

# EPE SAMPLE<sup>1</sup>

Vorstudienlehrgang der Wiener Universitäten  
1150 Wien

## INFORMATION on the supplementary examination in English at VWU (as of September 2024)

The supplementary examination in English consists of a written and an oral part. You will only be admitted to the oral exam if you pass the written exam.

- The **written** supplementary examination in English (EPE) consists of 3 parts:
  - I. Reading Comprehension (RC)
  - II. Language in Use (LIU)
  - III. Text Production (TP)
- You can receive a maximum of 20 points for each part = a maximum of 60 points in total. For a positive grade, you need:
  - **at least 9 points** out of 20 points in each of the 3 parts and
  - **at least 36 points** out of 60 points in total.
- **Working time:** 150 minutes in total  
  
50 minutes Reading Comprehension,  
40 minutes Language in Use  
60 minutes Text Production
- Dictionaries are not allowed!

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<sup>1</sup> All sample tasks were either produced directly at the VWU or published by the "Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research" on the website <https://aufgabenpool.at/>

# Supplementary Examination in English: SAMPLE

Vorstudienlehrgang der Wiener Universitäten  
1150 Wien

READING

20 p.

## ***SAMPLE TASK FOR TRUE/FALSE/JUSTIFICATION***

Read the text about “Creative job speed dating”. First decide if the statements 1-10 are true (T) or false (F) and put a cross (x) in the correct box. Then identify the sentence in the text which supports your decision. Write the **FIRST FOUR WORDS OF THE SENTENCE** in the space provided. There maybe more than one correct answer. Write down only one. The first one (0) has been done for you. (10p.)

### **JOBS: CREATIVE JOB SPEED DATING**

“OK ladies and gentlemen, let’s begin, you have 5 minutes starting now.”

We were seated at a long black table in a 16th-floor suite at Sofitel Vienna Stephansdom. The five pairs engaged in conversation, asking questions, writing notes on carbon paper.

I “dated” a food editor for Woman Magazine, an editor at a corporate publishing start-up, Managing Editor of the business magazine Format, a consultant at a corporate branding company and a recently unemployed advertising salesman, all in 25 minutes.

Creative Job Speed Dating (CJSD) is the brainchild of interior and set designer Rikki Wieland, and fashion and advertising photographer Michael Dürr. They had invited mostly members of the press and PR community to this third session.

The idea grew out of Dürr’s birthday party in early 2013, where he had set up a room for traditional speed dating. While guests did seem to enjoy themselves and it served as a fast track for his friends and colleagues to get to know each other, those who were spoken for felt wary about joining in.

But they had plenty of reasons to talk, and so the idea for quickie “dating” for creative professionals was born.

The classic idea behind speed dating is a series of brief encounters: encapsulated life stories, informing, and per chance enticing the conversation partner in all of 5 minutes.

As freelancers, most people in the creative industry rely greatly on networking, but not everyone has the time or energy to go to event after event, hoping to strike up a helpful conversation. CJSD aims to make this easier. Some were sceptical about the idea at the Sofitel event in June, but then again, how bad could it be?

The worst that can happen is that you spend a few minutes talking to someone you’ll never work with. And the best case scenario can be a new job or project, or simply inspiration. So far, the “speed dating” events have drawn between 20 and 80 people.

Some call it “working the room” – roaming around, introducing yourself and striking up conversations. While perhaps pushy, this is a necessary evil as a creative freelancer. In the CJSD setting, it is not crass to brag about ideas or projects you are proud of.

Even asking professionally “personal” questions like “how much does that cost?” or “how much does your company rely on ad revenue?” is normal, even expected.

In the “waiting room”, invitees said they actually got pitches for projects and ways to cooperate, simply because that’s what they were there for.

In September and October the team will be inviting fashion professionals to a Vienna-fashion-week-themed event, and in October it’s all about art, as Vienna is taken over by the VIENNAFAIR. So if you’re a designer, makeup artist, or fashion photographer – keep checking CJSD’s Facebook page for future dates and venues.

	statement	T	F	First four words
0	Rikki Wieland and Michael Dürr invented “Creative Job Speed Dating”.	x		<i>Creative Job Speed Dating</i>
1.	At a private event, Dürr had arranged a romantic speed dating.			
2.	CJSD allows you to talk to five different people in less than half an hour.			
3.	“Creative Job Speed Dating” at Sofitel Vienna Stephansdom was the first of its kind.			
4.	All freelancers have a lot of free time and can easily attend a lot of events.			
5.	The Sofitel event took place in autumn.			
6.	The risk you take when attending a “Creative Job Speed Dating” event is not very high.			
7.	As a creative freelancer you have to be pushy.			
8.	It is taboo to ask questions about money.			
9.	All invitees hope to find an employment.			
10.	There will be more CJSD events in Vienna.			

