

English Test - Level B2 (Sample)

Test (Sample) - Page 1

SECTION I

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVES TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES.

1. You never saw the photos we took last summer, ____?
a) did you
b) haven't you
c) have you
d) didn't you

2. The program _____ when I walked into the office this morning.
a) was being uploaded
b) is uploaded
c) has been uploaded
d) has uploaded

3. _____ all night he still had the energy to go and play football.
a) Although working
b) Even though he had been working
c) Despite he had been working
d) Therefore, he was working

4. We left the house at 5:00 am _____ the early morning traffic.
a) because we beat
b) so as to be beating
c) to have beaten
d) in order to beat

5. The boss suggested _____ on an assertiveness course.
a) me to go
b) I will go
c) going
d) having gone

6. The meeting starts at about 10:00 and Greg _____ the presentation shortly afterwards.
a) has been giving
b) will be giving
c) will to give
d) has given

7. The key ____ a successful business is knowing what your customers want.
- a) to have
 - b) about having
 - c) to having
 - d) of having had
8. She chose ____ to Rome instead of driving.
- a) flying
 - b) she flew
 - c) having flown
 - d) to fly
9. By the end of the coming month, I can assure you we ____ the project.
- a) are finished
 - b) will have finished
 - c) will be finished
 - d) finish
10. They ____ a house already! They only started looking last week!
- a) can't have bought
 - b) mustn't be buying
 - c) mustn't buy
 - d) should have bought
11. David, it really is time you ____ to think about your future.
- a) were started
 - b) are starting
 - c) started
 - d) are started
12. Mr. Smith's house ____ from top to bottom because his mother-in-law is coming for a visit.
- a) is cleaning
 - b) has been cleaning
 - c) is been cleaned
 - d) has been cleaned
13. You ____ me a hand with that work! You had nothing better to do.
- a) may give
 - b) could have given
 - c) could give
 - d) might be giving
14. I don't remember ____ before. Who is he?
- a) meeting him
 - b) to meet with him
 - c) I had met
 - d) we are meeting

15. I wish I ____ to increase profits by 30% at the last sales meeting!
- a) didn't promise
 - b) hadn't promised
 - c) wasn't promised
 - d) wouldn't have promised

16. When they return to Japan after living in the west, many Japanese people have to ____ in Japan again when they return.
- a) be used to living
 - b) become used to live
 - c) usually live
 - d) get used to living

SECTION 2

COMPLETE THE SECOND SENTENCE SO THAT IT MEANS THE SAME AS THE FIRST SENTENCE.

1. It's a long time since they last had a house party.

They _____ a long time.

2. If you drink a lot of wine, you become silly.

The more _____ the _____ you become.

3. Many people say they will change jobs but few actually do.

Many people talk _____ jobs but few actually do.

4. I think it's possible that she wrote the article but I'm not sure.

She _____ the article but I'm not sure.

5. "I will not work on Sunday afternoon and that is the end of it!" she said.

6. They had already accepted the new work plan before I arrived at the meeting.

The new work plan _____ before I arrived at the meeting.

7. Despite working hard all his life, he actually had very little money.

Even _____ hard all his life, he actually had very little money when he retired.

8. He treated her badly and for this reason she left him.

If he _____ her badly, she _____ him.

9. I think it would be a very good idea if you apologized to her.

You'd _____ to her.

10. The accountant prepared my tax statement.

I had _____ the accountant.

11. It was the best concert I've ever been to.

I _____ concert.

12. No definitive date will be set until we know exactly where we stand.

We _____ until we know exactly where we stand.

SECTION 3

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVES TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES.

1. Why did you ____ such a generous proposal?

- a) turn back
- b) end up
- c) turn down
- d) set off

2. I hate to ____ your plans but we just don't have the money to put them into practice.

- a) make a go of
- b) pour cold water on
- c) damp down
- d) put out

3. The singer had had dreams of great success when he was younger but he ____ singing at weddings and private parties.

- a) found out
- b) gave off
- c) finished off
- d) ended up

4. You wouldn't believe how easy it is to use this program; it's _____!

- a) a piece of cake
- b) a slice of pie
- c) a cup of tea
- d) a part of my mind

5. He's too bossy! He's only been working here a short time and he's already trying to _____ everything!
- a) bring out
 - b) take over
 - c) let down
 - d) get on
6. My boss obviously doesn't trust him; he _____ everything he does!
- a) makes up
 - b) runs across
 - c) controls on
 - d) checks up on
7. The rumour of his resignation _____ and soon everybody was talking about it.
- a) went over
 - b) spread like wildfire
 - c) went round like fungus
 - d) made off
8. The estate agent took them to see a house but its shabby and dirty exterior _____ before they'd even opened the door.
- a) took them on
 - b) put them off
 - c) ran them down
 - d) came up against them
9. John used to be so active before getting married; now he's such a ____!
- a) loggerhead
 - b) couch potato
 - c) high flyer
 - d) dead heat
10. We don't have all day! _____ which one you want!
- a) Bear in mind
 - b) Cross your heart
 - c) Slip the mind
 - d) Make up your mind
11. In August large numbers of Italians _____ the beach.
- a) go for
 - b) bring on
 - c) head for
 - d) leave out
12. _____ people turned up for the meeting that it was cancelled.
- a) So few
 - b) Such few
 - c) So little
 - d) Since little

SECTION 4

COMPLETE EACH GAP IN THE PASSAGE WITH A WORD FORMED FROM THE WORD IN BRACKETS.

