# First Semester

# English Language

# كلية الحرس التقنية

# (Questions)







# امتحان دبلوم التعليم العام

## لكلية الحرس السلطاني العماني التقنية (ثنائية اللغة)

## للعام الدراسي ١٤٤٥/١٤٤٦ هـ - ٢٠٢٣ / ٢٠٢٤ م - الدور الأول - الفصل الدراسي الأول

**تنبيه:**
- المادة: English Language
- الأسئلة في (١٤) صفحة.
- زمن الإجابة: ثلاث ساعات.
- الإجابة في الورقة نفسها.

**تعليمات مهمة:**

- يجب الحضور إلى قاعة الامتحان قبل عشر دقائق على الأقل من بدء زمن الامتحان.
- يجب إحضار أصل ما يثبت الهوية وإبرازها للعاملين بالامتحانات.
- يجب الالتزام بالزي (الدشداشة البيضاء والمصر أو الكمة للذكور) والزي المدرسي للطالبات ، ويستثنى من ذلك الدارسون من غير العمانيين بشرط الالتزام بالذوق العام، ويمنع على جميع المتقدمات ارتداء النقاب داخل المركز وقاعات الامتحان.
- يحظر على الممتحنين اصطحاب الهواتف النقالة وأجهزة النداء الآلي وآلات التصوير والحواسيب الشخصية والساعات الرقمية الذكية والآلات الحاسبة ذات الصفة التخزينية والمجلات والصحف والكتب الدراسية والدفاتر والمذكرات والحقائب اليدوية والآلات الحادة أو الأسلحة أياً كان نوعها وأي شيء له علاقة بالامتحان.
- يجب على الممتحن الامتثال لإجراءات التفتيش داخل المركز طوال أيام الامتحان.
- يجب على الممتحن التأكد من استلام دفتر امتحانه، مغلفاً بغلاف بلاستيكي شفاف وغير ممزق ، وهو مسؤول عنه حتى يسلمه لمراقبي اللجنة بعد الانتهاء من الإجابة.
- يجب الالتزام بضوابط إدارة امتحانات دبلوم التعليم العام وما في مستواه وأية مخالفة لهذه الضوابط تعرضك للتدابير والإجراءات والعقوبات المنصوص عليها بالقرار الوزاري رقم ٥٨٨ / ٢٠١٥.
- يقوم المتقدم بالإجابة عن أسئلة الامتحان المقالية بقلم الحبر (الأزرق أو الأسود).
- يقوم المتقدم بالإجابة عن أسئلة الاختيار من متعدد بتظليل الشكل (▭) وفق النموذج الآتي:

س - عاصمة سلطنة عمان هي:

▭ القاهرة ▭ الدوحة

■ مسقط ▭ أبوظبي

**ملاحظة:** يتم تظليل الشكل (■) باستخدام القلم الرصاص وعند الخطأ، امسح بعناية لإجراء التغيير.

**صحيح** ■ **غير صحيح** ▭ ◉ ◔ ✗ ✓

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## Listening 1 (Items 1 – 10) (10 marks)

*You're going to hear **an interview with Steven Holl an American architect**. Listen, and for each item shade in the bubble (○) next to the correct option.*

**1.** The interview was held in _____.

- ○ Texas
- ○ Washington
- ○ New York

**2.** Holl's brother is a _____.

- ○ painter
- ○ designer
- ○ writer

**3.** Holl's first inspiration to be an architect was from _____.

- ○ painting
- ○ building tree houses
- ○ designing clothes

**4.** Holl made up his mind to become an architect in _____.

- ○ 1959
- ○ 1974
- ○ 2000

**5.** According to Louis Kahn, when designing a building an architect should focus on the _____.

- ○ size of the building
- ○ natural light
- ○ angle of the building

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## Listening 1 (continued)

**6.** The appearance of the Kiasma Museum changes according to _____.

- ☐ the direction of the sunlight
- ☐ the weather conditions
- ☐ both the direction of the light and the weather conditions

**7.** Holl's book describing the relationship between a building and its site is titled _____.

- ☐ Parallax 2000
- ☐ Anchoring
- ☐ World of Watercolours

**8.** According to Holl, he uses watercolours to indicate the _____.

- ☐ movement of light
- ☐ size of the area
- ☐ shape of the building

**9.** The _____ won an architectural competition.

- ☐ Swiss Embassy Residence
- ☐ Visual Art building
- ☐ Horizontal Skyscraper

**10.** Holl wants to be remembered for his _____.

- ☐ designs
- ☐ sculptures
- ☐ books

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## Listening 2 (Items 11 – 20) (10 marks)

*You will hear a talk about the **Maori people**. Listen, and complete the table below.*

| | |
|---|---|
| **The Maori were Originally from** | (11) _____ islands. |
| **The Maori** | settled in Australia, (12) _____ and (13) _____. <br> Estimated population in New Zealand (14) _____. |
| **Battles with the British** | Between (15) _____ and 1865. |
| **Settlements** | Buildings constructed using (16) _____ and poles. |
| **Unique aspects of culture and traditions** | Woven materials like (17) _____ and baskets. <br> Tattooing 'tomoko' represents (18) _____ and connection to one's ancestors. <br> Performing arts such as (19) _____ and storytelling. |
| **Current challenges for the Maori** | Barriers to education and health. <br> Most people live in (20) _____ areas. |

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## Reading 1 (Items 21 – 30) (10 marks)

*Read the following e-mail to parents about a school tour. Then complete the task.*

Dear Parents,

We are thrilled to announce the confirmation of our annual school tour. Over the last two years we have visited the beautiful cities of Toronto and Paris. Now, I am delighted to say we will be adding the Catalan city of Barcelona to that list. Our flight will depart from Muscat International Airport on Thursday, April 6th at 8.20 am and arrive back in Muscat on Tuesday, April 11th at 11.45 pm. We will meet at the school reception at 5.30 am and arrive at the airport at approximately 6.00 am.

