

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

Reading Section Description

Number of Tasks	3
Number of Items	30
Number of Total Points	30
Types of Texts	Descriptive and informative texts, promotional, biographical and informative materials, advertisements, letters, etc.
Duration	60 minutes

Task 1

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

Space Needle

Once the tallest structure west of the Mississippi, Seattle's Space Needle, the iconic 184 meters tall observation tower, was built in December of 1961 at the Seattle Center, a park, arts, and entertainment center. Opening on the first day of the World's Fair on April 21, 1962, the new futuristic tower drew in over 2.3 million visitors.

This renowned landmark of the Pacific Northwest was designed by artist Edward E. Carlson and was developed to match the 21st-century theme of the 1962 World's Fair.

In 1959, Carlson sketched his vision of the 21st century-style Space Needle on a napkin in a coffee house, inspired by the Stuttgart Tower in Germany.

However, when the time came to turn the drawings into reality, Carlson encountered many difficulties bringing the design to life. He went through a series of new designs and alterations, including a balloon-shaped structure. With the help of architect John Graham, who worked with his team of architects to develop a saucer-shaped design, a final blueprint was completed.

Led by the Howard S. Wright Construction Company, construction began on the underground foundation, which took 467 cement trucks to fill over the course of an entire day, the largest continuous concrete pour that has ever been executed in the West. Once completed, the foundation weighed close to 9,550 tons, roughly the same weight as the Space Needle itself.

The dome was completed shortly after with five levels, including a rotating restaurant and an observation deck. From the observation deck, views of the Olympic and Cascade Mountains are clearly visible along with Mount Rainier, Mount Baker, Elliot Bay, and the surrounding islands. Visitors can reach the top of the Space Needle using the elevators, which travel at ten miles per hour.

1. The Space Needle is a tower where people _____ 1 point
 - A) can learn about Mississippi
 - B) can get information about Seattle
 - C) can find out how it was built
 - D) can see or watch something

2. The Seattle's Space Needle _____ in the Mississippi. 1 point
 - A) is the tallest building
 - B) was the tallest building
 - C) will be the tallest building
 - D) might be the tallest building

3. "Renowned" used in the second paragraph, comes closest in meaning to _____

1 point

- A) famous
- B) unknown
- C) ordinary
- D) common

4. 2.3 million visitors _____ at the Space Needle.

1 point

- A) are attracted each day
- B) are estimated to go each year
- C) were attracted on the opening day
- D) were planned to go on the opening day

5. The famous tower was developed to match _____

1 point

- A) the Stuttgart tower in Germany
- B) the theme of the 1962 World's Fair
- C) a coffee house in Germany
- D) a balloon shaped structure

6. 467 cement trucks were used to build _____

1 point

- A) the whole building
- B) only half of the building
- C) only the foundation of the building
- D) the dome with its five levels

7. The foundation of the building was _____

1 point

- A) as heavy as the Space Needle
- B) lighter than the Space Needle
- C) heavier than the Space Needle
- D) nearly the same weight as the Space Needle

8. Based on the third paragraph, which of the following is NOT true?

1 point

- A) Carlson experienced difficulties in creating the design.
- B) Carlson made a series of new designs.
- C) Carlson made many alterations to the design.
- D) Carlson made a diamond-shaped design of the structure.

9. What does which in the last paragraph refer to?

1 point

- A) The elevators.
- B) The islands.
- C) The visitors.
- D) The mountains.

10. What is unusual about the restaurant?

1 point

- A) It stands still.
- B) It is just like other restaurants.
- C) It spins around.
- D) It can be seen from Mount Rainer.

