

LEVEL B (B1 & B2)

2024 A

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(n)
A. self-improvement blog. B. academic paper. C. philosophy book.
- 2a. The text is about the
A. benefits of having arguments with our loved ones. B. historical origins of the Socratic Method. C. use of the Socratic Method to avoid serious arguments.

The Socratic Method
A useful tool for handling everyday disagreements and preventing conflicts.

We have all been in a heated argument with our loved ones. We may get angry, and we say things we don't mean. But it doesn't have to be that way. Instead of throwing your valid points into someone's face and trying to force them to understand, how about trying to use the Socratic Method? If all else fails, at least you can say that you tried to avoid the argument.

A little more than two thousand years ago, the great philosopher Socrates walked around Athens with questions for his students. He had developed a method that he used to get to the truth. He used continuous questions, until he exposed a contradiction in the responses, and that proved that there was an error in the initial assumption. Philosophers have held the Socratic Method in high esteem ever since – a method which consists of the use of questions to develop an unexpressed idea from one person to another while trying to establish a position. Using this method will help others see your point of view without causing extra conflict.

The Socratic Method has become a tool that is used with large groups of people in a discussion by using questions to get to what you think is the essence of the issue at hand. Getting a point that you consider important across by making participants in a conversation see it on their own is not threatening. It puts others in a position to answer the questions themselves.

Personally, I find this method valuable today, especially in situations when the people we are communicating with don't listen to what we or others are trying to say – when all they care about is how to get their own point across. Sometimes, it's a loved one who doesn't take to heart what we say and it's very important that we try not to hurt their feelings as much as possible. After all, true communication and understanding with those we care about are the most important things in a relationship.

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

- 3a. Socrates' primary goal in posing questions to his students was to
A. make fun of them. B. confuse them. C. help them express their views.
- 4a. The purpose of using the Socratic Method in discussions is to
A. avoid answering questions. B. develop ideas and viewpoints. C. criticise other people's ideas.
- 5a. In group discussions, the Socratic Method
A. promotes conflict and disagreement. B. encourages respect and understanding. C. prevents people from sharing their views.
- 6a. In communicating with our loved ones, their feelings should be
A. ignored. B. questioned. C. respected.

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.

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. see	B. smart	C. avoid	D. place	E. period	F. shy
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Amazing Tree Climbing Lions

In some parts of Africa, lions do something surprising – they climb trees!

While most lions like to stay on the ground, in places like Uganda and Tanzania, some lions have mastered the art of tree climbing. Why do they do this? Well, one reason is to **(7a) escape** the hot sun. When it's really hot, the ground can get uncomfortably warm for lions. Climbing trees helps them catch cool breezes and stay comfortable. Also, being up in trees helps lions **(8a) spot** their prey, like antelopes, from far away. It's like having a good lookout spot! During the rainy **(9a) season** the ground becomes filled with tsetse flies that bite the wild inhabitants. This causes lions to climb onto tree branches to escape from the many insects on the ground.

For the lions, climbing trees is also about having their own secret **(10a) hideaway** where they can relax without worrying about being bothered. If you're lucky, you might see a lion up in a tree, watching everything below. It's quite a sight! These tree-climbing lions show how adaptable and **(11a) clever** animals can be. Seeing them in action is amazing. It's a reminder of how incredible nature can be and how much there is to discover in the wild.

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. turn	B. make	C. appear	D. think	E. remind	F. leave
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New York Times Best Sellers: Current List

Current List | 2024 Past New York Times Best Sellers | 2023 New York Times Best Sellers | 2022 New York Times Best Sellers

Atomic Habits is one of “New York Times” Best Sellers. The author, James Clear, one of the world’s leading experts on habit formation, reveals practical strategies that will teach you exactly how to form good habits, break bad ones, and master the tiny behaviours that lead to remarkable results. Here is an excerpt from this amazing book:

As adults, we spend a lot of time talking about all the things that we have to do. You have to wake up early for work. You have to make another business call. You have to work out today. You have to write a letter. You have to **(12a)** _____ dinner for your family. Now, **(13a)** _____ about changing just one word in the sentences above. You don’t “have” to. You “get” to! By simply changing one word, you shift the way you view each event. You shift from seeing these behaviours as burdens and you **(14a)** _____ them into opportunities. The key point is that both versions of reality are true. You have to do those things, and you also get to do them.