All students will have a standard baggage allowance of 20 kg. If additional baggage allowance is required, then it may be purchased online for an additional fee. Additionally, all meals, accommodation, and guided tours are included in the tour package. We encourage you to ensure that your child is prepared for the trip with appropriate clothing, spending allowance, and most importantly, any necessary medications. Comfortable and safe lodging will be provided. All rooms will be en-suite and be shared by two or three students. Private individual rooms will not be available as part of this package. Delicious meals will be prepared daily and special dietary requirements will be catered for. Any food allergies must be reported to the school by completing the medical information form. Forms are available at the main reception or can be printed online via the school website. Please complete and return the form to the nurse's office at least one week before departure.

Historical exploration and cultural immersion will be some of the primary goals of the tour. They will visit local landmarks including the ancient monastic settlement at Montserrat, approximately 45 kilometres outside the city. This monastery in its current form dates back to the 19th century when it was rebuilt after the Peninsular War (1808-1814), although the initial monastery can be traced back to the year 1025. Our tour will also take in the former centre of the city, the Gothic Quarter. While there, we will take in the wonderful Picasso museum and the cathedral before travelling to La Sagrada Familia basilica in another area. Our goal is to help our students to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them.

We aim to provide an opportunity for those on the tour to embrace the local culture and traditions through music at the opera house, dance at the Grand Gala and culinary experiences through a tapas cuisine workshop. The cooking will be an enjoyable interactive experience, as students will learn to prepare all three types of tapas. Firstly, the most common, Cocas de picar, or "things to nibble" are small finger foods like olives and nuts. Next, Pinchos are dishes that require a utensil like a toothpick for a meatball or are served on a skewer. Finally, Cazuelas are "little dishes" or small portions of dishes that are served in a sauce. This experience, we hope, will broaden their horizons and encourage an appreciation for global perspectives.

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*Reading 1 (continued)*

Our students will have ample opportunity for enjoyable and relaxing activities and excursions, the highpoint being an afternoon visit to the Ramblas. This is a fantastic area with street performers and restaurants, but primarily retail outlets and stalls. Students will have the chance to explore to their hearts content for an extended period of time.

Spaces for this incredible tour are limited, so book your child's spot today! Contact our tour coordinator Mr. Campbell to register provisionally. For more details visit our website at www.baronacademy.com. All spots will only be guaranteed once a ten percent down-payment is made to the Academy.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education, and we look forward to an exciting and educational trip to Barcelona!

Warm regards,

Mr. Williams (Principal, Baron Private Academy)

**Task:** *For each item, shade in the bubble (○) next to the correct option.*

**21.** The tour will be visiting the city of _____ this year.

○ Toronto ○ Barcelona ○ Catalan

**22.** The students will spend _____ nights on the tour.

○ 5 ○ 6 ○ 7

**23.** The school hopes to be at the airport by _____.

○ 8.20 am ○ 5.30 am ○ 6.00 am

**24.** The students must pay _____for additional luggage allowance.

○ at the airport ○ at the school ○ online

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## Reading 1 (continued)

**25.** The most essential thing for students to bring is _____.

- ☐ spending allowance
- ☐ medicine
- ☐ suitable clothing

**26.** The medical form must be submitted _____.

- ☐ at the nurse's office
- ☐ at the main reception
- ☐ online

**27.** The _____ is not in the old center of Barcelona.

- ☐ Basilica
- ☐ Cathedral
- ☐ Picasso Museum

**28.** _____ is the most commonly served tapas.

- ☐ Cazuelas
- ☐ Pinchos
- ☐ Cocas de picar

**29.** People mostly visit the Ramblas area for the _____.

- ☐ shops
- ☐ restaurants
- ☐ street Performers

**30.** Parents can secure their child's place on the tour by _____.

- ☐ registering on the website
- ☐ paying a deposit
- ☐ contacting the tour operator

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## Reading 2 (Items 31 – 40) (10 marks)

*Read the following article. Then complete the task.*

**Whitewater Rafting**

Whitewater rafting is an exhilarating outdoor adventure that combines the beauty of nature with the thrill of navigating fast-flowing rivers. It is a sport that brings people together and provides an adrenaline rush like no other. Whether you are a seasoned rafter or a first-timer, the experience of tackling rapids is one you will not soon forget

Whitewater rafting has been around for almost two hundred years. The earliest form of a raft, created by the Native American Indians, was called a canoe. Canoes could be carved out from large logs or woven from durable reeds. Using canoes made it easier to transport people and goods on rivers that cut through rough terrain.

A major breakthrough in whitewater rafting came with the invention of the rubber river raft in 1840 by John Fremont. Fremont, a lieutenant in the United States Army, constructed a rubber raft in order to survey the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains. Unfortunately, his raft couldn't hold up to the rough waters. Rafts these days are made from a range of synthetic materials such as Urethane, Hypalon, and PVC. Urethane is the preferred and most durable fabric because it can slide over rocks and does not perforate or tear as easily as other materials.

In the early 1960's, rafting started to become better known around the world, gaining greater popularity from the Olympic Games in the 1970's. Nowadays, whitewater rafting is well known for the adrenaline rush one gets when riding nature's most treacherous waters, while relishing the breathtaking scenery that mother-nature has to offer. Popular destinations for whitewater rafting include the Salmon River, USA with its thickly lined forests; the 266 miles of the Colorado River, USA; the Zambezi River in Zimbabwe that has 23-rapids within 24 kilometers; Rio Upano River in Ecuador with its breath-taking views that can only be seen by rafting between hard- to-reach canyons, and the 16 miles of the Noce River in Italy that is supplied by melting glaciers in the Italian Alps.

