

TEST (B₂)

READING

Part 1 You are going to read an extract from a novel. For questions 1-8, choose the answer which you think fits best according to the text. (2 points for each question).

BRITISH MANAGEMENT

According to an article in Management Today, the British manager still stops work for tea. The French managing director of Novotel, the hotel group, tells what happened at his first management meeting when he took over its English operation in 1991:

"The meeting was in the afternoon, and it got to about 3.30 and everyone started looking at their watches. I didn't know what was going on. I turned to my secretary, who was English, and she said that they probably wanted to break for tea. I couldn't understand it. In France we just carry on until we have finished. Now we always break for tea."

I am not sure how many English managers now break for tea. Not that many, I imagine. Twenty years ago it was commonplace. I will never forget a Canadian sales director, pink with fury, telling me at that time how he had been offered tea and biscuits at three in the afternoon in Northampton: "I come three thousand miles, and take three taxis and a damn steam engine into the sticks, and I wanna do business, and this guy gives me a 'nice cup of China tea and a biccyy'. What IS he?" Mind you, this was the same man who in Rome told his Italian agent that the Colosseum would make a nice parking lot.

It is not so much the cup of tea as the pint of bitter that managers from outside Britain find a bar to efficiency. In the article, a German manager tells how when he first took over a job in Britain, he discovered that at lunchtime and especially on Fridays, the majority of his management team left for the pub. He says: "I stopped that right away. Now they are not allowed off the premises. It didn't make me very popular at the time but it is not good

for efficiency. There is no way we would do that in Germany. No way."

According to European managers the British are still too concerned with class and status. A German says: "People say that the class system is a hindrance to progress and then two weeks later you overhear them discussing a colleague and saying, 'Well, he is not very well-spoken, is he?'" And another says: "The class gaps translate into big gulfs in the pay league, too. In Germany, I might earn three times more than my secretary. Here it is five times."

Some criticisms are rather like those levelled at Japanese management. For example, talking about status, a Dutch manager says: "A director is God here. They respect him and think that he is right even when he is wrong. It's quite difficult to have an open conversation. People will not say 'I disagree'."

Too great an interest in money is also criticised. A Dutch manager says: "My first impression on coming to Britain was that profit seemed to be the most important thing." And a Frenchman points out the difference between the UK and France: "In France there is no pressure on the bottom line."

The French manager also points out a difference in educational standards: "In France all the secretaries, or personal assistants as we call them, would have degrees. You wouldn't consider recruiting one without a degree. So, that means you can delegate much more to the secretaries in France. In the UK you cannot do that so much."

1. In the middle of the afternoon .
 - A. everyone checked their watches.
 - B. hinted that it was teatime.
 - C. took a break
 - D. notices it was 3.30
2. In the past
 - A. managers usually had a teabreak.
 - B. offered visitors China tea
 - C. wasted a lot of time drinking tea
 - D. drank a lot of tea
3. The Canadian
 - A. was impressed by the Englishman's good manners.
 - B. had travelled a long way.
 - C. liked to do business.
 - D. considered his time was being wasted.
4. Why did the Canadian say the Colosseum would make a nice parking lot?
 - A. He had nowhere to park.
 - B. He was joking.
 - C. He was worried about Rome's traffic problems.
 - D. He was envious of Italy's glorious past.
5. The German didn't like his managers going to the pub because
 - A. he was against drink.
 - B. they got drunk.
 - C. it made them inefficient.
 - D. he believed playing sports would be better for them.
6. To stop them going to the pub, the managers
 - A. were ordered to stay in the office.
 - B. were given free lunches in the office.
 - C. played team games in the lunch-hour.
 - D. had meetings at lunchtime.
7. In Britain, managers are paid much more than their secretaries because of
 - A. Sexism
 - B. Education
 - C. Class
 - D. elocution
8. English and Japanese managers are similar in that they
 - A. Are tactful
 - B. Like tea
 - C. Avoid disagreement
 - D. Hae a superiority complex

POINTS	
16	

Part 2 You are going to read an article. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-H the one which fits each gap (9-15). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. (2 points for each question).

The Making of 'Tipping Point'

Many of the most expensive commercials ever made are those in which an A-list celebrity flashes a beautiful smile at the cameras. (9) ____ Their recent television advertisement, the most expensive in British history, cost ten million pounds, and it features, not the rich and famous, but villagers from the mountains of Argentina.

