



# WESTMINSTER

International University in Tashkent

An Accredited Institution of  
the University of Westminster (UK)

## Westminster International University in Tashkent CAMBRIDGE A-LEVELS ENTRANCE EXAMINATION ENGLISH

**Date:** 12 August 2025

**Time allowed:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN DETAIL, THE ANSWERS PROVIDED IN THE DRAFT PAGE OR IN SEPARATE SHEETS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS TO "ANSWER SHEET"**

NO BOOKS, NOTES, DICTIONARIES OR ANY SORT OF ASSISTING MATERIAL ARE ALLOWED.

<b>Surname</b>	
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Middle name</b>	
<b>Signature</b>	

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

### PART: ENGLISH weights

<b>Use of English (14 marks)</b>	<b>Reading (16 marks)</b>	<b>Writing (20 marks)</b>	<b>Total</b>

Staff name and signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE DO NOT TURN OVER THIS PAGE UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO**

## Use of English

### Task I

Read the text. Choose the word from the table which best fits each gap. Write the correct word in each gap

(1 mark for each correct answer. Total: 7 marks)

### The city of canals

Venice, the world's only pedestrian city, is easily walkable, and the absence of cars makes this a particularly pleasant (1) \_\_\_\_\_. However, walking and standing (2) \_\_\_\_\_ day can also be exhausting, so it is best to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ yourself. The Rialto islands – the 'main' part of Venice – are small enough to walk from one end to the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in about an hour, provided you don't get lost (a common occurrence). If you want to get around a bit more quickly, there are numerous vaporetti (water buses) and water taxis. The vaporetti are generally the best way to get around, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ if the service route map changes frequently.

If you are going to be in Venice for a few days visiting, it is a lot cheaper to use vaporetti than private water taxis. If you want to have a romantic ride along the canals, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ for a gondola ride, although they (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to exist for more scenic purposes, rather than getting people from point A to point B.

1.	A) Involvement	B) Struggle	C) Experience	D) Knowledge
2.	A) Total	B) Complete	C) Whole	D) All
3.	A) Walk	B) Step	C) Pace	D) Stride
4.	A) Another	B) Others	C) Second	D) Other
5.	A) Even	B) As	C) Ever	D) What
6.	A) Do	B) Take	C) Make	D) Go
7.	A) Keep	B) Admit	C) Tend	D) Deny

### Task II

Read the text. Use the word on the right to form a word that fits in the gap. For each question, write your answer in the gap.

(1 mark for each correct answer. Total: 7 marks)

*EXAMPLE: He has always shown great (0) dedication (DEDICATE) to the cause.*

### **Diamonds are forever**

Diamonds are the most prized and (8) \_\_\_\_\_(HIGH) valued of gemstones. Throughout history they have been admired by royalty and worn as a symbol of (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (STRONG), courage and invincibility. Over the centuries the diamond acquired unique status as the ultimate gift of love, in myth and (10) \_\_\_\_\_(REAL). It is the hardest known substance yet has the simplest chemical (11) \_\_\_\_\_(COMPOSE), consisting of crystallised carbon, the chemical element that is fundamental to all life.

Diamonds come in many colours and their (12) \_\_\_\_\_(OPTICS) properties are stunning. They disperse light into the colours of the rainbow, and sparkle far more than any other gemstone. First mined in India over 4000 years ago, diamonds were used to decorate (13) \_\_\_\_\_(RELIGION) objects, serve as a talisman against evil and a (14) \_\_\_\_\_ (PROTECT) in battle. Buddhists also recognised the deep symbolic significance accorded the diamonds in ancient Buddhist scriptures, including the 'Diamond Sutra' which states that truth is eternal, just like the diamond.

### **Reading**

#### **Task III**

**Read the text below and match the information with the text.**

**You can use the same text more than once.**

**(1 mark for each correct answer. Total: 10 marks)**

### **Inventions**

#### **A Skateboard**

The idea behind the first skateboard was to produce a means of surfing outside of water. In the 1950s, Californian surfers, unhappy at the unpredictable nature of the weather and waves for surfing, began attaching roller skate bases to the front and back ends of wooden boards. Although these constructions were somewhat unstable, they allowed for 'sidewalk surfing' along streets and down hills. The fad soon caught on in other cities of the US, and it wasn't long before the pastime developed – in directions such as curb-jumping and climbing banked surfaces: this was 'street surfing'. By the early 1970s, bicycle manufacturers and toy companies were producing sturdier and in more reliable boards, with more speedy and reliable urethane wheels on flexible mounts. The riders' abilities improved along with the equipment, and things began heading in the direction that has resulted in the sport we have today.

