

**GENERAL EDUCATION DIPLOMA EXAMINATION
ENGLISH LANGUAGE 'A'
SEMESTER ONE — FIRST SESSION**

TIME: 3 hours

TOTAL MARKS: 70

This paper has 8 pages.

LISTENING: *You will hear each text three times. The first time, only listen; the second time, write; and the third time, check your work. When the tape finishes, write your answers on your answer paper.*

LISTENING 1 (Items 1 – 6)

You will hear a conversation between two people who have studied in the UK. Listen, and for each item, choose the correct option: A, B or C.

1. The conversation takes place _____.
A. in the UK B. at a conference C. at a university
2. The woman is interested in students' _____.
A. language skills B. exam results C. motivation
3. The man studied in Britain _____.
A. last year B. two years ago C. five years ago
4. He will go back there soon to _____.
A. give a presentation B. continue his studies C. start a new job
5. The man offers to help her find _____.
A. a place to live B. some books to read C. a language course
6. The woman complains about having to _____.
A. write long essays B. attend lectures C. read a lot

LISTENING 2 (Items 7 – 15)

You will hear a historian talking about the international trade in amber. The text is divided into two parts.

Part One: *For each question, write a short answer (ONE or TWO WORDS only).*

7. What was amber usually used for? _____
8. How was it transported along the Amber Road? By _____
9. Which two European countries bought a lot of amber? _____ and _____
10. What is the *usual* colour of amber? _____
11. What can sometimes be found inside pieces of amber? _____

Write your answers on your answer paper.

LISTENING 2 (cont'd)

Part Two: For each item, choose the correct option: **A**, **B** or **C**.

12. Amber is mostly found in _____ Europe.
A. northern B. western C. southern
13. It *originally* comes from _____.
A. volcanoes B. the sea C. forests
14. *Now*, it is usually found _____.
A. in or near water B. in the mountains C. on low-lying land
15. It has been traded for about _____ years.
A. 1,000 B. 5,000 C. 10,000

VOCABULARY 1 (Items 1 – 5)

Complete the text. Use five of the words in the box. Write ONE word in each space. (There are three extra words in the box.)

affected	anticipated	decided	delivered
enrolled	improved	lost	repaired

At that time, I was under a lot of stress because I had just **(1)** _____ my job. So I became a 'compulsive eater' or 'eataholic'. I just couldn't stop eating, and this badly **(2)** _____ all areas of my life, including my health. Finally, after I had been hospitalized three times, I **(3)** _____ to do something about it. I **(4)** _____ for a special course which helps people with this problem. Since then I have completely recovered, and my life has greatly **(5)** _____, especially my relations with my family and friends.

Write your answers on your answer paper.

VOCABULARY 2 (Items 6 – 10)

Match the definitions with the words in the box. Write **A, B, C**, etc, as in the example.
(There are five extra words in the box.)

Example: Someone whose job is to fly planes. F

6. Someone who does not eat meat or fish _____
7. Someone who designs buildings _____
8. Someone who studies the mind and how people behave _____
9. Someone who is paid to work for someone else _____
10. Someone who buys products and uses services _____

A	archaeologist
B	employee
C	citizen
D	spectator
E	consumer
F	pilot
G	celebrity
H	employer
I	vegetarian
J	psychologist
K	architect

VOCABULARY 3 (Items 11 – 15)

Complete the unfinished word in each sentence/ short text.
You are given the first letter(s) of each word. Write the whole word
in your Answer Book. Make sure you spell the word correctly.

Example: Your hands are **d irty**_____. Go and wash them!

11. "Most of the passengers were killed. Only a few were able to **sur**_____."
12. "She agreed to **pub**_____ my article in the March edition of the magazine."
13. "I always try to be polite to him, but the way he talks to me is so **ru**_____!"
14. "They live on a simple, healthy **di**_____ of rice and vegetables."
15. "I don't think I've ever seen a better performance! He really is a **bri**_____ actor, probably the best in the world."

Write your answers on your answer paper.

GRAMMAR 1 (Items 1 – 5)

Complete the text. Use five of the words in the box. Write ONE word in each space. (There are three extra words in the box.)

at	for	held	hold	on	that	the	which
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Chiang Mai, (1) _____ is in the north of Thailand, is one of (2) _____ most interesting places in the country. It is especially famous (3) _____ its annual Water Festival. The festival is (4) _____ every year in April (5) _____ the end of the rainy season.

