



READING COMPREHENSION TEST. 60minutes

There are 3 parts.

Each question carries one mark.

20 questions = 20 marks

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES.

Read the instructions for the reading exam carefully.

Then read the texts and answer the questions.

At the end of the test you will have 5 minutes to transfer your answers to the answer sheet.



READING 1 (428 words)

Read an article about different tips to get fit. Fill in the gaps (1-10) with the missing topic sentences (A-L). There is one extra sentence that you do not need to use. Sentence 0 is the example.

TOP TIPS TO GET FIT

0.

Many of us aren't too keen on the idea of exercise. It might be that we're too busy or we simply can't face the thought of it. But most people are not getting the amount of activity they need to stay healthy.

For adults, it can seem hard to fit activity into a busy schedule. But, you can get a great sense of achievement if you decide to learn to dance or take up a new sport, and you'll feel more confident too.

1.

Being active is all about having fun. If we don't enjoy it, we won't keep it up. We all deserve to spend some time doing something we enjoy.

2.

Activity doesn't have to be expensive. Taking up a sport or joining a gym offer great opportunities to get fit, but there are also loads of fun, easy ways you can get more active for free.

3.

Try thinking about your day or week in advance and work out when you can spend a little time to get your heart rate going. Try making a weekly programme – it'll help you see where you can fit in more easily.

4.

Finding new ways to be active, different routes, different places and with different people all mean it doesn't have to be boring.

5.

Activity can be fun and social if you try new ways of being active with friends and family. But it can also be a great way of having time to yourself, if you have a busy home or work life. Try a 15 minute walk after dinner – it can be a great opportunity to clear your head.



6.

You don't need to go to the gym to get active, why not swap the living room for the garden? Gardening is a great way of getting outdoors and being active – you could even have fun growing your own veggies too!

7.

Using the smallest attachment when you do the vacuuming and plenty of elbow grease when you clean the windows means you'll work up a sweat.

8.

Surprise the dog by taking it for a walk twice a day or a much longer walk than usual – you'll both benefit!

9.

Clean the car by hand yourself using a bucket and sponge, rather than taking it to the car wash. Good for you and your wallet and you could even get the kids to help!

10.

Try to walk or cycle if you can, instead of driving or taking public transport. It's definitely much cheaper and your body will thank you for that.

Adapted from <http://www.nhs.uk>

TOPIC SENTENCES

~~A. Get going every day~~

B. With a little help from your family

C. Green fingers

D. Variety is the spice of life

E. Take up an amusing hobby

F. Pet-tastic!

G. Do it your way

H. Get on two feet

I. Find the ideal room

J. Go for it when doing the housework

K. Plan ahead

L. Get active, no charge

Do not forget to transfer your answers to the answer sheet.



READING 2 (343 words)

Read the text about the driving age in Britain and choose the best answer **A**, **B** or **C**.
Question 0 is the example.

Driving test age 'will be raised to 18'

Britain is one of very few EU countries to allow 17-year-olds to hold a full driving licence. Ministers considered raising the minimum age five years ago but decided not to do so because of concerns that it would hit the rural economy. Around 70 per cent of 17-year-old motorists drive themselves to work.

The minimum legal driving age will effectively rise to 18 as part of reforms to cut the number of deaths caused by novice drivers, according to reports. Learners will still be granted a provisional driving licence at age 17, but must then complete a 12-month training period before they can take their test and drive alone, under the new plans.

The move has the support of road safety groups and insurers who hope it will cut the number of accidents caused by young drivers. Research by the Department for Transport (DfT) suggests that a 12-month learning period would prevent up to 1,000 deaths and serious injuries and up to 7,000 casualties a year. Young male drivers are the biggest cause of death of young women in Britain. Almost one in two drivers killed at night is under 25.

The proposals, which the Daily Mail newspaper claims will be published in a consultation document in the New Year, will place greater emphasis on avoiding dangerous driving, emergency perception and "over confidence".