## **SAMPLE TASK FOR MULTIPLE MATCHING 1**

Read the texts about three young immigrants. Find out which statement is true for which person and put a cross below the right person. Just use one cross for each line. The first one (0) has been done for you. (10p.)

Find out which person...	Sayeed	Maika	Mai Hua Ta
0. was born in Kuwait.	X		
1. found that the English which people spoke was not like the English taught in school.			
2. doesn't want to return to his/her country of birth.			
3. found the English weather very cold at first.			
4. says people in England don't care that much about their clothes.			
5. didn't know how to use cutlery.			
6. can speak only English fluently.			
7. misses the food from his/her native country.			
8. thinks the British tend to be conservative.			
9. finds some aspects of family life better in Britain.			

Find out whose...

10. family doesn't live in England.			
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### **SAYEED**

My father left Palestine when the war started and fled to Kuwait. He met my mother there, although she's English, and I was born there. They sent me to school in England when I was 10, which I quite enjoyed. It was vastly different from life in Kuwait; there were so many rules and it seemed so alien to me. But I tried hard to fit in. We spoke English at home, so the language wasn't a problem when I came to England. Nowadays I wish I had learnt Arabic while I was little, and not been so against learning it. I had a private tutor, but I'm afraid I was a horrible pupil. One day I really upset him so he wouldn't come back and teach me any more!

It would have been nice to speak two languages fluently, but I think I'm not really talented as far as languages go. I'm hopeless at French, in spite of learning it for years at school.

What I miss about life in Kuwait is the big family gatherings. There's much more to family life than in England. But I like the freedom you have here too. Too much family can get annoying.

I love Arabic food and I suppose I just copied my dad when it came to eating Arabic style. My brother and sister and I were not like typical Kuwaiti kids and he would always joke about us being "weak from the English side", although I know he was very proud of us too.

If I have a family I would want my children to belong to both cultures. I think it's important not to deny your origins, and to continue being Palestinian. I think of myself as a "double-caste" not a "half-caste"!

During the Gulf War I felt threatened, a bit less confident. But apart from some bad experiences when some people reacted badly to me, I've never been discriminated against. The only racist experiences I've had were in my head. In fact London especially is a very tolerant place. I like the way the English are straight with you, they don't like airs and graces. They can be a bit conservative for my liking, and I can't stand being patronised by some of them. But the variety of cultures is great, it makes London a great place to live in.

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## MAIKA

I came from Poland in 1989. It was quite unstable there then and life here in England seemed much easier. I was married to an Englishman and he was brought back here by his company. There are lots of differences, for example there's a bigger variety of food here, with the Indian and Chinese restaurants, and so on. I had learnt English in school, but when I got here it wasn't the same. Some accents, like cockney, are so difficult to understand!

Apart from my family and friends I don't really feel I'm missing very much. It's important to keep in touch and I do mix with Poles when I can. If I have children I want them to learn Polish and keep up the cultural traditions. Families in Poland are much closer than in Britain. I was amazed how some people here don't see their sisters or brothers ever! In Poland it is more like it used to be here. They take care of the old people and there's more discipline. Families help each other more.

People here in England dress more casually, different than in Poland. They don't care what they look like. But I enjoy the differences. The British are very tolerant and friendly. I'll always be Polish, I think it's impossible to change deep down, and I don't see any advantage in changing.

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## MAI HUA TA

My grandmother was one of the "Boat People" who left Vietnam in little boats to get away from persecution. We immigrated to Britain later when I was only seven. My grandmother came to the airport to meet us with loads of jackets, it was so cold. I'll always remember seeing English people for the first time. Their hair is so colourful! And compared to us they are so big.

It was easy for me and my brother to learn English but my parents still don't speak good English. They can get by in everyday situations but can't really converse properly.

My mum still can't use a knife and fork properly, but we children soon got used to everything. I'd never seen cheese before, and apples and grapes were very strange too.

We are ethnically Chinese, not Vietnamese, and in our tradition the old people are treated with a lot of respect. I want my children to learn that too, because after all, I'm going to be old one day too.

I don't want to go back to Vietnam. There's a lot of corruption there and I've heard of people having to pay the police to stop them making trouble for them. My mum misses being with Chinese people but I find it better here. The standard of living is much higher, though I miss the family closeness, and some of the food.

