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ENGLISHWITHOUTBORDERS

HIPPO THE CONTEST

PRELIMINARY ROUND CANDIDATE BOOKLET

CEFR LEVEL B1
HIPPO CATEGORY HIPPO 4-S3

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 40 minutes

Use of English 30 minutes

13th
Edition

Reading Task 1

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

The Future of Urban Gardens

Growing your own food in cities is becoming increasingly popular. People **0)**_____ creating gardens in the smallest spaces, from balconies to rooftops. City gardening has many benefits - it not only **1)**_____ fresh vegetables, but also helps make cities greener and healthier places to live.

Studies **2)**_____ that these small gardens could grow up to 20% of the food a city needs. However, most people find it difficult to start their own garden. To help solve this problem, many local groups now offer free courses to teach people **3)**_____ to grow food in small spaces.

One **4)**_____ project in Manchester has helped create more than fifty rooftop gardens since 2020. These small gardens produce hundreds of kilos of vegetables every year. People who **5)**_____ the project also make new friends while learning.

Schools are also getting involved. Many now have their own vegetable gardens where students learn about healthy eating while **6)**_____ practical skills. These school gardens have **7)**_____ so successful that other schools want to copy them. Parents say their children are now more interested in eating vegetables they have **8)**_____ themselves.

The project organisers are now working with other cities to **9)**_____ similar programs. They believe teaching people to grow food is **10)**_____ important for the future of our cities.

- Example:** a) are b) have c) do d) were
1. a) cooks b) collects c) provides d) prepares
2. a) suggest b) offer c) request d) ask
3. a) what b) where c) how d) when
4. a) future b) unnecessary c) successful d) frequent
5. a) take b) open c) consider d) join
6. a) teaching b) studying c) developing d) making
7. a) become b) happened c) settled d) finished
8. a) found b) bought c) grown d) prepared
9. a) set off b) put up c) set up d) put away
10. a) apparently b) surprisingly c) hopefully d) extremely

(10 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.

Emily Pearson: From Home Baker to International Success

Para. 1

Emily Pearson never thought her love of baking would lead to a successful business. Growing up in Manchester, she and her sister spent many hours in the family kitchen, learning various recipes. While her mother was good at cooking main meals, it was her grandmother who taught her all about cakes. "She always said that good baking takes time," Emily remembers. "She taught me that doing things too quickly never GAP)___ good results."

While studying business at university, Emily started putting photos of her cakes on the internet. Her special designs and use of natural ingredients began getting noticed by local cafés. The cafés especially appreciated that she used less sugar than other bakers, and chose fresh fruit instead of artificial flavours. Soon, she was getting orders for birthday cakes and parties.

Para. 3

After finishing university, Emily had a hard choice to make. She had been offered a good job at a big accounting company, but her small baking business was GAP)___ very quickly. Many of her friends were taking office jobs with good pay and holidays. "My parents said I was making a mistake when I said no to a safe job," Emily says. "But I felt I needed to try making my business work."

Para. 4

In 2019, Emily opened her first bakery in Manchester city centre and employed some staff. Even though starting a business was hard, people came to know her shop for its excellent quality. Instead of buying ingredients as cheaply as possible, she spent time finding small local producers who used traditional methods. She got her eggs from nearby family farms, and visited different markets each week to select the best fruit.

Para. 5

Everything changed during the worldwide health crisis. When her shop had to close, Emily started offering online baking lessons. These classes became very popular, with people joining from many different countries. Some students even said they preferred learning online because they could watch the lessons again. "The health crisis was hard for everyone," she explains, "but it GAP)___ me think of new ways to run my business."

Today, Emily's company employs more than fifty people. Her online classes attract thousands of students from around the world, and her cookbooks sell well in many languages. She has opened new shops in Paris and Madrid, where customers enjoy how she mixes British baking ideas with local tastes. Even with all her success outside of Britain, she still stays connected to her hometown. Except for the rare weeks when she is travelling for work, Emily tries to give a baking class for local children every Saturday, for which she doesn't charge. She is also happy to know how proud her grandmother feels that her original recipes are still shared with others!