#### **B Water-Skis**

The birth of water-skiing can be traced back to June 28th, 1922 when Ralph Samuelson, an eighteen-year-old from Minnesota, proposed the idea that if you could ski on snow, then you could also most probably ski on water. His first attempt at water-skiing was on Lake Pepin in Lake City, Minnesota, being towed by his brother Ben. The pair went on fo

experiment for several days until July 2nd, 1922, when Ralph discovered that the best way to stay upright longest was by leaning backwards with ski tips pointed upwards. In terms of his first equipment, Ralph tried barrel staves, then snow skis, before finally fashioning the first dedicated water skis from lumber he had purchased from a local store. This basic ski was completed and augmented with bindings made from leather strips, and a long window sash, which was used as a towrope.

### **C Safety Match**

In 1827, John Walker, an English chemist, discovered that if he coated the end of a stick with certain chemicals and left them to dry, he could cause a spark and flame by striking the stick on many surfaces. These were the first fiction matches. He made use of a concoction of chemicals including antimony sulphide, potassium chlorate, gum, and starch. Unfortunately for him, Walker failed to patent his invention. His first sale of the matches was on April 7th, 1827 to a Mr Hixon, a solicitor in Stockton-On-Tees, his home town. In the end, before his death in 1859 at the age of 78, Walker made little money from his invention.

### **D Car Airbags**

Airbags may have really taken off in the 1990s, but they were dreamed up and created a lot earlier. General Motors tested the first proper airbags on a 1973 Chevrolet, in cars that were only sold for government use. They went on to offer them as an option to the public in the form of driver side airbags in commercial models in 1975 and in 1976. Cadillacs were available with driver and passenger airbags during those same years. Airbags were offered once again as an option in the 1984 Ford Tempo, and, by 1788, Chrysler had become the first company to fit airbag restraint systems in US as a standard. In 1994, TRW began production of the first gas-inflated airbag, and it wasn't long before there were less cars without airbags than with them.

### **E Hula Hoops**

The hula hoop, as might be expected from its simple design, is an ancient invention – no modern company or inventor can truly lay claim to having invented the first hula hoop. The original hula hoops were made from metal, bamboo, wood, different types of grass, and vines. However, many companies 're-invented' their versions of the hula hoop, basing them on more modern materials like plastic and adding a variety of extra features such as glitter, sounds, and coloured lights. Perhaps the Wham-O version is the most successful of hula hoops in modern times – they were the company that trademarked the name Hula Hoop and started manufacturing the toy out of a synthetic material called Marlex in 1958, selling 20 million hula hoops in the first six months.

No	Information	Text (A, B,C,D,E)
15.	invention which involved two members of the same family	
16.	invention which was not invented in the United States (first)	
17.	invention which was not invented in the United States (second)	
18.	invention which allowed people to do their sport more often?	

19.	invention which involved practising a winter sport not in winter	
20.	invention which was made for a very limited market at first	
21.	invention which had a best method discovered in several days	
22.	invention which did not make its inventor wealthy	
23.	invention which became faster and easier to steer	
24.	invention which customers could choose as optional in the early years	

#### Task IV

**Read the text and choose the correct answer  
(1 mark for each correct answer. Total: 6 marks)**

#### Arctic ice management

Physicist Steven Desch has come up with a novel solution to the problems that now beset the Arctic. He and a team of colleagues from Arizona State University want to replenish the region's shrinking sea ice by building 10 million wind-powered pumps over the Arctic ice cap. In winter, these would be used to pump water to the surface of the ice where it would freeze, thickening the cap.

The pumps could add an extra metre of sea ice to the Arctic's current layer, Desch argues. The current cap rarely exceeds 2-3 metres in thickness and is being eroded constantly as the planet succumbs to climate change. Thicker ice would mean longer-lasting ice. In turn, that would mean the danger of all sea ice disappearing from the Arctic in summer would be reduced significantly.

Desch and his team have put forward the scheme in a paper that has just been published in *Earth's Future*, and they have worked out a price tag for the project: \$500bn. It is an astonishing sum. However, it is the kind of outlay that may become necessary if we want to halt the calamity that faces the Arctic. They say that it is now warming twice as fast as their climate models predicted only a few years ago.

Hence, Desch's scheme to use wind pumps to bring water which is insulated from the bitter Arctic cold by its icy surface, where it will freeze and thicken the ice cap. Nor is the physicist alone in his Arctic scheming. Other projects to halt sea-ice loss include one to artificially whiten the Arctic by scattering light-coloured aerosol particles over it to reflect solar radiation back into space, and another to spray sea water into the atmosphere above the region to create clouds that would also reflect sunlight away from the surface.

All the projects are highly imaginative, and extremely costly. The fact that they are even being considered reveals just how desperately worried researchers have become about

the Arctic. The situation is causing grave concern, and it is now much more serious than even the worst case scenarios originally suggested.

Last November, when sea ice should have begun thickening and spreading over the Arctic as winter set in, the region warmed up. Temperatures should have plummeted to -25C but reached several degrees above freezing instead. It's been about 20C warmer than normal over most of the Arctic Ocean. This is unprecedented.