I once heard a story about a man who uses a wheelchair. When asked if it was difficult, he said “If it wasn’t for my wheelchair, I would be in bed and never able to **(15a)** _____ my house.” This shift in perspective completely transformed how he lived each day. I think it’s important to **(16a)** _____ yourself that the things you do each day are not burdens, they are opportunities. So often, the things we view as work are actually the reward!

ACTIVITY 4

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

- 17a. This text might appear in
 - A. a botanical book.
 - B. a story book.
 - C. an adventure book.
- 18a. The purpose of this text is to
 - A. describe the beauty of the queen's garden.
 - B. highlight the importance of pure love.
 - C. stress the importance of proper medical treatment.
- 19a. The rose that appeared from the book symbolized
 - A. the queen's death.
 - B. the beauty of nature.
 - C. eternal love and sacrifice.

The loveliest rose in the world



THERE lived once a great queen, in whose garden were found at all seasons the most splendid flowers, and from every land in the world. She specially loved roses, and therefore she possessed the most beautiful varieties of this flower.

But care and sorrow dwelt within these halls; the queen lay upon a sick bed, and the doctors declared that she must die. "There is still one thing that could save her," said one of the wisest among them. "Bring her the loveliest rose in the world; one which exhibits the purest and brightest love, and if it is brought to her before her eyes close, she will not die." Then from all parts came those who brought roses that bloomed in every garden, but they were not the right sort. "No one has yet named the flower," said the wise man.

"I know where it blooms," said a happy mother, who came with her lovely child to the bedside of the queen. "It is seen on the blooming cheeks of my sweet child, when it expresses the pure and holy love of infancy; when refreshed by sleep it opens its eyes, and smiles upon me with childlike affection." "This is a lovely rose," said the wise man; "but there is one, still more lovely."

Then there came into the room a child – the queen's young son. Tears stood in his eyes and glistened on his cheeks; he carried a great book, and the binding was of velvet, with silver clasps. "Mother," cried the little boy: "Please hear what I have read." And the child seated himself by the bedside and read from the Holy Bible – the book of Him who suffered death on the cross to save all humankind, even who are yet unborn. He read, "Greater love hath no man than this," and as he read a roseate hue spread over the cheeks of the queen, and her eyes became so enlightened and clear, that she saw from the leaves of the book a lovely rose spring forth, a type of Him who shed His blood on the cross. "I see it," she said. "He who beholds this, the loveliest rose on earth, shall never die".

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.	the queen's garden was filled with the most beautiful flowers of the world.			
21a.	people brought roses from all over the world, but none were the right kind.			
22a.	the wise man knew where the loveliest rose bloomed.			
23a.	the queen's son brought a bouquet of roses to his mother's bedside.			
24a.	the child's reading from the Bible worsened the queen's health.			
25a.	the person with the loveliest rose will be blessed with eternal life.			

ACTIVITY 5

5.1 Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 26a-28a.

- 26a. Overall, the text suggests that
 - A. boys should be encouraged to express their feelings.
 - B. boys do not have as many emotions as girls.
 - C. boys must learn to be strong and independent.
- 27a. The lyrics sung by the children during the Father’s Day breakfast
 - A. praise fathers too much.
 - B. promote unhealthy habits.
 - C. reinforce conventional roles.
- 28a. Fathers in children’s literature are mainly shown as emotionally
 - A. expressive.
 - B. distant.
 - C. sensitive.

Talking to boys the way we talk to girls.

By Andrew Reiner

At a Father’s Day breakfast, my 5-year-old son and his classmates sang a song about fathers, crooning about “my dad who’s big and strong” and “fixes things with his hammer” and, above all else, “is really cool.” Now, there’s nothing wrong with most of these traditional qualities in and of themselves. But when these lyrics are passed down as the defining soundtrack to masculine identity, we limit children’s understanding not just of what it means to be a father but of what it means to be a man — and a boy, as well. In fact, when fathers appear in children’s picture books, they’re taking their sons on adventures or modeling physical strength or stoic independence. There is the rare exception in children’s books where a father baldly demonstrates his love for his son.

A study in Pediatrics found that mothers interacted vocally more often with their infant daughters than they did with their infant sons. Another study found that Spanish mothers were more likely to use emotional words and emotional topics when speaking with their 4-year-old daughters than with their 4-year-old sons. Interestingly, the same study revealed that fathers used more emotion-laden words when having a conversation with their 4-year-old daughters than with their 4-year-old sons.