The advertisement features a game of dominoes. It begins in a darkened room where several thousand ordinary dominoes are set up on a specially-designed table. (10) ____ Dominoes knock over books, which in turn knock bigger household objects such as suitcases, tyres, pots of paint, oil drums and even cars. The final piece in the chain reaction is a huge tower of books. These flutter open to reveal a structure in the shape of a pint of Guinness.

The location chosen for the commercial was Iruya, a village high up in the mountains of north-west Argentina. (11) ____ The journey there could take up to ten hours. Asked why this remote destination was chosen for the shoot, the director said that even though it was the most difficult location they could have picked, it was perfect.

For one month, the village, population thousand, increased in size by almost thirty percent. One hundred and forty crew members descended on the village. These included the world record holders in domino toppling, Weijers Domino productions from the Netherlands (12) ____ Creating this film was no easy task. Preparations for filming took well over a month. Twenty six truckloads of objects were brought in. (13) ____ They included 10,000 books, 400 tyres, 75 mirrors, 50 fridges, 45 wardrobes and 6 cars. Setting the objects up took skill and patience. They needed to be arranged so they would fall over easily, and this involved balancing them on stones. Some of the sequences had to be reshot 15 times and 24 hours of footage was captured. However, the sequence in which six cars fell over was successfully shot in just one take.

Filming in this location was not without its difficulties. Firstly, being so isolated, it was hard to obtain resources at short notice. The second problem was the high altitude (14) ____ It was also hard working with the villagers who had no experience of film-making. Finally, setting and resetting the props caused a good deal of frustration.

These days when CGI is all the rage, it was surprising that so little of the work was done using computer effects. The only sequence that used computer graphics was the one in which the tower of books fluttered open to reveal a pint of Guinness. (15) ____ Even so, this was no simple matter. They had to ensure that all the books in the tower had a different appearance. Director Nicolai Fuglsig said about the project : 'Despite all the challenges, the cast was fantastic and it was a really amazing experience.' Whether or not the effort put into the advert pays off is another matter entirely.

- A Then falling dominoes head out of the room into the streets, causing progressively larger objects to tumble.
- B These were all chosen to suit the town and fit in with the people's way of life.
- C Getting there involved driving along 48 kilometres of dirt roads and crossing twelve rivers.
- D Iruya is situated 3000 metres above sea level and the film crew was not used to working in such conditions.
- E The prop department did construct a small version on site, but most of work was done in a studio in London.
- F Added to this was the total of one hundred and thirty 'actors' being recruited from a five neighbouring towns.
- G Setting up the dominoes on the table took a team of experts three days, but took just 14 seconds to topple.
- H Not so with the famous Irish drink company Guinness.

POINTS 14	
--------------	--

Part 3 You are going to read an article in which four people comment on a book they have read recently. For questions **16-30**, choose from the people (**A-D**). The people may be chosen more than once.

(1 point for each question)