Whitewater rapids are classified according to six levels: Class One is considered to be the calmest with low level waves; Class Three is the middle range where the waves rise as high as four feet, providing plenty of excitement; in Class Six, you can expect the rapids to be highly dangerous and this would definitely get the adrenaline running in your veins for some time to come.

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## Reading 2 (continued)

The equipment needed for whitewater rafting depends on the class level of the river. The basic equipment required for a Class One rapid would be a helmet, lifejacket, wetsuit, and footwear to protect the feet.

Research has been done by different people in the United States and in New Zealand to establish just how dangerous whitewater rafting is. This research was based on the distance and length of time taken to perform the sport; the results came back inconclusive. Surprisingly enough whitewater rafting ranks lower in injuries than either horseback riding or surfing.

So, gather your friends or family, put on your adventure hat, and get ready for the ride of a lifetime!

**Task:** *For each question, write a **short** answer.*

**31.** Which materials were used to make the first canoes? (List one)

_____

**32.** What were canoes first used for?

_____

**33.** Why is Urethane used nowadays when building rafts? (List One)

_____

**34.** When did whitewater rafting become popular?

_____

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## Reading 2 (continued)

**35.** Why is whitewater rafting so popular nowadays?

_____

**36.** Which river do glaciers flow into, according to the text?

_____

**37.** How do Class One and Class Three whitewater rapids differ?

_____

**38.** Which class of whitewater rafting has the most unpredictable rapids?

_____

**39.** What is the essential equipment needed for Class One whitewater rafting? (List one)

_____

**40.** Which two sports are considered more dangerous than whitewater rafting? (List one)

_____

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## Reading / Writing (Items 41 – 50) (10 marks)

*Read the following article about the island of Palau and its ecosystem. Then complete the task.*

**Palau: A Tropical Ecosystem**

Palau, an island located in the western Pacific Ocean, is a captivating paradise often referred to as "Nature's Underwater Wonderland." Comprising a collection of over 500 lush, pristine islands, Palau is well- known for its stunning natural beauty, vibrant marine life, and unique cultural heritage.

**Coral Reefs and Marine Life**

One of Palau's standout features is its world-renowned coral reefs, making it a top destination for divers and snorkelers. The crystal-clear waters offer excellent visibility and are home to an astounding variety of marine life, including colorful coral formations, reef sharks, sea turtles, and countless species of tropical fish. The most famous dive site, Blue Corner, is renowned for its thrilling drift dives, where divers can observe sharks and pelagic fish in their natural habitat.

**Adventures Beyond waters**

The island nation also offers adventure beyond its marine wonders. Nature enthusiasts can hike through lush jungles, explore limestone caves, and visit unique sites like the Ngardmau Waterfall, a breathtaking cascade surrounded by dense vegetation.

**The Rock Islands**

Rock Islands, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are another major attraction in Palau. The islands are mushroom-shaped limestone islets and surrounded by emerald waters, forming an otherworldly seascape that visitors can explore by kayak or boat. Hidden within the Rock Islands is the mesmerizing Jellyfish Lake, where thousands of non-stinging jellyfish migrate horizontally, creating an otherworldly experience for snorkelers.

**Environmental Conservation**

Palau is committed to preserving its unique ecosystem. The establishment of marine sanctuaries, such as the world's first shark sanctuary, underscores its dedication to protecting marine life. Despite these conservation efforts, Palau faces challenges, including climate change and overfishing. Rising sea levels and warming waters endanger coral reefs. Palau continues to work with international partners to mitigate these challenges and promote sustainable practices.

In conclusion, Palau's ecosystem is a testament to the beauty and fragility of our natural world. Its lush terrestrial landscapes and vibrant coral reefs offer a glimpse into the rich tapestry of life that thrives in this tropical paradise.

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## Reading/Writing (continued)

**Task:** *Use the information in the text to complete the form below.*

### Palau: A Tropical Ecosystem

| | |
|---|---|
| Islands Location: | (41) _____ |
| Astonishing marine life: | (42) _____ |
| | (43) _____ |
| Popular diving site : | (44) _____ |
| Activities beyond water | (45) _____ |
| | (46) _____ |
| Rock islands shape | (47) _____ |
| Location of harmless jellyfish: | (48) _____ |
| Example of conservation | (49) _____ |
| Threat to coral reefs | (50) _____ |

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## WRITING (20 marks)

*Answer **either A or B**. You should write **at least 150 words**.*

EITHER:

A. ***"The recent popularity of online shopping will result in the end of regular shops."***

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

OR:

B. ***"Some people believe that eventually all jobs will be done by artificially intelligent robots."***

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

***Option:*** _____ *(Indicate here which option you have chosen.)*

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## Writing (continued)

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## Writing (continued)

[ End of Examination ]

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# امتحان دبلوم التعليم العام
## لكلية الحرس السلطاني العماني التقنية (ثنائية اللغة)
## للعام الدراسي ١٤٤٤ هـ - ٢٠٢٢ / ٢٠٢٣ م - الدور الأول - الفصل الدراسي الأول

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- يقوم المتقدم بالإجابة عن أسئلة الاختيار من متعدد بتظليل الشكل (▭) وفق النموذج الآتي:

س - عاصمة سلطنة عمان هي:

▭ القاهرة ▭ الدوحة

■ مسقط ▭ أبوظبي

**ملاحظة:** يتم تظليل الشكل (■) باستخدام القلم الرصاص وعند الخطأ، امسح بعناية لإجراء التغيير.

**صحيح** ■ **غير صحيح** ▭ ◉ ◔ ✗ ✓

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## Listening 1 (Items 1 – 10) (10 marks)

*You're going to hear a radio interview with Professor Ann Murphy, a biologist who studies the monarch butterfly.*

