B2
SEMINARIO
PER LA PREPARAZIONE
DELL’ESAME
B2 IDONEITÀ

Dott.ssa Helen Carruthers
B2 IDONEITÀ EXAM OVERVIEW

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes
Computer-based (in Computer laboratory/G-Meet)

Paper 1: Reading – 50 minutes

3 Parts: Reading comprehension texts with multiple choice answers.
Part 1 – Long text + 8 multiple choice answers
Part 2 – Text with 5 missing sentences. (1 extra sentence)
Part 3 – 4 texts to match to 10 questions

Paper 2: Use of English - 40 minutes

4 Parts: Texts that test Grammar and Vocabulary.
Part 1 – Text with 12 missing words + 4 multiple choice options.
Part 2 - Text with 8 missing words + NO multiple choice options.
Part 3 – Text with 10 missing words + a root word to adapt into the correct form.
Part 4 – 6 sentences to complete with 2-4 missing words including the use of a Key Word. Another sentence is given which has the same meaning but is written in a different way.
ACCESSO AL CORSO B2 AUTOAPPRENDIMENTO

Accesso al sito CLA Siena Online:
http://moodle.cla.unisi.it/
Fare il login: username e password: UnisiPass

Home page CLA Siena Online inserire il Enrollment Code
Corso B2 Self-study: 3gue9u

Online course: 12 lezioni con esercizi di grammatica, vocaboli e facsimili dell’esame in preparazione alla prova d’idoneità B2.

Iscrizione al pre-test (sito CLA) per accedere all’esame B2 idoneità

Iscrizione all’esame B2 Idoneità tramite il sito CLA

Contatti

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Preparing for Reading

- Read the text quickly for gist: to get a general understanding of it.
- Remember that you're not expected to understand every single word in the text. Try to quickly work out the meaning of unfamiliar words from the context.
- Read both the questions and the options and underline key words and phrases.
- Then read the first paragraph. The answers are in the same order as the text.
- The questions often include words or expressions which are designed to distract students from the correct answer (distractors).
- Distractors ensure that you are paying attention to the whole text and not just looking for words that match between the questions and the text but they can lead you to choose the wrong answer.
- So read the questions and options carefully. Make sure the answer you choose really matches what the question has asked you.

Part 1

You are going to read an extract from a short story. For questions 1–8, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

We always went to Ireland in June. Ever since the four of us began to go on holidays together we had spent the first fortnight of the month at Glencorn Lodge in County Antrim. It's a large house by the sea, not far from the village of Ardbeg. The English couple who bought the house, the Malseeds, have had to add to the building, but everything has been done most discreetly.

It was Strafe who found Glencorn for us. He'd come across an advertisement in the days when the Malseeds still felt the need to advertise. 'How about this?' he said one evening and read out the details. We had gone away together the summer before, to a hotel that had been recommended by friends, but it hadn't been a success because the food was so appalling.

The four of us have been playing cards together for ages, Dekko, Strafe, Cynthia and myself. They call me Milly, though strictly speaking my name is Dorothy Milson. Dekko picked up his nickname at school, Dekko Deacon sounding rather good, I suppose. He and Strafe were at school together, which must be why we call Strafe by his surname as the teachers used to. We're all about the same age and live quite close to the town where the Malseeds were before they decided to make the change from England to Ireland. Quite a coincidence, we always think.

'How very nice,' Mrs Malseed said, smiling her welcome again this year. Some instinct seems to tell her when guests are about to arrive, for she's rarely not waiting in the large, low-ceilinged hall that always smells of flowers. 'Arthur, take the luggage up,' she commanded the old porter. 'Rose, Tulip, Lily and Geranium.' She referred to the names of the rooms reserved for us. Mrs Malseed herself painted flowers on the doors of the hotel instead of putting numbers. In winter, when no one much comes to Glencorn Lodge, she sees to little details like that; her husband sees to redecoration and repairs.