<p>A <i>Sundance by Teresa Wilson</i> Kerry:</p>	<p>C <i>Orchid by Henry Rathbone</i> Imogen:</p>
<p>I really don't know why this book is so popular. I mean, I suppose it is going to appeal to young girls who want danger and romance, but I found this book really tedious. For a start, the characters were really unconvincing. The author went out of her way to add lots of details about the characters, but I found these details really pointless. I thought that some of the facts she presented about the main characters would become significant in some way later in the novel, but they didn't. They were just worthless bits of information. I also was disappointed that, although this book is meant to be about kids at high school, the writer seems to have no recollection at all about what it's like to be 17. The main character thought and acted like a 32-year old. It just wasn't believable. I'm not saying Teresa Wilson is a bad writer. She can obviously string words together and come up with a story that is appealing to a large number of people, but she lacks anything original. There is no flair. It just uses the same sort of language as you can see in many other mediocre novels.</p>	<p>This is a delightful novel full of wonderful imagery, a paints a remarkable picture of life in a distant time and a far-away place. If you're looking to learn about Eastern culture in great detail, then this is probably not the book for you, as the writer skims over most of the more complicated aspects of the country's etiquette. The historical aspects are also not covered in much depth. However, I wonder whether this was the writer's intention. By doing this, he symbolise the superficiality of the girl's life. She, like the book, is beautiful and eager to please, but remains too distant from us, the readers, to teach us much. Although I loved the book and read it in one sitting, the ending was a bit of a disappointment. A story which involves so much turmoil, in a place where the future is uncertain, should not have a happy-ever-after fairy-tale ending.</p>
<p>B <i>Wild Ways by Margery Emerson</i> Liz:</p>	<p>D <i>High Hills by Mary Holland</i> Hannah:</p>
<p>I have to say that I won't forget this book for a long time. I was hooked from the very first chapter. The devastating story affected me so much that I don't know if I'll ever feel the same again. I was close to tears on several occasions. I've got images in my brain now that I don't think will ever leave me. It's incredibly well-researched and, although it is fiction, is based on shocking real-life events. I learned an awful lot about things that went on that I never knew before. Margaret Emerson has a brilliant way with words and I really felt real empathy towards the characters, although I was sometimes irritated by the choices they made. However, the parallel story, the part that is set in the present, is not quite so good. I found myself just flicking through that part so that I could get back to 1940s Paris.</p>	<p>I read this book for a literature class. I know it's a classic, and I did try to like it, but I just didn't get into it. I kept persevering, hoping that I'd start to enjoy it, but no such luck. The famous scene out on the moors was definitely the best bit of the book, but even that I found ridiculous when it is clearly supposed to be passionate. As I approached the end of the book, I figured there must be some kind of moral to the story, something that I would learn from the experience of trudging through seven hundred long pages, but there was nothing worthwhile. I don't know why the literary world sees this book as such a masterpiece. The characters are portrayed as being intelligent, but they do such stupid things! And as for it being a <i>lovestory</i> – marrying someone you don't love and then being abused by them – that doesn't spell love to me.</p>

Which person read a book which...

16	
----	--

was set in an Oriental country

17	
----	--

finished in an unrealistic way

18	
----	--

had characters that the reader could sympathise with

19	
----	--

is well-known and was written a long time ago

20	
----	--

contained two stories

21	
----	--

was not set in the past

22	
----	--

was historically accurate

23	
----	--

made the reader cry

24	
----	--

contained insignificant details

25	
----	--

has a well-known scene

26	
----	--

is written for teenagers

27	
----	--

had unbelievable characters

28	
----	--

is classed as romantic fiction

29	
----	--

contains nothing new in the way of writing

30	
----	--

has an attractive but shallow heroine

POINTS 15	
---------------------	--

USE OF ENGLISH

Part 1 Questions 1-10 Read the text below and decide which answer **A, B, C or D** best fits each space. There is an example given at the beginning (0). (1 point for each question)

A first time for everybody

Joe stepped onto the aeroplane and (0) A met by one of the cabin crew who showed him to his seat. This was his first flight and he was feeling quite nervous. His hands were (1) _____ slightly and he was breathing deeply. He walked along the (2) _____ of the plane and found his seat. Joe had spent a lot of time (3) _____ planning his holiday, given this was the first time he had been abroad. Sitting next to him was an 8 year-old-boy who also (4) _____ to be quite nervous. Joe knew he was quite good (5) _____ children, so he decided to try to calm the boy. After (6) _____ with the boy for a few minutes, Joe produced some chocolate and gave it to him. The (7) _____ then became quite cheerful as he explained that he loved chocolate (8) _____ much. The man and the boy found that they (9) _____ well together as they chatted for the whole flight. Joe discovered that they were on the same return flight the following week, which pleased them both. When they (10) _____ at the terminal, Joe commented about what a very good flight he'd had. The young boy agreed, saying that he was looking forward to catching up with Joe again on the return flight.

0. A was	B has	C had	D are
1. A moving	B trembling	C jumping	D rattling
2. A corridor	B path	C lane	D aisle
3. A with	B to	C on	D at
4. A was	B appeared	C sat	D showed
5. A at	B for	C with	D by
6. A conversing	B discussing	C debating	D negotiating
7. A young	B youths	C juvenile	D youngster
8. A too	B extremely	C so	D absolutely
9. A get on	B were	C got to	D got so
10. A disembarked	B took off	C left	D boarded

POINTS 10	
---------------------	--

Part 2 For questions 11-20, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only **one** word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (0). (1 point for each question).

