



# HIPPO 2023 PRELIMINARY ROUND CANDIDATE BOOKLET

CEFR LEVEL B2  
HIPPO CATEGORY HIPPO 5 - S15

Candidate Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

Do NOT turn over the page until instructed.

This examination is made up of 2 units: READING & USE OF ENGLISH

Answer all the questions.

Use only black or blue PEN.

Dictionaries are not allowed.

Remember to transfer your answers onto the answer sheet.

Time allowed:

Reading 45 minutes

Use of English 30 minutes





## Reading Task 1

Read the article and circle the best option to complete the text – a, b, c, or d. An example has been done for you.

Glossary:

**grumpy** – bad-tempered or irritable.

**follower** – a person who follows an account on social media.

### Grumpy Cat

The Internet's biggest animal **0)** \_\_\_\_\_, 'Grumpy Cat', has died. The cat was owned by Tabatha Bundesen in Arizona, USA, and her real name was **1)** \_\_\_\_\_ Tardar Sauce. Grumpy Cat became an internet star **2)** \_\_\_\_\_ looking annoyed in front of the camera. In March 2019, two months before her death, Grumpy Cat had 8.3 million followers on Facebook, 2.4 million followers on Instagram and 1.5 million followers on Twitter. This was a record for an animal, and she had far more followers than many **3)** \_\_\_\_\_ celebrities.

**4)** \_\_\_\_\_, what might seem like a funny facial expression was, in fact, a result of a genetic problem. She was born with short back legs and a flat face. Despite looking grumpy, there is no **5)** \_\_\_\_\_ that the cat was actually unhappy about anything. Her owner believed that for 99% of the time, she was just a happy and normal domestic cat.

She came to the **6)** \_\_\_\_\_ of the world when a photograph of her was posted on September 22, 2012 on a social news website called *Reddit*. She quickly became a very important brand and had her own **7)** \_\_\_\_\_ of products, including books, socks, t-shirts and a calendar produced every year. All the products showed the cat looking miserable or simply grumpy in some way.

In 2018, the Bundesens were **8)** \_\_\_\_\_ a \$710,000 payment after winning a court case. The case was against a company which was legally **9)** \_\_\_\_\_ to use the cat's picture to sell its "Grumppuccino" iced drink, but which was also selling other products that used Grumpy Cat's image.

Tabatha Bundesen had worked as a waitress **10)** \_\_\_\_\_ her beloved pet gained internet stardom. She told *The Express* newspaper that the cat's **11)** \_\_\_\_\_ allowed her to quit her day job and **12)** \_\_\_\_\_ the cat's busy schedule.



- Example:  a) celebrity      b) failure      c) fan      d) achievement
1.      a) merely      b) entirely      c) actually      d) constantly
2.      a) for      b) at      c) in      d) on
3.      a) personal      b) human      c) functional      d) adequate
4.      a) Moreover      b) Therefore      c) However      d) Instead
5.      a) objection      b) prediction      c) emphasis      d) evidence
6.      a) attention      b) defence      c) mention      d) symbol
7.      a) stock      b) sale      c) choice      d) range
8.      a) awarded      b) debited      c) loaned      d) exchanged
9.      a) permitted      b) reported      c) forced      d) accepted
10.      a) during      b) after      c) before      d) since
11.      a) attitude      b) episode      c) fame      d) publication
12.      a) present      b) display      c) conduct      d) maintain

(12 marks)



## Reading Task 2

Read the text and answer the questions below. Circle the correct option, a, b, c, or d. An example has been done for you.

### Pasta around the world

Pasta is one of the world's most widely eaten foods. Nearly every country has its own unique version of this popular, inexpensive food item. In Germany they have spaetzle, in Greece, orzo, and in Poland, they enjoy pocket-like pierogi, also made of the same ingredients and yet slightly different in size, shape and texture. And in America, pasta is prepared and served similarly to the way it is found in Italy – with the exception of the all-American spaghetti and meatballs. In fact, when many of us think of pasta, we think of Italian food, and most people believe that it originated there. While pasta is traditionally considered Italian, it actually has a very long history that makes it almost impossible to know who came up with it first.