The older generation Chinese people are very strict with the young people. You are not supposed to kiss your boyfriend, or even hold hands in public. There's too much gossip. I don't mix with the Chinese much. There's more freedom here. I like the British, I like their openness, and they are more straightforward than the Chinese. But I want my children to learn Chinese, I want the best of both cultures.

## **SAMPLE TASK FOR MULTIPLE MATCHING 2**

Read a newspaper article about a pianist and comedian. Some parts of the text are missing. Choose from the list (A-K) the most appropriate part for each gap (1-8) in the article. There are two extra parts that you do not need to use. The first one (0) has been done for you. (8p.)

### **VICTOR BORGE – A PIANIST WHO MADE AN ART OF SELF-PARODY**

Victor Borge, who has died aged 91, was not the first comedian to have contrived his act from sending up or mutilating serious music. But he did it with more style than anyone else, in a way (0)\_\_\_\_. He continued to play his piano, or hilariously failed to play his piano, on tours of the United States, where he mainly lived, and Europe, from where he originated, well into his 80s.

Born in Copenhagen, Borge was the son of a violinist with the Royal Danish Philharmonic. His mother introduced him to the piano from the age of three, (1)\_\_\_\_. There was one great problem that he had to face in his early career - the quality of the on-site pianos he had to play. Some were dreadful, (2)\_\_\_\_. Out of that situation came his humorous movements and asides, always in a distinctive, unctuous, throwaway voice.

By the outbreak of the second world war Borge was a reasonably successful pianist and musical satirist in Denmark, (3)\_\_\_\_. When the Germans invaded Denmark, newspapers reported that his name was at the head of those destined for extermination. Fortunately for Borge, two Russian diplomats smuggled him aboard an American ship bound for Finland, (4)\_\_\_\_.

Once in New York, however, Borge was handicapped by not knowing a word of English. He studied it in cinemas, watching the same films round and round (5)\_\_\_\_. Being asked to read lines for the warm-up of a radio show led to him being invited to do the same job for the Bing Crosby Kraft Music Hall. He understood hardly anything of what he was reading, (6)\_\_\_\_.

Out of this grew his mature act, in which language and logic tortured one another to a breaking point. He made music and comedy records for the US war effort, and afterwards developed a repertoire of 5,000 jokes or routines, (7)\_\_\_\_.

In the 1970s, when more boisterous sorts of comedy became fashionable, he seemed to falter, (8)\_\_\_\_. By the 1980s Borge had got his second wind and looked like going on for ever as an international touring artist. By the 1990s his initial suspicion of television had disappeared.

Bringing laughter pleased him even more than honours. "The shortest distance between two people is a smile", was one of his favourite sayings, and there was always something life-affirming about his studied, quiet, devious humour.

A	from where he caught the last boat out to the free part of Europe
B	so he developed tricks for playing them not taught by conventional teachers
C	from which he could make a selection to suit any audience
D	and invited him to record a solo single
E	well known for his mocking of Hitler and other Nazis
F	until he made some sort of sense of what was said
G	and he made his stage debut at the age of eight
H	because of his fondness of live performance
I	complaining that the tabloids called him a has-been
J	which had more widespread and long-lived appeal
K	but his ruptured English made him a success with listeners

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
J								

## **SAMPLE TASK FOR MULTIPLE CHOICE**

Read the text about how Las Vegas has developed over the years, then choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for questions 1-6. Put the correct letter (A – D) in the grid below. The first one (0) has been done for you. (6p.)

### **HISTORY OF LAS VEGAS**

The first Las Vegas Strip hotel, the El Rancho, opened in 1941. It became famous for its "all-you-can-eat" buffet and a Las Vegas tradition was born. Five years later, "Bugsy" Siegel and his mob affiliates opened the Flamingo Resort on the Strip. It was the first Las Vegas resort to combine a luxury hotel name, entertainment, and gambling, and was to become the prototype for the lavish Las Vegas casino-resort in the 1950s.

#### **Vegas in the 1950s**

The Flamingo was followed by the Sahara, the Sands, the Tropicana, the Showboat, the Riviera, and several other casino resorts. By 1954, over 8 million people were visiting Las Vegas each year, drawn by the lavish resort and name entertainers as much as by the gambling. Top performers, such as Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, and Dean Martin played in intimate cabaret-style theaters.

The 1950s was also the era of nuclear arms testing in Nevada. Between 1951 and 1963, the Atomic Energy Commission detonated over 100 explosions. Despite the dangers (largely ignored and underplayed at the time), many casinos promoted the tests as tourist attractions and even built "sky rooms" from which to view the mushroom clouds.

