

SECTION I. LISTENING (50/200 points: 2 points/each correct answer)

Part 1. (14 points: 2 points/each correct answer)

1. self-catering	2. home welcome	3. flexible	4. studio
5. 48	6. deposit	7. references	

Part 2. (16 points: 2 points/each correct answer)

8. seals	9. wolf	10. oasis	11. roots
12. seeds	13. igloos	14. polar bear	15. batteries

Part 3. (10 points: 2 points/each correct answer)

16. F	17. T	18. F	19. F	20. T
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Part 4. (10 points: 2 points/each correct answer)

21. C	22. D	23. C	24. D	25. A
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SECTION II. LEXICO-GRAMMAR (30/200 points)

Part 1. (15 points: 1 points/each correct answer)

1. C	2. A	3. C	4. A	5. B	6. A	7. C	8. B	9. D	10. C
11. B	12. A	13. C	14. D	15. A					

Part 2. (10 points: 1 points/each correct answer)

16. swollen	17. falsified	18. painkiller	19. impressionable
20. engraving	21. benefactors	22. deformity	23. fraudulent
24. exhaustive	25. disregard		

Part 3. (5 points: 1 points/each correct answer)

	Mistake	Correction
26	unemployed	unemployable
26	with	to
28	personal	personalized
29	beneficiary	benefactor
30	gold	silver

SECTION III. READING (60/200 points)

Part 1. (10 points: 1 points/each correct answer)

1. B	2. A	3. D	4. C	5. D	6. B	7. D	8. A	9. B	10. C
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Part 2. (10 points: 1 points/each correct answer)

11 turn	12 down	13 take	14 lag	15 despite
16 which	17 without	18 given	19 ourselves	20 should

Part 3. (20 points: 2 points/each correct answer)

21. C	22. A	23. A	24. C	25. B
26. D	27. C	28. D	29. B	30. C

Part 4. (10 points: 1 points/each correct answer)

31. vi	32. viii	33. i	34. vii	35. v
36. TRUE	37. FALSE	38. NOT GIVEN	39. TRUE	40. FALSE

Part 5. (10 points: 1 points/each correct answer)

41. B	42. A	43. C	44. D	45. D	46. D	47. C	48. A	49. B	50. A
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SECTION IV. WRITING: 60/200 points**Part 1: 20 points**

The mark given to part 1 is based on the following criteria:

1. Contents (10 points)

- The report MUST cover the following points:
 - Introduce the chart (2 points) and state the striking features (2 points)
 - Describe main features with relevant data from the charts and make relevant comparisons (6 points)
- The report MUST NOT contain personal opinions. (A penalty of 1 point to 2 points will be given to personal opinions found in the answer.)

2. Language use (10 points)

The report should:

- demonstrate a wide variety of lexical and grammatical structures,
- have correct use of words (verb tenses, word forms, voice, ...); and mechanics (spelling, punctuations, ...).

Part 2: 40 points

The mark given to part 2 is based on the following criteria:

1. Task achievement (15 points)

- All requirements of the task are sufficiently addressed.
- Ideas are adequately supported and elaborated with relevant and reliable explanations, examples, evidence, personal experience, etc.

2. Organization (10 points)

- Ideas are well organized and presented with coherence, cohesion, and unity.
- The essay is well-structured:

- Introduction is presented with a clear thesis statement introducing the points to be developed.
- Body paragraphs develop the points introduced with unity, coherence, and cohesion. Each body paragraph must have a topic sentence and supporting details and examples when necessary.
- Conclusion summarises the main points and offers personal opinions (prediction, recommendation, consideration, ...) on the issue.

3. Language use (15 points)

- Demonstration of a variety of topic-related vocabulary
- Excellent use and control of grammatical structures

LISTENING TAPE SCRIPTS:

PART 1.

- College accommodation bureau. Darren speaking how may I help you?
- Oh, good morning. I'm starting at the college in September and I need to find some accommodation.
- Right? Well, there are various options. The first one is to stay in college accommodation. That would be a single room.
- How much would that cost?
- Well, it depends. For a standard room. You're looking at 3276 pounds for the year. That's just for a room with washbasin or 3834 pounds, if you want an ensuite that's with your own small bathroom.
- I see. That's more than I expected.
- It does include heating. That's quite a saving because energy costs can be high, especially in winter.
- Does that include meals as well?
- No. All our rooms are **self-catering (1)** now. There's a shared kitchen on each corridor where you can cook if you want to. Or there are plenty of places to eat out on campus.
- Okay. And you said that's the price for the whole year? Well, you pay annually, but actually, it's for 36 weeks. It doesn't include holidays. You have to vacate the room then.
- Oh, I need somewhere to stay in the holidays. I can't afford to go home. The flights are too expensive.
- Well, there is another option. Several families who either work at the college or have children studying here offer visiting students a room in their homes. Oh, we call this arrangement **home welcome (2)**. And we've still got a few places left at the moment. You pay 150 pounds per week. And that includes breakfast, a packed lunch and dinner as well as heating.