In fact, sea ice growth stalled during the second week of January – in the heart of the Arctic winter – while the ice cap actually retreated within the Kara and Barents seas, and within the Sea of Okhotsk. Similarly, the Svalbard archipelago, normally shrouded in ice, has remained relatively free because of the inflow of warm Atlantic water along the western part of the island chain. Consequently, although there has been some recovery, sea ice remains well below all previous record lows.

Equally worrying is the likely impact on wildlife. Juvenile Arctic cod like to hang out under the sea ice. Polar bears hunt on sea ice, and seals give birth on it. We have no idea what will happen when that lot disappears.

In addition, there is the problem of increasing numbers of warm spells during which rain falls instead of snow. That rain then freezes on the ground and forms a hard coating that prevents reindeer and caribou from finding food under the snow. Nor would the rest of the world be isolated. With less ice to reflect solar radiation back into space, the dark ocean waters of the high latitudes will warm and the Arctic will heat up even further. The Arctic ice cap reaches its maximum extent every March and then, over the next six months, dwindles.

**25. What is the writer's intention in the first paragraph?**

- A. To criticise an existing way of doing things.
- B. To predict problems a project could face.
- C. To inform the reader about an innovative concept.
- D. To persuade influential bodies to undertake a course of action.

**26. What outcome does the writer suggest in the second paragraph?**

- A. The thinning of the sea ice could be halted.
- B. The risk of there being no sea ice in the future would be dramatically lowered.
- C. 2-3 metres of additional sea ice could be deposited.
- D. The constant erosion of the sea ice could be stopped.

**27. What does the writer mean when he describes the water as being insulated in the fourth paragraph?**

- A. The ice cap protects the water underneath from freezing.

- B. The effect of the sun prevents the water from getting too cold.
- C. Arctic water is colder.
- D. Pollution in the water makes it difficult for it to freeze.

**28. What objective is the writer describing at the end of the fourth paragraph?**

- A. Cleaning the ice that has been discoloured.
- B. Increasing the amount of snow that falls on the ice.
- C. Making the thickness of the ice uniform.
- D. Preventing the sun from impacting the ice.

**29. What is the writer referring to with the word This at the end of paragraph 6?**

- A. Conditions that have never happened before.
- B. Conditions that happen very rarely.
- C. Normal winter conditions.
- D. Conditions that were predictable.

**30. What reason does the writer give in the seventh paragraph for the sea ice not getting thicker?**

- A. The winds from the north are too warm.
- B. The ice cap is not thick enough.
- C. Seismic activity under the ice had an effect.
- D. Warm water currents affected the formation of the ice.

## **Writing**

### **Task V**

Read the following text carefully.

Then, in your own words, write a **summary** of the key ideas from the text. Your summary should:

- Be between **120 and 150 words**
- Include only the **most important points**
- **Avoid copying phrases** directly from the text
- **Not include your own opinion, examples or extra information**
- Use **clear, concise English** in full sentences

### **Assessment Criteria:**

You will be assessed on how well you:

- Identify and select relevant information
- Paraphrase using your own words
- Organise your ideas logically and clearly
- Use accurate grammar, spelling and punctuation

**Total: 20 marks**

## The forest elephant

Many children can identify the savannah elephant as an inhabitant of Africa just by looking at a picture of it. However, most people are unaware that there are two different kinds of elephant living on the same continent.

Very little is known about the other African elephant: the magnificent, intelligent and highly elusive forest elephant.

In March 2021, after their population had suddenly declined by a staggering 86%, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) set the status of the forest elephant to 'critically endangered'. At the time, most people had never heard of them, let alone taken steps to aid their preservation.

Genetic analysis has demonstrated to scientists that forest and savannah elephants diverged from their common ancestor around 5.5 million years ago. It can also be observed that the two elephant types live separate existences and are as genetically distinct as lions and tigers. In common with other rainforest-dwelling mammals of Central Africa, the forequarters of the forest elephant are lower than the hindquarters. The resulting compact shape, along with its dark colouring, allows the forest elephant to melt quietly into the rainforest, maybe explaining why the species has been less studied than its savannah counterpart, which occupies more open spaces. Compared to the larger lighter-coloured savannah elephant, the forest elephant has smaller, more rounded ears, while the savannah elephant boasts thicker and more curved tusks.

If we care about the future of our rainforests, we should care about the conservation of the forest elephant. Known as the 'mega-gardener of the forest', the forest elephant eats mainly fruit then disperses the seeds while it moves around, meaning that a range of fruit trees are spread about the rainforest and kept plentiful. They also eat small trees, thereby thinning out space for larger ones to flourish. Large trees have high carbon absorption levels and are very much associated with combatting climate change. Large trees also support the existence of primates and many other animals.

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**Answer sheet:**

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