The 50s also saw the city of Las Vegas develop from a casino town to a functioning city. McCarran Airport was built in 1948; The University of Las Vegas was established in 1957; and the Las Vegas Convention Center opened in 1959. By 1960, Las Vegas had a permanent population of over 64,000.

#### **Howard Hughes and the 1960s**

Many of the early Las Vegas casinos, such as "Bugsy" Siegel's Flamingo Hotel, had ties to, and received financing from, organized crime syndicates from the Midwest and East Coast. In the 1960s, this began to change. Corporations, led by the example of Howard Hughes' acquisition of the Desert Inn, started seeing Las Vegas casinos as legitimate business ventures. By the end of the decade, organized crime was all but out of the gaming business.

#### **Steve Wynn, the 80s, and 90s**

The opening of Steve Wynn's 3300-room Mirage Resort on the Strip in 1989 ushered in a new era of Las Vegas resorts. Gone and going were the simple gambling halls in favor of huge theme resorts, complete with resident attractions, headliners, and elegant restaurants as well as casinos. Funding for these mega-resorts was unique also. The Mirage was the first resort to be constructed with a junk bond offering. The free volcano attraction in front of the hotel as well as the resident Siegfried and Roy show became the model for Las Vegas resorts in the 1990s.

The city of Las Vegas boomed also. By 1995, the city's population had skyrocketed to over 350,000 residents, spurred by an incredible 9 percent annual increase in jobs.

Downtown Las Vegas also experienced a renaissance in the 1990s. Fremont Street transformed itself in 1995 into a pedestrian mall, enclosed by a 90-foot high domed screen onto which an elaborate sound and light show is projected every hour after dark. The area also boasts street performers, interesting shopping, and frequent free concerts.

To make more room for the new generation of Las Vegas resorts, developers began imploding, or blowing up, the old 1950s-style hotels and erecting new resort palaces in their ashes. Such was the fate of the Dunes, the present site of the Bellagio Hotel & Casino; the Sands, the present site of the Venetian Resort; and the original Aladdin Hotel in favor of the new Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino.

#### **Las Vegas Today**

Las Vegas today offers something for visitors of all ages. In addition to the lavish casinos, the city boasts theme parks, some of the nation's best restaurants, elaborate pool complexes, and one-of-a-kind shopping arcades. Over 34.7 million travelers visited Las Vegas in 2005.

## 0. The Flamingo Resort

- A was the most luxurious casino in the 1940s.
- B focused mainly on light entertainment.
- C offered all-inclusive package holidays.
- D was the first of its kind.

## 1 In the 1950s show business celebrities

- A performed to small audiences.
- B visited Las Vegas in huge numbers.
- C concentrated on comedy mainly.
- D always stayed in luxury hotels.

## 2 The testing of nuclear weapons in the 1950s

- A was viewed by huge numbers of tourists.
- B furthered the development of atomic war technology.
- C triggered the public's interest in atomic energy.
- D was advertised in order to draw visitors to Las Vegas.

## 3 In the 1960s, Las Vegas casinos

- A became the centre of large-scale money transactions.
- B had to close down due to criminal activities.

- C were eventually regarded as lawful enterprises.
- D had to cope with the pressures of competing businesses.

## 4 Steve Wynn's Mirage Resort

- A quickly became the most popular casino on the Strip.
- B set new standards for future Las Vegas resorts.
- C offered fine dining for hotel guests only.
- D was the first hotel to put on spectacular nightly entertainment.

## 5 In the 1990s the city centre of Las Vegas

- A was upgraded with a few high-tech cinemas.
- B attracted the entertainment industry.
- C became much more lively.
- D offered hourly outdoor laser shows throughout the day.

## 6 A number of modern luxury hotels were built

- A along the most attractive stretches of the Strip.
- B in an environmentally friendly way.
- C to appeal mainly to the younger visitors.
- D on the sites of the old hotels.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
D						



**SAMPLE FOR A WORD FORMATION TASK**

Read the text about whether it is right to keep pets. Some words are missing from the text. Use the words in brackets to form a word that fits in the gap (1-10). Write your answers in the spaces provided on the answer sheet. The first one (0) has been done for you. (5p.)

**PROS AND CONS OF KEEPING PETS**

Because of pet overpopulation, just about all animal activists would (0) \_\_\_\_ (**probable**) agree that we should spay and neuter our cats and dogs. But there would be some (1) \_\_\_\_ (**agree**) if you were to ask whether we should breed cats and dogs if all the shelters (2) \_\_\_\_ (**be**) empty and there were good, loving homes available. Animal (3) \_\_\_\_ (**industry**), such as the fur industry and factory farms, try to discredit animal (4) \_\_\_\_ (**protect**) groups by claiming that activists want to take people's pets away. While some animal rights activists do not (5) \_\_\_\_ (**belief**) in keeping pets, I can assure you that no one wants to take your dog away from you.

