

Listening (10 points)**Time: 10 minutes**

Task 1. For items 1–10, listen to a young man called Simon talking about the 'gap year' he took after finishing secondary school and choose the best answer. You will hear the text twice.

1. Simon's parents

- a) supported the idea of a gap year.
- b) preferred him to continue his education.
- c) wanted him to work until he retired.

2. What was the main reason Simon wanted a gap year?

- a) to become independent;
- b) to get away from his family;
- c) to forget about his schooldays.

3. Life at university is

- a) pretty much the same as at school.
- b) unbearable for some students.
- c) full of entertainments.

4. What did Simon do in his last year of school?

- a) prepare for a change of lifestyle;
- b) daydream instead of studying;
- c) plan his gap year trip.

5. Simon planned to visit some particular countries because

- a) they were not very far from his home country.
- b) the language would be no problem there.
- c) he would be able to earn his living there.

6. What did Simon enjoy about working in France?

- a) He learnt to pick fruit.
- b) He improved his language skills.
- c) He became interested in Vietnam.

7. What proved to be useful when Simon got to Vietnam?

- a) having met a lot of other gap year students;
- b) brushing up his French;
- c) fruit picking skills.

8. When Simon got to Australia he

- a) got a job in a zoo.
- b) had no money left.
- c) bought a pet.

9. Simon ended his gap year

- a) working as a waiter.
- b) travelling as a tourist.
- c) in the USA and Brazil.

10. How did his gap year affect Simon?

- a) He was encouraged to diet.
- b) He decided to follow a different career.
- c) He wanted to go to university when he was older.

Transfer your answers to the answer sheet!

Reading (15 points)**Time: 20 minutes*****Read an extract from a novel and do the tasks below.*****Australian Road Trip**

Dad had been driving our family through the beautiful countryside of Australia for some days, mainly along the coast. Then he suddenly decided we should explore what the scenery was like inland too, so we turned away from the sea and drove for miles through the countryside. Dad was very optimistic about what an adventure it would be, but it wasn't long before the rest of us suspected it was going to be pretty dull, not to mention uncomfortable as the roads were now full of hazardous holes.

The scenery was mostly dry plains, spotted with eucalyptus trees and a few flowering plants somehow managing to survive the climate. It seemed just about the loneliest place I'd ever visited. We drove through several towns – tiny groups of houses with a handful of stores – separated by miles and miles of empty road in between, sometimes punctuated by the odd house on the roadside here and there.

I was curious about the signs that pointed away up endless long driveways to single houses, and started to wonder about the lives of people living there. But immediately the thought of living in such a quiet, remote place made my heart sink, and I thought longingly of my own house thousands of miles away.

If we were hoping to see some wildlife, we weren't disappointed. Large adult kangaroos were a common sight as the sun started to go down, feeding off the rather thin grass on the roadside – probably because on the other side of the fences the cattle had eaten absolutely all the nicer stuff, so nothing else remained for the poor kangaroos. Luckily, they stayed away from vehicles, so at least we weren't in danger of crashing into them.

Further along the way, we met some cattle drovers who'd been driving their cattle thousands of miles over a period of months, towards areas where they knew there'd been small amounts of rain. There were just five of them to look after more than a thousand animals, and we learnt that they just drove their cattle towards wherever it rained. They never knew what would happen from one day to the next, which seemed a strange, unattractive sort of life to me.

Then we finally approached a big town, where there was a huge zoo. By this time, we really wanted to get out of our car and do something, so we parked up and went in. The zoo had mainly Australian animals, some of which we'd already come across along the way, so we were quite keen to find out more about them. We saw a crocodile show, where they get crocodiles to jump out of the water by hanging some meat in the air. Far from being the quiet animals they look when they are fast asleep on a riverbank, they were transformed into fierce, snapping creatures that reminded me of ancient, terrifying dinosaurs.

While we were there, two new crocodiles arrived. The two adults had been found injured in the wild, and transported to the zoo in a plane, inside special long wooden boxes designed to keep crocodiles cool and quiet during a journey. Once they were at the zoo, they were released into their pond, and they ran straight into the water to cool off, sinking down until just their eyes were visible.

Then we went off to see some kangaroos. This time, rather than just seeing them from afar, you could touch them if you wanted and feel their soft fur. One actually had a baby in its special pouch, like a little pocket, with just the baby's tail sticking out! The keeper happened to mention that adult kangaroos can kick at their enemies really fiercely, so I decided against getting too near the mother, even though she was with the keeper, and just settled for a photo instead.

Task 1. Are the sentences 11 - 17 true (T) or false (F) or is the information needed to answer them not given (NG)?

		T / F / NG
11.	Sara had never been to Australia before.	
12.	The vegetation of the inland territory they were driving across was very diverse.	
13.	In the afternoon, the travelers saw a number of kangaroos along the road.	
14.	The cattle drovers were trying to keep the animals safe from the rain.	
15.	The zoo didn't appeal to the travelers as it kept only animals endemic to Australia, which they had already seen along the way.	
16.	The new crocodiles were transported to the zoo by air in individual cases.	
17.	Sarah decided to steer clear of the mother kangaroo for fear of being attacked.	

Task 2. For items 18 - 6, choose the best answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

18. Sarah says that when her dad drove off the coast road to explore the countryside

- a) he quickly decided he had made a mistake.
- b) the family were relieved to be on better roads.
- c) he was thrilled with the views they discovered.
- d) the family soon realised the drive wouldn't be very exciting.

19. How does Sarah describe the towns they passed through?

- a) There was no sign of life between each one.
- b) They were located very far apart.
- c) There were a lot of gardens in each one.
- d) They had quite a few shops.