Judy Chu, a human biologist, conducted a two-year study of 4- and 5-year-old boys and found that they were as smart as girls at reading other people’s emotions and at cultivating close, meaningful friendships. She maintains that by the time the boys reached first grade, they traded their innate empathy for a learned stoicism and greater emotional distance from friends. Interestingly, they adopted this new behavior in public, exclusively, but not at home or when their parents were around.

We tell ourselves we are preparing our sons to fight (literally and figuratively), to compete in a world and economy that’s brutish and callous. The sooner we can groom them for this dystopian future, the better off they’ll be. But psychologist Susan David insists the opposite is true: “Research shows that people who suppress emotions have lower-level resilience and emotional health.”

How can we change this? We can start, says Dr. David, by letting boys experience their emotions, all of them, without judgment — or by offering them solutions. Say to boys: “I can see that you’re upset,” or ask them, “What are you feeling?” There doesn’t have to be any grand plan beyond this, she says. “Just show up for them. Get them talking. Show that you want to hear what they’re saying.”

5.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 29a-35a.

- 29a. When interacting with their infants, mothers use more emotional language
 A. with their sons. B. with their daughters. C. with both sons and daughters.
- 30a. How did parental behaviour differ between Spanish mothers and fathers in a study?
 A. Fathers used more emotional words with daughters. B. Mothers used less emotional words with daughters. C. Fathers used more emotional words with their sons.
- 31a. According to Chu's research, preschool boys are _____ at making friends.
 A. worse than girls B. as good as girls C. better than girls
- 32a. According to Chu's research, by the time they reach first grade, boys become more
 A. emotional. B. open. C. reserved.
- 33a. According to the text, parents try to prepare their sons for a
 A. harsh and unforgiving world. B. compassionate world. C. life free from any difficulties.
- 34a. Susan David argues that the way we prepare boys for the future is _____ for their emotional well-being.
 A. useful B. beneficial C. harmful
- 35a. According to Dr. David, boys should
 A. be supported in expressing all their emotions. B. only experience certain emotions. C. be discouraged from expressing their emotions.

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 speech	B.	Science fiction	C.	Autobiography	D.	Travel guide
E.	Film review	F.	Historical fiction	G.	Technical manual	H.	Spy story

36a.	The captivating narrative and stellar acting drew me into a world filled with emotion and suspense. With its stunning visuals and thought-provoking themes, this production left a lasting impression on viewers.	
37a.	From my early years spent exploring the countryside to my adventures in distant lands, my story is a tale of curiosity and discovery. Through the highs and lows of life, I've learned invaluable lessons about resilience, compassion, and the beauty of embracing new experiences.	
38a.	In times of uncertainty, it is crucial that we come together as a community, setting aside our differences for the greater good. Together, we must strive to build a society where every individual is treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their background or beliefs.	
39a.	The android stood before me; its eyes gleaming with an otherworldly intelligence that sent shivers down my spine. I couldn't help but wonder what secrets lay hidden beneath its metallic exterior, and what role it would play in shaping the future of humanity.	
40a.	As I sat in the dimly lit café, waiting for my contact to arrive, I couldn't shake the feeling of being watched. Each passing moment felt like an eternity, my senses heightened as I anticipated their next move.	
41a.	Amidst the flickering torches and echoing halls of the medieval castle, the knight uncovered a hidden chamber filled with ancient scrolls and artefacts. Each dusty relic seemed to hold a piece of the past, offering him glimpses into the lives of those who had walked these halls centuries before.	

ACTIVITY 7

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

- 42a. The main purpose of the text is to discuss the
 A. importance of continuous learning. B. differences between memorizing and learning. C. effectiveness of formal education on memory.
- 43a. Which statement best summarizes the author's view of learning?
 A. It involves memorization of facts and information. B. It can also happen without realizing it in daily life. C. It is mainly intentional and well-structured.

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How to learn something new every day!

By Allie Volpe

Many people consider learning to be an active endeavour, one that takes place in a classroom with a teacher and homework and tests. This intentional form of education is just one way to acquire knowledge. In fact, we absorb new information every day, often unconsciously: the best way to store tomatoes, the quickest way to get to work, etc.

