



جامعة بيروت العربية  
BEIRUT ARAB UNIVERSITY

## **English Language Entrance Exam**

### **Guidelines:**

The English Language Entrance Exam consists of 100 questions distributed among four sections. The Reading Comprehension Section is made up of 30 questions that deal with skimming, scanning, drawing conclusions and inferences, and detecting the author's purpose among others. The Vocabulary Section consists of 20 questions whereas the Language Focus has 30 questions that tackle the various syntactic and structural components of the language. The Writing Section consists of 20 questions related to error recognition, paragraph details and sentence completion.

The language skills tested in the exam are based on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) standards. The skills employed in each part are specified based on the competencies required to be present in the English language learner at a certain linguistic level.

The exam employs the cognitive abilities which depend mainly on the thinking skills represented by understanding, analysis, synthesis, application, critical thinking and evaluation among others.

## **Section I: Reading Comprehension**

***I. In this section, you will read some short passages followed by some questions. Choose the word or words that best complete the sentence or answer the question.***

### **Passage 1: Finding the Right Career**

Whether you're looking for your first job, unhappy in your present job, sure about what job you want, or unsure about your choices, a career counselor can help. A career counselor can help you decide which career path to choose, which jobs you should look for to get on that path, and how your skills or personality traits fit with certain careers. The field of career counseling developed in the 1940s in the U.S. A researcher saw that people's desire for personal and career development were connected as they made career choices. In other words, a job isn't just a job - people want to be happy and fulfilled in their jobs. Today, career counseling is a huge field, and counselors have many tools to help you find a career that's right for you. Personality tests, surveys of your interests, and skill evaluations are just a few of these tools. Knowing what you're good at and what your personality traits say about you can be helpful as you search for a job. And counselors can have many contacts in many fields. These important contacts can help you find the job you want. Who knows? Maybe you'll even become a career counselor!

1. How did the field of career counseling start?
  - a. A researcher found that people wanted to be happy in their jobs.
  - b. A researcher saw that people wanted to look for jobs.
  - c. A researcher found that personality tests made people happy.
2. What tools do counselors have to help you find the right career?
  - a. Interest surveys and personality traits
  - b. Skill evaluations and personality tests
  - c. Job contacts and field testing

### **Passage 2: An East/West Success**

Ang Lee is one of the most talented and influential film directors in the world. He was born in 1954 in Taiwan, graduated from the National Taiwan College of Arts in 1975, and then moved to the United States to study film production. When he was 38 years old, he won a contest and directed his first feature film, *Pushing Hands*, about a Chinese Tai Chi teacher who moves to the United States to live with his son in New York. His most famous movie to date is *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, a fascinating film set in 17th-century China that featured traditional Chinese martial arts. But Lee is not just famous for his work in Chinese. The English-language movie *Sense and Sensibility* adapted from the classic book by Jane Austen was widely praised by critics as an outstanding film. It received seven Academy Award nominations. Many say that this movie won Lee the respect of Hollywood as a director who could make any movie. Today, Lee can choose his own film scripts. He is equally comfortable in Taiwan as he is in Hollywood. He likes to challenge himself with different types of films, such as the movie about the cartoon hero, *The Hulk*. When asked about the future, he says, "I can make movies forever."

3. What film is Ang Lee best known for?
  - a. Hulk
  - b. Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
  - c. Pushing Hands
4. What movie made Ang Lee a respected Hollywood director?
  - a. Hulk
  - b. Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
  - c. Sense and Sensibility

### Passage 3: Unwanted E-mail

Unfortunately, most of us are familiar with spam. Spam is e-mail that fills up your inbox with messages you don't want. Commercial spam comes from companies that are trying to sell you products and services. Most spam looks like it's from someone you know. The subject line looks friendly - It can say "Hi, or 'What's up?'" When you open it, however, it's an advertisement. Experts say that you should never reply to commercial spam, even if you are asking to be taken off the company's mailing list. Your reply shows that your address belongs to someone. Companies can then sell your address to other spammers, and you will receive even more spam. Another type of spam is becoming more common. Do you have a friend or relative who sends you e-mails all the time, but when you open them, there's no personal message? All you find are jokes or stories that have been forwarded from some other person - you are just one in a long list of recipients. Some people forward things to everyone in their address book. This is called personal spam, and it can be just as annoying as commercial spam. What should you do about this unwanted e-mail? Well, nothing. If you reply to commercial spam, you risk getting even more spam. And if you tell your friend to stop sending you 10 messages a day, you risk losing a friend. The best thing to do about unwanted e-mail? Simply delete it.