**What are the arguments for keeping pets?**

Many people consider their pets to be (6) \_\_\_\_ (**member**) of the family, and treat them with love and respect. The feeling often appears to be mutual, as our dogs and cats seek us out to play, to be (7) \_\_\_\_ (**pet**), or to just simply sit in our laps. They provide (8) \_\_\_\_ (**condition**) love and devotion. To deny them and us this (9) \_\_\_\_ (**relate**) seems unthinkable to some. Also, keeping pets does not "use" the animals in the same way that factory farms, animal testing labs or circuses use and (10) \_\_\_\_ (**use**) the animals.

0	probably	6	
1		7	
2		8	
3		9	
4		10	
5			

## **SAMPLE FOR A MULTIPLE CHOICE TASK**

Read the text about a young woman's career plans. Some words are missing from the text. Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each gap (1-10) in the text. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you. (5p.)

### **KATY'S INTERNSHIP**

Have you ever thought of doing an internship? Let me tell you about Katy, (0) \_\_\_\_ came to work at our hotel, *The Carlington*. It was just after Easter that I (1) \_\_\_\_ Katy's email. She wrote that, as a little girl, she had spent a holiday at *The Carlington*, and since then had (2) \_\_\_\_ dreamed of running a hotel. She had already applied to study Tourism and Hotel Management at university. However, she was unsure whether the hotel business was (3) \_\_\_\_ for her.

Was she really suited? She asked if I (4) \_\_\_\_ be interested in having her at *The Carlington* to do an internship during the summer. She was looking for a way of gaining first-hand experience of the hotel business and thought this would be the ideal opportunity. She didn't expect any payment.

I was impressed by Katy's attitude. She was prepared to (5) \_\_\_\_ up her free time to get to know the hotel business. Moreover, I could tell that she was keen to learn and (6) \_\_\_\_\_. She didn't simply assume that anybody could be a successful hotel manager; she understood that she needed training and qualifications as well as her passion. It was also nice to hear, of course, that our establishment had been her inspiration.

Katy came to us in August, at the height of the holiday (7) \_\_\_\_\_. At first she shadowed our regular staff, which means that she observed them (8) \_\_\_\_ and, with their support, assisted in small ways. She was occupied mainly at reception, where she had to deal with guests, and in the office, where I took the time to (9) \_\_\_\_ certain procedures and important aspects of the job to her. As it became clear that Katy was an extremely competent and independent young lady, she was allowed (10) \_\_\_\_ more on her own. At the end of the month, when she left us, Katy knew for certain that she had chosen the right career. Next summer she's coming back to *The Carlington* – and this time she'll get paid. The internship was an excellent idea for her and us, wasn't it!

0	A that	B which	C who	D what
1	A became	B received	C delivered	D reached
2	A always	B mostly	C usually	D normally
3	A being right	B a right thing	C the right thing	D to be right
4	A should	B could	C will	D would
5	A split	B give	C break	D make
6	A study fast	B do more	C work hard	D try better
7	A destination	B activity	C season	D resort
8	A from outside	B for details	C in the distance	D at work
9	A explain	B tell	C talk	D discuss
10	A doing	B to do	C to make	D making

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
C										

## **SAMPLE FOR AN EDITING TASK**

Read the text about the Austrian capital. In most lines (1-10) there is a word that should not be there. Write these words in the spaces provided on the answer sheet. 2-4 lines are correct. Make a ✓ in the space if the line is correct. There are three examples (0, 00, 000). (5p.)

### **VIENNA**

0	Arriving in a new city is always an exciting prospect, especially if one	✓
00	has never visited it before. For six months ago this year, Vienna is the	ago
1	place I'm calling at home. I had always imagined Vienna to be a city filled	
2	with cafés and museums, in short, a such place where traditional values are	
3	still upheld. I was rather nervous at the prospect of having been to spend	
4	my days in a smoke-filled café with no any other activities to keep me	
5	occupied apart from visiting up various monotonous museums. Little did I	
6	know that Vienna, which with its charming old-school atmosphere, had	
7	so much to offer I had never imagined me Vienna to be the modern, hip	
	metropolis that it has turned out to be.	
8	Vienna seems to have it for all – culture with its museums, music	
9	venues and historical significance, a great nightlife and an active sports	
000	scene – all against a exciting very colourful background. However, as with	exciting
10	most things, there has to be a downside, and for me, the traditional food	
	seems to be a little on the stodgy side. The food is delicious, but	
	in my view, lacking in vegetables and heavy on the meat.	