GRAMMAR 2 (Items 6 – 10)

Complete each sentence. Choose the correct option: **A, B, C** or **D**.

6. "Yesterday I _____ you an e-mail. Did you receive it?"
A. sent B. was sending C. send D. 've sent
7. "He asked me _____ packets I wanted, and I said 'three'."
A. how much B. whether C. how many D. which
8. "I hope she won't quit her job. If she did that, it _____ be a big mistake."
A. can B. would C. is going to D. will
9. "The letter didn't have a stamp on it; it was delivered _____ hand."
A. by B. on C. with D. from
10. "There's something wrong with these eggs. They _____ taste right!"
A. doesn't B. aren't C. don't D. isn't

GRAMMAR 3 (Items 11 – 15)

Complete the dialogue. In each space, write **ONE WORD** only.

Speaker A: "Good news! Our old friend Fatma (11) _____ coming here tomorrow."

Speaker B: "What (12) _____ nice surprise! I haven't seen her (13) _____ a long time!"

Speaker A: "Neither have I. I was really surprised (14) _____ she called."

Speaker B: "What (15) _____ she say?"

Speaker A: "Not much, just that she'd give us all her news when we meet."

<p>Write your answers on your answer paper.</p>
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READING 1 (Items 1 – 10)

Read these extracts from someone's diary. Then complete the two tasks on the next page.

Monday 23 September 2008: When I arrived at the hotel, I looked around the lobby. All the other trainees seemed to know each other, and were laughing and talking in loud voices. Nobody spoke to me, so I just sat in the corner and read the course timetable again.

It was full of titles which sounded very impressive, such as 'Skills and Techniques in Selling', 'Understanding Your Role in the World of Products and Services', 'Personal Relationships and their Impact on Sales', and so on. I started wondering if I had made a big mistake paying eight hundred dollars for this course. Could they really turn a complete beginner like me into a good salesman in just two weeks?

After the first training session, I didn't feel any better! A tall, thin, serious-looking man with glasses talked for one-and-a-half hours about 'prospects'. At first, I thought he was talking about my future, but then just before the end, I suddenly realized that, in salesman's talk, a 'prospect' is a customer! So I had missed the whole point of his lecture!

The second session wasn't much better. The presenter was very clear, but I didn't like the way he spoke or what he was saying! He kept challenging us with questions like 'Are you ready to be a great salesman?' and 'Do you believe in yourself?' (I really felt like calling out, 'Not really', but I didn't!) It was as if we were all soldiers who were about to go into battle. I didn't like the sound of that at all!

By the end of the day, I was feeling very depressed...

Tuesday 24 September 2008: Today started much better. Over coffee, I met a very nice Singaporean, and we shared a few jokes about what had happened in the sessions the day before. So I wasn't alone after all!

Then we went into the first session, and suddenly everything changed. The presenter didn't talk too much; he just gave a short introduction, showed us a film and then gave us some questions to discuss in groups. I immediately felt much better, meeting other trainees and talking to them, and the film was good, too! It was all about the bad reputation that salesmen often have — that they are all liars, who will say or do anything to sell their products, even if these products are of very poor quality!

But the film turned this idea upside-down in a very funny way. At first, you think the main character is just another dishonest 'second-hand car salesman'. But later in the film, he actually becomes a *hero*, using his skills — his understanding of people and his ability to talk to them — to deal with a very difficult and dangerous situation.

The next presenter was good, too. He talked about how there is no single 'correct' way to be a salesman. We are all different, and we all need to develop our own individual style. By now, I was feeling much more confident that I might be able to succeed.

But let's see what happens tomorrow...



READING 1 (cont'd)

Task 1 For each question, write a short answer (**ONE or TWO WORDS only**).

1. Where does the training course take place? _____
2. How long is it? _____
3. How much does it cost to take part? _____
4. How many years of experience does the writer have? _____
5. When a salesman talks about a 'prospect', what does he mean? _____

Task 2 For each item, choose the correct option: **A, B or C**.

