

Gjuhë Angleze (Niveli B2) – Sesion I

**SECTION 1
READING COMPREHENSION**

There are 3 tasks in the Reading Section, in which you can read a series of texts and paragraphs (reviews/adds) and answer questions that test your reading skills and abilities, and show that you can read and understand different types of texts and question formats.

Reading Section Description

<i>Number of Tasks</i>	3
<i>Number of Items</i>	21
<i>Number of Total Points</i>	30
<i>Types of Texts</i>	<i>Descriptive and informational texts, promotional and info materials, advertisements, letters, etc.</i>
<i>Duration</i>	70 minutes

Task One

Taking your information from the text below, choose the answer which you think fits best by circling one of the letters A, B, C or D for the answer you choose.

The first drawings on walls appeared in caves thousands of years ago. Later the Ancient Romans and Greeks wrote their names and protest poems on buildings. Modern graffiti seems to have appeared in Philadelphia in the early 1960s, and by the late sixties it had reached New York. The new art form really took off in the 1970s, when people began writing their names, or 'tags', on buildings all over the city. In the mid seventies it was sometimes hard to see out of a subway car window, because the trains were completely covered in spray paintings known as 'masterpieces'.

In the early days, the '**taggers**' were part of street gangs who were concerned with marking their territory. They worked in groups called 'crews', and called what they did 'writing' – the term 'graffiti' was first used by *The New York Times* and the novelist Norman Mailer. Art galleries in New York began buying graffiti in the early seventies. But at the same time that it began to be regarded as an art form, John Lindsay, the then mayor of New York, declared the first war on graffiti. By the 1980s it became much harder to write on subway trains without being caught, and instead

many of the more established graffiti artists began using roofs of buildings or canvases.

The debate over whether graffiti is art or vandalism is still going on. Peter Vallone, a New York City councillor, thinks that graffiti done with permission can be art, but if it is on someone else's property it becomes a crime. 'I have a message for the graffiti vandals out there,' he said recently. 'Your freedom of expression ends where my property begins.' On the other hand, Felix, a member of the Berlin-based group Reclaim Your City, says that artists are reclaiming cities for the public from advertisers, and that graffiti represents freedom and makes cities more **vibrant**.

For decades graffiti has been a springboard to international fame for a few. Jean-Michel Basquiat began spraying on the street in the 1970s before becoming a respected artist in the '80s. The Frenchman Blek le Rat and the British artist Banksy have achieved international fame by producing complex works with stencils, often making political or humorous points. Works by Banksy have been sold for over £100,000. Graffiti is now sometimes big business.

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1. What is this text about? **1 point**
 - A) It is about the history of drawings.
 - B) It is about the history of graffiti.
 - C) It is about the history of art.
 - D) It is about the history of painting.

2. According to the text, the first poems written on walls appeared _____. **1 point**
 - A) thousands of years ago
 - B) during the Ancient Roman Age
 - C) during the Ancient Greek Age
 - D) during the Ancient Roman and Greek Age

3. According to the text, the first forms of graffiti began in _____. **1 point**
 - A) Ancient Rome
 - B) Philadelphia
 - C) Ancient Greece
 - D) New York

4. "**Taggers**" in 2nd paragraph, comes closest in meaning to _____. **1 point**

TESTE DHE SKEMA VLERËSIMI

- A) people who use markers on walls
B) people who mark walls with graffiti
C) people who mark ceilings with graffiti
D) people who use markers on canvas
5. When did graffiti start, as a real art? **1 point**
A) In the 1990s.
B) In the 1980s.
C) In the 1970s.
D) In the 1960s.
6. What were graffiti artists worried about in the beginning? **1 point**
A) They were worried about lack of money.
B) They were worried about lack of fame.
C) They were worried about how to mark their territories.
D) They were worried about how to engage in politics.
7. "When did graffiti artists begin to have hard times? **1 point**
A) In the 1980s.
B) In the 1990s.
C) In the 1970s.
D) In the 1960s.
8. The debate over graffiti is whether it is _____. **1 point**
A) neither art nor vandalism
B) vandalism
C) just art
D) either art or vandalism
9. According to a Berliner, graffiti represents _____. **1 point**
A) pure art
B) vandalism
C) freedom
D) folk art
10. "**Vibrant**" in 3rd paragraph, comes closest in meaning to _____. **1 point**
A) dynamic
B) artistic
C) wonderful
D) beautiful

Task Two

Read the passages below and answer the questions. Answer the questions using the information from the text. You may use words from the text or your own words.