'Well, well, well,' Mr Malseed said, now entering the hall through the door that leads to the kitchen. 'A hundred thousand welcomes,' he greeted us in the Irish manner. He was smiling broadly with his dark brown eyes twinkling, making us think we were rather more than just another group of hotel guests. Everyone smiled, and I could feel the others thinking that our holiday had truly begun. Nothing had changed at Glencorn, all was well. Kitty from the dining room came out to greet us. 'You look younger every year, all four of you,' she said, causing everyone in the hall to laugh again. Arthur led the way to the rooms, carrying as much of our luggage as he could manage and returning for the remainder.

After dinner we played cards for a while but not going on for as long as we might because we were still quite tired after the journey. In the lounge there was a man on his own and a French couple. There had been other people at dinner, of course, because in June Glencorn Lodge is always full: from where we sat in the window we could see some of them strolling about the lawns, others taking the cliff path down to the seashore. In the morning we'd do the same: we'd walk along the sands to Ardbeg and have coffee in the hotel there, back in time for lunch. In the afternoon we'd drive somewhere.

I knew all that because over the years this kind of pattern had developed. Since first we came here, we'd all fallen hopelessly in love with every variation of its remarkable landscape.
1 Why did the Malseeds no longer advertise Glencorn Lodge?
   A It was too expensive.
   B It was not necessary.
   C It was too complicated.
   D It was not effective.

2 What did Dekko and the writer have in common?
   A They did not like their names.
   B People used their surnames when speaking to them.
   C They chose their own nicknames.
   D People did not call them by their real names.

3 The coincidence referred to in paragraph three is that the four friends and the Malseeds
   A came from the same area.
   B preferred Ireland to England.
   C lived close to one another.
   D were all about the same age.

4 What was special about the rooms at Glencorn Lodge?
   A They had been painted by Mrs Malseed herself.
   B There was no paint on the doors.
   C They did not have numbers.
   D There were different flowers in all of them.

5 What did the writer particularly like about Mr Malseed?
   A He had nice brown eyes.
   B He always came to welcome them.
   C He made guests feel like friends.
   D He spoke in the Irish way.

6 Why did the writer feel contented after Mr Malseed had spoken?
   A Everything was as it had always been.
   B The holiday would start at any moment.
   C A few things had improved at Glencorn.
   D Her friends had enjoyed the holiday.

7 What did Kitty do which made the friends laugh?
   A She told them a joke.
   B She pretended to insult them.
   C She laughed when she saw them.
   D She paid them a compliment.

8 The next day the friends would walk to Ardbeg because
   A they would be able to walk on the sands.
   B this was what they always did.
   C they wanted to do the same as other people.
   D it was quite a short walk for them.

Skills tip
A good approach to Part 1 is to quickly read the text for gist before attempting to answer the questions. Then, when you get to the questions, you'll have a good idea of where the information is located. You will probably have to re-read portions of the text with extra care in order to pinpoint the answers but, because you've read the entire text, you should know approximately where in the text to look.
Reading Part 2

- Read the text quickly for gist: to get a general understanding of the topic.
- Put a key word summary for each paragraph of the text. This will help you create an order of ideas in the text and make the choice of the missing sentence easier.
- Read the sentence before and after the gap carefully. Look for similar words and paraphrasing.
- Pay particular attention to pronouns (he, she, they, this, that) which refer to something or someone already mentioned.
- Look at time expressions or dates that can help you choose the correct missing sentence.
- Keep an open mind. The sentence you choose for the first question may be better in the last question.

You are going to read an article about a bird called the kingfisher. 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.

The kingfisher

Wildlife photographer Charlie James is an expert on the kingfisher: a beautiful blue-green bird that lives near streams and rivers, feeding on fish.

Old trees overhang the stream, half shading shallow water. Soft greens, mud browns and the many different yellows of sunlight are the main colours, as soft as the sounds of water in the breeze. The bird cuts like a laser through the scene, straight and fast, a slice of light and motion so striking you almost feel it. It has gone in a split second, but a trace of the image lingers, its power out of proportion to its size.

