

LEVEL B (B1 & B2)

2023 B

MODULE 1 Reading comprehension and language awareness

PART A - CHOICE ITEMS

ACTIVITY 1

1.1 Read the text and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 1a-2a.

- 1a. The text below is probably from a
A. science textbook. B. self-help guide. C. school book.
- 2a. The purpose of the text is to
A. give people advice. B. tell people a story. C. ask people for help.

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HOME LATEST FOOD TECH ENTERTAINMENT HEALTH MONEY HOME & GARDEN RELATIONSHIPS

How Not to Care When People Don't Like You

Everyone is disliked by someone. Don't let it slow you down.

By Rebecca Fishbein

When I was in high school, I found out that my friends didn't like me. One of the girls in my "group" told me I wasn't invited to a birthday party because "everyone" thought I was annoying—which, to be honest, I probably was at the age of 15.

But the truth is that certain persons simply will not like you no matter what you do. "You have your own unique personality which means some people will love and adore you, while others may not," Chloe Brotheridge, a hypnotherapist and anxiety expert, tells us. Of course, while this idea is easy to understand on its face, it's difficult to keep your perspective in check when you find you're left out of invitations, or you overhear your roommates bad-mouthing you. Rejection is painful in any form, whether it be social or romantic.

Before you freak out, keep in mind that it's not only normal to be occasionally disliked, but in fact, it's also healthy. Getting kicked out of a social group gives you space to find people that are a little more your speed. Think of rejection as a way to find out who's compatible with whom. Here's how to get through rejection without falling down a rabbit hole of sadness.

- ☐ While you shouldn't always blame yourself if someone doesn't like you, if you're finding this is a pattern, you may want to take a look at your own behaviour.
- ☐ Even if you find yourself on the outs with some folks, chances are, you've got at least a few people you can rely on when you're feeling low. Spending time with people that care about you can boost your self-esteem and help you to feel more secure.
- ☐ Keep in mind that the best way to make genuine friendships is to be genuine yourself. If you just walk around wanting to be liked, it's very stressful, and people will read that as inauthentic.

Do not fear being disliked. Sometimes people make specific strategic relationships to meet their needs as they define them, and whether they like you or not may have nothing to do with who you are.

ATTENTION

- ☐ Try to answer all the questions.
- ☐ Mark your answers on Answer Sheet 1 [ΑΠΑΝΤΗΤΙΚΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1].
- ☐ Provide ONE answer for each item.
- ☐ You have **85 minutes** to complete this exam.

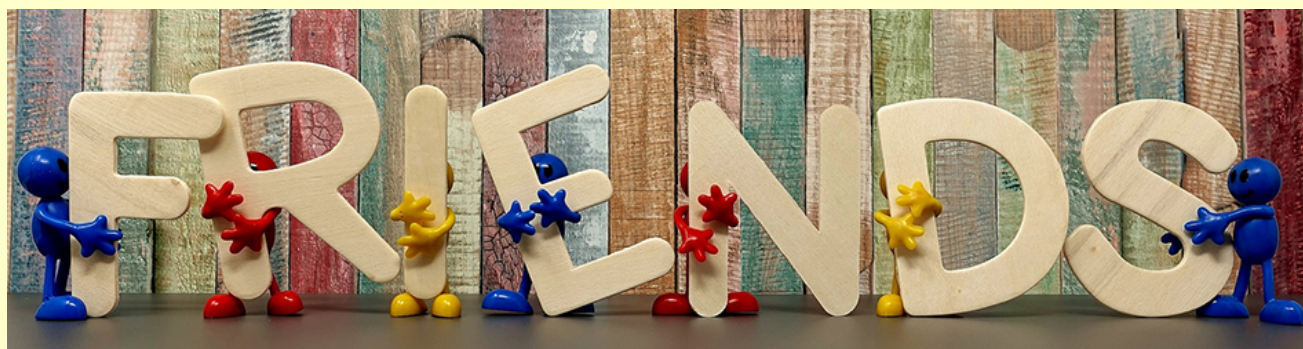
1.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 3a-6a.

- 3a. When in high school, the author's friends
 A. admired her honesty. B. loved her personality. C. disliked her behaviour.
- 4a. According to the text, some people might not like you because of
 A. their own preferences. B. your high confidence. C. their anxiety problems.
- 5a. According to the text, rejection is
 A. easy to handle. B. unpleasant in any form. C. unusual among teenagers.
- 6a. According to the text, you can make genuine friendships if you
 A. always try to please others. B. don't hide your true emotions. C. go to many parties.

ACTIVITY 2

Read the text below and match the meaning of each underlined word (7a-11a) with options A-F. There is one option you do not need.