- Is there a contract? Do you have to stay for the whole year?
- No, it's flexible (3).
It sounds really good, but I'm not sure. I really want to be a little more independent. What about finding somewhere to live off campus?
- Yes, you can rent a property in town privately. You might want to rent a room in a shared house, you'd have a room of your own and share the kitchen and bathroom with other students.
- What about if I don't want to share?
- You can get what we call a studio (4). They're often quite small, but they'll have everything you need.
- Right? How much would those two options cost?
- Well, prices vary depending on which part of town the property is in. Generally speaking, the cheapest is around 275 pounds a month for each student.
- Oh, that's not too bad.
- Yes, but it can also be as high as 490 pounds. And then you'll have to pay all your other bills.
- What sort of amount would I be looking at for those?
- Well, last year, students were paying on average, about 43 pounds per month each for gas and electricity. This year, it will probably be somewhere in the region of 48 (5) pounds.
- That's a lot.
- Yes, they've gone up quite a bit. And on top of that, you have to pay for water. And that'll probably be around nine pounds.
- That didn't occur to me. And I guess I'd have to pay for transportation too.
- That's right. Most of these properties are quite a long way from the college.
- It just gets worse and worse. What's the minimum contract on this type of accommodation?
- Six months, and you have to pay a deposit (6). But of course, you can stay there over the holidays.
- That's true.
- And you'd have to provide references (7). They want two from someone in this country.
- I see. But that's not a problem.
- If you do choose this option, we can't find the property for you. You'd have to go through the estate agent which manages the property for the owner.
- Right.

- Thanks. Well, I think I'd like to see what's available privately. Could you give me the estate agent details?

PART 2:

Last year, I found myself flying to the Arctic Circle with five biologists from the Canadian Wildlife Service. As our small plane descended towards a snow-covered runway, I looked out of the window at the frozen ocean below. I could see small holes in the ice, and around them, lots of extraordinary little figures, rather like ants. I was told they were **seals (8)**, basking on the ice in the sun.

Ten minutes after we'd landed, I had my first sighting of a **wolf (9)**, which my eagle-eyed colleagues pointed out to me—at least 700 meters away. Later on, I was lucky enough to see a caribou with its huge antlers at much closer range.

At first sight, the Arctic seems to be a kind of desert, but there are plants and animals around—you just have to look for them. You may find what's called an **"oasis."(10)** This is a small, confined area with access to water where vegetation can establish itself and provide nutrients for animals.

Arctic plants have evolved to cope with this harsh environment. Take the yellow Arctic poppy, for example. It only has a tiny tuft of leaves visible, while the bulk of the plant—a network of **roots (11)**—stays underground. Its leaves remain green all winter so it can make the most of the short growing season.

The diversity of bird species decreases as you travel north, but there are birds that spend the winter here and others that return in the spring. Most of these birds get their nourishment from **seeds (12)**, although a predator like the snowy owl feeds on small mammals called lemmings, and others manage to find fish.

For accommodation, we had tents which looked just like the **igloos (13)** the local Inuit people build out of ice, with little tunnels at the front. Only ours were orange and made of nylon. Our only connection to the outside world was our radio link.

You notice how light the snow cover is—it scatters with the wind, and there are hardly any deep drifts. Apart from the cold, the main hazard is the wildlife, and I received a brief introduction on the correct action to take if a **polar bear (14)** came to visit. There are other large animals, like the muskox, but they seldom pose a threat.

Another thing was that recording the team's descriptions of wildlife, which was my task, was incredibly difficult. The recorder itself was fine, but **batteries (15)** just don't work in the cold, so I had to hold them inside my thick coat to keep them warm.

But on the whole, I found it...

PART 3:

When I visited a number of fruit farms in central England, I found broad agreement among most of the growers that these days it makes sense to move away from their traditional crops

such as apples and into cherries instead. Now in summertime, they have orchard after orchard of beautiful trees heavily laden with bright red fruit.

UK cherry growers tend to choose the varieties which ripen slowly. This fruit may command a higher price because the harvest is not so early, and there are always reliable buyers for it. Research is currently being carried out into ways of improving yield. A major obstacle to efficient production is the fact that growth may not be consistent from season to season. Sometimes the fruit only grows as big as a pea and then drops to the ground.

Quite a few of the smaller trees are covered up against the rain and wind in a plastic tunnel. Older, larger trees have to take their chance out in the open. **But cherries are a delicate fruit and optimum weather conditions are needed to achieve the potential yield of five tons per hectare (16).**

The surface of the fruit has very little wax on it, so cherries need to be kept out of the rain as much as possible because the skin is liable to crack when water gets into it.(17)

When water gets into it, if this occurs the crop may be lost because the fruit bursts with a pop, rather like a balloon. When you're selecting the best cherries to buy, don't get them if they look at all tired or wrinkled, and buy the ones with a green stem — you'll find they taste much better than ones without.