Charlie James fell in love with kingfishers at an early age. (9) __________ After all, it is the stuff of legend. Greek myth makes the kingfisher a moon goddess who turned into a bird. Another tale tells how the kingfisher flew so high that its upper body took on the blue of the sky, while its underparts were scorched by the sun.

(10) __________ For despite the many different blues that appear in their coats, kingfishers have no blue pigment at all in their feathers. Rather, the structure of their upper feathers scatters light and strongly reflects blue.

(11) __________ It's small wonder that some wildlife photographers get so enthusiastic about them. Couple the colours with the fact that kingfishers, though shy of direct human approach, can be easy to watch from a hideout, and you have a recipe for a lifelong passion.

Charlie James's first hideout was an old blanket which he put over his head while he waited near a kingfisher's favourite spot. (12) __________ But it took another four years, he reckons, before he got his first decent picture. In the meantime, the European kingfisher had begun to dominate his life. He spent all the time he could by a kingfisher-rich woodland stream.

The trouble was, school cut the time available to be with the birds. So he missed lessons, becoming what he describes as an 'academic failure'. (13) __________

At 16, he was hired as an advisor for a nature magazine. Work as an assistant to the editor followed, then a gradual move to life as a freelance wildlife film cameraman. What he'd really like to do now is make the ultimate kingfisher film. (14) __________ 'I'm attracted to the simple approach. I like to photograph parts of kingfisher wings ...'

The sentence trails off to nothing. He's thinking of those colours of the bird he's spent more than half his life getting close to, yet which still excites interest. (15) __________ But, as Charlie knows, there's so much more to his relationship with the kingfisher than his work can ever show.
A This is why a kingfisher may appear to change from bright blue to rich emerald green with only a slight change in the angle at which light falls on it.

B But his interest in this, the world's most widespread kingfisher and the only member of its cosmopolitan family to breed in Europe, was getting noticed.

C A sure sign of his depth of feeling for this little bird is his inability to identify just what it is that draws him to it.

D The movement sends a highly visible signal to rivals, both males and females, as it defends its stretch of water against neighbours.

E The bird came back within minutes and sat only a metre away.

F The photographs succeed in communicating something of his feelings.

G 'No speech, just beautiful images which say it all,' he says.

H There is some scientific truth in that story.

Skills tip
When you do First Paper 1 Part 2 try to identify what aspect of the topic is being discussed in each section of the text. A new paragraph often (but not always) introduces a slightly different topic. The first sentence of each paragraph usually tells you what the paragraph is about. Sometimes it can indicate a change of topic. The vocabulary in the missing sentence must relate in some way to the topic in that section.

Skills tip
When you do First Paper 1 Part 2 remember that the missing sentence could link to the sentence before the gap, the sentence after the gap, or both. In some cases, the link is not in the sentence immediately before/after the gap, but one or two sentences earlier or later, so make sure you have a good understanding of the whole text (see Lesson 1 reading for gist). When you're considering a sentence to put in a gap, check to see if there are links to the information before and after that gap. Look for clues such as they/this/those/theses, however/ despite, and/also, synonymous words/phrases, names, dates and ideas that have or haven't already been mentioned.
Reading Part 3

- Read each text quickly for gist: to get a general understanding of the topic and read the questions. See if you can match any questions to the text.
- Read the other 3 texts and do the same.
- Keep an open mind as the text you chose may not be the correct answer.
- The correct answers will not use the same words as the question so look for synonyms and paraphrasing.
- Be careful of distractors that may seem like the correct answer but are not.

