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English B – Higher level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension
Anglais B – Niveau supérieur – Épreuve 2 – Compréhension écrite
Inglés B – Nivel Superior – Prueba 2 – Comprensión de lectura

6 November 2025 / 6 novembre 2025 / 6 de noviembre de 2025

Zone A afternoon	Zone B afternoon	Zone C afternoon
Zone A après-midi	Zone B après-midi	Zone C après-midi
Zona A tarde	Zona B tarde	Zona C tarde

Candidate session number
Numéro de session du candidat
Número de convocatoria del alumno

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1 h

Question and answer booklet – Instructions to candidates

- Write your session number in the boxes above.
- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer all questions. Each question is allocated **[1 mark]** unless otherwise stated.
- Answers must be written within the answer boxes provided.
- All answers must be based on the appropriate texts in the accompanying text booklet.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[40 marks]**.

Livret de questions et réponses – Instructions destinées aux candidats

- Écrivez votre numéro de session dans les cases ci-dessus.
- N'ouvrez pas cette épreuve avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Répondez à toutes les questions. Chaque question vaut **[1 point]**, sauf indication contraire.
- Rédigez vos réponses dans les cases prévues à cet effet.
- Toutes les réponses doivent s'appuyer sur les textes correspondants dans le livret de textes.
- Le nombre maximum de points pour cette épreuve d'examen est de **[40 points]**.

Cuadernillo de preguntas y respuestas – Instrucciones para los alumnos

- Escriba su número de convocatoria en las casillas de arriba.
- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Conteste todas las preguntas. Cada pregunta vale **[1 punto]** salvo que se indique lo contrario.
- Escriba sus respuestas en las casillas provistas a tal efecto.
- Todas las respuestas deben basarse en los textos adecuados del cuadernillo de textos correspondiente.
- La puntuación máxima para esta prueba de examen es **[40 puntos]**.



Text A — August’s Night Sky Notes: Seeing Double

Answer the following question.

1. When is Jupiter generally **not** visible?

.....

Choose the correct answer.

2. Which of the following is true about binary stars?

- A. They move around each other in circles.
- B. They are not affected by each other’s gravity.
- C. They seem close together but are not.
- D. The sky must be free from light pollution to see them.

3. What does the text say about optical double stars?

- A. They are only seen in fiction.
- B. They come in two categories.
- C. They orbit each other.
- D. They are far away from each other.

4. The text tells us that without a telescope...

- A. all of the stars of Polaris can be seen.
- B. we can view Mizar and Alcor.
- C. Double Double looks like two stars.
- D. only the blue star of Albireo is visible.



Answer the following questions.

5. What is the nickname of the star system that is made up of four stars?

.....

6. Which two systems named in **paragraph 3** are made up of only two stars? [2]

(a)

(b)

Choose the appropriate word from the list that completes each gap in the following text.

Double stars are fascinating to view. When they are studied, they help stargazers and [- 7 -] calculate the amount of matter in stars and learn about their [- 8 -]. However, the [- 9 -] of some stars can be a worry, as this can occasionally cause [- 10 -]. None the less, these stellar groupings are popular with amateur astronomers as they are easy to spot in the warmer months using optical [- 11 -].

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 7. [- 7 -] | <input type="checkbox"/> | A. development |
| 8. [- 8 -] | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. colour |
| 9. [- 9 -] | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. scientists |
| 10. [- 10 -] | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. incidents |
| 11. [- 11 -] | <input type="checkbox"/> | E. age |
| | | F. failure |
| | | G. nearness |
| | | H. speed |
| | | I. equipment |
| | | J. fibres |



Text B — An extract from Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance – An Inquiry into Values

To whom or to what do the underlined words refer? Answer using words as they appear in the text.

12. ...different from any other. (line 1)

.....

13. ...not just watching it anymore... (line 6)

.....

14. ...headed farther than that. (lines 7-8)

.....

15. ...for us now this is measured... (lines 10-11)

.....



The following statements are either true or false. Tick [✓] the correct option, then justify it using words as they appear in the text. **Both** parts are required for **[1 mark]**.

16. The locals whose homes are on these roads are rushed and impolite.

<input type="checkbox"/>	True	Justification:
<input type="checkbox"/>	False

17. The writer wishes they had appreciated small rural roads sooner.

<input type="checkbox"/>	True	Justification:
<input type="checkbox"/>	False

18. The writer used to believe that city life was more attractive.

<input type="checkbox"/>	True	Justification:
<input type="checkbox"/>	False

19. Signposts in the countryside are often repeated.

<input type="checkbox"/>	True	Justification:
<input type="checkbox"/>	False

What do the following words mean in the text? Choose the appropriate word from the list.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--|------------------|
| 20. ahead (line 7) | <input type="checkbox"/> | | A. intentionally |
| 21. deliberately (line 8) | <input type="checkbox"/> | | B. discreetly |
| 22. unobtrusively (line 31) | <input type="checkbox"/> | | C. on top |
| | | | D. openly |
| | | | E. in front |
| | | | F. always |



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Find the word or phrase in **lines 34-41** which means the following:

23. cloudy

.....

24. attached

.....

25. no obligation

.....

26. as far as the eye can see

.....



Text C — Linguistic Justice

Answer the following questions.

27. Who believes that using English as an international language has no disadvantages?

.....

28. According to **paragraph 2**, what is the biggest issue with using English as an international language?

.....

29. What does the writer compare an international language to?

.....

30. According to **paragraph 2**, what advantage do native speakers have when using the language?

.....

Find the words that complete the following sentences. Answer using the words as they appear in **paragraph 3**.

31. According to the writer, in most European countries, studying English at school is...

.....

32. Native English-speaking students often don't see the point in learning foreign languages and prefer...

.....

33. English-speaking nations spend less of their funding on foreign language teaching and so make...

.....



Choose the correct answer.

34. What does the text say about non-native English-speaking researchers?

- A. They are now often permitted to write in their native language.
- B. They take longer to read research papers.
- C. They take two and a half times as long to review papers.
- D. They are rarely given the chance to correct their language mistakes.

35. What is the result of using a language other than English at work?

- A. It gives one access to more technical jobs.
- B. It makes it harder to submit publications.
- C. It gives one an advantage over non-native speakers.
- D. It increases the number of jobs available on the market.

Choose an appropriate ending from the list that completes each sentence.

36. English-speaking countries could be asked to...

37. Publishers could be required to...

38. Multilingual researchers could...

- A. stop using machine translation.
- B. promote gender equality policies.
- C. have more funding options.
- D. identify problems and global issues.
- E. pay for artificial intelligence.
- F. pay a linguistic tax.

Choose the correct answer.

39. What does the text say about its writer?

- A. He believes it is fair to use English as an international language.
- B. He thinks career prospects depend mainly on technical ability.
- C. He wants to become a scientific researcher.
- D. He believes there are solutions to linguistic injustice.



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