Curse of the Opal stone

If your favourite stone is the Opal, you're out of luck...literally since this stone is said to bring bad luck to whoever wears it. This superstition comes from the 1829 bestselling novel 'Anne of Geierstein' by Sir Walter Scott. In the novel, Lady Hermione was falsely accused of being a demon due to her sudden death after a drop of holy water accidentally falls on her opal jewellery and changes its colour. This book had such an effect on the image of the Opal that shortly after its publication, the Opal market crashed and Opal prices dropped by 50%.

Ringling of the Bells

Have you ever wondered why bells are always associated with weddings and special occasions? As it turns out, the association **stems from** the widely held belief that bells frighten evil spirits away. This belief originated during Queen Elizabeth's reign for two reasons; to ask for prayers for the departed soul and to drive away the evil spirits who stood at the foot of the bed.

Black cats, bad luck

Most people have heard the saying that if a black cat crosses your path its bad luck (if you haven't well now you have). This interesting superstition finds its origin in the middle ages. Single women (usually elderly) who associated themselves with many cats were believed to be witches who could become cats themselves. Thus a black cat crossing your path could actually be a witch.

<https://list25.com>

- 11. What are these three passages about? **1 point**
- 12. Write the word used in "Curse of the Opal Stone" similar in meaning to "devil". **1 point**
- 13. What happened after the publication of "Anne of Geierstein"? **1 point**
- 14. What are bells always related to? **1 point**
- 15. What is the meaning behind the belief of "Ringling Bells"? **1 point**
- 16. Find and write the word used in "Ringling Bells", which is a synonym of "stems from". **1 point**
- 17. According to the believers, where did evil spirits use to stand? **1 point**
- 18. What kind of cat must cross your path to have bad luck? **1 point**
- 19. Based on superstitions, what is a black cat supposed to be? **1 point**
- 20. Write the word used in "Black cats, bad luck" text similar in meaning to "keep company with". **1 point**

Task 3

TESTE DHE SKEMA VLERËSIMI

You are going to read a short text (a letter). 10 word groups have been removed from it. Choose from the word groups (a-k) the one which fits each gap (21-30). Write letters instead of word groups in each gap. There is one extra word group which you DO NOT need to use. 10 points

Dear Sir,

I hated you when I first met you. (21) _____ that you made me stand up straight. I hated the way you made me wear (22) _____. I hated the way you made me speak correctly. Most of all, I hated the way that you wouldn't accept my work unless (23) _____. And the best always seemed more effort than (24) _____.

We had lots of arguments, at the start. I remember (25) _____ at lunch a lot. And despite my yelling and threats – (26) _____ – I remember you never lost your temper. You were always patient with me. You always took the time to listen to me, (27) _____.

I look back upon that time as so important (28) _____ that I am today. You taught me discipline. You taught me dignity. Much more than English, which was what you were supposedly teaching me, you taught me that I could achieve more than (29) _____. I could be a success, instead of a clown.

For that lesson, (30) _____.

Thank you.

A student (Year 11).