Emily's success comes from understanding what makes things work. She kept her grandmother's careful methods but found new ways to share them online. Her small business grew because she wasn't afraid to mix old and new ideas. 'In baking and business,' she says, 'you need to know which old rules matter and which new changes help'.

Example: The text is mostly about

- a) a cooking school.
- b) a successful baker.
- c) how to bake traditional cakes.
- d) teaching children to bake.

11. Who first taught Emily about baking?

- a) her sister
- b) her mother
- c) her grandmother
- d) her friends

12. In paragraph 1, the best option to complete the gap is

- a) gives away
- b) leads to
- c) makes up
- d) goes to

13. What did the cafés particularly like about Emily's cakes?

- a) They were cheaper than others.
- b) They contained less sugar.
- c) They used only local fruit.
- d) They looked beautiful.

14. In paragraph 3, the best word to complete the gap is

- a) competing
- b) advertising
- c) working
- d) growing

15. After Emily graduated, her parents

- a) paid for her to go on holiday.
- b) encouraged her to continue baking.
- c) disagreed with her decision.
- d) helped her find a job.

16. In paragraph 4, the underlined phrase 'came to know' means

- a) visited regularly
- b) became famous
- c) started liking
- d) learned about

17. In what way was Emily's business different to others?

- a) She only bought ingredients from markets.
- b) The prices at her shop were affordable.
- c) She carefully selected the producers.
- d) She made everything herself.

18. In paragraph 5, the best word to complete the gap is

- a) made
- b) got
- c) did
- d) took

19. Why did some students prefer online classes?

- a) Classes were cheaper.
- b) Students could review them.
- c) Classes were shorter.
- d) Students could learn with friends.

20. Which is true about Emily's current business?

- a) It focuses mainly on teaching online.
- b) It has expanded abroad.
- c) It offers European-style baking.
- d) It mainly serves British customers.

21. What does Emily regularly do at the weekend?

- a) bakes with her grandmother
- b) teaches children for free
- c) travels in order to relax
- d) creates new recipes

22. Emily says that the key to success is in

- a) following some traditions.
- b) having family support.
- c) accessing online learning.
- d) being prepared to work hard.

(12 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 - The Big History Museum

The Big History Museum in the city centre opened in 1881 and is still one of the most popular museums in the world. While most visitors come to see the dinosaur displays, the museum actually has over 80 million different items. Some of these were collected by the famous scientist Charles Darwin.

More than 300 scientists work there, studying all kinds of animals, from the smallest insects to the biggest whales. At the weekend, visitors can join special classes where they can touch animal bones and learn how scientists work. While the café offers a variety of healthy snacks and meals, most visitors choose the burgers and chips option.

The building itself is interesting: the old walls and ceiling are decorated with beautiful animal shapes. The museum uses special lights that save energy, and gives a 50% discount to visitors who arrive by bus or train instead of driving, as part of their environmental protection program.

Text B - The Learning Museum

The Learning Museum has been teaching people about science since 1857. What makes this museum special is that visitors can touch and try most of the things on display. People can press buttons and turn handles to see how things work.

The museum is popular with school groups, who often spend all day looking at the different floors. The top floor has real space suits and shows how people travel to space. On the ground floor, there's an area which shows how computers and phones have changed since they were first invented. To protect these old items, some can only be touched while wearing special gloves.

The most exciting new area is called 'Try Science', where visitors can join in with real experiments. Here, museum workers show how science works through fun activities, from making small flying objects (GAP) ___ creating clouds in bottles.

They offer a special pass that gives free entry to the museum for a year. The museum welcomes all visitors during regular hours, with special guided tours available in the evenings.

Text C - Tomorrow's World Museum

Instead of showing things from the past, this museum, opened in 2022, tries to show what life might be like in fifty years.

School groups can visit in the mornings, GAP 1) ____ afternoon sessions are for families. Evening events let adults explore the museum without children. Even the café is special - it serves food that we might all be eating in the future, though some visitors would rather choose the normal sandwiches and drinks.

Visitors walk through different floors that show possible future ways of living. They can touch and test different displays showing what cities might look like, try new ways of moving around, and learn about different ways to grow food. Young scientists work here too, studying how technology might help with today's issues. There's also an area that shows how we might clean up the seas and help animals that are dying out, and a place where you can GAP 2) ____ what it's like to be in space.