*Listen, and for each item shade in the bubble (⬭) next to the correct option.*

**1.** Professor Murphy has been researching monarch butterflies for nearly _____ years.

- ⬭ 2
- ⬭ 7
- ⬭ 15

**2.** The largest population of monarch butterfly is found in _____.

- ⬭ Australia
- ⬭ the USA
- ⬭ New Zealand

**3.** The monarch butterfly was placed on the Red List of Endangered species in _____.

- ⬭ 2020
- ⬭ 2021
- ⬭ 2022

**4.** By 2030, _____ percent of monarch butterflies in the USA may be destroyed.

- ⬭ seven
- ⬭ sixty
- ⬭ a hundred

**5.** The monarch butterfly depends on _____ to survive.

- ⬭ milkweed
- ⬭ cold weather
- ⬭ farmers' crops

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## Listening 1 (continued)

**6.** _____ in the USA are responsible for destroying monarch butterfly habitats.

- ☐ World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- ☐ Farmers
- ☐ The government

**7.** The eastern monarch butterfly population was reduced by _____ from 1996 to 2014.

- ☐ 10%
- ☐ 84%
- ☐ 99.9%

**8.** The monarch butterfly habitat in Mexico is being destroyed by illegal _____.

- ☐ logging
- ☐ farming
- ☐ chemical spraying

**9.** The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is _____ to save the monarch butterfly in the USA and Mexico.

- ☐ raising farmers' awareness
- ☐ combatting climate change
- ☐ protecting forests

**10.** The number of monarch butterflies born in _____ is increasing.

- ☐ Mexico
- ☐ the Caribbean
- ☐ Indonesia

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## Listening 2 (Items 11 – 20) (10 marks)

*You're going to hear a talk about the Shell Eco-challenge, a global competition. Listen, and make notes in the table below.*

| | |
|---|---|
| **Competition** | Student (11) _____ competition.<br>Started in (12) _____.<br>Areas covered include Mobility, (13) _____. and Urban Environment |
| **Registration Rules** | Students should be at least (14) _____ years old and registered with an (15) _____ institution.<br>For the (16) _____ competition, each team can register up to 20 members. |
| **Vehicle Categories** | Urban Concept and the (17) _____. |
| **Winning entries** | Teams must drive the (18) _____ distance using the least amount of (19) _____. |
| **Position achieved by Oman** | GUtech team achieved (20) _____ place in 2015. |

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## Reading 1 (Items 21 – 30) (10 marks)

*Read the following letter about a family's recent trip to Jordan. Then complete the task.*

Dear Rahma,

How are you? I hope you're well. As promised, I'm writing to tell you about our latest trip to Jordan. Well, as you know it's a country steeped in history, a place where ancient buildings and modern ones sit comfortably together. This was our children's first visit, and my husband and I were looking forward to seeing the Hashemite Kingdom again, this time through their eyes. March to May is the peak season. We had considered travelling at a different time but from June to August the heat is too intense while in January and February it can be chilly, especially at night.

We set off for Petra from Amman, the capital, driving along the ancient north-south trading route called the 'King's Highway' which drops down to Petra and the Dead Sea. During the first centuries, Petra was once home to over 25,000 people and was an important trading city. It then sat uninhabited for over 500 years until it was rediscovered by a Swiss explorer in 1812. Our children had read about the Nabataeans who had built Petra over 2000 years ago. In fact, Petra was built on an even more ancient settlement dating from over 9,000 years ago.

We arrived at Siq which is a narrow valley that winds its way for approximately one kilometre and ends at Petra's most beautiful building, the Treasury. When Siq passage suddenly opened wide, the children saw the Treasury, or Al Khazneh. They were astounded at how monumental it really is. It is much bigger than it appears in pictures or even in the film '*Raiders of the Lost Ark*'.

We had just one day at Petra to see this vast settlement which meant we had to walk quickly to cover the 20 kms that it encompasses, including a climb up 850 steps to the Monastery.

On our second day, we chose to camp overnight in the desert at Wadi Rum. Abdullah, our guide, and driver was a Zalabia Bedouin who also takes groups trekking and mountain climbing. Our adventure took us into the Khaz'ali Canyon in the western part of Wadi Rum. We did not have time to see the images in the caves, but our camp was beautifully peaceful. Abdullah made a fire and cooked us a warm stew of meat and vegetables that we ate by torchlight before rolling out our carpets and falling asleep under the stars.

No trip to Jordan would be complete without a visit to the Dead Sea in the eastern part of Jordan. The children were fascinated to learn that the Dead Sea is the lowest point on Earth. It is almost nine times as salty as the ocean and that makes it impossible for most life to exist there. However, it is not completely dead because different types of bacteria are able to live in it. Because the water is so salty, it weighs more than fresh water. This was by far the highlight of our holiday, and I took numerous photos of the family relaxing in the water. People also use the salt and the minerals extracted from it to create cosmetics such as face creams and body scrubs.

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## Reading 1 (continued)

On our flight back to Oman, we began planning our next visit, the children busily arguing whether to go back to where we had been or to go to places we had not yet seen. We were all very sad to leave beautiful Jordan. We cannot wait to return there again sometime soon.