Different lives

A University student Jake Harris is in his first year. Assuming I don't oversleep, which can happen if I've been out till all hours, I'm out of bed by 7.45. If there's time, I have some tea and toast, then set off. I used to aim for the 8.25 train, but I kept missing it so nowadays I do the uphill walk into town, which wakes me up and enables me to plan what I'm going to do in the morning and afternoon. From nine till one it's lessons and a group activity, with a quick break at eleven to grab something to keep me going till lunch, when I can relax a bit in the canteen and catch up on the day's events with friends. The afternoon is similar to the morning, really. After that I sometimes head for the gym, but not as often as I should. Once I get home I work for a few hours and later if I'm not feeling too exhausted I go out with friends. I've met some fascinating people here!

B For Assistant Sales Manager Julia Anderson, each day begins at 6.30 a.m. with a quick shower, a few minutes to get ready, and then a dash to the station to catch the 7.15 into Manhattan. By eight o'clock she's at her workstation. I need to be there then, before the salespeople start arriving. I spend the rest of the morning in meetings and dealing with client queries, which for me is one of the most interesting, challenging and worthwhile aspects of the job. Then it's out for a quick lunch — my first meal of the day — and back to work at 1 p.m., followed by more of the same up to 5 p.m. That's how things are here: you have to keep to a tight schedule. At first I found working here pretty stressful, but I'm used to it now and it doesn't bother me. In the evenings I often see friends, but sometimes I'm a little tired and I just stay in and watch TV.

C Website Designer Oliver McShane works at home and, unsurprisingly, is a late riser: 'rolling out of bed,' as he puts it, 'at 9 a.m.' Switching on his laptop, his first task is to answer any early morning emails, and then he carries on from where he left off the previous evening. 'If I have a creative peak,' he says, 'that's when it is, and it takes me a while to get going again the next day. Whenever I've stayed up working very late, I make up for it by having a 20-minute lie-down after lunch. Then, when I wake up, I feel refreshed and ready for another long working session. Occasionally I pack my laptop and sit in a café for a while, although I can get distracted from work if I run into someone I know. Actually, I quite welcome that because I probably spend too much time on my own anyway.'

D Anita Ramos is a Tourist Guide who works mornings and evenings. 'It's just too hot to walk around the city in the afternoon,' she says, 'so I spend it at home. It's the custom here to have a sleep after lunch, but I haven't got time for that. In any case, I'm not tired then because I don't get up particularly early. When I do, I usually skip breakfast, though sometimes I have cereal or something. Then it's off to the office before heading downtown to wherever I'm meeting the first group. I take four or five groups out before lunch and I'm supposed to finish around 2 p.m., though there always seems to be someone in the last group who asks lots of questions, which can be a bit irritating if I end up doing unpaid overtime. It also means I risk missing the 2.15 train home. In the evening I have just a couple of groups, and after that I'm free to see friends in a café, go to the cinema or whatever.'
You are going to read an article about four people's daily lives. For questions 1–15, choose from the people (A–D). The people may be chosen more than once.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Which person</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sometimes sleeps in the early afternoon?</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thinks they ought to do more frequent exercise?</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>has to work to a strict timetable?</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>does most of their work in the morning?</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>finds out at a mealtime what has been happening?</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>says they have their best ideas late in their working day?</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>has to hurry to catch the train to work?</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>does not always get up at the same time every day?</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sometimes likes having their work interrupted?</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dislikes working later than they should do?</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sometimes comes home late at night?</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>believes exercise helps them prepare for the day ahead?</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>is now more relaxed at work?</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chooses not to follow local tradition?</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enjoys answering questions from customers?</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Skills tip**

In *First Paper 1 Part 3*, it's a good idea to read through the questions before you read the texts to help you think about the kind of information you need to identify. You can underline key words and phrases in the questions to help you look out for synonyms in the text. When reading through the texts, underline the words, phrases and ideas you think relate to the questions and compare them with the key words you have identified in the questions. Remember that you don't have to understand every single word in the texts in order to be able to complete this task successfully.
A wildlife cameraman

I (0) … a living as a freelance wildlife cameraman working all over the world. It is my job to provide the (1) … material from which a natural history programme is (2) … up. If the lifestyle agrees with you, the travel and the filming can be great. There is fantastic variety: I often do not have the slightest (3) … where I am going or what I will see. There is also a certain pleasure in (4) … some of the film you take on TV, though as I am often away working, I do not always (5) … the programmes when they are shown.