Task 2

Read the letter and complete it with the proper words or phrases given in the box below. There are two extra words or phrases you DO NOT need to use. 10 points

nervous / Scotland / fell down / beaches / letter / made up / at the end of /
exam / next to / visit / English / falling

Dear Elena,

Thank you for the letter you sent me last week. I'm very happy to hear that you and Francesco are well and that your (11) _____ results were so good. Well done! I know you studied hard and you deserve your success. Mine are next week so at the moment I'm studying a lot. I'm really (12) _____ about them because, if you remember, I was ill for a couple of months (13) _____ the year and so I missed a lot of lessons. When they finish I would like to come and (14) _____ you for a few days, if that's OK with you. Do you remember I told you about my friend Amanda from (15) _____? She's going to come here next month and is going to stay for two weeks. I'd like you to come too so you can meet her and we can all go out together. What do you think? We can practice our (16) _____! I remember last year we had such a good time. The (17) _____ near your house are wonderful and I really enjoyed meeting your friends (especially Roberto! Is he still single?) I can't remember the name of the disco (18) _____ the train station but I'd like to go there again - it was fun. Oh, guess what! Jason broke his arm last weekend! He went to the skateboard park with his friends from school and (19) _____ some steps (he doesn't know how to skateboard!) He's got a plaster cast and he's going to have it for at least six weeks. He's so clumsy! My mom's calling me for lunch so I'll finish this (20) _____ now. Say hello to your family and don't forget to congratulate Francesco for me.

Lots of love,
Miana

Task 3

Read the texts below and answer the questions using the information from them. You may use words from the text or your own words. Do not use more than 15 words for each answer.

Samurai history

The samurai (the word means 'one who serves') were the elite warrior class of Japan for nearly seven hundred years. In the tenth century, the imperial court in Kyoto tried and failed to organise a conscript army. If the court had succeeded in this, the wealthy landowners might not have decided to employ private soldiers and the samurai might never have existed. The original samurai were chivalrous warriors who went into battle on horseback, challenging opponents to ritualised combat. Their customs would have seemed familiar to the medieval European knights if they had ever met each other. Later, as the armies became larger and the fighting more savage, most samurai trained for hand-to-hand combat. However, during a long period of peace in Japan things didn't go well for the samurai and eventually, in the 1860s, they lost their position of power in Japanese society.

Samurai identity

The sword of a samurai symbolises the authority and luxury of the warrior class. It was both a weapon and an art object. This double identity mirrored the samurai themselves. As well as being warriors, they used to socialise with painters, playwrights and intellectuals. Samurai Generals practised calligraphy, did flower arranging and went to the theatre. But of all their cultural activities, the tea ceremony was the most important. The ceremony of making and drinking tea was another ritual, almost a meditation. It was carried out in a small room where swords were forbidden, even to samurai, and it must have been very inviting to battle-weary warriors.

Bushido

Bushido is the warrior's code. It was first written down as a kind of self-help manual during the long period of peace when samurai fighting skills went into decline. The martial arts tradition continues in Japan to this day. Millions of Japanese children still practise the classic warrior skills of sword fighting (kendo), archery (kyudo) and hand-to-hand, unarmed combat (jujitsu) at school. But Bushido is also a code of ethics: honour, loyalty and sacrifice. As Terukuni

Uki, a martial arts instructor, explains, "Here we teach the spirit of winning, but it's not so much defeating an opponent as overcoming one's own self. These days it seems everyone is looking for someone to blame rather than focusing on himself. Our message here is that "if you try hard, at kendo or anything else, you will enjoy life."

Samurai today

The continuing appeal of the samurai is due to a simple fact: he is one of the world's greatest action figures. He's the lone swordsman who kills dozens of enemies in the name of duty and individual glory. The samurai warrior is the cowboy, the knight, the gladiator, and the Star Wars Jedi all rolled into one. The samurai have inspired hundreds of films, video games, comic books and TV dramas. In Japan, each spring, men put on samurai armour and re-enact famous samurai battles. These 'weekend samurai' look fierce and realistic, but, with their plastic goggles and blunt swords, they wouldn't have been a threat to the real thing. One of the 'samurai' is asked if he would like to go back in time. 'Hmm,' he replies, 'I romanticise those times, but I also fear them. It was live or die.'