A.	interact	B.	organise	C.	manage	D.	search	E.	choose	F.	grow
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How to make new friends

Many of us find it challenging to make new friends –especially as we (7a) get older. In fact, opening up conversations with strangers can be a stressful experience because you have to really put yourself out there. So, here are some tips on how you can make new friends.

1. When you wish to make new friends, you've got to open up and try to connect. You've got to stop waiting for someone else to reach out to you.
2. You also need to be open to new things. Joining a club, youth group, or getting involved in an activity you enjoy is a great way of meeting new people. Do some research about what's available in your area and (8a) pick something that interests you. When you follow your interests and hobbies, you can more easily find like-minded friends.
3. When you introduce yourself to new people, ask questions about them, really listen to their answers and (9a) look for common ground.
4. Don't wait for others to (10a) arrange something. Invite your new friends to take part in activities with you. Invite people over for coffee or dinner. Open up your home, and see what happens.
5. Be patient with the process. Making new friends can take a while. You might put hours into getting ready for an event, attend the event, and still leave without meeting anyone. Don't rush! Keep focusing on what you can (11a) control and be open-minded with the people around you.

ACTIVITY 3

Read the text below and for each gap (12a-16a) choose the best option (A-F). Use each option only once. There is one option you do not need.

A.	passion	B.	help	C.	difference	D.	advice	E.	medical	F.	grateful
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Animal Community



Help us finish our animal shelter!

Dear animal lovers,

We are writing to you today with a plea for help. We are in the process of building two new animal shelters, one for cats and one for dogs. These shelters will provide a safe and loving home for animals in need. We have already started construction on these shelters, but we need your (12a) _____ to see this project through to completion. Every donation counts and will help us to provide a warm bed, food, and (13a) _____ care for the animals that will call these shelters home.

We know that there are many kind-hearted people out there who share our (14a) _____ for animal welfare and who are willing to help us in our mission. Your donation will make a real (15a) _____ to the lives of the animals we care for. We will be posting regular updates on the progress of the shelters, so you can see the impact of your donation. Your support means the world to us, and we are deeply (16a) _____ for any contribution you can make.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message, and for considering a donation to our animal shelters.

[DONATE ON PAYPAL](#)

[DONATE ON WEBSITE](#)

ACTIVITY 4

4.1 Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 17a-19a.

17a. The purpose of the text is to

- A. inform readers. B. entertain readers. C. warn readers.

18a. The text suggests that some languages

- A. can never be learnt. B. might take longer to learn. C. can only be learnt by adults.

19a. The text ends with a

- A. call for research. B. piece of advice. C. note of warning.

Hardest languages to learn and why you should learn them!

Contrary to popular belief, there isn't a definitive list of the "hardest languages to learn." English speakers who have tried to read Chinese and pronounce French words are convinced that these are the hardest languages to learn but they're not quite right. This is because there are many ways to learn a new language and each of these has its own unique features that affect the pace at which you pick up a new language. "There is research backing up that deductive methods are faster with university level students" says Dan Berges, Managing Director of Berges Institute – one of the fastest-growing Spanish language schools for adults in the US and Europe. Other research concludes that with kids, inductive methods are more effective and faster. A deductive approach in language learning exposes learners to a set of grammatical rules and they practise language based on those rules, according to Berges, who adds: "A lot of inductive methods take longer because the whole idea of induction is that you have to see a lot of examples in order for the student to infer the rule." There are many other reasons that make people feel like they're dealing with the hardest languages to learn. For English speakers, things get tough when the language has some of the following features: different writing system, it lacks words from other languages that have similar pronunciations and meanings, or it has grammatical concepts unfamiliar to English speakers.

However, mastering languages that seem hard to you is worth the time, effort, and dedication. Having a foreign language in your CV can increase your salary up to 35%. In fact, some studies show that speaking a foreign language can help with your multitasking abilities. Perhaps the biggest perk is that you're opening a door to a new world beyond the one you know – the world outside and within yourself. Besides, the satisfaction you feel when you've accomplished something tough like being able to express yourself in another language is an added bonus – especially if it's a language that has the reputation of being hard.

4.2 Read the text again and decide if statements 20a-25a are True (A), False (B), or Not Stated (C).

STATEMENTS		A	B	C
		TRUE	FALSE	NOT STATED
According to the text,				
20a.	deductive methods have the same impact on learners of all ages.			
21a.	inductive methods work better with children.			
22a.	memorising vocabulary is the best way to learn a language.			
23a.	English speakers may find learning another language challenging at times.			
24a.	you get better paid when you know a foreign language.			
25a.	people should never learn a very difficult language.			

ACTIVITY 5

Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 26a-35a (next page).

LIVE SCIENCE

HISTORY | 42

What's the world's oldest civilization?

Countless civilizations have risen and fallen over the millennia. But which one is the oldest on record?

Did the first civilization arise in Mesopotamia, or elsewhere?