Fond regards,

Naima

**Task:** *For each item, shade in the bubble (○) next to the correct option.*

**21.** Jordan's architecture is _____.

- ○ mainly old
- ○ mostly new
- ○ a combination of old and new

**22.** The best time of the year to visit Jordan is from _____.

- ○ January to February
- ○ March to May
- ○ June to August

**23.** The 'King's Highway' _____.

- ○ is currently the main trade route
- ○ leads down to the valley of Petra
- ○ runs from east to west

**24.** People first started to live in the area known as Petra _____ years ago.

- ○ 500
- ○ 2,000
- ○ 9,000

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## Reading 1 (continued)

**25.** The Treasury is a building whose real size is _____ it looks in images.

- ☐ bigger than
- ☐ smaller than
- ☐ the same as

**26.** To see the entire Petra settlement, you must walk _____.

- ☐ 850 steps uphill
- ☐ 1 km
- ☐ 20 kms

**27.** At Wadi Rum the family _____.

- ☐ trekked up a mountain
- ☐ explored the caves
- ☐ slept in the open air

**28.** The salt extracted from the Dead Sea _____.

- ☐ kills all bacteria found there
- ☐ is an ingredient in many beauty products
- ☐ weighs less than ocean salt

**29.** The family's favourite place in Jordan was _____.

- ☐ the Dead Sea
- ☐ Petra
- ☐ Wadi Rum

**30.** According to the text, the family will _____ return to Jordan.

- ☐ never
- ☐ probably
- ☐ definitely

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## Reading 2 (Items 31 – 40) (10 marks)

*Read the following article about the Y2K bug. Then complete the task.*

### The Y2K Problem

On the 31st of December 1999, the world was afraid that the following day, January 1st, 2000, would mark the beginning of a huge technological disaster as there was a potential glitch in the design of computers which left them vulnerable. People were fearful that we had become too reliant on computers, and that the first day of the new year would usher in a period when we would be unable to depend on these machines. Computers powered our banks. They ran our companies. So why were people so concerned that this would happen?

The Millennium bug, or Y2K, was linked to an oversight with regards to computer storage. All the data stored on a computer takes up memory space and this is a very affordable thing in the world we live in today. It is estimated that one kilobyte currently costs less than a cent. In lots of cases nowadays, it is even free. At the turn of the century one kilobyte was seventy cents, but in the early years of computing, memory was very expensive. One kilobyte (about one thousand characters of storage) might cost as much as one hundred dollars.

Consequently, people had to devise ideas to save memory. As a means of reducing memory usage, it became common practice for computers to only store the final two digits of the year. Instead of saving the date as 06/03/1978, they would save it as 06/03/78. At first, this seemed like a good idea. But as the years passed, the turn of the century drew closer. Would our computers know that it was the year 2000 instead of the year 1999? Would computers around the world collapse? Some feared that banking systems would not work. Payments might fail and cash registers might crash. Another fear was that transportation systems would fall apart. Taxi metres could stop working. Airline computers could fail, and traffic lights could shut down. The Y2K problem was very worrying for a lot of people.

Magazine articles on the subject began to appear from 1970 onwards. Many programmers and managers only started recognising Y2K as a looming problem in the mid-1990s, but even then, complacency caused it to be mostly unresolved until the last few years of the decade. In the 1980s, the brokerage industry began to address this issue, mostly because of bonds that matured beyond the year 2000. The problem was initially addressed by Bob Bemer, who had noticed it in 1958 because of work he had conducted on genealogical software. He spent the next twenty years trying to make programmers, IBM, the government of the United States and the International Organisation for Standardization aware of the problem, with little result.

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## Reading 2 (continued)

But people did not just wait for their systems to fail. They worked hard to prevent the bug. Governments passed laws. Businesses upgraded their systems. People rewrote software. Conservative estimates by some economists, placed spending to combat Y2K at around $300 billion, whereas others viewed it as high as $400 or $500 billion. But were people really prepared when it happened? As clocks turned and calendars flipped to the year 2000, there were very few problems. Airplanes did not fall from the sky. Power grids did not shut down. Bank accounts did not get wiped out. We had avoided the worst. A few errors did occur around the world. Some bus ticket machines in Australia stopped working. Some slot machines in Las Vegas broke down. Certain cell phones in Japan deleted new text messages. But most computers just kept working as normal. Countries such as South Korea and Russia invested little to nothing in trying to solve the Y2K problem yet only had the same minor problems as those countries that had spent enormous sums of money addressing the Y2K issue.

**Task:** *For each question, write a short answer.*

**31.** What date, did people fear the Y2K bug would start?

_____

**32.** How much was one kilobyte of memory in the year 2000?

_____

**33.** What was removed from computers to save memory during the 1900's?

_____

**34.** Apart from financial services, what else did people think might be affected by Y2K? (List one.)

_____

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## Reading 2 (continued)

**35.** When did most people begin to address the issue of Y2K?

_____

**36.** When was the potential problem with Y2K first noticed?

_____

**37.** Which nation's administration was informed about Y2K by Bob Berner?

_____

**38.** What is the minimum amount that was spent to combat Y2K, according to economists?

_____

**39.** What issues, outside the USA, occurred internationally, because of Y2K? (List one)

_____

**40.** How were those countries who invested very little to combat Y2K affected?

_____

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## Reading / Writing (Items 41 – 50) (10 marks)

*Read the following article about the coconut tree and its uses. Then complete the task.*

In Polynesia and Asia, the coconut has played a significant role in the lives of the locals for thousands of years. Alternatively, in the western world, coconuts have been viewed as exotic luxury items since they were first referenced by Marco Polo in the 13th century and by Sir John Mandeville in the 14th century.

People, when they think of coconuts, imagine brown spherical objects containing nutritious flesh and liquid. However, few people consider the plant which produces coconuts. The coconut palm tree has a trunk which is thin, flat, and greyish in colour. The trees can range from twenty to thirty metres in height and are an important source of timber for building houses and making furniture. The leaves are at the top of the trunk and grow up to six metres in length. They are often used as brushes, while the young flowers produce a sap which can be turned into a popular drink. This sap when boiled also produces a rich kind of sugar which is used in cooking.

The coconut tree may produce up to seventy fruit annually and each of these weighs approximately one kilogramme. The coconut itself has an outer, middle, and inner layer. The woody, inner layer or shell is hard and can be split in half and used as a bowl or to it can be used to produce charcoal for fuel. The middle layer creates a fibre which can be used in the production of ropes. The outer layer or kernel is waterproof to protect the fruit inside.