21. Who were the elite warrior class of Japan for nearly seven hundred years? 1 point

22. What were the original samurai? 1 point

23. What were most samurai trained for? 1 point

24. When did they lose their position of power in Japanese society? 1 point

25. What does the sword of a samurai symbolise? 1 point

26. What does the word "wealthy" given in the text mean? 1 point

27. What did Samurai generals practice?

28. What is Bushido? 1 point

29. What message does the text give? 1 point

30. According to the text, what have the samurai inspired? 1 point

SECTION 2 USE OF LANGUAGE

Use of Language Description

<i>Number of Tasks</i>	2
<i>Number of Questions</i>	2
<i>Number of Total Points</i>	15
<i>Types and focus of the questions</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">Item 31(a-f) 10 multiple-choice/gap-fill questions to test vocabulary and grammar. Item 32 (a-e) 5 word-formation items to test grammar and vocabulary.</p>

Task 1

31. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the gap. You must use the correct spelling. 5 points

- a) Water _____ is one of the greatest concerns around the world.
- b) He can never wait more than a minute. He's so _____.
- c) Kabe's mother sat on the sofa stroking the kitten _____.
- d) He is a good student and is always very _____ of his teachers.
- e) A _____ breaks into people's homes and steals their valuables.

POLLUTE
PATIENT
GENTLE
RESPECT
BURGLE

Task 2

32. Read the text carefully. From the words or groups of words listed below the text, choose the ones which best fit the spaces. There is only one correct answer for each question. 10 points

Desert art

The mysterious desert drawings known as the Nazca lines (a) _____ people since they first became widely known in the late 1920s. Before air travel in Peru (b) _____, it was impossible to get a clear (c) _____ of the giant drawings of the spider, monkey and hummingbird. Yet the Nazca people (d) _____ made these patterns 2,000 years ago couldn't have seen them from above.

One of the first formal studies of the lines was (e) _____ Maria Reiche. She spent half a century working for their conservation and was convinced that the lines must have been part of an (f) _____ calendar. Other people thought they might have been ancient Inca roads or irrigation systems. The weirdest idea was that they could have been landing strips for alien spacecraft!

This region of Peru is one of the (g) _____ places on Earth and yet successful societies, including the Nazca, lived here. Water must have had an incredible (h) _____ to these societies, so perhaps the lines were related to this. We know that the Nazca River, which comes down from the nearby mountains, (i) _____ underground for about fifteen kilometres before suddenly emerging on the surface again. This must have seemed an astonishing, even sacred, phenomenon to ancient societies. It has also become clear that there are many huge drawings in the area, not just the ones on the flat desert plain. Many are much (j) _____ than the Nazca figures themselves, so the same group of people can't have created them. It now seems that the Nazca lines may have been part of a long tradition of ceremonial activities connected to water and religious beliefs.

- | | | | | |
|----|----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| a) | A) had puzzled | B) puzzled | C) have puzzled | D) have been puzzled |
| b) | A) began | B) begin | C) begun | D) begins |
| c) | A) views | B) view | C) viewers | D) viewing |
| d) | A) whom | B) who's | C) whose | D) who |
| e) | A) by | B) from | C) of | D) to |
| f) | A) astronomy | B) astronomer | C) astronomical | D) astronomically |
| g) | A) dry | B) drier | C) drier | D) dried |
| h) | A) signify | B) significantly | C) significant | D) significance |
| i) | A) runs | B) run | C) running | D) has run |
| j) | A) old | B) oldest | C) older | D) elderly |

**SECTION 3
WRITING**

Writing Section Description

Number of Tasks	2
Number of Total Points	15
Types and focus of the tasks	Task 1(a-e): (10 points) Description of experiences, impressions, plans, intentions, etc. Description of a favourite book or film. Writing your opinion on a familiar topic. Task 2(a-e): (5 points) Informal letters or emails, notes that request info on a certain problem, situation or everyday events. An email or letter to a friend or relative.
Duration	60 minutes

Write the TWO tasks below.

33. Task 1 will be marked for:

10 points

- ✓ *content* 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 five points. Write your task using 120-150 words.

Topic: A magazine for English language students has asked you to write a short description of your neighbourhood. In your description you might talk about:

- ✓ *the place*
- ✓ *the people*
- ✓ *facilities*
- ✓ *the activities you can do there*
- ✓ *other*

CONTENT (33/a)	ORGANIZATION (33/b)	GRAMMAR (33/c)	VOCABULARY (33/d)	MECHANICS (33/e)	TOTAL
2 POINTS	2 POINTS	2 POINTS	2 POINTS	2 POINTS	10 POINTS