6. At the start of **Day One**, the writer felt _____.
A. tired B. excited C. lonely
7. The first presentation was very _____.
A. short B. confusing C. interesting
8. On **Day Two**, the first presenter used a film to show that salesmen _____.
A. must know about the product they're selling B. have skills which are very useful in life C. are usually honest in dealing with people
9. The second presenter advised the participants to _____.
A. be themselves B. work hard for success C. use the Internet
10. On Day Two, the writer's level of motivation _____.
A. went up B. went down C. did not change

READING 2 (Items 11 – 20)

Read the text. Then, for each item, choose the correct option: **A, B or C**.

On 23 September 2008, the Portuguese Economy Minister, Manuel Pinho, flew to the north of the country to lead the official opening of the Aguacadoura Wave Farm.

Before landing, the pilot of the helicopter had flown along the coast to give the minister a bird's eye view of the farm. Looking down, he could see three *Pelamis Wave Energy Converters* bobbing up and down on the surface of the sea. Each converter consisted of four tubes, each forty metres long and three metres in diameter. These four tubes were connected together to form a long, thin chain. From above, it looked like a huge, bright red snake floating in the water — and, in fact, the converters get their name from a tropical sea snake called the *pelamis*.

At the opening ceremony, speeches were made and the national flag was raised. The Portuguese are proud to be the first country in the world to operate a fully-functioning wave farm. The farm already generates enough electricity for one thousand five hundred homes, and will soon be expanded, making it ten times more powerful. Eventually, by 2050, the Portuguese hope that wave power will provide one-third of all its energy needs, taking full advantage of the country's long coastline facing the Atlantic Ocean. This is especially important for a country that has little coal or oil, and no natural gas.

READING 2 (cont'd)

However, it should not be forgotten that the idea for this invention actually came, not from Portugal, but from Scotland. Back in the 1970s, Professor Stephen Salter, a Scottish scientist working at Edinburgh University, did the first experiments on wave energy and designed a machine which was very similar to the 'Pelamis', but smaller.

Unfortunately, back in those days, there seemed to be plenty of oil, coal and other fossil fuels available. Because of this, nobody in the UK — except for scientists like Professor Salter — saw the need for solar, wind or wave power. So the government was unwilling to provide the professor and his colleagues with the money they needed to complete their work.

Now, however, the need for pollution-free types of energy is obvious, and Scotland, too, has finally decided to invest in wave energy technology. In a recent interview, 'Friends of the Earth' boss, Duncan McLaren, said: "Wave power could supply one-fifth of UK energy needs, and Scotland is ideally placed to generate electricity in this way. We must act now, before more Scottish scientists and engineers leave the country to find work in Portugal and other places."

Task 1 For each statement, write '**True**', '**False**' or '**DNS**' (= 'Doesn't Say').

11. The Aguacadoura Wave Farm is in northern Portugal. _____
12. Wave power is cheaper than wind power. _____
13. The first wave energy converter was invented by a Portuguese scientist. _____
14. The 'Pelamis' converter is named after a snake. _____
15. Portugal also uses nuclear energy. _____

Task 2 Choose the correct option: **A**, **B** or **C**.

16. Wave energy was not successful in the 1970's because _____.
A. scientists were not interested in it B. the big oil companies were against it C. not enough money was spent on research
17. The **total** length of one 'Pelamis' converter is _____ metres.
A. 40 B. 100 C. 160
18. At present, the Aquacadora Wave Farm provides power for _____ homes.
A. 150 B. 1,500 C. 15,000
19. Wave energy is of special interest to Portugal because _____.
A. it doesn't have enough fossil fuels B. it has a very large population C. its factories use a lot of power
20. By 2050, wave power will provide _____ of Portugal's power needs.
A. 20% B. 33% C. 50%

Write your answers on your answer paper.

WRITING 1

Write at least 100 words on the following topic:

**“A person should never make an important decision alone.
It is always better to ask for other people’s opinion.”**

What do you think? Do you agree with this statement or not? Give your reasons.

Your writing should be clear, well-organised and interesting.

WRITING 2

Complete the following task. Write at least 100 words.

Situation: Imagine that your name is Nasr/ Nasra Al-Kindi. You are worried about road safety in Oman. Write a **letter** to a newspaper complaining about dangerous driving. Describe what happens now, and suggest what can be done to make Oman’s roads safer.

Begin your letter with: “Dear Editor,” The letter should be lively, clear and interesting.

Write your answers on your answer paper.