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ENGLISHWITHOUTBORDERS

HIPPO THE CONTEST

PRELIMINARY ROUND CANDIDATE BOOKLET

CEFR LEVEL A2
HIPPO CATEGORY HIPPO 3-S2

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 30 minutes

Use of English 20 minutes

13th
Edition

Reading Task 1

Read the sentences. Circle the best option – a, b, or c to complete each gap. An example has been done for you.

Example:

Please don't ____ - our dog is afraid of loud noises.

- a) shout b) speak c) run

1. I need to ____ my phone before we leave.
a) charge b) borrow c) receive
 2. Have you seen this comedy? The ____ sounds good.
a) licence b) statement c) review
 3. The café was so ____ we couldn't find a space to sit.
a) expensive b) busy c) pleasant
 4. My brother always ____ his homework until the last minute.
a) leaves b) takes c) makes
 5. We should ____ a taxi - it's starting to rain heavily.
a) ride b) take c) drive
 6. I can't understand this word - could you ____ it to me?
a) explain b) speak c) guess
 7. Do you know the ____ time of the next train to London?
a) exact b) perfect c) last
 8. It's ____ to wear warm clothes in winter.
a) careful b) well known c) necessary
 9. Would you like to ____ a volleyball game with us after school?
a) join b) make c) share
 10. I'm really ____ forward to my holiday next week.
a) looking b) going c) moving
- (10 marks)

Reading Task 2

PART A

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

To: kate@mymail.com

Subject: Swimming Competition News!

Hi Kate!

I wanted to tell you about the swimming competition yesterday. Remember I was really nervous about it at first? Well, I won second place, and my best friend came third! I couldn't believe it when they called my name. My parents were so happy - Dad even recorded the whole thing on his phone.

There were thirty-five swimmers in total, from fifteen different schools! We expected forty, but five didn't turn up. The pool was much bigger than the one we usually practise in, which made me feel a bit scared at first. Coach Emma told us to arrive an hour early to get used to the new pool and practice our warm-up exercises.

The race was 100 meters, and I finished in just under two minutes. The girl who won was really fast - she finished ten seconds before me. But I was still happy with my result - coach Emma said it was the fastest I ever swam this distance.

Next week we start training for another big swimming competition. Coach says I need to practice three times a week instead of two, because it's only two months away. That means I won't be able to go to my art class on Thursdays, but I can still attend on Mondays, so I think it's worth it.

By the way, are you coming to Lucy's birthday party on Saturday? She said we're going bowling first, then having pizza at her house. I'm really looking forward to trying bowling for the first time - is it difficult?

Let me know if you're going - it would be great if you are!

Sophie

Example: The email is about

- a) a swimming lesson.
- b) a swimming competition
- c) swimming practice.

11. In the competition, Sophie came?

- a) first
- b) second
- c) third

12. How many people took part in the competition?

- a) 15
- b) 35
- c) 40

13. What made Sophie feel nervous at first?

- a) the number of swimmers
- b) her coach's instructions
- c) the size of the pool

14. Which is true about Sophie's result?

- a) It was her best personal result.
- b) It was not as good as she expected.
- c) It was 10 seconds faster than the person after her.

15. When is the next swimming competition?

- a) next week
- b) in two months
- c) the text doesn't say

16. What change will Sophie make to her schedule?

- a) train more often
- b) stop going to art class
- c) join a new club

17. Has Sophie been bowling before?

- a) Yes, once.
- b) Yes, many times.
- c) No, never.

18. What is Sophie doing in the underlined sentence?

- a) asking for advice
- b) asking for information
- c) making an invitation

(8 marks)

Part B

Read the text. Circle the best option: a, b, or c to complete each gap. An example has been done for you.

Dear Sophie!

Thanks (Example) ____ your email about the swimming competition. I'm so (19) ____ for you - second place is amazing!

I know you were worried about it, but I was 20) ____ you would do well. You've been training really 21) ____ for this. Coach Emma must be very happy with your performance.

Talking about the next competition, I think you're making the right 22) ____ about missing art club. It's best to (23) ____ on one thing sometimes. And you can always go back to art club (24) ____ the competition is finished.

About Lucy's party - yes, I'm definitely coming! Don't worry about bowling, it's not (25) ____ difficult. I can help you learn. The only problem is that I don't know (26) ____ to buy Lucy for her birthday. Do you have any ideas?

See you tomorrow!

Kate

- Example: a) for b) to c) from
19. a) awesome b) interested c) excited
20. a) pleased b) surprised c) certain
21. a) hard b) hardly c) harder
22. a) opinion b) request c) choice
23. a) focus b) depend c) achieve
24. a) after b) before c) during
25. a) only b) really c) such
26. a) which b) what c) why

(8 marks)

Reading Task 3

Read the three texts. Answer the questions by writing the correct letter: A, B, or C.

An example has been done for you.

Text A

City Sports Centre - Swimming Pool

- Open Monday to Friday 6:30 am - 9:00 pm
- Saturday and Sunday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
- Adult swim: £5.50, Student swim: £4.00, Under 16s: £3.50
- Swimming lessons available (all levels)
- Special offer: 10% off all monthly passes in January
- Free parking for members
- Café open daily (hot and cold food)

For more information visit: www.citysportscentre.com



Text B

Hi everyone!

