



THE ENGLISH COLLEGE IN PRAGUE

Sample English Entrance Examination 2018

Year 5 English B

Time allowed: 90 minutes

	Marks	%	Weighted total & notes
Grammar	/53		
Reading	/27		
Writing	/20		
TOTAL	/100		
Oral			

NAME CANDIDATE
NUMBER.....

INSTRUCTIONS:

- **Dictionaries are not allowed.**
- **Complete all 3 sections.**
- **Ask for more writing paper if needed.**
- **Write your name and candidate number on all extra sheets of paper used.**

Section 1: Grammar

1. Fill in the gaps using the word or words in brackets. Put the verbs in the correct tense.

Example: I arrived (**arrive**) in Prague 3 days ago.

- a. My mum and dad love cooking and they _____ (**make**) bread every week.
- b. I mostly _____ (**watch**) action films, but now I _____ (**watch**) a comedy.
- c. I _____ (**never/eat**) frog, but I _____ (**eat**) snails last week.
- d. A. Why _____ (**you/smile**)?

B. I _____ (**read**) a funny book.
- e. When I _____ (**get**) home last night, my parents _____ (**already/make**) dinner.
- f. What _____ you _____ (**do**) when the fire _____ (**start**) yesterday.
- g. Yesterday, Simon _____ (**play**) cards when the spaceship _____ (**land**) in his garden.
- h. If I _____ (**be**) a dog, I _____ (**chase**) cats.

i. When I _____ (**finish**) school, I _____ (**go**) to university.

j. If she _____ (**finish**) her essay last night, she _____ (**be**) at the cinema now.

Use either **will** or **going to** for k-m

k. We _____ (**play**) badminton tomorrow. I booked the court this morning

l. I don't know what to do this evening. I know! I _____ (**watch**) a film.

m. I think that one day we _____ (**live**) on the moon.

	23
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2. For each question, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first.

For **questions a - b**. use **no more than three** words for each answer

Example: I think that German is more difficult to learn than Italian.

- I don't think that Italian is *as difficult.....* to learn as German

a) This year's party was not as good as last year's.

- Last year's party was this year's.

b) sam was given money for his birthday by his parents.

- Sam's parents money for his birthday.

For questions c-h use the word given. You must use **between two and six words**, including the word given . Do not change the word given.

Example: The tennis star ignored her coach's advice.

attention

- The tennis star didn't..... *pay any attention to*..... her coach's advice.

c) I regret giving Dennis my phone number.

Dennis

- I wish my phone number.

d) The film I saw last week was better than this one.

good

- This film.....the one I saw last week.

e) Tim looks nothing like his father.

take

- Time doesn't his father at all.

f) Are you planning to do anything on Saturday?

plans

- Do Saturday?

g) The change in the company logo didn't make any difference to the majority of its customers.

consequence

- The change in the company's logoto the majority of its customers.

h) The employment rate rose gradually as the economy began to recover.

Gradual

- Therethe employment rate as the economy began to recover.

	16
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3. Read the text below and think of a word that best fits each space. Use only **one** word in each space. There is an **example** at the beginning (0)

Ice from the Rocky Mountains in the United States (0)..... **is**..... being exported to

countries on the other (1) of the world. From Seattle to Tokyo

(2) seem a long way to send ice, but the idea is certainly not new.

(3) early as 1833, Frederick Tudor, (4) as the 'Ice

King', sent a shipload of ice from America to India. About half (5)ice

melted during the long journey, but Tudor would have (6) a

profit even (7) he had lost three quarters of his cargo.

b) How technology is helping people to talk:

The term 'eye-gaze' technology may (8) mean much to most people, but

it can be life changing for anyone suffering from a severe speech problem.

(9) been invited to try one such hi-tech communication aid, I find

(10)

..... sitting staring at a computer screen. As a journalist, this is
nothing new

for me (11) for the fact that this screen features a red dot which
tracks

the movement of my eyes. I start by looking at a letter from an on-screen keyboard,. However, I
could, (12) I wanted to, select alternative screens (13)

..... up of vocabulary and expressions, which, for experienced users,
would

(14) doubt speed things up.

	14
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Grammar total:

	53
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Section 2: Reading

Please turn to the next page.