- (a) I was willing to put in
- (b) being kept in
- (c) even tears once or twice
- (d) I hated the fact
- (e) my uniform right
- (f) it was the best I could do
- (g) what I or other people thought that I was capable of
- (h) I owe you so much
- (i) need no lessons
- (j) whenever I wanted to be heard
- (k) in the development of the person

**SECTION 2
USE OF LANGUAGE**

Use of Language Description

<i>Number of Tasks</i>	2
<i>Number of Items</i>	15
<i>Number of Total Points</i>	15
<i>Types and focus of the questions</i>	8 multiple-choice/gap-fill questions to test vocabulary and grammar Items 31(a-j) Gap-fill questions to test conversational English Items 32(a-e)
<i>Duration</i>	20 minutes

Task 1

31. **Read the text carefully. It is about food safety. From the words listed below the text, choose the alternatives which best fit the spaces. There is only one correct answer for each question.** **10 points**

The Trial by Franz Kafka

(a) _____ in 1914, The Trial is one of the most important novels of the twentieth century: the (b) _____ tale of Josef K., a respectable bank officer who is suddenly and inexplicably arrested and (c) _____ defend himself against a charge about which he can get no information. (d) _____ read as an existential tale, a parable, or a prophecy of the extravagances of modern bureaucracy joined (e) _____ the madness of totalitarianism, Kafka's nightmare (f) _____ the chilling truth for generations of readers. This new edition is (g) _____ upon the work of an international team of experts (h) _____ have restored the text, the sequence of chapters, and their division to create a version that is as close as possible to the way the author left it. In his brilliant translation, Breon Mitchell masterfully reproduces the (i) _____ poetics of Kafka's prose, revealing a novel that is as full of energy and power (j) _____ it was when it was first written.

TESTE DHE SKEMA VLERËSIMI

- a) A) write B) writing C) written D) was written
b) A) terrific B) terrified C) terrify D) terrifying
c) A) must B) should C) have to D) ought to
d) A) despite B) whether C) however D) otherwise
e) A) of B) to C) on D) for
f) A) has reinforced B) is reinforced C) reinforces D) was reinforced
g) A) set B) put C) based D) made
h) A) which B) whose C) who D) whom
i) A) distinct B) distinctive C) distinctful D) distinctively
j) A) like B) than C) as D) rather

Task 2

32. Complete the gaps in the following conversation with ONE appropriate word. **5 points**

Store clerk: Good morning, how can I (a) _____ you?

Customer: Hi, I'd like to (b) _____ a complaint about a defective laptop I bought here last month.

Store clerk: Do you have your store receipt with you?

Customer: Yes, I do. Here you go.

Store clerk: There's a one-year store warranty on this computer. We'll be able to take a look at it today at no charge to you. If we can't find the (c) _____, we will exchange it for a new one.

Customer: Thank you. I'd appreciate that.

Store clerk: What seems to (d) _____ the problem?

Customer: I think it's overheating. It (e) _____ so hot whenever I use it.

Store clerk: That is strange for such a new computer.

**SECTION 3
WRITING**

Writing Section Description

<i>Number of Tasks</i>	2
<i>Number of Total Points</i>	15
<i>Types and focus of the tasks</i>	<i>Item 33: (10 points)</i> <i>An essay: Arguing for or against the topic given. Giving reasons and examples to support the answer.</i> <i>Item 34: (5 points)</i> <i>Formal letters or emails, (complaints, job requests, etc.)</i>
<i>Duration</i>	60 minutes

Write the **TWO** tasks below.

33. **Task 1** will be marked for:

10 points

- ✓ *task completion* 2 points
- ✓ *organization* 2 points
- ✓ *grammar* 2 points
- ✓ *vocabulary* 2 points
- ✓ *mechanics* 2 points

Each of the five criteria carries two points to give a total of ten points. You should write your task in no more than **150-180 words**.

Topic: *Some people say that parents should become their children's best friends. Others say that parents should keep their role of authority. What do you think? Should parents play the role of friend or authority figure in their children's lives? Highlight both sides of the argument and state your opinion. Give reasons and examples to support your opinion.*

34. **Task 2** will be marked for:

5 points

- ✓ *task completion* 1 point
- ✓ *organization* 1 point
- ✓ *grammar* 1 point
- ✓ *vocabulary* 1 point
- ✓ *mechanics* 1 point

Each of the five criteria carries one point to give a total of five points. You should write your task in no more than **80-100 words**.

Topic: *There are plans to build a new large cinema in your area. Write a letter to your mayor explaining why you think this is a good or bad idea.*

Begin your letter with "Dear Mayor Jones" and end your letter with "Best regards,