It is unusual to get an 'easy' filming job. One of the most challenging things is (6) … your sense of humour under sometimes difficult circumstances. I (7) … to work in the region of 300 days a year and I often (8) … I had more time to play my guitar or see friends. Sometimes there is no (9) … even unpacking, when I get home.

But it is an amazing job, even though there are frustrations. What I hate most is flying – I really cannot (10) … with that. All things (11) …, if it were not for the flying, this job would be (12) … about perfect.
The temple in the lake

Lake Titicaca, often known (0) as the 'holy lake', is situated in South America on the border between Bolivia and Peru. The lives of the people (13) tools and pottery have (14) found on its shores long remained a mystery. However, scientists taking (15) in an exploration project at the lake have found what they believe to (16) a 1000-year-old temple under the water.

Divers from the expedition have discovered a 200-metre-long, 50-metre-wide building surrounded by a terrace for crops, a road and a wall. It is thought that the remains (17) those of a temple built by the Tiahuanaco people who lived beside Lake Titicaca before it became a part (18) the much later Incan empire.

'The scientists have not yet had time to analyse the material sufficiently,' says project director, Soraya Aubi. 'But some have (19) forward the idea that the remains date from this period (20) to the fact that there are very similar ones elsewhere.'

The expedition has so (21) this year made more than 200 dives into water 30 metres deep (22) order to record the ancient remains on film. The film, (23) will later be studied in detail, (24) well provide important information about the region.

Tourism in Tanzania

Over the past few years, tourism in the East (0) country of Tanzania has been growing fast. Tanzania has a really (25) multi-cultural history and is home to many different tribes. They live peacefully together and have a wide range of (26), such as farming and making traditional (27) visits to tribal villages, for example. Notably to those of the Masai in the north of the country, are often a highlight of travel itineraries. Last year, Tanzania welcomed about 200,000 visitors, which made tourism the (28) most important source of foreign exchanges; only coffee and cotton brought in more revenue.

Tourists are attracted to Tanzania because of its (29) beaches and its unusual (30) features. It has lakes of amazing (31), and in Mount Kilimanjaro boasts the highest mountain on the African continent. Tanzania also has more land devoted to natural parks and game reserves than any other wildlife destination in the world. Everything, including the coral reefs, is protected by government law.

Tanzania is (32) placed to increase its tourist trade by offering a (33) of activity holidays. At the same time, it aims to avoid the 'mass tourism' that has been a rather (34) development in other areas of similar beauty.
Part 4

For questions 36 – 42, complete the second sentence so that it 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. Here is an example (0).

Example:

0 A very friendly taxi driver drove us into town.

DRIVEN

We ................................................... a very friendly taxi driver.

The gap can be filled by the words 'were driven into town by', so you write:

Example: 0 WERE DRIVEN INTO TOWN BY

Write only the missing words IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet.

35 I think Robert is too young to look after his brother.

CARE

I think Robert isn't ................................................... of his brother.

36 Tomas put up a fence so that people didn't walk on his garden.

PREVENT

Tomas put up a fence ................................................... on his garden.

37 The twins are eager to see their cousins again in the summer.

LOOKING

The twins ................................................... their cousins again in the summer.

38 The last time Enrico saw Gloria was the day they left school.

SEEN

Enrico has ................................................... the day they left school.

39 Luckily, we had enough glasses at the party.

RUN

Luckily, we ................................................... glasses at the party.

40 Nicholas finally managed to get his new video recorder to work.

SUCCEEDED

Nicholas finally ................................................... his new video recorder to work.

41 You did not take enough care over your homework last week.

ought

You ................................................... more care over your homework last week.

42 Reuben is the only person to have won the championship three times running.

Nobody

Apart ................................................... ever won the championship three times running.