

Preparation • Reading and Use of English

Part 6

This part of the paper tests your understanding of how texts are structured, including sentence structure, word order, and the ways in which ideas follow each other in paragraphs.

- 1 Join these pairs of sentences by choosing a word or phrase from the three suggested to start each second sentence.
- a As we get older we tend to forget things more easily.
 _____ is that memories gradually disappear over time.
 For example / One of the reasons for this / This is because
- b It has been suggested that we don't want to remember certain things.
 _____ involves trying to forget bad memories.
 It / That / This
- c The human brain is capable of storing a huge amount of data.
 _____ it may be difficult or impossible to get at this information when we need it.
 Although / For instance / However
- d It is a well-known fact that there are two distinct types of memory.
 _____ are called 'short term' and 'long term' memory by scientists.
 These / This / Those
- e The brain has forgetting mechanisms as well as learning ones.
 _____ help us to avoid storing masses of useless information in our brains.
 Which / These mechanisms / This mechanism
- f Some memories are stored but cannot be retrieved for some reason.
 _____ can happen for a variety of reasons, for example being tired, or stressed.
 That / This / Which
- 2 Here are some of the common words or expressions which are used to link parts of a text:

- **Pronouns:** *he/she/they/him/them/this/that*, etc.
- **Time expressions:** *after that/at the same time as this/Firstly, .../then/next*, etc.
- **Adding and contrasting expressions:** *what's more/in addition to this/however/although*
- **Giving reasons:** *because of this/one of the reasons for this/the reason for this is*
- **Giving examples:** *for example/for instance*

Complete these second sentences with suitable words or phrases from the list above.

- a If you want to make a cup of tea, first boil some water and put a teabag in your cup.
 _____ pour the water over a teabag in a pot or a cup.
- b Jason's been very busy this week revising for his school exams.
 _____ he's been practising for an important football match.
- c My brother and I overslept yesterday morning.
 _____ we missed the bus and were late for school.
- d There were so many different sports to play at our holiday resort.
 _____ we could play football or hockey in the morning and tennis or squash in the afternoon.
- e My sister and I are very different characters.
 _____ is very hard-working and I am quite lazy.
- f Steve is looking after his little sister today.
 _____ he has to prepare an evening meal for his parents.

- 3 Read this paragraph from a text about plants. What would you expect the missing sentence to tell you? Look carefully at the end of the sentence before the gap and the beginning of the sentence after the gap. Choose one of these possible ideas:

- more information about how plants manage to live without light
- more information about the kinds of plants that this applies to
- an explanation of the science behind this fact

It is generally assumed that plants need light, but in fact all plants can live for short periods of time without any light at all. _____
 For example, if an object is left on grass for a few days, the grass under that object becomes yellow. This is simply due to the lack of light. The fact is that its survival instinct prevents the plant from dying and provides it with the strength to push upwards toward the sunlight.

- 4 Now choose the sentence which best fits the gap.

- A Many of these plants can also survive a wide range of temperatures, from freezing to 40 degrees.
- B There are no plants, however, which could survive without light forever.
- C They are accustomed to surviving at night when it is dark, but in an emergency they can put up with longer periods of darkness.

TIPS

- Read the gapped text quickly, then read the missing sentences and underline any language links between the gapped text and the sentences.
- Before making your final choices, check that your missing sentences fit the context and are grammatically correct to fit both the gap and the text after the gap.
- Look for words or phrases which can link different parts of a text. These words can help you decide which sentences fit in which gaps. Examples: *secondly, however, therefore.*

Practice Test 1 • Reading and Use of English

Part 6

You are going to read an article about the damaging environmental effect of plastic. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from sentences A–G the one which fits each gap (37–42). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Deadly plastics

For more than sixty years, plastics of different kinds have played an increasingly important role in the everyday lives of almost everyone on our planet. Scientists have shown that we use 260 million tons of it every year. Many plastics take thousands of years to decompose, and this inevitably creates a waste disposal problem. Particularly badly hit are the world's seas and oceans, and it has been estimated that between 60% and 80% of marine pollution is plastic. Research has shown that the problem is worst in the northern hemisphere in seas close to large urban areas.

This ever-growing mass of plastic waste has an enormous effect not only on the physical environment, but also on wildlife and human health. 37 _____ Similarly, plastic materials in land-based landfill sites leak toxic chemicals, which soak into the soil and pollute groundwater.

We're all familiar with images of birds and sea creatures being killed by plastic they have swallowed or swum into. 38 _____ Chemicals added to most plastics during their manufacture are dangerous if absorbed by humans and animals even in very small quantities.

The vast majority of plastic rubbish which is causing these problems is from packaging of foodstuffs, drinks and other consumer goods. 39 _____ In fact, there are well-publicized solutions, which would go some way towards solving the problem. These include reducing the amount of plastic used

overall, the recycling of waste plastic, and campaigns to persuade people to get rid of waste in acceptable ways.

There are signs that the environmental message is getting through. Recent publicity has proved to manufacturers and consumers that they have the power to reduce or eliminate the use of most plastic packaging. 40 _____ There are already moves being made by companies to offer refunds on returned plastic bottles, and many supermarkets now charge shoppers for plastic bags; but we need to move quickly, as the quantity of plastics in the environment is increasing daily. In the decade from 2000 and 2010, as much plastic was produced as during the whole of the twentieth century!

Environmental organizations across the world are publicizing the effects of plastics on animals, humans and the environment to make us all, as individuals, fully aware of the problems. 41 _____ We also need to convince governments and businesses to reduce the production and use of plastics for superficial applications. Those in authority need to be reminded that the cost of producing plastic should include the cost of the energy used in its manufacture.

Finally, here are a few actions we can all take to help ease the problem. Firstly, we should avoid using those objects which until now we have regarded as disposable; plastic bags and bottles, cups, plates and razors. 42 _____ If there is a choice, we should opt for paper or no packing at all. Finally, as a last resort, we should make sure that waste plastic is recycled.



- A Campaigns to encourage green behaviour and responsible choices are bringing some success, but this is not enough.
- B Drinks bottles and plastic shopping bags are good examples of this.
- C However, it is not only the plastic itself which causes the damage.
- D Whenever the occasion arises, set an example to other people by following some of the advice suggested in this article.
- E Most of this is unnecessary and only exists to attract shoppers, but we cannot go on indefinitely with this practice.
- F Secondly, we should try to buy food like fruit and vegetables without plastic packaging.
- G The millions of tons of plastic bags, bottles and other rubbish in our oceans leak poisonous substances as they decompose, threatening humans and sea life.