There is a distinction between committing facts to memory and learning. Memory refers to the retention of information, whereas learning is the long-term acquisition of knowledge or skills through experience, says Hadley Bergstrom, an Associate Professor of Psychological Science at Vassar College. We can memorize vocabulary words, but we learn how to speak a language. Learning changes the brain: Existing bonds between neurons —nerve cells that send messages signalling everything from breathing to thinking— are strengthened while new pathways between neurons are developed. Repeated exposure to an activity, like knitting or driving a car, strengthens these connections, and thus, we learn.

As we get older and we are no longer exposed to organized classroom settings, acquiring fresh knowledge holds value. Studies have suggested that learning later in life may preserve our ability to acquire knowledge, reason, and manipulate information. “I think you can broadly say,” Bergstrom says, “that new learning over long periods of time is likely going to improve cognition as you age.”

Learning new life skills in a technology-based world helps people remain independent, says Rachel Wu, an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Riverside. “If you don’t know how to do online banking and you don’t live near a bank,” she says, “you have to rely on somebody else to handle your money for you. If you don’t know how to use a smartphone, a lot of options are closed to you.”

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7.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 44a-47a.

- 44a. According to Hadley Bergstrom, learning is different from memory as it involves
 - A. storing information for later use.
 - B. gaining information through practice.
 - C. understanding of new concepts and ideas.
- 45a. According to the text, how does learning impact the brain?
 - A. It weakens existing neuronal connections.
 - B. It increases the retention of isolated facts.
 - C. It opens up new routes for information flow.
- 46a. What does the text suggest about the role of experience in learning?
 - A. It is essential for memory but not for learning.
 - B. It is crucial for both memory and learning.
 - C. It is irrelevant to both memory and learning.
- 47a. According to Rachel Wu, learning new life skills in a technology-based world
 - A. helps individuals maintain their autonomy.
 - B. decreases cognitive function in older people.
 - C. benefits only the young generation.

7.3 What do the words in italics mean? Choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 48a-50a.

- 48a. There is a distinction between *committing* facts to memory and learning.
 - A. retaining
 - B. ignoring
 - C. understanding
- 49a. As we get older and we are no longer exposed to organized classroom settings, acquiring fresh knowledge *holds value*.
 - A. becomes irrelevant.
 - B. is important.
 - C. requires effort.
- 50a. Studies have suggested that learning later in life may *preserve* our ability to acquire knowledge.
 - A. decrease
 - B. maintain
 - C. change

PART B - SHORT ANSWERS

ACTIVITY 1

Fill in gaps 1b-5b with the most appropriate word. Use each word only once.

Once there was a little ant named Andy who lived in a busy anthill. Andy loved exploring and often went far (1b) ____ home. One day, he found a delicious piece of candy (2b) ____ the ground. Excited, he tried to carry it back to the anthill, but it was too big for him.



Instead (3b) ____ trying to find some help, Andy decided to keep pulling the candy alone. After trying for hours, Andy became tired and frustrated. Suddenly, he heard a voice. It was his friend, Annie the ant, who had come (4b) ____ help him. Together, they carried the candy back to the anthill. Andy learned that it's okay to ask (5b) ____ help when things are too difficult. With teamwork, they enjoyed the candy together!

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) Computers **p**_____ information at incredible speeds, facilitating efficient and effective handling of data.
b) Regular exercise and a balanced diet can slow down the **p**_____ of ageing and promote overall well-being.
-
- 7b. a) They made a profitable **d**_____ to sell the land to a property developer, aiming to benefit financially while also improving the local facilities.
b) He had to **d**_____ with a problem at home when the plumbing suddenly failed, resulting in water pouring out of burst pipes and flooding the kitchen floor;
-
- 8b. a) The annual science fair will take **p**_____ next month at the local community center; students from the area will display their innovative projects and experiments.
b) He decided to **p**_____ an advertisement in the local paper, hoping to attract more customers to his newly opened bakery.
-
- 9b. a) He is still **f**_____ a bit weak after the surgery; his body needs more time to regain its strength and vitality.
b) As he was walking down the street in the middle of the night, he had the **f**_____ that he was being followed.
-
- 10b. a) People forget to wash their hands and that plays a **p**_____ in spreading colds and flu.
b) Exercise has become **p**_____ of my daily routine, not only helping me stay physically fit but also uplifting my mood.

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