Part A

Which text...	Text
Example describes the most recently opened museum?	C
23. offers different prices to encourage particular visitor behaviour?	_____
24. has scientists working to solve current problems?	_____
25. has rules about visitors touching some items?	_____
26. has special arrangements for different age groups at different times?	_____
27. contains items from a well-known person?	_____
28. comments on the appearance of the museum?	_____
29. says that some visitors prefer familiar foods?	_____
30. shows how some objects have become different over time?	_____

Part B

Now answer the following questions by circling the correct option.

31. In Text A, the underlined word “actually” suggests that

- a) people might be surprised by something.
- b) the museum is very old.
- c) visitors don't like dinosaurs.
- d) the museum needs more space.

32. In Text B, the option to complete the gap is

- a) at
- b) if
- c) in
- d) to

33. In Text C, the best option to complete the first gap is

- a) when
- b) while
- c) why
- d) where

34. In Text C, the best option to complete the second gap is

- a) explain
- b) approve
- c) experience
- d) confirm

(12 marks)

END OF READING ASSESSMENT

13th HIPPO

preliminary round

HIPPO 4-S3 Use of English MC Test V1



Time allowed: 30 minutes

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

35. We _____ here since January.
A) live B) are living C) lived D) have lived
36. Both children take _____ their mother.
A) to B) after C) from D) as
37. You eat _____. You'll have to go on a diet.
A) much B) so much C) very much D) too much
38. Jane has spent two hundred euros this week, _____ a bit too much.
A) which is B) that is C) they are D) it was
39. I don't think he is old enough yet to _____ so much responsibility.
A) shoulder B) face C) bare D) foot
40. Let's not visit the museum now – it'll take _____.
A) long time B) long C) very long D) too long
41. She has been in bed _____ week.
A) for the last B) for C) for last D) last
42. Next Monday will be _____.
A) on holiday B) a holiday C) holiday D) holidays
43. Do you remember _____?
A) to go first to school B) going to school for the first time C) going to the school at first D) going in school first of all

13th HIPPO

preliminary round

HIPPO 4-S3 Use of English MC Test VI



44. 'Have a nice weekend!' '_____'.
A) You have too B) I wish the same C) The same to you D) So do you
45. Today I bought a nice piece of cotton _____.
A) garment B) dress C) material D) clothes
46. This is not our own flat. We _____ from the council.
A) let B) lend C) rent D) hire
47. Instead of posting the document, she delivered it _____.
A) by foot B) by hand C) in her hands D) by person
48. I would've telephoned her if I _____ her number.
A) know B) knew C) have known D) were knowing
49. Alessandro and his new girlfriend have _____ their engagement.
A) broken off B) cut off C) broken down D) cut down
50. Can you _____ for all the money you've spent?
A) explain B) count C) account D) report
51. _____ of the windows is broken.
A) All B) Every C) Everyone D) Every one
52. I _____ it would stop raining.
A) hope B) expect C) want D) wish
53. _____ physics, I enjoy my school subjects.
A) Except B) Except for C) Apart D) Beside
54. It isn't polite to _____ a woman's age.
A) ask B) say C) ask for D) tell



END OF ASSESSMENT

REMEMBER TO TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS
ONTO THE ANSWER SHEET!



IESOL E3/B1 READING ANSWER SHEET – HIPPO Preliminary Round 2025

Reading Task 1

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

Total: / 10

Reading Task 2

Question	Answer	Question	Answer
11.	C	17.	C
12.	B	18.	A
13.	B	19.	B
14.	D	20.	B
15.	C	21.	B
16.	D	22.	A

Total: / 12

Reading Task 3

Question	Answer
23.	A
24.	C
25.	B
26.	C
27.	A
28.	A
29.	C
30.	B
31.	A
32.	D
33.	B
34.	C

Task Total: / 12

HIPPO 4-S3 USE OF ENGLISH MC KEY VI

35. D

36. B

37. D

38. A

39. A

40. D

41. A

42. B

43. B

44. C

45. C

46. C

47. B

48. B

49. A

50. C

51. D

52. D

53. B

54. A