

Part 1

For questions **1 – 8**, read the text below and decide which answer (**A**, **B**, **C** or **D**) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (**0**).

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Example:

0 **A** sight **B** viewed **C** seen **D** visual

Example:

0	D
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Sign languages

People have been using sign languages for thousands of years. These **(0)** languages are made up of gestures, hand signs and finger spelling, which **(1)** letters of the alphabet. Signs are also used to **(2)** not only individual words but phrases and concepts, too.

(3) of sign language date back to around the fifth century BCE, though it has **(4)** impossible to identify the 'first' sign language. Although early documents show only the finger spelling systems which allowed users to transfer oral language to signing, such **(5)** of communication have in fact developed naturally, with their own grammars and vocabularies.

While British and American sign languages are **(6)** recognised, and used not only by deaf people but those who are unable to produce spoken language, evidence shows that there are in the **(7)** of 200 different languages in **(8)** around the world. Wherever there are deaf communities, there are sign languages, too.

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|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1 | A displays | B copies | C represents | D describes |
| 2 | A communicate | B exhibit | C interpret | D explain |
| 3 | A Details | B Registers | C Cases | D Records |
| 4 | A confirmed | B proved | C established | D resulted |
| 5 | A approaches | B techniques | C manners | D methods |
| 6 | A broadly | B widely | C highly | D deeply |
| 7 | A region | B field | C zone | D location |
| 8 | A life | B presence | C existence | D reality |

Part 2

For questions **9 – 16**, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only **one** word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning **(0)**.

Write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet**.

Example:

0

THE

The art of origami

Origami, or paper folding, is an ancient art form, thought to be around two thousand years old. It relates to **(0)** folding of paper carried out in order to create two- and three-dimensional models of objects, both geometrical shapes **(9)** those seen in nature. The word *origami* is **(10)** Japanese origin (from *oru* meaning to fold, and *kami* meaning paper) and this creative pastime **(11)** most strongly associated with Japan.

Paper-folding traditions **(12)** long existed independently around the world, most commonly in China and Europe. The techniques involved in the process vary according **(13)** cultural preferences: cuts and the use of glue are perfectly acceptable in some cultures, whereas experts in ‘true’ Japanese origami prefer to avoid such methods.

Origami is **(14)** just practised for decorative purposes but has uses in other areas of life, too, including manufacturing. Folding materials makes them stronger **(15)** maintaining lightness, and the applications can **(16)** seen in everything from juice cartons to aircraft panels.

Part 3

For questions **17 – 24**, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap **in the same line**. There is an example at the beginning (**0**).

Write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet**.

Example:

0	SIMPLY
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How eating well can save water

New research indicates that each individual could reduce their water footprint by

up to 55%, **(0)** by changing what they eat.

SIMPLE

Many people are **(17)** that huge quantities of water are used in the

AWARE

(18) of oils, fats and sugars, whereas growing fruit and vegetables uses

PRODUCE

a much lower amount of the resource which is crucial for our **(19)**

SURVIVE

What this means is that by consuming fewer **(20)** foods, everyone is able

PROCESS

to join in and do their bit in the **(21)** of the planet's freshwater sources.

CONSERVE

In the UK alone, the water footprint from food consumption is an **(22)**

BELIEVE

2,757 litres per person per day! Eating a little less meat makes a **(23)**

SIGNIFY

difference, and by replacing it with fish or pulses, such as peas or beans, water

consumption can be reduced by 33–35%. But it is becoming vegetarian which

provides the greatest rewards, with a water **(24)** of between 35 and 55%.

SAVE

It's time to get healthy and save our planet.

Part 4

For questions **25 – 30**, 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 'How long have you been working at the bank?' my friend asked.

WANTED

My friend how long I had been working at the bank.

The gap can be filled by the words 'wanted to know', so you write:

Example:

0	WANTED TO KNOW
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Write **only** the missing words **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

25 I'm sure it was dark when you got up at five this morning.

MUST

It dark when you got up at five this morning.

26 Don't bother having a snack now as we're about to have dinner.

POINT

There having a snack now as we're about to have dinner.

27 I only gave you a new phone for your birthday because I thought it's what you wanted.

WOULD

I you a new phone for your birthday if I'd thought you didn't want it.

28 If you do the washing, I'll clean the kitchen.

THAT

I'll clean the kitchen you do the washing.

29 They've cancelled the match today, so they'll try again next week.

CALLED

The match today, so they'll try again next week.

30 It was a bad idea to go out without a coat because I caught a cold.

OUGHT

I out without a coat because I caught a cold.

Part 5

You are going to read an article about robots. For questions **31 – 36**, 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**.

The rise and rise of robots

For a long time, people have wondered about the possibility of having a personal robot at home, doing the chores, running errands and even, perhaps, providing company. Some scientists predict that it will be at least 2050 before robotic household assistants become a reality, while others argue that ‘smart home’ technology already exists in the form of things like fridges which create grocery lists, or heating and lighting that can be controlled remotely. This, the latter group argues, could mean that the idea of a humanoid robot living in our homes may already be obsolete and may never happen at all.