## **SAMPLE FOR A CLOZE TASK**

Read the text about the coffee company Nespresso. Fill in the missing gaps, one letter per underscore. Write down the full word in the grid below. The first one (0) has been done for you. (10p.)

### **COFFEE COMPANY TO IMPROVE SUSTAINABILITY**

The coffee company Nespresso has announced ambitious new plans to help make its operations more sustainable. The company is a brand name of the Nestlé group of companies.

It makes and sells (0) espresso coffee machines and the single-use containers of coffee needs (1) for the device. Its new initiatives (2) on sustainability is called (3) 'The Positive Cup'. This aims to obtain coffee through (4) totally sustainable methods, which (5) helping some of the world's pooorest (6) coffee farmers. It will invest (7) just over \$16 million in Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan. A company spokesperson said it, "aims to protect the future (8) of the highest quality coffees and secure (9) the livelihoods of the farmers that grow (10) them".

A main component of the campaign (11) is to recycle all of the aluminum (12) capsules used in the machines. The company will (13) collect the capsules "wherever (14) the company does business" and "increase (15) recycling rates". The company also said it would become (16) "100 per cent carbon neutral" by 2020 by planting (17) trees to compensate for its carbon footprint. Hollywood actor George Clooney said: "The investment [...] in South Sudan's coffee sector, even (18) while the conflict is going on, is providing much-needed income for hundreds of farmers (19) and their families living (20) in coffee communities.

0	<b>sells</b>	7		14	
1		8		15	
2		9		16	
3		10		17	
4		11		18	
5		12		19	
6		13		20	

## **SAMPLE FOR AN OPEN GAP FILL TASK**

Read the text about the daily routine of the Queen. Some words are missing. Complete the text by writing one word for each gap (1-10) in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you. (5p.)

### **A MORNING IN THE LIFE OF THE QUEEN**

The Queen has many different duties to perform every day. Some are public duties, such (0) \_\_\_\_ ceremonies, receptions and visits within the United Kingdom or abroad. Other duties are carried (1) \_\_\_\_ away from the cameras, but they are no less important. (2) \_\_\_\_ include reading letters from the public, official papers and briefing notes; audiences with political ministers or ambassadors and meetings with her Private Secretaries to (3) \_\_\_\_ daily business and her future diary plans. Even when she is away from London, in residence at Balmoral or Sandringham, she receives official papers almost every day of every year and remains fully briefed (4) \_\_\_\_ matters affecting her realms. In front of the camera or away from it, the Queen's duties go on, and no two days in her life are ever the (5) \_\_\_\_\_. The Queen's working day begins like many people's – at her desk. After scanning the daily British newspapers, the Queen reviews her correspondence. Every day, 200-300 (and sometimes many more) letters from the public (6) \_\_\_\_\_. The Queen chooses a selection to read herself and tells members of her staff how she would (7) \_\_\_\_ them to be answered. This enables *Her Majesty* personally to see a typical cross-section of her daily correspondence. Virtually (8) \_\_\_\_\_ letter is answered by staff in her Private Secretary's office or by a lady-in-waiting. The Queen will then see, separately, two of her Private Secretaries with the daily quota of official papers and documents. This process (9) \_\_\_\_\_ upwards of an hour. Every day of every year, wherever she is, the Queen receives from government ministers, and from her representatives in the Commonwealth and foreign countries, information in the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of policy papers, Cabinet documents, telegrams, letters and other State papers.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
as										

## **SAMPLE FOR A MULTIPLE MATCHING TASK**

Read the text on basketball. Some words are missing. Choose the most appropriate word from the list (1 - 10) for each gap (A - N) in the text. There are four extra words which you do not need to use. Write your answers in the box below. The first one (0) has been done for you. (5p.)

### **BASKETBALL**

Basketball is a game played with an inflated ball between two teams of five players each on a rectangular court. Each team tries to (0) ..... by tossing the ball through the opponent's goal, an (1) ..... , horizontally mounted hoop and net called basket.

Basketball was invented in 1891 by James Naismith, a physical education (2) ..... at the Young Men's Christian Association Training School (now Springfield College) in Springfield, Mass., US. The game (3) ..... quickly in the United States, and in 1896 the first college basketball game with five team members on a (4) ..... was played at the University of Iowa.

During the 1930s several rules were changed to (5) ..... the game; e.g. each team had 10 seconds in which to advance the ball beyond midcourt or lose (6) ..... of it, and a player could not stand inside the opposing team's foul area (in front of the basket) for more than three seconds. The centre jump was eliminated, and the adoption of the one-hand shot (7) ..... to higher scoring games.