- Para. 2** Its history is difficult to trace for several reasons. The word itself translates to 'paste' in Italian. This is a reference to the dough, made from a combination of flour and water or eggs, all simple elements that have been around for centuries. This makes it hard to differentiate pasta from other ancient dishes made from the same ingredients. However, GAP) \_\_\_\_\_ pasta has long been a food of the common people, it has not received as much attention as more luxury foods.
- Para. 3** While we do think of pasta as a culturally Italian food, it is likely that it comes from ancient Asian noodles. The most common – and, as many historians argue, quite inaccurate – story about pasta is attributed to the legendary traveller Marco Polo. Noodles existed in China and other parts of Asia long before pasta appeared in the Mediterranean, and the legend goes that Marco Polo brought pasta to Italy from China in the 13th century. Apparently, there are passages in *The Travels of Marco Polo* (a book written by Marco Polo, of course) that refer to "pasta-like dishes." At the same time, historians note that Marco Polo's familiarity with the food "pasta" suggests that it was already in existence, and he simply gave it a name.
- Para. 4** Archaeologists believe that central Asia is most likely the first area to have produced noodles thousands of years ago. From Asia, this type of food travelled to the west. The way it GAP) \_\_\_\_\_ Europe is unclear, though there are many theories. Some believe that Arabic travellers are responsible for bringing early forms of pasta to the west. Once it reached the Mediterranean, the process was further improved, and durum wheat became the ingredient of choice for pasta flour because of its long shelf life. When durum wheat pasta is dried, it lasts indefinitely, making it a very convenient food to store.
- Para. 5** Over time, because of how affordable pasta is, its long shelf life, and how widely it can be used in cooking, it became firmly rooted in Italian culture. The warm Mediterranean climate of Italy is suited to growing fresh vegetables and herbs, which meant that Italians could get creative with a delicious variety of pasta sauces. Tomato-based sauces emerged as a favourite complement to pasta, and tomatoes remain the most popular ingredient in pasta sauce today.
- Para. 6** Early Spanish settlers were among the first to bring pasta to America. Believe it or not, it was Thomas Jefferson that helped make pasta popular to start with. During an extended stay in France from 1784-1789, Jefferson ate what he called 'macaroni'. Back then, the word could have



referred to any shape of pasta, even though nowadays it refers to just one shape: short, curly tubes. He enjoyed the dish so much GAP) \_\_\_\_\_ he returned to America with two cases.

During the late 19th century, when a large group of immigrants relocated from Italy to America, pasta became a common food in the States. Americans have been making spaghetti ever since.

**Para. 8** Pasta is widely considered to be a comfort food. One of its most comforting qualities is how little it has changed over the centuries. It is still made with the same essential ingredients and methods that have been preserved since ancient times. When we eat pasta, we can be assured of the likelihood that our relatives from a long, long time ago ate something similar. Pasta, with its long, multicultural history, offers us a positive GAP) \_\_\_\_\_ to our past.

**Example: This text is about history of**

- a) pasta.
- b) Italy.
- c) travel.
- d) cooking.

**13. Orzo, spaetzle and pierogi are mentioned to illustrate that**

- a) each country has its own national dish.
- b) foods similar to pasta exist in many countries.
- c) different nations have different names for the same pasta.
- d) pasta is more popular than those types of food.

**14. People in America**

- a) have taken a long time to appreciate pasta.
- b) have only recently discovered spaghetti and meatballs.
- c) eat even more pasta than Italians.
- d) mostly eat pasta in a similar way to Italians.

**15. In paragraph 2, the underlined word 'differentiate' means**

- a) to make a difference
- b) to tell the difference
- c) to mean the difference
- d) to feel the difference

**16. In paragraph 2, the best word to complete the gap is**

- a) since
- b) if
- c) though
- d) then



17. In paragraph 3, the phrase 'is attributed to' means the same as

- a) to be accredited to
- b) to be blamed on
- c) to be rejected by
- d) to be awarded to

18. The claim that pasta was introduced to Italy by Marco Polo

- a) is supported by many historians.
- b) is confirmed by many written sources.
- c) is widely believed but likely incorrect.
- d) was proved wrong by a Chinese writer.

19. In paragraph 4, the best word to fit the second gap is

- a) discovered
- b) welcomed
- c) explored
- d) reached

20. Why is durum wheat a popular choice for pasta flour?

- a) Because it is the cheapest type of flour.
- b) Because it helps pasta to be kept for a long time.
- c) Because it was introduced by Arab traders.
- d) Because of how quickly it can be dried.

21. In paragraph 5, the underlined phrase 'rooted in' could be best replaced by

- a) assured
- b) established
- c) reflected
- d) supported

22. The author mentions the warm Italian climate

- a) because it is an important part of Italian culture.
- b) to encourage more people to visit Italy.
- c) due to its link to other foods that go with pasta.
- d) as he believes it makes Italian people creative.

23. In paragraph 6, the best word to fit the gap is

- a) that
- b) which
- c) when
- d) then



**24. Where did Thomas Jefferson first come across pasta?**

- a) in Italy
- b) in Spain
- c) in America
- d) in France

**25. In paragraph 8, the best word to fit the gap is**

- a) influence
- b) connection
- c) reflection
- d) assistance

**26. Why does the author consider pasta to be a comfort food?**

- a) Because it's easy to prepare.
- b) Because it's satisfying to eat.
- c) Because it provides a link to the past.
- d) Because it has been perfected over centuries.

(14 marks)



## Reading Task 3

A) Read the three texts and answer the questions below by indicating which text each question relates to: A, B, or C.

An example has been done for you.

### Text A - Growing in Small Spaces

No garden is too small for a tree. OK, a huge oak tree on your balcony may not be the best choice, but there's a wide range of small flowering trees, including fruit trees, that are suitable for small spaces. Choosing the right tree for a small garden is crucial.