Only time will tell, but what we do know is that robots are already firmly established in the workplace, particularly as part of industrial processes and manufacturing. There, they can ensure the safety of human workers by performing tasks that would be dangerous to them, such as the handling of corrosive acids or materials which are very hot. They can do monotonous tasks, move heavy items from place to place, and are precise, consistent and efficient.

So, is it true, as some people suggest, that ‘the robots are taking our jobs’? Some jobs, yes, but professions such as web design and vlogging didn’t exist until relatively recently, so new kinds of jobs we can’t even imagine yet are bound to arise. And while the robots do the dull stuff in factories, like cutting metal or packaging products, their human counterparts are freed up to carry out jobs only a human brain is so far capable of dealing with. Undoubtedly, artificial intelligence (AI) and robots will be incorporated into more and more jobs in

the future. However, humans will still be required in roles such as teaching and medicine, but parts of those jobs will become automated. Machines can be incredibly accurate in terms of diagnosing disease, for example, though we’ll still need a doctor to explain the diagnosis to us.

What about robots taking over the world, as several books and films have suggested? Will AI robots act against us? It’s still a hypothetical scenario, say experts. But there is little doubt that AI will become integrated into our daily lives the way, say, electricity has. When was the last time you even thought about the wonder of electricity? We assume it will always work, whatever we’re doing, whether that is fetching a cold drink from the fridge or charging our mobile phones in a matter of minutes. It’s simply a part of life that we take for granted, just as AI will be eventually, too.

Comparing AI with electricity may seem unremarkable. Yet electricity revolutionised our lives a little over a hundred years ago and had an enormous effect on everything we did. A lot of the technology for robots and AI already exists, so adopting AI at work and in our homes will be a far more rapid process than it was for electricity. At first, experts say, it will seem astonishing, just as being able to read by lamplight rather than candles was so exciting to people in the early part of the twentieth century. But we will adapt, and before long wonder how we managed without AI. And just as electricity extended the day, giving us additional hours for work and leisure, so too, might AI and robots.

- 31** What is the writer doing in the first paragraph?
- A** providing reasons why home robots do not yet exist
 - B** presenting opposing arguments about home robots
 - C** explaining why people hope to obtain a home robot
 - D** describing how robots have already entered our homes
- 32** What does *obsolete* mean in line 12?
- A** overlooked
 - B** forgotten
 - C** pushed aside
 - D** outdated
- 33** What does *them* refer to in line 19?
- A** robots in the workplace
 - B** industrial processes and manufacturing
 - C** human workers
 - D** acids and hot materials
- 34** What point is made in the third paragraph?
- A** New kinds of automation will be developed for what it cannot currently do.
 - B** There are elements of some jobs that robots will not be able to do.
 - C** AI will eventually take over from humans in the majority of jobs.
 - D** More jobs will be created specifically for robots to do.
- 35** In the fourth and fifth paragraphs, the writer compares AI to electricity in order to point out
- A** how quickly it will be accepted.
 - B** how incredible the technology is.
 - C** how much of our lives it will affect.
 - D** how common this kind of change is.
- 36** In the text as a whole, the writer is
- A** questioning the likelihood of robots being integrated into our daily lives.
 - B** promoting the benefits of artificial intelligence and robots to readers.
 - C** encouraging readers to consider adopting the use of robots.
 - D** expressing doubt about the ultimate capacity of robots.

Part 6

You are going to read an article about climbing Mount Everest. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A – G** the one which fits each gap (**37 – 42**). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Climbing Everest

Known as Sagarmatha in Nepal and Chomolungma in Tibet, the two land masses it sits across, Mount Everest is the tallest mountain in the world, and one many climbers aspire to ascend.

Why do people want to climb Mount Everest? In many cases the answer is, as one of the first British mountaineers to attempt the climb said, 'Because it's there'. Everest is accessible, and although it's the highest, many mountaineers believe it is not the most challenging mountain in the world to climb.

37 These include unpredictable weather and the effects of altitude on the human body, especially in the last few hundred metres to the top.

Although a significant number of climbers have failed to return from the mountain, and many never reach the top, around 600 people do so every year.

38 That may not sound like many in a whole year, but the climbing season on Everest is short, taking place over a few weeks in spring, and again in autumn.

39 Each mountaineer must acquire a climbing permit from the Nepalese government, at a cost of \$11,000, in addition to other fees. Then, there are the obligatory guides to hire, travel and equipment costs, and weeks of food to pay for. The entire climb can take between six and eight weeks, including an acclimatization period, and there's nowhere to stock up if you don't have enough supplies.