With the inclusion of basketball in the Olympic Games in 1936, the game (8) ..... worldwide attention. The International Federation of Amateur Basketball was organised in 1932 to (9) ..... the international game, establishing world championships for men in 1950 and for women in 1953. In the Olympic Games, the US men's team has been dominant and from 1992 was (10) ..... of professional players. In women's Olympic competition, contested since 1976, the US and Soviet teams have been most successful.

A	caught on	H	instructor
B	composed	I	led
C	elevated	J	possession
D	gained	K	set out
E	govern	L	score
F	in front	M	side
G	well	N	speed up

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
L										

## **SAMPLE TASK FOR A BLOG COMMENT**

- **“Glued to the Screen”:**

“Glued to the screen“

by Samantha Simon (“SamSim33”); 27/09/2020; 09:14 p.m.

Yesterday, I was riding the train for about one and a half hours and what I experienced on this ride was really shocking: I saw dozens of young people, aged between 6 and 40 who were all staring at their smart phone screens or tablets, completely submerged in their virtual, digital world. I didn’t see any conversation between these people even though, I’m sure, some of them were friends, colleagues, classmates, neighbours or the like.

Where are the good old times, when you talked to people, made eye contact and smiled to strangers, asked the time or the way and made friends and new acquaintances while doing so?

What’s so exciting about being online all the time? Stop being glued to the screen and enjoy the real world and real people instead!



You have decided to comment on the blog post above. In your **blog comment** you should:

- summarize Samantha’s attitude towards digital technology in one sentence and comment on it.
- discuss reasons why young people spend a lot of time in front of their screens.
- suggest rules and guidelines for the use of mobile phones in public.

➔ Include a range of interactive elements to engage your readers.

➔ Write **250 words**. (+/- 10%: Texts that grossly fail to meet the word limit will be penalized.)

Use the draft paper “Konzeptpapier” for notes only (these will not be marked).

Start your text with the following information (which is not included in the word count):

User name ...

Date ...

...../ 5 p.      **T** - task achievement

...../ 5 p.      **O** - organisation and coherence

...../ 5 p.      **R** - structural and lexical range

...../ 5 p.      **A** - structural and lexical accuracy

(..... point(s) taken off for failing to meet the word limit)

...../ **20 p.**      **total points**

## ❖ CHARACTERISTICS of the text type blog:

**Purpose/ Function:** for personal and private purposes to (1) express opinions, inform and share experiences or (2) respond to and comment on others' posts..

**Readership:** friends, like-minded people

**Layout:** user name, date/time

**Structure:**

- **Content Point 1:** providing context by referring to the blog post; brief summary of the main idea of the blog post; personal comment
- **Content Point 2:** varies (as stated in the task); see examples below
- **Content Point 3:** varies (as stated in the task); see examples below

**Register/ Style:**

- must be adapted to the readership, either personal or neutral
- frequent use of the first person; readership should be addressed (directly)
- incorporation of interactive elements (e.g. questions, pronoun “you”, question tags) to engage your readers
- invite readers to comment on your blog comment

### Example:

You have decided to comment on the blog post above. In your **blog comment** you should:

- summarize the writer’s issue / point of view/ perspective in one sentence and comment on it
- discuss reasons why ...../ explain ... / argue .../ describe .../ etc
- suggest rules and guidelines for ..../ reflect on .../ evaluate .../ etc

➔ Include a range of interactive elements to engage your readers.

➔ Write **250 words**. (+/- 10%: Texts that grossly fail to meet the word limit will be penalized.)

Use the draft paper “Konzeptpapier” for notes only (these will not be marked).

Start your text with the following information (which is not included in the word count):

*User name ...*

*Date ...*

...../ 5 p.      **T** - task achievement

...../ 5 p.      **O** - organisation and coherence

...../ 5 p.      **R** - structural and lexical range

...../ 5 p.      **A** - structural and lexical accuracy

(..... point(s) taken off for failing to meet the word limit)