**Height.** This is probably the most important factor. Even small trees may, over time, reach a height of 6-8 metres or more. If this is too high, you might want to consider a smaller, dwarf variety. These only grow to 2-3m.

**All year interest.** Think about when you want your tree to look good: the key GAP 1) \_\_\_\_\_ to consider are flowering time, leaves, and fruit. If you only have room for one tree, look for a deciduous one (deciduous meaning one that loses leaves every year) that'll look nice throughout the year, such as one with lovely autumn colours following summer flowers. Just remember that you won't get this effect from an evergreen tree.

**When to buy trees.** Autumn is a great time to buy and plant a new tree. However, if pushed for time, you can plant at any time until early spring as long as the soil is dry enough to work (if it tends to stick to your boots or tools, it is too wet).

Container-grown trees can be planted at any time of year, but need thorough, regular watering after planting to ensure that roots grow well. If planted in spring or summer, it can be very GAP 2) \_\_\_\_\_ to keep them alive during periods of hot, dry weather.

### Text B - Everything is bigger in America

The General Sherman is a giant sequoia tree from California in the USA, and it is the largest known living tree on Earth. The natural scientist James Wolverton named the tree in 1879 after General William Sherman. Wolverton had been in the army with General Sherman in the American Civil War.

While the General Sherman is the largest currently living tree, it is not the largest tree ever recorded. The Crannell Creek Giant, a coastal redwood near Trinidad, California, is GAP 1) \_\_\_\_\_ to have been 15 to 25% larger than the General Sherman. That tree was cut down in the mid-1940s.



In 2017, one of the branches fell off the General Sherman. The branch was bigger than an average tree. It resulted in a lot of damage to nearby fences and pavements, but luckily no one was hurt. Branches falling off are not thought to indicate any problems with the tree's health. In fact, one of the theories is that it could actually be a natural GAP 2) \_\_\_\_\_ mechanism against bad weather, although some scientists hold a different opinion.

### Text C - Grow what you eat

If you have a garden and want to grow lots of free food, then plant a fruit tree. If you have to choose one tree, then I suggest the Victoria plum. This produces enormous crops of juicy fruit. It has pink-red skin with yellow flesh inside. It's great eaten fresh, and even better cooked. Victoria plums have stood the test of time. They were first found in a Sussex garden in 1805, and introduced to other gardens from the 1840s. The plum has won lots of awards for its great taste. Today, it is the variety most widely grown by the UK's commercial plum growers.

One problem is that it can have too much fruit and its branches can break under the weight! So simply support the branches to avoid them getting damaged. They can also be attacked by the plum moth, which spoils the fruit, but this is very rare and easily avoided. All you need to do is leave some other food near the tree to distract the moths, and they won't GAP 1) \_\_\_\_\_ with the plums.



Which text...

Text

<b>Example:</b>	describes the fruit a tree produces?	C
27.	includes the date a tree was discovered?	-----
28.	suggests some ways of protecting a tree from damage?	-----
29.	makes a comparison between two specific trees?	-----
30.	talks about how trees change with the seasons?	-----
31.	mentions an event where the exact cause is unknown?	-----
32.	offers advice on different ways to plant a tree?	-----
33.	refers to an uncommon form of tree damage?	-----
34.	does not offer any advice to gardeners?	-----

**B) Now answer the following questions by circling the correct option.**

**35. In Text A, the best word to complete the first gap is**

- a) conditions
- b) aspects
- c) identities
- d) impressions

**36. In Text A, the best word to complete the second gap is**

- a) challenging
- b) beneficial
- c) worthwhile
- d) satisfying

**37. In Text B, the best word to complete the first gap is**

- a) estimated
- b) restored
- c) accused
- d) measured



**38. In Text B, the best word to complete the second gap is**

- a) action
- b) defence
- c) growth
- d) flight

**39. In Text C, the expression 'to stand the test of time' means**

- a) to face difficulties over a period of time.
- b) to be used frequently over a short time.
- c) to remain popular over a long time.
- d) to be tested at a particular time.

**40. In Text C, the best word to complete the gap is**

- a) hesitate
- b) reckon
- c) survive
- d) bother

(14 marks)

**END OF READING ASSESSMENT  
DO NOT TURN OVER THE PAGE UNTIL INSTRUCTED.**





Hippo 5 Preliminary 2023 Key

1. C	31. B
2. A	32. A
3. B	33. C
4. C	34. B
5. D	35. B
6. A	36. A
7. D	37. A
8. A	38. B
9. A	39. C
10. C	40. D
11. C	41. C
12. D	42. A
13. B	43. B
14. D	44. A
15. B	45. B
16. C	46. C
17. A	47. A
18. C	48. A
19. D	49. B
20. B	50. A
21. B	51. B
22. C	52. A
23. A	53. C
24. D	54. C
25. B	55. B
26. C	56. A
27. C	57. B
28. C	58. A
29. B	59. A
30. A	60. A