20. How was Sarah affected by the remote homes she saw along the way?

- a) She began to feel quite homesick.
- b) She was keen to know more about the owners' lifestyles.
- c) She found the thought of living there scary.
- d) She wondered why people wanted to live so far from other people.

21. When Sarah first spotted some wild kangaroos, she

- a) hoped they wouldn't be the only wildlife they saw.
- b) was afraid they might be dangerous.
- c) felt concerned about their lack of food.
- d) was surprised at their size.

22. What did Sarah feel about the cattle drovers' way of life?

- a) She envied them their lifestyle.
- b) It was very unpredictable.
- c) It was physically exhausting.
- d) She decided she'd like to work with animals too.

23. When Sarah saw the crocodile show at the zoo, she was

- a) frightened by their behaviour.
- b) disappointed that they were asleep.
- c) keen to have a better look at them.
- d) attracted by their unusual appearance.

24. Sarah says that the new crocodiles at the zoo

- a) appeared stressed by the journey they'd had.
- b) had been transported there in an inappropriate way.
- c) seemed pleased to be in their new home.
- d) had been brought in because they were babies.

25. At the zoo, Sarah managed to

- a) photograph some kangaroos.
- b) see how kangaroos defend themselves.
- c) ask the kangaroos' keeper some questions.
- d) stroke the kangaroos.

Transfer your answers to the answer sheet!

Use of English (40 points)**Time: 25 minutes**

Task 1. For questions 26 - 35, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

Living in a Digital World

In the modern world, it's almost impossible to avoid screens. People use smartphones, tablets and laptops every day for work, study, and 26. _____. Technology has changed the way we live, making life faster and often more 27. _____. However, many experts are now warning about the 28. _____ of spending too much time in front of screens. Long hours on devices can lead to poor sleep, eye strain, and even 29. _____ problems like anxiety or depression.

One way to deal with this is to set time 30. _____. For example, some people use apps that remind them to take breaks or 31. _____ screen time during the day. Parents also should 32. _____ good digital habits and help children find a healthy balance between online and offline activities. It's also helpful to replace screen time with other activities — like going for a walk or spending time with friends. These activities reduce stress and help people feel more 33. _____.

Of course, technology itself isn't the problem — it's how we use it. When we use digital tools 34. _____, they can support learning, improve communication, and even strengthen 35. _____ with others around the world.

26. A entertainment B invention C discussion D management

27. A confusing B enjoyable C careful D boring

28. A dangers B stories C benefits D results

29. A mental B usual C useful D public

30. A situations B limits C memories D thoughts

31. A replace B divide C reduce D close

32. A demand B repeat C become D model

33. A active B nervous C creative D bored

34. A regularly B normally C softly D wisely

35. A problems B habits C connections D opinions

Task 2. Use one of the words in its correct form to complete the sentences 36 – 50 below. Some words may be used more than once.

A. bring take carry fetch

36. Could you _____ me a glass of water while you're in the kitchen?
 37. Ann _____ her baby in her arms all the way home yesterday.
 38. Don't forget _____ your passport with you when you travel abroad.
 39. Our dog loves _____ the ball when we throw it.
 40. I _____ the children to school on my way to the office tomorrow.

B. take after take over take back take up

41. Yesterday I _____ my words because I realized I was wrong.
 42. People say Tom _____ his mum because they look and act the same.
 43. A new boss _____ the company next month.
 44. Tom decided _____ fishing; it's a very relaxing pastime.
 45. When his grandfather died, he _____ the family business.

C. break the ice spill the beans a piece of cake get cold feet

46. I didn't mean to _____, but I told Sarah about the surprise party.
 47. I studied so hard for the test that it was _____ and I finished it in 20 minutes.
 48. We were all ready for the performance, but Sam _____ just before going on stage.
 49. The author _____ by introducing a funny character at the start of the novel.
 50. Please don't _____ because no one else knows about the plan yet!

Task 3. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the gaps 51 - 59 in the text below.

The Benefits of Reading

Reading is a very 51. _____ (ENJOY) activity that offers more than just knowledge. Books can improve our 52. _____ (COMMUNICATE) skills, vocabulary, and grammar without us even noticing. Many people find that reading helps reduce 53. _____ (ANXIOUS), especially before bed.

In our modern, fast-paced world, taking time to read is also a great way to practise **54.** _____ (RELAX). Reading fiction, in particular, improves our **55.** _____ (ABLE) to understand how other people think and feel. Some schools run reading programmes to encourage students to become more enthusiastic **56.** _____ (READ). Even 15 minutes of reading a day can have a **57.** _____ (BENEFIT) impact on your brain. Unlike watching TV or browsing on your phone, reading develops concentration, imagination and **58.** _____ (CREATE). People who read regularly tend to be better at solving problems and thinking unconventionally. In short, books are a free and **59.** _____ (VALUE) tool to develop your intellect.

Task 4. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the given word.

60. I don't want to lend him any money.

rather I him any money.

61. I spoke loudly so that everybody could hear me.

order I spoke loudly.....by everybody.

62. It's a nine-hour flight from here to New York.

takes It from here to New York.

63. People believed the Earth was flat.

believed The Earth flat.

64. The evening might be expensive so take plenty of money.

case Take plenty of moneyexpensive.

65. Bill didn't take part in the competition because he sprained his ankle.

due Bill didn't take part in the competitionthat he sprained his ankle.

Transfer your answers to the answer sheet!

Writing (10 points)**Time: 35 minutes**

Task 1. You see this announcement in an English-language magazine called *Teen View*. Write your article for the magazine. Write your answer between 120-180 words.

Could you spend a month without surfing the Internet?

Send us an article explaining how this would make your life different.

The best articles will be published in next month's issue.