The first port of call is Base Camp, where climbers stay for at least several days getting used to the lower levels of oxygen in the air. Subsequently, climbers move upwards and downwards between a further four camps beyond Base Camp until they are ready to attempt the final ascent to the peak. **40**

Keeping a close eye on weather reports is essential, and climbers look out for an approaching period of four or five days of stable weather. This is known as 'the window' and is the only time when attempts to reach the summit should be made.

There is a further drawback, however. Many expeditions set off at the same time, to ensure a safe climb, and this can create queues. Some climbers have waited two and a half hours to continue their ascent! The problem with this is not just that it's boring – and very cold – but that time is of the essence. **41** Therefore, climbers must turn around if they are unlikely to have enough to reach the summit – and get back down safely from it.

In order to deal with the problems of overcrowding and accidents on Everest, the government of Nepal is imposing new restrictions on who can make the climb. **42** Solo climbing is now prohibited and climbers must try to prove they are at peak physical fitness before setting off. Yet, despite all the very sensible reasons for not attempting the climb, the temptation to stand at the top of the world is overwhelming for those who just can't stay away.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>A What's more, climbing Everest is a bit of a 'luxury'.</p> | <p>E This is around half of those who attempt to make it to the summit.</p> |
| <p>B Avalanches and earthquakes are amongst the causes.</p> | <p>F Oxygen tanks, which the majority of climbers use to complete the final stretch of their journey, run out.</p> |
| <p>C However, it remains one of the most dangerous for several reasons.</p> | <p>G But even when the body is as prepared as it possibly can be, the conditions must be right.</p> |
| <p>D These rule out anyone under the age of 18, for example.</p> | |

Part 7

You are going to read four reviews of apps which are useful for learning a language. For questions **43 – 52**, choose from the people (**A – D**). The people may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Which app

does not require a lot of time to complete language learning tasks? **43**

allows users to communicate with each other? **44**

would not be of much use to someone who has been learning a language for a long time? **45**

would suit someone who is not too worried about grammatical accuracy? **46**

is suited to those who enjoy a related activity? **47**

is compared to another method of learning? **48**

helps learners acquire useful language for holidays? **49**

does not appear to be particularly sophisticated? **50**

allows users to measure themselves against others? **51**

has an especially relaxing feature? **52**

Language learning apps

Here are this week's reviews of four of the best

A Remember it

Remember it is a light-hearted app which will help you remember tricky vocabulary. All you need to do is type in a category and a level, such as 'food' and 'beginner', and you'll have instant access to a range of fun exercises. If you're a gamer then this is definitely the app for you, as you'll learn through 'play'. There's even a point scoring system, so you can compare your progress with other language 'players'. Adding a competitive element to your learning will increase your motivation and improve your memory through training. As a language learner, you already know that repetition is the key. This app has a setting which will let you know when it's time to revise your knowledge. The only drawback appears to be the limited range of games available at a higher level, so if you're a more advanced language learner, you might want to look elsewhere.

B Grammarwise

If grammar's the thing you struggle with in language classes then *Grammarwise* could be the app for you. With a comprehensive range of grammar explanations, followed by short exercises to complete, this app covers everything from sentence structure to conditionals. The advantage is that you can learn 'on the go': information is provided in bite-sized chunks, so that you can even work on a grammar point on your way to the office! There's always a downside, and with this app it's a lack of adequate practice, making it more suitable for revising what you already know than starting from scratch. The exercise types are a little repetitive, and the overall look is fairly basic, but if your main focus is learning, and you aren't worried about fancy graphics or highly interactive features, then you won't go too far wrong with this helpful app.

C Multilingua

Multilingua offers the most extensive selection of languages, ranging from English and Spanish, to Chinese and Arabic. There's a dictionary and translator, as well as a wide range of word games and other tasks to help you learn. The 'listen and repeat' feature is a great pronunciation tool and you can even put your feet up and listen to stories in the language you're studying (warning: the soothing voices might just send you to sleep!). The app looks smart, works fast, and has become popular in a short space of time, due to its appeal to teenagers and adults alike. While there is plentiful practice of words and useful phrases you need to get by when travelling, the grammar section is sadly lacking, focusing mainly on verb tenses and parts of speech, such as adjectives and adverbs. Despite this, it's a great way to acquire natural language fast, which is fine for the more casual user.

D Language bites

Forget reading, writing and grammar for a moment. *Language bites* is all about conversation and allows you to make contact with expert speakers in real time, through voice or text. This makes for a perfect language exchange: spend five minutes chatting in French, then switch to Japanese, so you both get a chance to practise and correct each other. It's like a series of mini lessons but much more fun! There are other features, too, such as the in-built correction tool and a voice translator – for when you just can't think of a word fast enough. There's also a vocabulary builder, which has a stack of quick-to-play word games. You can time yourself, too, which focuses your attention. Unlike the other apps, this one is not free to download, but for a small fee, you'll soon be chatting away in your new language with your new friends – just as an expert speaker would.