The Goulburn Valley

The Goulburn Valley (0) is situated in the south-east corner of the Australian continent, in the state of Victoria. Because (11) _____ the introduction of irrigation over a century ago, primary industry flourished, resulting in (12) _____ multitude of orchards (13) _____ market gardens. After World War II, migrants flocked to the area in search of work on the farms, and in (14) _____ cases, establishing a property of their own. Unfortunately, the region (15) _____ taken a turn for the worse over the past decade. The irrigation water that was (16) _____ plentiful has now been rationed, and many farmers have been forced (17) _____ the land. The main source of water (18) _____ from the Goulburn River, with several reservoirs located along its stretch to the mighty Murray River. Dam capacities have fallen to dangerous levels, resulting in some farmers having (19) _____ inadequate supply of irrigation water. (20) _____ the recent hardships, some farmers have continued to eke an existence out of the land. Many have become more ingenious, devising new ways to utilize water plus finding special niches to service the ever-changing urban needs. Perhaps the Goulburn Valley can return to its prosperous times soon.

Part 3 For Questions 21-30, complete the second sentence so that it

POINTS 10	
---------------------	--

has

a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. **Do not change the word given.** You must use between two and five words, including the word given.. (1 point for each question).

Example: It was the most relaxing holiday I ever had.
such
 I have never (0)*“had such a relaxing”*... holiday.

21. You ought to see a doctor about your headache.
were
 If ----- a doctor about your headache.
22. My father did not learn to drive when he was younger and now he regrets it.
not
 My father ----- when he was younger.
23. I didn't find the film very interesting.
interested
 I ----- the film.
24. The day was so cold he didn't know what to wear.
such
 It ----- that he didn't know what to wear.
25. I returned the computer to the shop because it didn't work.
took
 The computer didn't work so ----- the shop.
26. I've never read a book as long as this.
ever
 This must be the ----- read.
27. When I was younger, I would often play with my brother.
used
 When I was younger, I ----- with my brother.
28. We last went abroad six years ago.
been
 We ----- six years.
29. 'Are you saying I broke the vase?'
accusing
 'Are ----- the vase?'
30. We left the room quietly so that we didn't wake the baby.
order
 We left the room quietly ----- the baby.

POINTS 10	
--------------	--

Part 4 Word Formation

For questions **31 – 40** read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (**0**). (2 points for each question).

Agriculture in Australia

Traditionally, Australia was **famous** for producing wheat and wool.

FAME

But times have changed in years, with many

RECENTLY

 to be more diverse in their crop. It is now quite common to see

ELECT

farms with more exotic fruit and vegetables. Farmers are to sell

LIKE

products locally nowadays. As a result, farms are now large-scale

PRODUCE

where thousands of tonnes of crops are . Another aspect that is

CULTIVATE

different nowadays is . In the past, farmers would just flood the

IRRIGATE

fields but now it is common to see sprinkler everywhere. This

SYSTEMATIC

means that more water is , which has been helpful with the

CONSERVATION

drought that has severely impacted the of the farms. Hopefully,

MAJOR

the the farmers have shown in recent times will continue.

CREATE

POINTS 20	
----------------------------	--

LISTENING You will hear four different people talking. For questions **A-F** choose from the list (**1-4**) the opinion each speaker expresses. (2 points for each question).

A. Who tries to do what people expect? **Speaker**

B. Who probably works best in a team or group? **Speaker**

C. Who probably had the most freedom as a child? **Speaker**

D. Who may try to dominate others? **Speaker**

F. Who may be a bit irresponsible? **Speaker**

POINTS 10	
----------------------------	--

WRITING You **must** answer this question. Write about **120-150** words in an appropriate style.

Language courses in London at the Big Ben School of English

Our well-equipped school offers English language courses in the heart of London.
The school has a friendly atmosphere and organises a full range of sporting and social activities as well as excursions out of London.
The school is conveniently located near the museums and the river. Accommodation can be arranged with carefully selected British families.
Contact Jim Williams by email (jw@bigbenschool.org.uk) for further details.

When you write to the school make sure you find out:

- how many students there will be in the school and in each class
- what qualifications the teachers have
- what resources the school has
- what is included in the price
- what amenities there are in the area

Write your letter. You must use grammatically correct sentences with accurate spelling and punctuation in a style appropriate for the situation.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

POINTS 120	Total
-----------------------------	--------------

POINTS 15	
----------------------------	--