5. How do companies get you to open spam?
  - a. They ask someone you know to send it.
  - b. They make the subject line appear friendly.
  - c. They put advertisements in it.
6. Should you reply to commercial spam?
  - a. Yes, you should ask to be taken off the mailing list.
  - b. Yes, you should give them your address.
  - c. No, you should never reply to commercial spam.
7. What is personal spam?
  - a. E-mail from a friend that contains jokes but no personal message
  - b. E-mail from companies that are trying to sell you something
  - c. Personal e-mail from a family member

### Passage 4: Language Learning

Most people agree that learning a second or third language is a good thing. Knowing another language can provide opportunities such as better job possibilities and the ability to study abroad. Experts say that encouraging language skills early develops skills in other areas such as math and music. Some evidence suggests that people with increased language skills are able to solve complex problems more easily. To learn another language best, you should start as early as possible - even as soon as you're born! Experts say that from the years from birth through age 10 is the best time to start learning a new language. Children learn languages faster, remember them better, and can learn to speak them with native pronunciation. Research indicates that a young child through age 5 can learn and process up to five languages. But how should a new language be taught? Many experts agree that for very young children, a bilingual approach is best. This means teaching a second language along with the native language from birth. One parent can speak one language to the child while the other parent speaks another, or both parents can speak both languages. For example, an English-speaking parent can point to a cat and say "cat". The Spanish-speaking parent can then say "gato." Reading aloud, watching videos, and listening to music in both languages are also good ways to expose a child to another language.

8. What is a benefit of learning another language?
  - a. Knowing math and music
  - b. Starting early
  - c. Better job possibilities
9. When is the best time to learn a new language?
  - a. At age 5
  - b. From age 5 to 10
  - c. From birth to age 10
10. What is the best way to teach a second language to a young child?
  - a. Reading aloud
  - b. Using a bilingual approach
  - c. Watching videos

**II. Which of the sentences below expresses the essential information in the given sentence? Circle the best answer.**

1. Far more devastating for the author than the loss of his house to fire was the destruction of the sole copy of his latest novel.
  - a. In his latest book, the author tells of the pain he suffered when he lost his home in a devastating fire.
  - b. Even the destruction of his home in the fire was not as hard for the author to bear as the burning of the manuscript of his new novel.
  - c. The only thing the author was able to rescue from the flames which destroyed his home was the sole copy of his latest book.
  - d. Even more difficult for the author than writing a single book was seeing it destroyed when his house burnt down.
2. Without his help, the job would have been impossible.
  - a. Even though he was very helpful, we were still unable to complete the project.
  - b. Since he wasn't able to give us a hand, we didn't believe we would be able to finish the job.
  - c. There's no way the task could have been done if he had not provided assistance.
  - d. The assignment proved quite easy, even though he refused to give us aid.
3. Having arrived at the church, Martin sat down at the front listening to the music.
  - a. After martin had arrived at the church, he heard a lovely music at the front.
  - b. After he had arrived at the church, Martin sat down at the front and listened to the music.
  - c. In order to sit down at the front and listen to the music he arrived at the church early.
  - d. At the church Martin wanted to listen to the music so he arrived at the church early.
4. Despite the difference in the political ideas, decisions were taken by consensus.
  - a. Although there were different political ideas, most of the members accepted the idea.
  - b. In spite of the different political ideas, they all used their votes.
  - c. They forced the politicians to take decisions together.
  - d. Although there were different political ideas, all of the members accepted the ideas.
5. Problems never seem quite so bad if we can see the funny sides of them.
  - a. You can solve your problems even if they seem so bad.
  - b. Although the problems which you face are so bad you can see the funny sides of them.
  - c. If we can find something funny with our problems, they never seem so bad.
  - d. When we confront with problems we must laugh at them.