Under the reported plans, learner drivers will first be required to master a series of skills. The practical test, which will become more difficult than the current one, will concentrate on situations where accidents are most likely to happen, such as junctions and roundabouts. Most people will spend at least 500 hours mastering the key skills. Under the current arrangement, some new drivers pass their test after spending only 100 hours behind the wheel.

Under a separate review, the Government will also look at a zero alcohol limit for newly-qualified drivers of all ages for a year after they pass the test. Novice drivers found behind the wheel with alcohol in their blood would be forced to retake their test.



0. *Some time ago, the driving age was not raised in the UK because...*
- a. *it damaged Britain's economy.*
 - b. *it was prejudicial to country people.***
 - c. *the driving age in Europe was also 17.*
1. After the reform, 17-year-old drivers will...
- a. be able to drive with an adult for more than a year.
 - b. have to go through a practical instruction period.
 - c. not be allowed to drive some sorts of vehicles.
2. Some people believe the new reform will...
- a. decrease accidents provoked by junior drivers.
 - b. stop the great number of road accidents.
 - c. teach learner drivers not to have car crashes.
3. One of the points in the project will...
- a. attempt to increase drivers' self-confidence.
 - b. try to stop drivers from being careless.
 - c. work on how drivers see other ways of driving.
4. The practical test will especially focus on...
- a. learning the basic skills on the road.
 - b. the context where accidents take place.
 - c. the reasons why accidents happen.
5. Inexperienced drivers will have to...
- a. do the test again if they are caught drink driving.
 - b. give up drinking alcohol for a year.
 - c. produce a zero alcohol reading if they are young.

Now transfer your answers to the answer sheet.



HOW MANY HOURS DOES IT TAKE TO BE FLUENT IN ENGLISH?

Adapted from <http://www.bbc.com/news>

Immigrants are always being told by politicians to learn the language. There are plenty of people in the UK for whom even basic English is a problem. According to the Census, 726,000 people in England and Wales said they could not speak English well, and another 138,000 said they did not speak it at all.

But how long does it take to speak good English? Huan Japes, deputy chief executive of English UK, says a rule of thumb is 360 hours - 120 hours for each of three stages - to get to the standard the government expects immigrants to reach. However, every immigrant's experience of learning English is different.

1. LING, 40, who arrived five years ago from China, found it difficult to learn English. "When I came here I was pregnant and so I was at home for the next three years. It took me longer to learn as I was very busy with the children." Eventually she was able to begin taking classes and now speaks good conversational English. But even with classes, it can be a long process to pick up the language.

Ling's older son, who was eight when they arrived from China, is a different story. "After three months here he could speak very well." Arriving at a young age gives him a "big advantage" over her, she believes. "He is 13 now and speaks like a British person." Ling is still hopeful she can speak perfect English like her son.

2. SABINA BEGUM, 20, arrived in from Bangladesh in February 2012. "I didn't know the English alphabet, I didn't understand what people were saying. I understand now and know how to use an Oyster card on the Underground. It took me four months before I could have a conversation."

3. SHILPI AKTER, 35, is also from Bangladesh and came to the UK in May 2011. English was "a little bit of a problem" until she took lessons. "I needed an interpreter to see the GP. But recently I went on my own. My plan is to get a job when I finish. Before I left Bangladesh I was a teacher."

4. THURA, 35, a doctor, fled Burma for political reasons and arrived in the UK in 2009. "At the beginning it was really difficult to understand. My reading was okay but not my speaking or listening." After three months he got a job in a care home, which is where he picked up most of his English.

But Thura says pronunciation is a big problem for even confident speakers. "It's almost impossible for me to lose my accent. But for someone coming here at 10 years old it's possible." Other people's accents are also a big barrier. "I support Manchester United but I can't understand Sir Alex Ferguson. Scottish is a really strong accent."

He has since done a masters degree at University College London and now works in a hospital. What matters is not classes so much as being surrounded by English speakers, he argues. "It takes eight months to a year to learn it if you listen to proper English speakers," he says.