Just wanted to share my experience at City Sports Centre. I started swimming lessons there last month. My instructor, Mark, is really friendly and helpful. The whole centre is clean and the pool is not too cold, unlike at some other places. The changing rooms could be bigger though, and sometimes you have to wait for a shower. The café is a bit expensive, but the food is delicious. I go three times a week now and I've already learned to swim 20 metres! Best decision I ever made.

Jenny

Text C

Dear Parents,

Starting next month, we are offering swimming classes for Year 5 students at City Sports Centre. Classes will be every Tuesday from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Each student needs to bring:

- Swimming costume and cap
- Towel

The cost is £3 per lesson. Students should join for the whole term (10 lessons). Our experienced swimming teachers will help students learn basic swimming skills and water safety.

Please complete the permission form by Friday if you would like your child to join the classes.

You can pay at the school office or online.

Best regards,

Mrs. Thompson

Head of PE

Which text ...

		Text
Example:	does not give information about prices?	B
27.	was written by a swimming student?	_____
28.	has most information about course content?	_____
29.	includes some instructions?	_____
30.	includes some negative comments?	_____
31.	gives information about opening times?	_____
32.	recommends the food?	_____
33.	says something about water temperature?	_____
34.	includes information about a discount?	_____

END OF READING ASSESSMENT

13th HIPPO

preliminary round

HIPPO 3-S2 Use of English MC Test V1



Time allowed: 20 minutes

Choose A, B, C or D to complete the sentences.

35. Long ago, people used to believe that _____ was flat.
A) earth B) Earth C) an earth D) the Earth
36. The notice says, 'No Parking'. We _____ park here.
A) haven't got to B) needn't C) mustn't D) wouldn't
37. The carpet is just _____ ours but double the price.
A) as B) such as C) alike D) like
38. You shouldn't _____ medicines where children can reach them.
A) leave B) take C) let D) allow
39. I am not going to have a part in that play, _____?
A) am not B) don't C) aren't I D) am I
40. _____ 100 wolverines still roam the great Banat wilderness.
A) No less than B) No fewer than C) In the region of D) No less then
41. When I finally got home, my sister _____ so I had to prepare dinner alone.
A) left B) was leaving C) had left D) was about to leave
42. Smoking is a bad _____.
A) fashion B) custom C) habit D) practice
43. Mark said, 'I didn't have time to prepare dinner'.
A) Mark said he didn't have time to prepare dinner. B) Mark said he hasn't had time to prepare dinner. C) Mark said he hadn't had time to prepare dinner. D) Mark said there wasn't enough time to prepare dinner.

13th HIPPO

preliminary round

HIPPO 3-S2 Use of English MC Test V1



44. I'll have the supper ready by the time you _____ home.
A) will be B) are coming C) have arrived D) get
45. What time do you usually _____ off for work.
A) get B) go C) set D) leave
46. I managed to keep _____ working in spite of all the noise.
A) up B) on C) at D) to
47. We _____ here since January.
A) live B) are living C) lived D) have lived
48. You eat _____, you'll have to go on a diet.
A) much B) so much C) very much D) too much
49. Our teacher insists _____ in silence outside the classroom.
A) on us waiting B) on us to wait C) for us to wait D) with us waiting
50. In the end, your friend Buco came _____ as a likeable character.
A) up B) with C) across D) on
51. What is the best way to deal _____ a disobedient child?
A) to B) on C) against D) with
52. What we eat _____ how much energy we have during the day.
A) balances B) effects C) benefits D) affects
53. I bought a lovely _____ of bananas today.
A) clump B) cluster C) bunch D) handful
54. The report contains some important _____.
A) informations B) lots of information C) parts of information D) pieces of information



END OF ASSESSMENT

REMEMBER TO TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS
ONTO THE ANSWER SHEET!

IESOL E2/A2 READING ANSWER SHEET – HIPPO Preliminary 2025

Reading Task 1

Question	Answer
1.	A
2.	C
3.	B
4.	A
5.	B
6.	A
7.	A
8.	C
9.	A
10.	A

Total: / 10

Reading Task 2

Question	PART A Answer	Question	PART B Answer
11.	B	19.	C
12.	B	20.	C
13.	C	21.	A
14.	A	22.	C
15.	B	23.	A
16.	A	24.	A
17.	C	25.	B
18.	B	26.	B

Total: / 8	Total: / 8
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Reading Task 3

Question	Answer
27.	B
28.	C
29.	C
30.	B
31.	A
32.	B
33.	B
34.	A

Total: / 8

HIPPO 3-S2 USE OF ENGLISH MC KEY V1

- 35. D
- 36. C
- 37. D
- 38. A
- 39. D
- 40. B
- 41. C
- 42. C
- 43. C
- 44. D
- 45. C
- 46. B
- 47. D
- 48. D
- 49. A
- 50. C
- 51. D
- 52. D
- 53. C
- 54. D