**Section II: Vocabulary**

***Circle the correct answer.***

1. Brian, stop \_\_\_\_\_ Web sites and do your homework!
  - a. browsing
  - b. looking
  - c. clicking
2. Mandy bought a big new \_\_\_\_\_. It looks like my television!
  - a. mouse
  - b. monitor
  - c. keyboard
3. People who lose weight \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. often feel better about themselves
  - b. get requests for loans from friends
  - c. feel safer in their homes
4. A: Carmen gives money to every homeless person she meets.  
B: Really? I didn't know she was so \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. creative
  - b. level-headed
  - c. generous
5. Can I borrow \$10? = Can you \_\_\_\_\_ me \$10?
  - a. save
  - b. accept
  - c. lend

6. Manuel is very funny. He's always \_\_\_\_\_ jokes.
- expressing
  - telling
  - offering
7. Please allow me to offer my \_\_\_\_\_ on the recent death of your grandfather.
- sympathy
  - reason
  - apology
8. \_\_\_\_\_ people don't like to give money or things away to other people.
- Stingy
  - Generous
  - Modest
9. A: I left you three messages. Why didn't you \_\_\_\_\_ my phone calls?  
B: I'm sorry. I wasn't home over the weekend.
- return
  - refuse
  - ask for
10. The completion of the Panama Canal was a great \_\_\_\_\_ of technology over nature.
- triumph
  - mystery
  - disaster

### **Section III: Language Use**

*Choose the word or words that best complete each sentence.*

1. A: Where are you \_\_\_\_\_ for your vacation? B: We'll probably go to Athens.
- will go
  - going to
  - going to go
2. Do I \_\_\_\_\_ carry my passport with me in Mexico?
- must
  - have to
  - ought to
3. Believe it or not, I even use my computer \_\_\_\_\_ bills.
- to pay
  - pay
  - pays
4. In the Caribbean Sea, autumn is \_\_\_\_\_ terrible storms can develop.
- the season when
  - a season of
  - the time of
5. When we lived near the ocean, our family \_\_\_\_\_ to the beach every summer.
- were going
  - used to go
  - did go
6. If you marry the right person, \_\_\_\_\_ happy for the rest of your life.
- you've been
  - you'll be
  - you'd be
7. A: I enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ out once a week. B: So do I.
- eating
  - eat
  - to eat
8. A: This food is terrible. B: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm not good \_\_\_\_\_ cooking.
- at
  - on
  - for

9. I \_\_\_\_\_ an injection by the nurse.
- am giving
  - was given
  - gave
10. I \_\_\_\_\_ a haircut when I heard that my brother was in the hospital.
- got
  - was getting
  - had gotten
11. I was writing an essay on the kitchen table when I \_\_\_\_\_ coffee on it.
- am spilling
  - spilled
  - was spilling
12. My trip to Hawaii was \_\_\_\_\_. I feel completely rested now.
- annoying
  - annoyed
  - relaxing
13. I'm reading a novel, but it is really hard to understand. I'm really \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- confused
  - confusing
  - confused by
14. A: What would your mother say if you dyed your hair green?  
B: If I dyed my hair green, my mother \_\_\_\_\_ scream.
- must
  - could
  - would
15. A: I failed my English test. What should I have done differently?  
B: You \_\_\_\_\_ harder and longer.
- should have studied
  - should study
  - would have studied
16. Original request: "Don't chew gum in class."  
Reported request: The teacher said \_\_\_\_\_ gum in class.
- not chew
  - not to chew
  - to chew
17. Direct statement: "I'm very happy."  
Reported statement: Mary said \_\_\_\_\_ very happy.
- that she has been
  - that she is being
  - that she was
18. My Toyota is a car \_\_\_\_\_ never have to worry about.
- that
  - I
  - who I
19. I don't mind \_\_\_\_\_ a friend borrows my notes.
- that when
  - it when
  - it
20. \_\_\_\_\_ of a big family is a full-time job.
- Taking care
  - Take care
  - Taken care

