ about life at my new school. In those days, most schools had a uniform and I became quite (7) _____ of wearing mine. Fairly soon I

learnt that to make sure one got a job or went on to university after (8) _____ school, you had to pass exams. Then you would not be in danger of being

(9) _____. To pass exams you had to know something and that meant studying. I was (10) _____ by biology and geography, completely

(11) _____ by chemistry, and generally (12) _____ to other subjects. In the English (13) _____ tradition, sport was considered an important character building aspect of school life. So I (14) _____ managed to play

lots of different sports all of which I enjoyed, except for cricket with which I was always

terribly (15) _____.

- DELIGHT
- EXCITE
- CONFUSE
- CONFIDENCE
- DOMINEER
- CHEER
- ENTHUSIASM
- PRIDE
- LEAVE
- EMPLOY
- INSPIRE
- CONFUSE
- DIFFERENT
- EDUCATE
- EASY
- BOREDOM

Total 15

Fill in the gaps with the correct preposition.

- 1 Don't distract me _____ my composition, otherwise I won't finish it on time.
- 2 Years ago many schools in Britain insisted _____ students wearing school uniform, but fewer do so now.
- 3 Hippies protested _____ the conventional lifestyle of the 1960s.
- 4 People are always impressed _____ the energy of traditional Irish dancing, especially if they try to take part in St. Patrick's Day festivities.
- 5 Younger children are content _____ the clothes their mother buys, but not teenagers!
- 6 As we become older we grow out _____ childish habits like being afraid _____ the dark.

Total 7

Match the reporting verb with its definition, putting a cross in the right box, as in the example.

	admit	persuade	remind	reply	deny	promise	complain	insist
1 to say that something somebody has said about you is not true					X			
2 to say firmly that something is true especially when other people think it may not be true								
3 to tell somebody that you will definitely do something								
4 to say that you are annoyed, dissatisfied or unhappy								
5 to accept or agree unwillingly that something is true or something is right								
6 to make somebody decide to do something								
7 to answer somebody by speaking or in writing								
8 to make somebody remember something that they must do								

Total 8

Report the following statements choosing the right reporting verbs.

1 "I will buy you a new pair of shoes on Saturday," said mother to Jane. (deny / complain / promise)

2 "Don't forget to read the article at home," said the teacher to us. (remind / reply / promise)

3 "The bus didn't come and it took me an hour and a half to get to school in the morning," said Mike to Tom. (persuade / complain / insist)

4 "I have never seen this girl," said John to the policeman. (reply / deny / remind)

5 "I have to say I haven't read this book and I can't answer the question," said Mike to his teacher. (complain / admit / persuade)

Total 10

Read the text and put the verbs in brackets in the correct form.

- The first one has been done for you.

"We won the lottery and my life became hell."

Colleen's luck changed when her family matched six numbers on their lottery ticket. But success hasn't been so sweet.

Last August my mum and step-dad (0) bought (buy) a £1 lottery ticket and (1) _____ (win) the £4.3million jackpot. They were out when the draw took place and didn't find out they (2) _____ (win) until they (3) _____ (check) their ticket the following evening.

We (4) _____ (not have) a lot of money so I was really pleased for them. But things soon started to go wrong.

Gary, a lad I (5) _____ (see) at the time, told me he (6) _____ (not really want) to talk or be seen with me because of what other people might say or think. He thought that everyone thought he was with me for my mum's money!

We couldn't stay in our house in case we (7) _____ (get robbed) so we moved 13 miles out of town, which meant I (8) _____ (have to leave) my friends and my boyfriend. And now even though they (9) _____ (not say) it to my face some of my friends call me a snob or stuck-up. They treat me differently because they think I can now have everything I want. They do not understand that that is not the case. You see, even though my mum and step-dad have money, I don't. They (10) _____ (invest) for us but I still have to work like any normal person. It's hard to get that through to my friends. They listen to what I'm saying but they don't understand what I mean.

(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/so/>)

Total 10

Paraphrase the sentences using the word in bold:

- 1 He is going to dye his hair violet. I don't think he will be allowed to sit exams. **(if)**

- 2 If we don't find unusual costumes we will not take part in the carnival. **(unless)**

- 3 The train usually arrives in time. Then we will be able to see the parade from the very beginning. **(if)**

- 4 If she doesn't work harder she will never get a good job. **(unless)**

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5 I hope we'll have enough money to go to the seaside in summer. **(if)**

6 He is such a strange person. Ten years ago he had short hair and wore suits but now he wears torn jeans. **(used to)**

7 Kate was interested in straight edge groups when she was younger, but she is not very interested in them anymore. **(used to)**

8 Perhaps Tom left our school for technical college. **(may)**

9 He possibly didn't move to another place. **(may)**

10 It is possible that Mary didn't pass her exams in June. **(might)**

Total 10