Part 1: Questions 1-15

You are going to read a magazine article about different types of guidebooks. For questions 1 - 15 choose from books (A-G). Some of the books may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order.

There is an example at the beginning (0)

A Blue Guides

B Everyman Guides

C Companion Guides

D Cadogan Guides

E Rough Guides

F Lonely Planet Series

G Time Out Series

Which type of guide book:

(0) Is not modern in its approach?

0	c
---	---

Is attractive to look at?

1	
---	--

Offers unconventional views on famous buildings?

2	
---	--

Is not suitable for reading in advance?

3	
---	--

Does not help you find your way around a city?

4	
---	--

Has a style which might annoy some readers?

5	
---	--

Does not give complete coverage of the sight? (2 answers required)

6	
---	--

7	
---	--

takes you on a guided tour of the buildings it describes?

8	
---	--

gives you a personal viewpoint?

9	
---	--

does not contain what you might at first expect?

10	
----	--

tells you the history of each building?

11	
----	--

contains examples of artists work?

12	
----	--

Is part of an expanding series? (2 answers required)

13	
----	--

14	
----	--

concentrates on entertainment ?

15	
----	--

GUIDE to the GUIDES

A guide book can make or break your holiday. The best will encourage, surprise and delight you, the worst can frustrate and annoy, leaving you lost and bored.

The **Blue Guides** are among the best known cultural guides. They take you through museums room by room. Their tiny print goes into huge detail to describe the background of monuments that other guides ignore. This is really dull stuff. Curl up in bed with a Blue Guide and deep sleep is guaranteed within two pages. On holiday, however - as you stand curious before a small chapel in a backstreet of Rome - it is the only place to find out everything.

The new **Everyman Guides** cannot compete on detail, but they are a lot more fun. A riot of colour springs from the photographs, illustrations, maps and paintings accompanying the text. Visually they are amazing. In particular the Everyman city guides - such as Prague and Vienna - manage to catch the splendour of their subjects.

Both these series are highly functional, but they lack any real character. Not so the lovingly written, academic and very old-fashioned **Companion Guides**. A day in their company is rather like one spent with your (or at least my) favourite, rather mischievous aunt. Seriousness is always mixed with unexpected and pleasant surprises.

I particularly like the **Cadogan** series, rapidly growing now to cover almost all of Europe. Each one is written by an individual not a team, which produces generally agreeable personal touches. They will take you down a Parisian side street to tell you all about a particularly horrible 17th century murder or to point out a favourite cake shop. They are all about local colour and most readers will not mind their rushing of museums and missing altogether of lesser monuments.

Rough Guides offer the most successful practical coverage. Their recommendations can rarely be faulted and, as more books come out, their coverage of places of interest gets better. Rough Guides are written in a lively, jolly style about which traditionalists may complain. Prague Cathedral's tomb of St John, described in the Blue Guide as having 'unquestionably the finest furnishings of the time' and thought worthy of a full page description, is described briefly in the Rough Guide as a 'work of excess'. I prefer them to their main competitor, the **Lonely Planet** series, which does not even notice the tomb of St John.

The general guides mentioned so far are all arranged in a logical fashion that takes you clearly from place to place. The odd one out is the Time Out series. These guides are based on listings: restaurants one after another, shops, museums, nightclubs and so on. For the young, and the young at heart, they are invaluable.

Part 2: Questions 16-21 (2 marks for each answer)

You are going to read an article about travel. For questions 16 – 21 which follow the text, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

SEEING THE WORLD

The taxi is late, and I get nervous. Once at the airport, I'm thrown into the harsh lights of Terminal B, running with my suitcase so I can wait in a long security line. My belt buckle sets off the metal detector, and my aftershave is confiscated. By now you can probably guess the punchline of this very banal story: my flight has been cancelled due to bad weather. I will be stuck here for the next 218 minutes, my only consolation a plastic cup of coffee and the predictably tasteless sandwich. Then I will miss my connecting flight and wait, in a different city, with the same menu, for another plane. It's not the flying I mind - I will always be awed by the physics that gets a fat metal bird into the sky. The rest of the journey, however, will inevitably

feel like a depressing lesson in the ills of modernity, from the pre-dawn X-ray screening to the sad airport malls peddling rubbishy souvenirs.