People often ask: how long does it take to get a decent crop from a cherry tree? Well, there are new varieties laden with fruit that are only four years old, **but if you go back and read the old fruit-growing textbooks from the 1960s, they tell you cherries don't give a worthwhile crop till they're 12 years old.(18)** Some varieties go on cropping till they're 90. **There are three new varieties which have recently been introduced by growers —** Symphony and Staccato are both highly successful so far, **but Sweetheart is being planted in larger numbers than either of them and looks to be a real winner. (19)**

Just one problem — if you go cherry-picking this summer, how do you stop yourself eating them all? **One expert who's been picking all her life told me: eat a cherry, suck the stone, and keep it on your tongue. It stops you putting any more in. That way, you end up with at least a handful of this delicious fruit in your basket. (20)**

PART 4:

Host: It's that time of year again when thousands of students are about to take their final exams. But then what? Will they begin their search for a well-paid job, or will they choose to take a year off before entering the labour market? I'd like to welcome Toby Burrow to the studio, who is here to talk about the year he spent doing voluntary work in Madagascar.

Toby: "Hi Andrea. First of all, before I say anything that might come across as a bit negative, I completely recommend Madagascar. In fact, I just saw in the paper today that there's a documentary on it tonight, so any interested students should have a look.

I sort of chose it partly because it was so far away from England and exotic, but mainly because the kind of work on the volunteer program there looked like it was really going to stretch me and take me out of my comfort zone—like a test of character. (21)

And it wasn't like anyone could give me any advice. The students I knew from the year before us had gone off travelling, but only on a backpacker's tour."

Host: I'm sure that many parents are anxious when their children announce that they're going off to distant lands. How did yours react?

Toby: "Honestly, they were fine about it. I suppose Dad tried to talk me out of it at first—he thought I should be getting on with finding a secure job, that kind of thing. But Mum was all for it. I think she would have loved to have travelled herself, but she missed out on that by having me and my sisters.

Actually, she really got into it—getting out books from the library and going online.(22)

I'd come home and she'd be telling me about the history and the culture, and that was quite handy, really.

The only thing I had to prepare for was getting all my vaccinations done and taking a course of malaria tablets."

Host: And when you arrived in Madagascar, was it what you expected?

Toby: "Sort of. The organization running the volunteer program had been quite clear about the teaching work I'd be doing, but I admit I'd led a sheltered life up to then, and living in the village was quite an eye-opener.

There was no running water and no sanitation, and that took quite a bit of getting used to(23).

I didn't mind so much the fact that I was sleeping in a room with the other volunteers. Coming from a large family, I'm used to sharing my living space. In fact, I actually need background noise to get off to sleep—otherwise, I can't help but feel rather lonely."

Host: Was there any time that you wanted to come running home?

Toby: "No, I can't say there was. I remember I once went off sailing for a day. There were six of us, all from Europe—some mates from the program and some guy I didn't know who worked for a hotel in the city. When we got back to shore, I found that my wallet had disappeared. Someone had obviously taken it.

I felt that I couldn't directly accuse anyone, so I ended up saying nothing. A few days later, I heard that the hotel guy had been arrested for stealing other stuff, and eventually, I got my empty wallet back.

I realized that whereas in England I was always careful about not leaving my stuff around, I had got used to the honesty of the people in Madagascar. It was sad to be reminded that not everyone is like that."

Host: And after all that, when you finally got home, did it take long to readjust to—if you like—normal life?

Toby: "In a sense, there were many things I missed about Madagascar, although I knew that part of my life was definitely over. The odd thing was my attitude towards England. **After Madagascar, I could see the enormous gap in consumption between the UK and African countries, and I knew that if everyone in the world lived like a UK citizen, then there'd be no resources left to use.**(24)

It was good seeing my family—it's a selfish thing, but even though you've changed, you don't want anyone else to. I liked the familiarity of home, but I didn't immediately get in touch with my friends from university. Being in Madagascar was a life-changing experience, and when I got back, I felt rather disconnected from people I'd known previously—at least initially."

Host: And now that you can speak from experience, what should prospective gap-year travellers know?

Toby: "That's a hard one to answer, because your experience is what you make it—and very much to do with the kind of person you are. Some graduates just go off and have fun for a year, and if that's what you're into, fine. There's hardly a moral obligation to do charity work. But if you do volunteer, for example to do something for a local community, **don't for a moment think you're superior in some way. You need to recognize what you're gaining in return from the people you're living with.**(25)

I'd also avoid signing up for a project with a friend, because that way you won't make the effort to get to know new people. And make sure you choose a reputable company to go with—otherwise, you'll just end up miserable and probably out of pocket."