Scientists are 1 _____ (EXCITE) waiting for new images and observations when a NASA spacecraft flies over the 2 _____ (MYSTERY) planet of Mercury. They hope to obtain about 1,200 images and other data from instruments aboard the Messenger spacecraft that could 3 _____ (REVOLUTION) the study of the solar system.

It is the scientists' 4 _____ (BELIEVE) that our planet was formed at the same time as Mercury by similar processes - but Mercury is rather 5 _____ (USE). It is so dense that more than two-thirds is probably made up of an iron-like metal. Besides this, as it is so close to the sun there is a temperature 6 _____ (VARY) of more than 600 degrees between day and night at the equator and there may even be ice at the poles in craters that are in permanent shadow.

"This is raw scientific exploration and the suspense is building by the day," said Alan Stern, the 7 _____ (ADMINISTRATE) for NASA's science mission.

Messenger will take 8 _____ (MEASURE) of the mineral and chemical 9 _____ (COMPOSE) of the surface, study its atmosphere and magnetosphere and obtain data about other aspects of this strange small planet. The spacecraft will fly at a 10 _____ (HIGH) of only 124 miles above Mercury's surface, and will use the planet's gravitational pull.

The fly-by will be the first since Mariner 10's visit in March 1975, when that spacecraft conducted three flights over the planet.

SECTION 5

READ THE TEXT AND CHOOSE THE MOST SUITABLE ANSWER TO EACH QUESTION.

Financial careers in the City

A financial career in the City of London with its challenging work and generous pay packets is an attractive proposition for many young people just out of university. It is important, however, that they fully understand what a career in the city involves and the pressures it can create. Stress is a fact of life, but in the City it is contagious and can encourage unhealthy habits.

Studies have indicated that alcohol and drug abuse, compulsive gambling and depression are much higher among people who work in the City. One 43-year-old consultant who has chronic fatigue syndrome and has just quit the City says:

"Many employers offer complete private medical insurance, which includes a free trip to a mental health clinic if you have problems. The drawback is that as soon as you feel better you are back facing the same situations that caused your problems."

Working in the city is definitely not for people who are sensitive or for those who value their free time. For investment bankers and market analysts the day starts so early that they practically eat breakfast the night before! Overtime is obligatory, typically ten to twenty per cent on top of normal working hours, and it's usually unpaid. Then there's the mandatory socializing. Graduate trainees are expected to participate with enthusiasm in team-building exercises and events. These can be great fun or a horrendous prospect, depending on your mood and attitude.

It sounds tough and it is. One man in his late thirties, who recently moved into investment banking,

says:

"I hear so many graduate trainees say that they're planning to do five or maybe ten years in the City and then leave. The problem is that it's all too easy to get trapped once you're used to the money and the lifestyle — a smart flat, kids in private schools and a spouse who depends on your salary. It might look glamorous from the outside but the reality is that they're financial handcuffs."

Still interested? Then you should consider doing an internship, which is where you work for your prospective employer in the summer holidays before your final year at university. This type of work experience will help to boost your CV and your job applications, because it will show that you are serious; it will also give you an insight into what life is really like in the sector. Some jobs require specific qualifications but most top employers will accept any degree subject provided it's from a decent university. You will also need to show initiative and drive, plus good analytical, communication, literacy and team-working skills. Fitting in with other people is what really counts. The people hiring you think of it as a marriage contract and it could be for life.

1. The purpose of the text is to ____.
 - a) convince young people that a career in the City is the best path to take
 - b) give students a balanced idea of what working in the city really involves
 - c) recruit students for a career in investment banking
 - d) separate the serious from the less serious students

2. For many young people two attractive aspects of working in the City are ____.
 - a) paid overtime and free breakfast in the office
 - b) travel opportunities and free schooling
 - c) a friendly social environment and flexible hours
 - d) challenging work and good pay

3. Which statement is correct?
 - a) Most stressed workers feel better when they return to work.
 - b) Mental health care is not covered in the insurance offered by employers.
 - c) Stress encourages unhealthy habits among those who work in the City.
 - d) Few people work in the City after the age of 40.

4. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as one of the negative aspects of working in the City?
 - a) Beginning the workday very early.
 - b) Being forced to socialize.
 - c) Aggressive and competitive co-workers.
 - d) Not being paid for overtime.

5. According to the text, team-building exercises and events are ____.
 - a) almost always a waste of time
 - b) the best way to obtain promotions
 - c) good or bad depending on one's attitude
 - d) extremely competitive

6. Many young people initially plan to ____.
 - a) only work in the City for a few years
 - b) start their own consulting business
 - c) continue their studies in a private school
 - d) get married, have children and live in an expensive flat

7. Many find it difficult to leave a job in the City because ____.

- a) it's all they know how to do
- b) they have grown accustomed to a certain lifestyle
- c) they feel loyalty to their co-workers
- d) they fear being trapped in a dead-end job

8. Doing an internship is a good idea because ____.

- a) it offers holidays and benefits
- b) it won't show any negative aspects of working in the City
- c) it shows employers you are serious about your intentions
- d) the money you earn will help pay for your studies

9. According to the text, specific qualifications ____.

- a) usually result in a higher salary
- b) can make potential employers feel intimidated
- c) are essential to getting any job in the City
- d) are good to have but not always mandatory

10. According to the text, the most important thing is ____.

- a) being willing to accept a low salary
- b) to mix well with colleagues
- c) to assert your individuality
- d) to never disagree with your boss