While a coconut is developing, it has nutrients present in the form of a sweet liquid called coconut water. This is enjoyed internationally as a drink. This water also contains hormones which encourage plant growth. The liquid solidifies over time and becomes a fat-rich, white, edible flesh that can be turned into coconut oil or milk. Many people are not aware that glycerine can be obtained from coconut flesh. It only became economically and industrially significant in the late 1800's when it was first used to make dynamite.

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## Reading/Writing (continued)

**Task:** *Use the information in the text to complete the table below.*

### The Coconut Palm

| Part | Description | Uses |
|---|---|---|
| **Trunk** | Up to (41) _____ metres | Timber for houses and making (42) _____ |
| **Leaves** | Length of (43) _____ metres | To make (44) _____ |
| **Flowers** | Top of the trunk | Sap used for drinking or (45) _____ |
| **Fruit** | Inner layer | Source of (46) _____ |
| | Middle layer fibres | Used for (47) _____ |
| | Outer layer | Keeps out (48) _____ |
| | Coconut Water | Source of (49) _____ for other plants. |
| | Coconut Flesh | Oil and milk for cooking<br>Glycerine used for making<br>(50) _____ |

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## WRITING (20 marks)

*Answer **either A or B**. You should write **at least 150 words**.*

EITHER:

A. ***"Success is often measured by wealth and material possessions."***

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

OR:

B. ***"Music and Art are extremely important for all societies."***

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

***Option:*** _____ *(Indicate here which option you have chosen.)*

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## Writing (continued)

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## Writing (continued)

[ End of Examination ]

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# امتحان دبلوم التعليم العام

## لكلية الحرس السلطاني العماني التقنية (ثنائية اللغة)

## للعام الدراسي ١٤٤٣ هـ - ٢٠٢١ / ٢٠٢٢ م - االدور الأول - الفصل الدراسي الأول

**تنبيه:**
- المادة: English Language
- الأسئلة في ( ١٤ ) صفحة.
- زمن الإجابة: ثلاث ساعات.
- الإجابة في الورقة نفسها.

**تعليمات مهمة:**

- يجب الحضور إلى قاعة الامتحان قبل عشر دقائق على الأقل من بدء زمن الامتحان.
- يجب إحضار أصل ما يثبت الهوية وإبرازها للعاملين بالامتحانات.
- يجب الالتزام بالزي (الدشداشة البيضاء والمصر أو الكمة للذكور) والزي المدرسي للطالبات ، ويستثنى من ذلك الدارسون من غير العمانيين بشرط الالتزام بالذوق العام، ويمنع على جميع المتقدمات ارتداء النقاب داخل المركز وقاعات الامتحان.
- يحظر على الممتحنين اصطحاب الهواتف النقالة وأجهزة النداء الآلي وآلات التصوير والحواسيب الشخصية والساعات الرقمية الذكية والآلات الحاسبة ذات الصفة التخزينية والمجلات والصحف والكتب الدراسية والدفاتر والمذكرات والحقائب اليدوية والآلات الحادة أو الأسلحة أياً كان نوعها وأي شيء له علاقة بالامتحان.
- يجب على الممتحن الامتثال لإجراءات التفتيش داخل المركز طوال أيام الامتحان.
- يجب على الممتحن التأكد من استلام دفتر امتحانه، مغلفاً بغلاف بلاستيكي شفاف وغير ممزق ، وهو مسؤول عنه حتى يسلمه لمراقبي اللجنة بعد الانتهاء من الإجابة.
- يجب الالتزام بضوابط إدارة امتحانات دبلوم التعليم العام وما في مستواه وأية مخالفة لهذه الضوابط تعرضك للتدابير والإجراءات والعقوبات المنصوص عليها بالقرار الوزاري رقم ٥٨٨ / ٢٠١٥.
- يقوم المتقدم بالإجابة عن أسئلة الامتحان المقالية بقلم الحبر (الأزرق أو الأسود).
- يقوم المتقدم بالإجابة عن أسئلة الاختيار من متعدد بتظليل الشكل (▭) وفق النموذج الآتي:

س - عاصمة سلطنة عمان هي:

▭ القاهرة ▭ الدوحة

■ مسقط ▭ أبوظبي

**ملاحظة:** يتم تظليل الشكل (■) باستخدام القلم الرصاص وعند الخطأ، امسح بعناية لإجراء التغيير.

**صحيح** ■ **غير صحيح** ▭ ◉ ◔ ✗ ✓

# مُسَوَّدَة، لا يتم تصحيحها

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## Listening 1 (Items 1 – 10) (10 marks)

*You are going to hear a conversation between a radio presenter, Rachel Collins, and Dr. Jones, who specialises in sports injuries.*

*Listen, and for each item shade in the bubble (○) next to the correct option.*

**1.** The most common type of sports injuries involve _____.

- ○ muscle strains
- ○ joint sprains
- ○ muscle tears

**2.** According to Dr. Jones, injuries happen during _____ sports.

- ○ individual
- ○ team
- ○ individual and team

**3.** Currently, according to Dr. Jones, the most serious injuries involve the _____.

- ○ brain
- ○ neck
- ○ spine

**4.** A head injury must be examined _____.

- ○ at the hospital
- ○ on the field
- ○ at the sports centre

**5.** The highest number of neck injuries annually are caused by _____.

- ○ playing rugby
- ○ jumping on a trampoline
- ○ playing basketball

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## Listening 1 (continued)

**6.** _____ can cause people headaches.

- ☐ Pinched nerves
- ☐ A cracked bone
- ☐ A disc problem

**7.** Most players suffer sports injuries _____.

- ☐ before the age of 16
- ☐ between the ages of 16 and 35
- ☐ after the age of 40