## **Section IV: Writing**

### ***I. Circle the letter next to the sentence that contains an error in grammar or usage.***

1.
  - a. It's a confining day for people whose interests are to be outside in nature altogether with their friends.
  - b. The principal likes best students whose ideas come across clearly whether they're under pressure or not.
  - c. I hate it every time I lose my money, my shoelaces get loose, or when I wholly misunderstand what the professor is trying to convey.
  - e. I am quite quiet when I am in peace and everyone around me is stationary.
  
2.
  - a. Don't go out of my sight until I know the kidnappers are not there, and that they're not in their car anymore.
  - b. Between the three of you, don't you think persecution is a cruel thing to do?
  - c. If you can effect a change on this person and affect him positively, the effect you'll have produced will be incredible.
  - d. Besides her wit, when you sit beside her, have you lately felt any changes in her personality?
  
3.
  - a. His hopes have risen by the fact that, despite his low grades, his class attendance and participation were enviable.
  - b. The flag was risen every day by the soldiers for a number of hours.
  - c. The less he tried, the worse he felt, and the more helpless he became.
  - d. I will lend you my calculator if, after you borrow it, you don't leave it in your office or let anyone take it.

### ***II. In the following paragraph, some of the underlined parts contain mistakes in spelling, grammar, vocabulary, paragraph unity or coherence. Select the correct answer for each of the underlined.***

One of the ironies of Lebanese history have been during the years of world war one and beyond when Lebanon suffered an appalled famine that caused over half the population to emigrate abroad. In 1915, it is estimated that one million Armenians were knifed to death, the majority of which were women who were raped before being killed. In their attempt to escape the massacre, many Armenians escaped South and came to Lebanon.

1. have been
  - a. was
  - b. are
  - c. is
  - d. correct
  
2. world war one
  - a. World War one
  - b. World War One
  - c. world war One
  - d. correct
  
3. appalled
  - a. appalling
  - b. appalling
  - c. appaled
  - d. correct
  
4. which
  - a. whom
  - b. who
  - c. whose
  - d. correct
  
5. South
  - a. south
  - b. to the south
  - c. to south
  - d. correct

**III. Circle the letter next to the item that best completes the sentence.**

1. The building of the Toshka Canal in Egypt was carefully planned \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - a. if the inlet starts at a point 8 km north of Toshka bay
  - b. as the mistakes made in earlier canals had proved costly
  - c. as if the desert could become green
  - d. until the amount of water required was agreed on
  
2. There has been a decrease in deaths from motor vehicle crashes over recent years, \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. since speed limits would be lowered
  - b. which is partly due to improved safety features in cars
  - c. if there were public intolerance of drinking and driving
  - d. as there has been improved safety design in occupational machinery
  
3. This conductor offers an orchestral balance quite unlike \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. as if some string passages almost get lost
  - b. as you simply do not hear the violins as the "main line" of the music
  - c. what we are used to
  - d. that he adds something of his own
  
4. We are determined to give the contract to an architect \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. since a great many problems had already arisen
  - b. whose handling of the interiors was outstanding
  - c. who is committed to environmentally responsible design
  - d. until we learn the kind of garden that is possible
  
5. The name "dolphin" is generally applied to species with a beaklike snout and slender body, \_\_\_\_\_.  
as it is dark above and white below, with bands of grey, white and yellow on the sides
  - a. as it is dark above and white below, with bands of grey, white and yellow on the sides
  - b. which also had included porpoises
  - c. but there are also some freshwater forms which are largely confined to rivers in Asia, Africa and South America
  - d. whereas the name "porpoise" is reserved for the smaller species with a blunt snout and stocky body