...../ 20 p.      **total points**



# B1 VWU ASSESSMENT SCALE for the writing task (20 pts)

	TASK ACHIEVEMENT	ORGANISATION AND COHERENCE	LEXICAL AND STRUCTURAL RANGE	LEXICAL AND STRUCTURAL ACCURACY
5	(a) requirements of text type blog fully observed: <input type="checkbox"/> reference to blog post <input type="checkbox"/> interactive elements <input type="checkbox"/> conversational tone (b) all <b>three</b> content points fully developed, with relevant supporting details or examples (c) strong, relatable and convincing argumentation/ relevance to blog post	(a) performance shows relatable, very clear coherence and links between ideas and CPs (b) text structured very clearly and logically (c) good, successful variety of linking devices/ reference words/ pronouns	(a) very good variety of vocabulary and structures (b) no signs of limitations of expression (c) appropriate and convincing blogging style/ register	(a) very good control of frequent structures, basic vocabulary and punctuation (b) errors never impede understanding
4	(a) requirements of text type blog generally observed: <input type="checkbox"/> reference to blog post <input type="checkbox"/> interactive elements <input type="checkbox"/> conversational tone (b) all <b>three</b> content points developed, with relevant supporting details or examples for two CPs (c) effective argumentation/ relevance to blog post	(a) performance shows clear coherence/links between ideas and CPs (b) text generally clearly structured (c) some variety of linking devices; good use of reference words/ pronouns	(a) good variety of vocabulary and structures (b) almost no signs of limitations of expression (c) largely appropriate blogging style/ register	(a) good control of frequent structures, basic vocabulary and punctuation (b) errors rarely impede communication
3	(a) requirements of text type blog largely observed: <input type="checkbox"/> reference to blog post <input type="checkbox"/> interactive elements <input type="checkbox"/> conversational tone (b) all <b>three</b> content points addressed but not fully developed, with only some relevant supporting details/examples (c) comprehensible argumentation/ relevance to blog post	(a) performance shows sufficiently clear coherence/ links between ideas and CPs (b) text sufficiently structured (c) limited but adequate variety of linking devices; use of reference words/ pronouns sufficiently clear	(a) sufficient range of vocabulary and structures (b) some signs of limitations of expression (awkward expressions/ repetitions); some prompt lifting (c) clearly distinguishable blogging style/ register	(a) sufficient control of frequent structures and basic vocabulary; (b) errors impede communication only when trying to express complex ideas
2	(a) requirements of text type blog partly not observed: <input type="checkbox"/> reference to blog post <input type="checkbox"/> interactive elements <input type="checkbox"/> conversational tone (b) only <b>two</b> content points addressed and not fully developed, providing not enough relevant or even irrelevant supporting details/ examples (c) argumentation/ relevance to blog post not always convincing; use of empty phrases/ platitudes	(a) performance shows difficulty in producing clearly intelligible continuous writing; links between ideas and CPs are not clear or missing (b) text insufficiently structured; illogical or inadequate paragraphing (c) limited (but, because, and) variety and/ or inadequate use of linking devices; reference words sometimes not clear	(a) insufficient range of vocabulary and structures in order to fulfil the task (b) apparent limitations of expression (lots of instances of repetition or awkward expressions); phrases lifted from the prompt (c) largely inappropriate blogging style/ register	(a) some severe lapses in the control of frequent structures, basic vocabulary and punctuation (b) errors occur even when trying to express basic ideas (c) frequent interferences from other languages (d) reader has to make an effort to understand sections
1	(a) requirements of text type blog not observed: <input type="checkbox"/> reference to blog post <input type="checkbox"/> interactive elements <input type="checkbox"/> conversational tone (b) <b>one/ no</b> content point developed; irrelevant content; irrelevant supporting details/examples (c) incomprehensible and irrelevant argumentation/ relevance to blog post / unrelated to blog post	(a) performance has little if any coherence/ links between ideas and CPs (b) ideas are presented in a random order without logical connections; no/ illogical paragraphing (c) lack or inadequate use of linking devices; reference words frequently unclear	(a) hardly any structural or lexical range resulting in a failure to express him/herself clearly (b) frequent failure to express him/herself appropriately; frequent repetition or lifting of phrases from the prompt (c) inappropriate blogging style/ register	(a) mistakes repeatedly cause misunderstanding/ a breakdown of communication (b) elementary errors/ basic mistakes (c) systematic interference from other languages (d) reader frequently has to stop to re-read sections
0 <sup>2</sup>	(a) performance fails to address the task (b) insufficient language for assessment (<110 words) (c) illegible handwriting	(a) performance shows no attempt at organisation	(a) performance fails to display any structural or lexical range	(a) errors cause a breakdown of communication throughout the text

Points taken off for texts not meeting the required word count: (contracted forms [don't, I'm] = 1 word)

> 476	475 - 376	375 - 276	224 - 210	209 - 190	189 - 170	169 - 150	149 - 130	129 - 111	<110
3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	total: 0

<sup>2</sup> If 0 points are awarded for task achievement, all other dimensions are also awarded 0 points.