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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 questions.

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

.....

2. What is Messier 13 an example of?

.....

3. Stars of which system are affected by each other’s gravity?

.....

Choose the correct answer.

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

- A. They move around each other in circles.
- B. There are two types of binary stars.
- C. They seem close together but are not.
- D. The sky must be free from light pollution to see them.

5. 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.

6. 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.



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 |

Choose the correct answer.

12. What is the overall tone of this text?

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A. Excited and hopeful |
| | B. Humorous and thoughtful |
| | C. Enthusiastic and informative |
| | D. Serious and formal |



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

Answer the following question.

13. According to the narrator, what is the least interesting way to travel?

.....

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

14. indefinite (line 8)

15. courteous (line 17)

16. metropolitan (line 23)

17. puzzling (line 23)

A. urban

B. confusing

C. slow

D. punctual

E. unfixed

F. exciting

G. polite

H. upsetting



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

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

.....

19. They're not too busy... (line 17)

.....

20. It's the others... (line 18)

.....

21. ...who have all but forgotten it. (line 19)

.....

22. ...and so it goes away. (line 24)

.....

23. Choose the **four** true statements.

[4]

A. Straight roads are preferred by the narrator and his wife.

B. The narrator knows he can easily lose his way on his journeys.

C. The narrator sees junctions marked by locals on his journey.

D. Signposts in the countryside are small but often repeated.

E. Cloudy days make navigation more difficult.

F. The country roads are generally free of traffic.

G. On holidays, main roads often make drivers angry.

H. The narrator likes to arrive at his destination on time.



Text C — Linguistic Justice

Find the word or phrase in **paragraphs 1–2** which means the following:

24. leading

.....

25. drawback

.....

26. shared

.....

27. emerges

.....

28. unfair position

.....



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]**.

29. In most European countries, all foreign languages are equally funded.

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

30. In English-speaking countries, non-language studies are becoming more popular.

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

31. English-speaking countries spend less than other countries on foreign language teaching.

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

32. The imbalance in international language use cannot be measured.

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

Answer the following questions.

33. Who may take much longer to study a research paper in English?

.....

34. According to the text, why might publishers turn down research papers?

.....



Choose the correct answer.

35. What does the text say about a linguistic tax?

- A. It is already being implemented in some countries.
- B. It is generally considered a popular measure.
- C. It could be imposed on native English-speaking countries.
- D. It could fund teaching languages other than English.

36. Which of the following is a form of compensation suggested in the text?

- A. Access to low-cost translators for scientists
- B. Publishers paying for the use of artificial intelligence
- C. Additional funding for researchers in international relations
- D. Rewarding gender equality policies in universities

37. What does the article state?

- A. English is the only international language.
- B. Less money should be spent on English language teaching.
- C. Native English speakers have an unfair advantage.
- D. There are no solutions to linguistic injustice.

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