About 30 years ago, this question seemed to have a straightforward answer. Around 4000 B.C., the earliest phase of the Sumerian culture arose as the oldest civilization in the Mesopotamia region. The Sumerians are named after the city of Sumer, which was a few miles south of the modern city of Kut in Iraq.

Archaeologists call the earliest Sumerian phase the Uruk period, after the ancient city of Uruk, where many of the oldest Sumerian cultural artifacts were found. But evidence from Egyptian sites uncovered in the past few decades indicates that the Sumerians have a few competitors, including ancient Egypt, for the title of "oldest civilization."

The definition of what makes a civilization is vague but generally a culture has to achieve several hallmarks, notably urbanism - that is, cities - water distribution system and writing; and the Sumerians had all three of them. After about 2000 B.C., the Sumerian civilization led directly to the Babylonian

civilization in Mesopotamia, which is credited with discovering a range of mathematical truths.

Sumerians may have also invented religion by building towering temples called ziggurats in their cities and establishing priestly castes devoted to the ritual worship of specific deities. Which god was the mightiest in the vast Sumerian pantheon depended on the place and time: the sky god Anu, for example, was popular in early Uruk, while the storm god Enlil was worshiped in Sumer.

A story very like that of the Hebrew Bible's Noah, who built an ark stocked with animals to preserve his family during a great flood caused by divine wrath, is related in the Epic of Gilgamesh. Archaeologists think it was originally a Sumerian story from about 2150 B.C. -centuries before the Hebrew version was created.

Some scholars argue that other civilizations may be as old or even older than that of the Sumerians. There is evidence that Egypt and Sumer were basically contemporary in their emergence. Archaeologists in Egypt have recently discovered writings just as early as the earliest writings from Sumer, which suggests the oldest phase of the ancient Egyptian civilization appeared at roughly the same time as the earliest phase of the Sumerian civilization: about 4000 B.C.

- 26a.** The purpose of the text is to
A. examine the origins of the Sumerian civilization. **B.** highlight the achievements of the Babylonian civilization. **C.** discuss the similarities between different modern civilizations.
- 27a.** The text was probably written by
A. a mathematician. **B.** a religious scholar. **C.** a cultural historian.
- 28a.** The initial period of the Sumerian culture is linked to the city of
A. Sumer. **B.** Uruk. **C.** Kut.
- 29a.** The belief that the Sumerian civilization is the oldest
A. has recently been challenged. **B.** is universally accepted. **C.** has no historical basis.
- 30a.** A key aspect defining a civilization is
A. oral communication. **B.** nomadic living. **C.** city development.
- 31a.** The Babylonian civilization is associated with
A. artistic expressions. **B.** mathematical discoveries. **C.** technological innovations.
- 32a.** In order to practise their religion, the Sumerians constructed
A. impressive castles. **B.** tall buildings of worship. **C.** huge cathedrals.
- 33a.** The importance of specific Sumerian deities varied based on
A. chronological factors. **B.** architectural preferences. **C.** weather conditions.
- 34a.** A tale resembling the biblical story of Noah is found in
A. the Book of Genesis. **B.** ancient Egyptian narratives. **C.** the Epic of Gilgamesh.
- 35a.** The discovery of ancient Egyptian writings supports the
A. superiority of Egypt over Sumer. **B.** parallel emergence of Egypt and Sumer. **C.** existence of trade relations between Egypt and Sumer.

ACTIVITY 6

Match extracts 36a-41a with the type of text from which they are taken (A-H). Use each of the options only once. There are two options you do not need.

A.	Political article	B.	Horoscope	C.	Weather forecast	D.	Business report
E.	Film review	F.	Biography	G.	Technical manual	H.	Scientific paper

36a.	Amidst market fluctuations, our company has demonstrated resilience and adaptability. Robust financial strategies, coupled with a focus on innovation, have propelled sustained growth.	
37a.	According to the government, the proposed policies aim to address income inequality and foster inclusive growth. However, debates persist on their feasibility and potential impact, fueling a contentious discourse among policymakers and the public alike.	
38a.	As the stars align this month, seize the chance to explore new career prospects. The expansive influence of Jupiter hints at potential financial upswings. Dedicate time to self-care for emotional equilibrium. Anticipate the thrill of developing new social connections in the coming weeks.	
39a.	Recent advancements in nanotechnology have revolutionized drug delivery systems. Nano-sized carriers exhibit enhanced therapeutic efficacy, reducing side effects. This breakthrough holds promise for the development of targeted therapies in the near future.	
40a.	In a dimly lit room, tension thickens as the protagonist confronts the antagonist. Sharp dialogue cuts through the silence, revealing hidden motives. The scene builds to a climactic moment, leaving the audience on the edge of their seats, eager for resolution.	
41a.	In the early years, her tenacity and curiosity marked her as a standout student. Little did anyone know that this humble beginning would lead to a remarkable journey, shaping her into a pioneer in the field of virtual reality.	

