

20  
25

ENGLISHWITHOUTBORDERS  
**HIPPO  
THE  
CONTEST**

**PRELIMINARY ROUND  
CANDIDATE BOOKLET**

CEFR LEVEL B2  
HIPPO CATEGORY HIPPO 5-S4

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**

**13<sup>th</sup>**  
Edition

## 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.

### The Hidden World of Sign Language

Sign language **0)** \_\_\_ often thought to be universal, but this is not correct. Just like spoken languages, sign languages have **1)** \_\_\_ naturally in different communities around the world. Each country typically has its own sign language, which has **2)** \_\_\_ grammar, vocabulary and patterns.

British Sign Language (BSL) and American Sign Language (ASL) are actually quite different and **3)** \_\_\_ to different language families. While ASL **4)** \_\_\_ influences from French Sign Language, BSL grew independently in British deaf communities. This means that deaf people from Britain and America may **5)** \_\_\_ difficulty understanding each other.

Sign languages are **6)** \_\_\_ languages that can communicate any idea, from the concrete to the abstract. They use hand movements, facial features, body movements, and use of space to share meaning. Some signs **7)** \_\_\_ like the objects or actions they represent, while others are formed differently, just like words in spoken languages.

Research has proved that learning sign language can **8)** \_\_\_ hearing people too. It can improve the way people see and understand movement, and **9)** \_\_\_ to better side vision (the ability to see things that aren't directly in front of you). Many parents now choose to teach their hearing babies basic signs, **10)** \_\_\_ children can often sign before they can speak.

Modern technology is **11)** \_\_\_ new opportunities for sign language users. Video calls have made distant communication much easier, and researchers are developing gloves that can **12)** \_\_\_ sign language into spoken words.

- Example: a) is                      b) are                      c) has                      d) have
1.            a) increased            b) developed            c) happened            d) arrived
  2.            a) surprising            b) suitable            c) several            d) unique
  3.            a) fit            b) belong            c) attach            d) connect
  4.            a) shows            b) states            c) performs            d) awards
  5.            a) overcome            b) create            c) experience            d) explore
  6.            a) complete            b) positive            c) passive            d) initial
  7.            a) sound            b) suggest            c) look            d) show
  8.            a) replace            b) encourage            c) involve            d) benefit
  9.            a) guides            b) directs            c) leads            d) points
  10.            a) when            b) as            c) however            d) if
  11.            a) creating            b) approving            c) gaining            d) exchanging
  12.            a) spread            b) analyse            c) convert            d) acquire

(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.

### The Evolution of Street Food

The story of how street food changed from a simple way to feed hungry workers into a popular food trend is one of the most interesting changes in how we eat today. What started as a practical way to provide meals in busy cities has grown into something that affects how we eat, spend time with others, and understand different cultures.

In the past, street food was essential because living spaces in cities often lacked any facilities for preparing meals. In ancient Rome, for example, most people lived in small apartments, so they depended on street sellers for their daily meals. This wasn't just happening in Rome - from China's noodle stands to Mexico's food carts, street food was a key part of city life everywhere.

Para. 3

The commercial aspect of street food has undergone many changes over time. While it used to be just a cheap option for working people, today's street food ranges from great value light bites to sophisticated dishes. Modern food trucks in big cities sometimes serve food that is as good as that offered by established dining venues, while remaining more affordable. This has created good opportunities for new food businesses, as starting a food truck business costs much less than opening a restaurant.

Para. 4

Public health and street food have an interesting history together too. In the past, people often worried about how clean and safe street food was. However, new rules and better equipment have made things much better. Many cities now have strict cleanliness (GAP) \_\_\_\_, and sellers use modern equipment to keep food safe and fresh. Some food trucks even have kitchen equipment that's as good as that seen in professional restaurant kitchens.

Social media has helped make street food more popular than ever. Online influencers and their reviews have transformed unknown sellers into popular brands, visited by those with high expectations of the food. While this brings more customers and money, it can sometimes mean venues become uncomfortably crowded, which can affect what made the business special in the first place.

Para. 6

Street food is also crucial for keeping traditional food culture alive. In many cities, street sellers still use the cooking methods and ways of preparing and combining ingredients that have been passed down through time. Some places, like Bangkok's street food scene, have even been recognised internationally as a vital part of the nation's cultural history. They show how valuable these food traditions are and the importance of (GAP) \_\_\_\_ them for the younger generations.

Para. 7

Looking to the future, street food faces new challenges and opportunities. Environmental concerns are pushing sellers into using more eco-friendly materials to serve their food in, as well as using more local ingredients, including vegetables and dairy products. GAP) \_\_, the growth of cities is increasing the customer base for street food sellers. However, sometimes traditional sellers are pushed out of city centres as they are unable to keep on top of their rent as well as energy bills.

Para. 8

One particularly interesting development in street food culture is how international travel has influenced both sellers and customers. Today's sellers often experiment by combining local ingredients with cooking styles from around the world. For instance, you might find tacos filled with Korean-style meat, or European-style pancakes wrapped around Indian curry. GAP) \_\_ some food experts worry this might lead to traditional street food losing its identity, others see it as a natural evolution that keeps street food relevant and exciting. This mixing of styles has also made street food markets popular places for people to explore different cuisines without having to travel abroad or spend a lot of money in costly restaurants.

**Example: This text is about**

- a) How street food has changed.
- b) The best street food places.
- c) How to cook street food.
- d) The cost of street food.

**13. Why did many city residents rely on street food in ancient times?**

- a) It offered greater variety than home cooking.
- b) Many people's homes were not equipped for cooking.
- c) It was more affordable than dining in restaurants.
- d) It was a tradition passed down through generations.

**14. In paragraph 3, the underlined word 'established' could be best replaced by**

- a) opened
- b) respected
- c) installed
- d) recent

**15. How has the business of street food changed over time?**

- a) It has become more expensive than restaurant food.
- b) It is now only found in expensive city areas.
- c) It now includes both cheap snacks and high-quality meals.
- d) It is now only popular among working-class people.

**16. What does the text say about modern food trucks compared to restaurants?**

- a) They make less profit than restaurants.
- b) Some serve food of similar quality but at lower prices.
- c) Almost all of them serve traditional street food.
- d) They require less skill to operate than traditional restaurants.

**17. In paragraph 4, the best option to complete the gap is**

- a) qualities
- b) degrees
- c) measurements
- d) standards

**18. How has social media affected street food sellers?**

- a) