



FIRAT UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
SAMPLE PROFICIENCY EXAM

Information for Students

Allowed Tools: Only pencils, and erasers. No electronic devices are permitted (phones, smartwatches, tablets, etc.).

Exam Format:

1. **Listening Section** – 3 tasks: charts, blanks with numbers, comprehension questions.
2. **Vocabulary Section** – word forms, blanks, partial words, phrasal verbs, questions, error correction.
3. **Reading Section** – two texts with comprehension and evaluation questions.
4. **Grammar Section** – verb forms, relative and noun clauses, reported speech, articles, tag questions, quantifiers, causatives, perfect modals, conditionals, comparatives.
5. **Writing Section** – writing an opinion essay. *The writing section will be evaluated separately.*

Assessment Focus: The final score will be calculated by allocating 80% to the Listening, Vocabulary, Reading, and Grammar sections, and 20% to the Writing section.

The exam evaluates listening comprehension, vocabulary knowledge, reading comprehension, grammar skills and writing skills. Manage your time wisely.

LISTENING

Listening 1

Fill in the chart according to the information in the track.

	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3
The people or things in the ad	Three guys, moths	Homeless people	
The purpose of the ad			Show the results of texting and driving
The place or the country	Australia		Belgium
Why the speaker thinks the ad is effective		Because it showed the experience of real people	

Listening 2

Fill in the blanks with the numbers mentioned in the track.

1. The sun is about _____ times heavier than Earth.
2. Roughly _____ Earths could fit inside the sun.
3. Mercury's daytime temperatures can reach up to _____ °C.
4. At night, Mercury's temperature can drop to _____ °F.
5. Jupiter's giant red storm has been active for at least _____ years.
6. Saturn has _____ known moons, the highest number of any planet.
7. The speed of winds on Neptune can reach up to _____ kilometers per hour.
8. Sunlight takes approximately _____ hours to reach Pluto.

Listening 3

Answer the following questions according to the track.

1. How is a phobia different from fear?
2. How does social anxiety disorder affect daily life?
3. What are the physical effects of encountering the source of a phobia?
4. What are the results of treatment of phobias?
5. What does the speaker mean when she says "seeking help is a sign of strength"?

VOCABULARY

Part 1

Complete the sentences with the adjective form of the words in the box. *There are extra words that you cannot use.*

sense – construct – glamour – consider – luxury - profit

1. My grandmother is extremely _____. She always looks stylish, wears makeup, and never leaves the house without her earrings.
2. I'm so sorry I was late to the meeting. It was very _____ of you to stay and wait even though you had other things to do.
3. She's very _____ especially when it comes to money. She never spends more than she earns and thinks carefully before making decisions.
4. Our hotel room was absolutely _____. It had a private pool, sea view, and 24-hour room service!

Part 2

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in the box.

accurate – success – inspire – science – memory – confident – sleep – charge

1. Her 60th birthday party was a truly _____ occasion that brought the whole family together to celebrate.
2. He spoke very _____ about his plans, showing that he believed he would win the competition.
3. Effective English communication requires clear pronunciation and _____ in grammar and vocabulary to make your message clear.
4. You can waste time waiting for _____ to produce something. Sometimes it's best to take action.
5. I can't believe I _____ and missed an important meeting!
6. Some people believe that aliens have visited Earth, but there isn't enough _____ proof to support that theory.
7. There is no way that coffee cost £9! I must have been _____.
8. After months of hard work, they finally _____ in opening their own business.

Part 3

Complete the words whose initial letters have already been given.

1. Don't forget to include a c _____ letter with your CV when applying for the position.
2. After the company installed new software that could do the same tasks automatically, many employees were made r _____ and lost their jobs.
3. I'm trying to get a job, but there are very few v _____ in my field at the moment.
4. The movie was beautifully shot, but the p _____ was confusing and hard to follow. I couldn't really understand what the story was about.

5. He won't get the job. He doesn't have enough **q** _____ for this technical position.
6. During the war, thousands of people had to leave their homes and move to other countries to find safety. They became **r** _____ in foreign lands.
7. When you are trying to choose what to have in a restaurant, are you **d** _____?
8. Many animal **s** _____ are becoming extinct because of climate change.
9. Hundreds of people applied for the job but only six **c** _____ were invited for an interview.
10. Because there was no rain for several months, the crops died and the rivers dried up. The country was suffering from a severe **d** _____.

Part 4

Circle the phrasal verb or verb which you cannot use with the bold noun.

put aside	bring up	pay back	take out	some money
come up with	figure out	propose	deliver	a solution
look for	try on	get off	take off	a sweater
cut down on	put together	take apart	set up	a bookcase
keep	get	make	break	a resolution

Part 5

Complete the questions with the verbs in the box. *There are extra verbs.*

stare – notice – say – look – observe – tell – recognize – spot

1. Do you ever sit in a cafe and _____ the people through the window? Why do people enjoy doing this?
2. People sometimes _____ you that you're not good enough, but it's important not to take it personally.
3. Are you good at remembering people's faces? Do you always _____ people when you meet them the second time?
4. When you're travelling around (e.g. by bus), do you usually _____ the buildings around you?

Part 6

There is only one wrong word in each line. Please identify and underline the incorrect form of the word, then write the correct form in the designated space.

1. Despite training for months, she still couldn't run as fastly as her competitors during the final race, which surprised everyone watching. _____

2. I'm definitely overpaid. Unless I get a pay rise, it'll be time to find a new job! _____

3. This hotel is in a great location, and it's very convenience for tourists who want to visit the city center.

4. I told him the project was impossible and a waste of time, but I still managed to encourage him from doing it.

5. I was surprised to find such a high-quality laptop that was also very expensive. _____

6. The soup appeared unusual, leading me to doubt its tasty; however, it turned out to be quite delicious.

7. Everyone thought she was unfriendly and cold at first, but after getting to know her, they realized they had judged her. She was actually very kind and caring. _____

8. His argument wasn't very strong, but hers was extremely persuade and she convinced the whole committee.

READING

(Attention: For answers, do not directly copy any full sentences from the text)

TEXT 1: The Power of First Impressions

When we meet someone for the first time, we form an opinion within seconds—often before a single word is spoken. Psychologists argue that these snap judgments are based on appearance, body language, and even voice tone. Interestingly, once formed, these initial impressions can be surprisingly difficult to change, even when new evidence contradicts them. In a study conducted at a major university, participants watched short video clips of job applicants entering a room and shaking hands with the interviewer. Without hearing the conversation, viewers were asked to rate each applicant's confidence and competence. Their evaluations matched the actual interview results over 80% of the time. While first impressions can be useful in some social settings, they may lead to unconscious bias. For example, someone might seem unfriendly simply because they are shy or nervous. Experts recommend pausing before making judgments and giving people a chance to reveal more about themselves over time.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. In your own words, explain why first impressions are both useful and dangerous. Use examples from the text and your personal experience.

2. Why might the text suggest that shy people are unfairly judged?

3. How does the phrase 'snap judgments' emphasize the speed of evaluations?

4. What does the 80% match rate imply about human intuition?

5. 'First impressions are unavoidable.' Do you agree? Support your view with one example from the text and one personal experience.

TEXT 2: Digital Detox – A Growing Trend

In recent years, the idea of a digital detox—spending time away from smartphones, social media, and constant notifications—has gained popularity. For many, the pressure to stay connected 24/7 has become exhausting. A 2022 survey found that 64% of young adults felt anxious if they didn't check their phone within 15 minutes of waking up. Some retreat centers now offer 'offline weekends,' where guests must hand in their devices on arrival. Though many participants initially struggle, most report feeling calmer, more focused, and even happier by the end. One participant said, 'I didn't realize how addicted I was until I had no choice but to disconnect.' Still, not everyone is convinced. Critics argue that digital detoxes are just temporary fixes and that people need to build healthier, long-term habits with technology. They suggest digital literacy and self-discipline are more effective than simply switching off.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think people feel calmer and happier after disconnecting from their devices? Do you agree? Explain using ideas from the text and your own opinion?
2. Why does the author describe detoxes as 'temporary fixes'? Write your interpretation and explain how it supports the author's message.
3. Would it be realistic for most people to give up digital devices completely? Why or why not? Support your answer using ideas from the text?
4. Based on the text, how could schools or workplaces encourage healthier digital habits without requiring a full detox? Suggest 2 ideas and explain.
5. 'Smartphones are more harmful than helpful.' To what extent do you agree? Use one text example and your own argument.

GRAMMAR

Part 1

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs.

1. Who _____ your all-time favorite novel, the one you keep recommending to everyone? (write)
2. During our conversation about historic landmarks, she admitted that she _____ there before, which surprised me. (not be)
3. In most countries, tea _____ by placing tea leaves in a pot and pouring hot water over them. (prepare)
4. Elizabeth loves travelling, but there are still some places on her list. She _____ China, although she dreams of visiting the Great Wall one day. (not visit)
5. Upon the completion next month of its renovation and expansion, the museum _____ its exhibition space and added an auditorium _____ for performance and lectures. (double / use)
6. It was really rude of her _____ us a cup of coffee after we helped her move all that heavy furniture. (not offer)
7. The real cause of the manager's son's death _____ by the time the autopsy _____ . The whole town is waiting for answers. (know / perform)

8. Van Gogh is believed _____ off his own ear when he was deeply depressed and living in France. (cut)
9. The manager just confirmed the rush project. This new order means _____ overtime for the whole team. (work)
10. After staying late at the office and attending three back-to-back meetings, now Jack _____ to be tired, though he insists he's fine. (appear)

Part 2

Complete the sentences given using the correct word to form relative clauses or noun clauses.

1. The professor, with _____ I discussed my thesis, suggested several valuable resources.
2. Scientists are still debating _____ artificial intelligence can truly replace human creativity.
3. The researcher _____ findings were published in a leading journal will give a keynote speech tomorrow.
4. What surprised the audience most was _____ the politician admitted his past mistakes openly
5. The conference, during _____ several innovative studies were presented, attracted international attention.
6. I cannot understand _____ he insists on rejecting every reasonable suggestion.

Part 3

1. Find and correct all the mistakes in the underlined reported sentence.

Anna said that she will buy a new laptop next week because her old one is broken.

2. Rewrite the sentence in reported speech.

"Why didn't you come to the meeting yesterday?" the manager asked John.

Part 4

Complete the sentences by using the correct article (a, an, the, Ø), tag question, or quantifier where necessary.

1. She is studying the impact of social media on _____ modern society.
2. After hours of negotiation, they finally reached _____ agreement that satisfied both parties.
3. You haven't forgotten to bring your homework, _____?
4. There were so _____ people at the concert that the security had to stop letting more in.

Part 5

Fill in the blanks with the words given in the box.

have (x2), finish, do, repair, make

1. I finally _____ my car _____ yesterday because it had been making strange noises for weeks.
2. The manager always _____ the employees _____ their reports before the deadline.
3. Sarah doesn't cut her own hair; she usually _____ it _____ by a professional stylist.

Part 6

Fill in the blanks with the correct modal structure expressing past regret, possibility, willingness or advice.

1. The lights were off and the house was completely empty. He _____ (be) at home when you called.
2. I _____ (eat) so much chocolate but I did! I feel sick!
3. You went to China? That _____ (be) exciting!

Part 7

Respond to the situations by using second and third conditional structures.

1. You see a big advertisement for a dream holiday that is very expensive. Your friend asks if you'd go. What do you say?
2. Last week, your class had a surprise test. You didn't get the grade you wanted. How do you explain it?

Part 8

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the adjectives given in the box.

clear – interesting – expensive – accurate – delicious – impressive – good – fluent – careful - fast

1. The new movie was far _____ than the one we saw last week, but I still think the first one was _____ of the entire series.
2. She drives _____ than her brother, but among all her friends, she drives the _____ on highways.
3. This restaurant isn't _____ as the one downtown, but the food is just much _____
4. He answered the questions _____ than I expected, and in fact, he spoke _____ of all the candidates.
5. Her explanation was not _____ as the teacher's, but she spoke _____ as a native speaker.

WRITING EXAM

Instructions

Choose **ONE** of the topics below and write an opinion essay consisting of 200–250 words.

Topics:

1. Is it right for rich countries to be responsible for solving problems in poor countries?
2. Is it ethical to use animals for scientific experiments when it helps humans?

*Essay Guide

To write the essay, start with an **introduction** that ends with a clear **thesis statement**. Then write **two body paragraphs**, each beginning with a **topic sentence** and followed by **supporting sentences** that explain your reasons. Finally, write a **conclusion** that restates your opinion and ends with a strong **closing sentence**.

Grading Rubric (out of 20)

1. Introduction & Thesis (3 points)

- 3 = Clear introduction + strong thesis statement
- 2 = Introduction present but thesis weak
- 1 = Only topic mentioned, no thesis
- 0 = Missing

2. Body Paragraphs (8 points) (Grading for each paragraph)

- 4 = Clear topic sentences + well-developed support
- 3 = Topic sentence + some support
- 2 = Weak topic sentence or little support
- 1 = Unclear idea
- 0 = Missing

3. Conclusion (3 points)

- 3 = Restates thesis + strong closing sentence
- 2 = Conclusion present but weak
- 1 = Very short or unclear
- 0 = Missing

4. Organization & Coherence (3 points)

- 3 = Smooth flow with connectors (firstly, however, in conclusion, etc.)
- 2 = Some flow but weak transitions
- 1 = Hard to follow
- 0 = No clear organization

5. Language & Grammar (3 points)

- 3 = Few or no errors; academic tone
- 2 = Some errors, but meaning clear
- 1 = Many errors, sometimes confusing
- 0 = Very hard to understand