ACTIVITY 7

7.1 Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 42a-43a.

- 42a. The purpose of the text is to
- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| A. emphasize environment's role in behaviour change. | B. question the effectiveness of joining social groups. | C. highlight the benefits of individual discipline. |
|--|---|---|
- 43a. The author's attitude towards willpower is
- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| A. positive. | B. critical. | C. neutral. |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|



Eventually, everyone loses the battle with willpower; it's only a matter of time. Consider my parents. Neither of them smoked when they joined the armed forces, but it didn't take long for them to join their smoking co-workers.

At first, they resisted, but as the days turned into weeks, the grind of saying no when everyone else was saying yes wore them down. Decades later, quitting proved nearly impossible when they turned to willpower. The very same force that encouraged them to start was preventing them from stopping. They were only able to kick their habit when they changed their environment. They had to find new friends whose default behaviour was their desired behaviour.

What looks like discipline is often a carefully created environment to encourage certain behaviours. What looks like poor choices is often someone trying their best to use willpower to go against their environment. So, the way to improve your defaults isn't by willpower but by creating an artificial environment where your desired behaviour becomes the default behaviour. Joining groups whose defaults are your desires is an effective way to create an artificial environment. If you want to read more, join a book club. If you want to run more, join a running club. Your environment will do a lot of the heavy lifting for you if you align it with where you want to go.

7.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 44a-46a.

- 44a. It is hard for people to maintain willpower because of
- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A. the influences of their surroundings. | B. the lack of high moral values. | C. the need to try out new things. |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
- 45a. People can overcome certain habits by
- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A. seeking professional help. | B. improving their self-esteem. | C. altering their surroundings. |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
- 46a. People can establish a specific behaviour setting by
- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| A. associating with groups with conflicting defaults. | B. connecting with groups sharing desired behaviours. | C. depending entirely on personal determination. |
|---|---|--|

7.3 What do the words in *italics* mean? Choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 47a-50a.

- 47a. At first, they resisted, but as the days turned into weeks, the grind of saying no when everyone else was saying yes *wore them down*.
- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A. increased their willpower. | B. boosted their confidence. | C. weakened their resistance. |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
- 48a. What looks like poor choices is often someone trying their best to use willpower to *go against their environment*.
- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. resist surrounding influences. | B. move to a new place. | C. argue with neighbours. |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
- 49a. They were only able to *kick* their habit when they changed their environment
- | | | |
|----------|-------------|---------|
| A. break | B. maintain | C. form |
|----------|-------------|---------|
- 50a. Your environment will do a lot of the heavy lifting for you if you *align* it with where you want to go.
- | | | |
|------------|-----------|---------------|
| A. replace | B. adjust | C. disarrange |
|------------|-----------|---------------|

PART B - SHORT ANSWERS

ACTIVITY 1

Fill in gaps 1b-5b with the most suitable word, so that the text makes sense. Use each word only once.

Time for a father-and-son joke!

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal **(1b)** _____ his son: "You bring your grades up from a C average **(2b)** _____ a B average, read good books once in a while, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy decided he'd settle for the offer, and they both agreed **(3b)** _____ it.

After about six weeks his father said: "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you've read a couple **(4b)** _____ good books so far but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

And the boy answered: "You know, Dad, I've been thinking **(5b)** _____ that, and I've noticed when reading the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair...and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair too."

To this his father replied: "Did you also notice they walked everywhere they went?"

ACTIVITY 2

Think of **ONE** word that can go with **BOTH** sentences (6b-10b) in each set. The first letter of the word is given.

6b. a) They've bought a new house, but it will need a lot of work before they can **m** _____ into it.

b) If you want to **m** _____ ahead in your career, you'll have to work harder.

7b. a) There is no **q** _____ that he is guilty of the bank robbery.

b) You can find the answer to almost any **q** _____ in cyberspace.

8b. a) I tried to **c** _____ my anger and started to speak politely.

b) He lost **c** _____ of the car and crashed into a tree.

9b. a) The police found enough evidence at the **s** _____ of the crime.

b) In the first **s** _____ of the film, the camera moves slowly across the dark room.

10b. a) The actress forgot her **l** _____ on the opening night of the play.

b) You can reduce **l** _____ on your face with this new anti-ageing cream.

ΣΑΣ ΥΠΕΝΘΥΜΙΖΟΥΜΕ ΟΤΙ ΠΡΕΠΕΙ ΝΑ ΜΕΤΑΦΕΡΕΤΕ ΟΛΕΣ ΤΙΣ ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΕΙΣ ΣΤΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1

ΤΕΛΟΣ ΜΗΝΥΜΑΤΟΣ