**8.** The main reason that youngsters do not treat injuries is because they _____.

- ☐ are afraid
- ☐ do not listen
- ☐ feel superior

**9.** The person who can best motivate young players to get treatment is _____.

- ☐ a doctor
- ☐ the person himself
- ☐ a coach

**10.** Dr. Jones' strongest advice is to _____ to prevent sports injuries.

- ☐ use the correct equipment
- ☐ stretch before any physical activity
- ☐ know your fitness level

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## Listening 2 (Items 11 – 20) (10 marks)

*You are going to hear a talk about The Great Barrier Reef in Australia. Listen, and make notes in the table below.*

| | |
|---|---|
| **The Great Barrier Reef** | Length: 2,300 kms or (11) _____ miles<br>Location: North East coast<br>Number of fish species: (12) _____<br>Protects the coast from: (13) _____ |
| **Risks/Threats to the Reef** | Since 1995, (14) _____ has destroyed (15) _____ % of the Great Barrier Reef's Coral |
| **Bleaching** | Coral turns from a vibrant colour to (16) _____ (colour)<br>Australia's outlook for the Great Barrier Reef in 2019 was (17) _____ to very poor. |
| **Human activities damaging the reef** | (18) _____ and agricultural (19) _____ |
| **Effect of Global Warming** | Global temperatures have risen by (20) _____<br>degree Celsius since pre-industrial times. |

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## Reading 1 (Items 21 – 30) (10 marks)

*Read the following letter of recommendation. Then complete the task.*

To whom it may concern,

It gives me great satisfaction to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Sami Al Raisi. Sami was a student in my English and History classes for the past three years, and he was also a member of my Geography class two years ago, for a year. He was a very intuitive and conscientious student, who showed a positive attitude throughout his time with me.

Sami was a very engaged participant in all class discussions and activities. He consistently contributed insightfully and always took our class discussions to another level, while remaining supportive and inclusive of his peers. He added a unique outlook in our conversations through his intelligence, but most notably, from his experience of having lived in different countries and having been exposed to diverse cultures. He contributed greatly on social topics such as climate change, pollution and social media. However, one discussion in which, he really excelled was on the issue of respecting different cultures and traditions.

In light of the extremely demanding workload, Sami's final grade is a credit to his hard work and dedication. Three years ago, he was hovering between a B and C grade. However, by the end of that first year in my class he was a solid A student who maintained that grade until he graduated. I am a strict grader, and strive to push my students to accept challenges and overcome them. Therefore, he deserves great credit as a person and I have heard other teachers refer to him as a 'model student' and a 'class leader'. While I thoroughly agree, I would categorise Sami as a 'true scholar' and I fully expect him to effect change in whatever domain he pursues, as he has all the necessary attributes to do so.

While Sami is quietly modest about his goals in his future career, I know he is very passionate about a few areas. He has expressed interest about a career in numerous areas such as social work or children's education, but he seems to be most committed to solving the issue of the poverty cycle, and how businesses can help alleviate this issue within the local community.

Additionally, Sami is hugely capable when it comes to languages, and while he is fluent in both English and Arabic, he has also developed his Spanish skills from beginner to advanced intermediate level. I am certain it is only a matter of time before he is like a native Spanish speaker. The principal reason for his interest in learning languages comes from his deep rooted desire to work in different parts of the world. He has even expressed a desire to begin lessons in another language in the near future. When I asked him would it be French, German or Italian, he informed me that Mandarin would be his next challenge. This highlights his determination and willingness to take on daunting tasks.

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## Reading 1 (continued)

On a personal level, I have always found Sami to be very courteous with all members of the school community. He was a positive influence on the students, and was openly supportive to younger and challenged students. To his credit, he was very involved with a special needs student in his class and he happily volunteered his time to lend assistance whenever he could.

Finally, I would recommend Sami Al Raisi to any third level institution. If you require any further information regarding Sami please do not hesitate to contact me. I am available via phone, email or fax and you will find the details attached to this letter. However, email would be best for a speedy response.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Wright, English Teacher

**Task:** *For each item, shade in the bubble (⬭) next to the correct option.*

**21.** Mr. Wright was Sami's geography teacher for _____.

- ⬭ one year
- ⬭ two years
- ⬭ three years

**22.** According to Mr. Wright, Sami was unique during conversations because of his _____ .

- ⬭ supportive attitude
- ⬭ intelligence
- ⬭ experience of the world

**23.** Discussions about _____ brought out the best in Sami, according to Mr. Wright.

- ⬭ culture and tradition
- ⬭ Social Media
- ⬭ pollution

**24.** Sami achieved a Grade _____ in his final year at school.

- ⬭ A
- ⬭ B
- ⬭ C

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## Reading 1 (continued)

**25.** Mr. Wright used the phrase a _____ to describe Sami.

- ☐ model student
- ☐ true scholar
- ☐ class leader

**26.** According to Mr. Wright, Sami's career focus will be on trying to solve _____.

- ☐ the poverty cycle
- ☐ educational issues
- ☐ work related problems

**27.** Sami speaks Spanish at _____ level.

- ☐ beginner
- ☐ intermediate
- ☐ fluency

**28.** The main reason why Sami studies languages is because he wants to _____.

- ☐ work overseas
- ☐ help challenged students
- ☐ teach languages

**29.** Sami is planning to learn _____ the near future.

- ☐ French
- ☐ Mandarin
- ☐ German

**30.** To get a quick response from Mr. Wright, you should _____ him.

- ☐ email
- ☐ phone
- ☐ fax

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## Reading 2 (Items 31 – 40) (10 marks)

*Read the following medical article on cryotherapy. Then complete the task.*

### Cryotherapy

Cryotherapy is any treatment that involves the use of freezing or near freezing temperatures. The most popular form of cryotherapy involves sitting in a cryotherapy booth for three to five minutes, though three minutes is the usual recommended time. Some of these types of treatment can be described as non-medical and usually take place in a spa or similar setting. This type of cryotherapy may come in the form of facials or the treatment of painful joints.

