



University of Kelaniya - Sri Lanka
Centre of Distance and Continuing Education
Bachelor of Arts Degree First Examination (External) – 2023
CBEN 18213 – English for Humanities and Social Sciences

No of questions: 04

Total marks: 80%

Time: 3 hours

Index No:

Answer all questions on this paper.

Question No.	Marks	
	Examiner 01	Examiner 02
01		
02		
03		
04		
Total (80%)		

1. Reading comprehension (20%)

A) Passage 1

Read the following text and answer the given questions. (2 mark × 6 – 12 marks)

Digital habits across generations

Today's grandparents are joining their grandchildren on social media, but the different generations' online habits couldn't be more different. In the UK, the over-55s are joining Facebook in increasing numbers, meaning that they will soon be the site's second biggest user group, with 3.5 million users aged 55–64 and 2.9 million over-65s.

Sheila, aged 59, says, 'I joined to see what my grandchildren are doing, as my daughter posts videos and photos of them. It's a much better way to see what they're doing than waiting for letters and photos in the post. That's how we did it when I was a child, but I think I'm lucky I get to see so much more of their lives than my grandparents did.'

Ironically, Sheila's grandchildren are less likely to use Facebook themselves. Children under 17 in the UK are leaving the site – only 2.2 million users are under 17 – but they're not going far from their smartphones. Chloe, aged 15, even sleeps with her phone. 'It's my alarm clock, so I have to,' she says. 'I look at it before I go to sleep and as soon as I wake up.'

Unlike her grandmother's generation, Chloe's age group is spending so much time on their phones at home that they miss out on spending time with their friends in real life. Sheila, on the other hand, has made contact with old friends from school she hasn't heard from in forty years. 'We use Facebook to arrange to meet all over the country,' she says. 'It's changed my social life completely.'

Teenagers might have their parents to thank for their smartphone and social media addiction, as their parents were the early adopters of the smartphone. Peter, 38 and father of two teenagers, reports that he used to be on his phone or laptop constantly. 'I was always connected, and I felt like I was always working,' he says. 'How could I tell my kids to get off their phones if I was always in front of a screen myself?' So, in the evenings and at weekends, he takes his SIM card out of his smartphone and puts it into an old-style mobile phone that can only make calls and send text messages. 'I'm not completely cut off from the world in case of emergencies, but the important thing is I'm setting a better example to my kids and spending more quality time with them.'

Is it only a matter of time before Peter, the generation above and below, catches up with the new trend of a less digital life?

Source: <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/skills/reading/b1-reading/digital-habits-across-generations>

Are these sentences true or false? If true write 'T' and if false write 'F'.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. More people aged 55 or more use Facebook than people aged 65 or more. | |
| 2. Grandparents typically use Facebook less than their grandchildren. | |
| 3. Sheila feels grateful to social media. | |
| 4. Peter found that his own smartphone use affected how he felt about how much his children used their phones. | |
| 5. Peter has changed how much he uses his phone during the working day. | |
| 6. Peter feels that the changes make him a better parent. | |

B) Passage II

Read the passage and then answer all the questions below. (1 mark × 8 – 8 marks)

Why bridges collapse

Some of the biggest and most expensive transportation projects in the world have involved building bridges. Bridges are crucial links that carry cars, trucks and trains across bodies of water, mountain gorges or other roads. As a result, they are one of the most important aspects of civil engineering and are subject to intense scrutiny, especially when they collapse.

Bridge collapses can be tragic events, leading to loss of life and serious property damage. That's why bridge engineers, designers and builders must always take their jobs very seriously. The best way for them to prevent these accidents is to understand why bridges collapse in the first place. Understanding bridge collapses can lead to major changes in the design, construction and safety of future building projects. The following are the main reasons why bridges fall.

Fire

Historically, more bridges were made of wood and were much more susceptible to fire. This was particularly true of old-fashioned train bridges, where the spark created by the steel wheel and steel tracks could sometimes cause a bridge to catch fire and burn to the ground.

During construction

A large number of bridge accidents occur during the construction of the bridge itself. These accidents are often due to errors made by engineers, such as miscalculations. The bridge collapses under its own weight, and this can be deadly for the workers on it at the time.

Earthquakes

Earthquakes damage all structures, including bridges. Luckily, this kind of collapse is relatively infrequent, especially with modern bridges. Engineers have learned to design bridges in earthquake zones in areas that are much more resistant to movement.