So why do we travel? Sometimes it's because we have to, but most travel is not non-negotiable. (in recent years only 30% of trips over 100 kilometres were made for business.) Instead we travel because we want to, because the annoyances are outweighed by the thrill of being someplace new. Because we need a vacation. Because work is stressful. Because home is boring. Because New York is New York. Travel, in other words, is a basic human desire. We're a migratory species. But here's my question: is this collective urge to travel still a worthwhile compulsion? Or is it like the taste for fatty foods: one of those instincts we should have lost a long time ago?

The good news is that pleasure is not the only advantage of travel. In fact, several new science papers suggest that travel is essential for effective thinking. Of course it's not enough to simply jump on a plane; if we want to experience the psychological benefits of travel, then we have to rethink why we do it. An Englishman for example, might take a short break in Paris so as not to think about those troubles he's leaving behind. But here's the twist: that tourist is most likely to solve his stubbornest problems while sitting in a stylish Parisian cafe. Our thoughts are constrained by the familiar, and with a near infinite number of things to think about, our brain spends most of its time choosing what not to notice. As a result, imagination is traded for efficiency. Putting some space between you and home, however, makes it easier to see something new in the old; the mundane is grasped from a slightly more abstract perspective. So while contemplating some delicious French pastry, we should be mulling over those domestic riddles we just can't solve.

And that isn't the only psychological perk of travel. Recently researchers at Business schools in France and the USA have reported that students who have lived abroad were 20% more likely to solve a classic experiment, known as the Candle Task, than students who had never lived outside their birth country. In this task, subjects are given a candle, a cardboard box containing drawing pins, and some matches. They are told to attach the candle to a piece of corkboard on

a wall so that it can burn properly and no wax drips on the floor. Nearly 90% of people either try to pin the candle directly to the board, or melt it with the matches so that it sticks to the board. Neither strategy works. Only a slim minority of subjects come up with the solution, which involves attaching the candle to the cardboard box with wax and then pinning the box to the board. According to researchers, the experience of another culture gives us the open-mindedness to realise that a single thing can have multiple meanings. Consider the act of leaving food on a plate: in some Eastern countries this is seen as a compliment, a signal that the host has provided enough to eat. But in many Western countries the same act is seen as subtle insult, an indication that the food wasn't good enough to finish. Such cultural contrasts mean that seasoned travellers are alive to ambiguity, and more willing to accept that there are different (and equally valid) ways of interpreting the world.

16 What is the writer's attitude towards flying in the first paragraph?

- A He is frustrated by the inefficiencies of air travel.
- B He is surprised by the poor standard of airport facilities.
- C He is anxious for the flight to be over as soon as possible.
- D He is resigned to the tediousness of the airport experience.

17 The writer mentions business trips to make the point that

- A relatively few people travel out of necessity
- B relatively few journeys are taken for pleasure.
- C the majority of people travel without a valid reason to do so.
- D the majority of journeys are made for the same few reasons.

18 What does the writer recommend in the third paragraph?

- A Having a holiday so as to take a rest from everyday worries.
- B Going as far away as possible rather than spending holidays at home.
- C Taking full advantage of the cultural experience that travel can offer.
- D Travelling in order to gain original insights into familiar situations

19 According to the writer, recent 'Candle Task' results suggest a link between living abroad and

- A practical skills.
- B mental flexibility.
- C determination to solve problems.
- D confidence in one's own resourcefulness.

20 The writer mentions leaving food on one's plate in order to highlight

- A the difficulties travellers face when interpreting cultural conventions.
- B the importance of behaving naturally in different contexts.
- C the wide variation in politeness across the world.
- D the effect of exposure to foreign influences.

21 What would be a suitable subtitle for this article?

- A How to understand the mentality of different cultures.
- B How to overcome the more inconvenient aspects of travel.
- C How distance and difference can boost our creative thinking.
- D How other places can change the way we perceive ourselves.

Section 3: Writing

Write an answer to **one** of the following questions. Write your answer in **200 - 250** words in an appropriate style.

1. An English language magazine is looking at television talent shows around the world. You decide to write a review of a television talent show in your country. In your review, explain what happens in the show and evaluate whether it provides positive role models for young people.

Write your **review**.

OR

2. You have spent two weeks at a language school in another town. While you were there, you lived in student accommodation, attended language classes, and took part in social activities organised by the school. A friend of yours has written

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