Doctors also use cryotherapy to freeze off warts or cancerous cells. This treatment may be unpleasant at first as the body requires a few sessions to adapt to the low temperature. It is generally safe although some people should avoid it, such as pregnant women, children and those who suffer from high blood pressure.

There are many benefits associated with cryotherapy. Firstly, this form of treatment can provide pain relief and muscle healing, and some joint or muscle disorders such as arthritis can also be relieved through this method. Cryotherapy that focuses on the neck may also help prevent migraine headaches. Furthermore, whole body cryotherapy was found to provide some relief for muscle pain and to increase the rate of healing, while cold water immersion was found to be even more effective in these circumstances.

Another benefit of cryotherapy is that it can support weight loss as the body is forced to work harder to stay warm. As a result, the body's metabolism adjusts and increases in response to the cold temperature. However, cryotherapy by itself will not cause weight loss.

So far, there is no evidence that cryotherapy can treat cancer once the disease has developed. However, medical cryotherapy is a well-established treatment for certain forms of cancer. A doctor might use cryotherapy to freeze off cancer cells on the skin and occasionally to remove other cancers.

Inflammation is one way the immune system fights infection. Sometimes the immune system becomes overly reactive. The result is chronic inflammation, which is linked to health problems, such as cancer, diabetes, depression, dementia, and arthritis. As such, reducing inflammation could also improve overall health and reduce the risk of numerous chronic ailments. Some studies suggest that cryotherapy can reduce inflammation. However, as most research has been done on rats, more research is needed on people. If cryotherapy reduces inflammation, it could also reduce the risk of developing dementia. A paper puplished in 2012 puts forward the possibility of cryotherapy being able to reduce the inflammation associated with dementia and other age-related forms of cognitive decline.

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## Reading 2 (continued)

Research findings that cryotherapy may reduce inflammation suggest that it could treat mental health conditions linked to inflammation. Some preliminary research on cryotherapy and mental health also supports this claim. A 2008 study found that in 33% of people suffering from depression or anxiety, cryotherapy reduced symptoms by at least 50%. This was a much greater reduction than in those people who did not undergo cryotherapy.

The chronic inflammatory skin condition known as eczema can cause intensely itchy patches of dry skin. A small study conducted in 2010 of people suffering from eczema had participants stop using their eczema medications. They then tried cryotherapy. Many of them saw improvements in their eczema symptoms, though some complained of frostbite on small areas of the skin.

**Task:** *For each question, write a short answer.*

**31.** Ideally, how long should you spend in a cryotherapy booth?

_____

**32.** How would a cryotherapy treatment such as a facial be categorised?

_____

**33.** What do doctors sometimes use cryotherapy for? (Give one example)

_____

**34.** Who should avoid cryotherapy?

_____

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## Reading 2 (continued)

**35.** What is the benefit of whole body cryotherapy?

**36.** How can cryotherapy help weight loss?

**37.** Why might research on the effectiveness of cryotherapy be viewed as unreliable?

**38.** What age related disease may be treatable using cryotherapy?

**39.** According to a 2008 study, what percentage of depression sufferers benefitted from cryotherapy?

**40.** What could be one negative result of using cryotherapy to treat eczema?

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## Reading / Writing (Items 41 – 50) (10 marks)

*Read the following message posted on the online portal of a university about an upcoming academic conference. Then complete the task.*

The University of Brighton will host an academic conference in early January, 2022 and numerous guests have accepted invitations to speak on the day. The date of the conference had provisionally been set for December 17th and January 4th, but it has now been confirmed that it will take place on January 11th to accommodate the speakers' schedules. The talks will take place in three different locations on campus. The sessions will begin at 10.30 in the morning with Paul Cooke who will deliver a talk on engineering, specifically structural engineering, in the main auditorium. This session will run parallel with two other talks by Mrs. Galloway and Mrs. Becker.

Mrs. Galloway will present a paper on copyright law in the Green Room, while Mrs. Becker will discuss international banking. Originally, Mrs. Becker was going to be located in the library, but this has been moved to the exam hall, to accommodate the demand for places for her talk. Lunch break will take place at approximately 1pm following the morning sessions.

The afternoon session will begin at 2 pm with three further speakers. Dr. Alex Lange, a US professor, will talk about marine biology in the English Lecture Hall. Katherine Davis from the linguistics faculty at Edinburgh University will be speaking about pronunciation and accent identification in the conference hall. The third session will take place in the Library, where our own Darren Fry from the physics faculty will provide us with an insight into the world of Astronomy. Professor Macklin will close out the day with a short presentation on work placement opportunities for the 3rd year students in the main auditorium, at approximately 3.45 pm.

We hope to see many of you there on the day.

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## Reading/Writing (continued)

**Task:** *Use the information in the text to complete the programme below.*

### *Academic Conference Programme*

**Date:** (41) _____

| Time | Venue | Presenter | Specific Topic |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10.30 | (42) _____ | Paul Cooke | (43) _____ |
| 10.30 | Green Room | (44) _____ | (45) _____ |
| 10.30 | (46) _____ | Mrs. Becker | International Banking |
| 13.00 Lunch | | | |
| 14.00 | (47) _____ | Dr. Alex Lange | Marine Biology |
| 14.00 | Conference Hall | Katherine Davis | (48) _____ |
| 14.00 | Library | Darren Fry | (49) _____ |
| 15.45 | Main Auditorium | Professor Macklin | (50) _____ |

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## WRITING (20 marks)

*Answer **either A or B**. You should write **at least 150 words**.*

EITHER:

A. ***"Only people who earn a lot of money are successful."***

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

OR:

B. ***"Most experiences in our lives that seemed difficult at the time become valuable lessons for the future."***

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

***Option:*** _____ *(Indicate here which option you have chosen.)*

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## Writing (continued)

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## Writing (continued)

[ End of Examination ]

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