By defect

Some bridge collapses are mysteries, and engineers only realize why after they conduct a complete investigation. In some cases, this could happen because inferior-quality material was used in the construction, or because of a defect in a key piece of the bridge. In other cases, the bridge was designed only to support a certain amount of weight and no more.

Boat or train crash

Both of these kinds of accidents are extremely rare, but boats and trains can cause a bridge to collapse for different reasons. With trains, it's the velocity of the impact that can bring a bridge down. With boats, it's the very large mass they have that can bring about collapse, even if they are moving very slowly when it occurs.

The best way to avoid bridge failures is to plan for them. Modern technologies that can detect structural weaknesses, safer working environments and better designs can all help to reduce these terrible accidents.

Source: <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/skills/reading/b2-reading/why-bridges-collapse>

Underline the correct answer.

1. Why are bridges considered so important according to the article?

- a. They are important parts of a transportation network.
- b. They cost a lot of money.
- c. When they collapse it's a serious problem.

2. How can the people who make bridges stop collapse?

- a. By studying for longer at university
- b. By asking engineering experts to check their work
- c. By studying the reasons for a collapse

3. Which of the following reasons is given as the cause of a bridge catching fire?

- a. A lightning strike
- b. The contact between train tracks and train wheels
- c. The extreme heat of a train

4. Which is an example of an error during construction?
 - a. The bridge catches fire.
 - b. A mistake is made in the calculations.
 - c. There is a natural disaster.
5. How common is it for an earthquake to destroy a bridge?
 - a. Very common in earthquake zones
 - b. Relatively common
 - c. Relatively uncommon
6. Which of the following is not mentioned as a defect in bridge construction?
 - a. A badly made part
 - b. Inexperienced designers or engineers
 - c. Poor-quality materials
7. How does a train cause a bridge to collapse?
 - a. By being too heavy for a bridge to support
 - b. By being very big
 - c. By hitting a bridge very fast
8. What role can modern technology have in reducing bridge accidents?
 - a. It can detect weak spots in the construction.
 - b. It can stop human error.
 - c. It can select higher-quality materials.

2. Grammar (30%)

A) Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate preposition from the two choices given.

(1 mark × 10 = 10 marks)

1. She is very good (at / in) painting.
2. The cat jumped (onto / into) the table.

3. We arrived (at /to) the station just in time.
4. He is interested (in /on) learning French.
5. I will meet you (on /at) Monday morning.
6. The book is (on / over) the shelf.
7. He walked (through / across) the park to get home.
8. They have been living here (since/for) 2010.
9. The children ran (into/onto) the playground.
10. She is afraid (of/from) spiders.

B) Write the appropriate question for each response given below. (1 mark × 10 – 10 marks)

1.

I go to school **by bicycle**.

2.

My father **works in a bank**.

3.

We **played football** yesterday.

4.

We **met at a conference in 2019**.

5.

We will go to the **zoo tomorrow**.

6.

The **documents are on the manager's desk**.

7.

We'll be **arriving around 7:30 p.m.**

8.

I've been studying English for five years.

9.

They are watching TV now.

10.

No, they haven't finished their homework yet.

C) Write down the most suitable form of the verb given within brackets to complete the sentences. (1 mark × 10 – 10 marks)

1. She usually (go) to the library after school.
2. I (watch) a movie when you called me.
3. They (not finish) their homework yet.
4. We (be) in Colombo last weekend.
5. He (play) football every Sunday.
6. Look! The baby (sleep).
7. My parents (buy) a new car last month.
8. I (live) in this village since 2015.
9. If she studies hard, she (pass) the exam.
10. The children (make) a lot of noise right now!

3.Vocabulary (10%)

Choose the most appropriate word and fill in the blanks. (1 mark × 10 – 10 marks)

(senior citizens | sanitation engineer | server | maintenance-hole | curriculum | assignment | hearing impaired | humankind | revision | physically challenged)

1. The teacher gave us a history to finish by Friday.
2. Workers checked the after the rain to prevent flooding.

3. The university changed its to include new language courses.
4. At lunch, the took our order with a smile.
5. The helps keep our town clean and healthy.
6. The theatre added subtitles so people can enjoy the movie.
7. In the morning, many come to the park to exercise.
8. The new sports centre has special equipment for students.
9. Before the test, we always do some to remember our lessons.
10. Protecting forests and animals is the duty of all

4. Writing (20%)

Select one topic from the given list and write an essay. (Approximately 250 words)

1. The Importance of Good Manners
2. Why We Should Protect the Environment?
3. The Advantages and Disadvantages of Online Learning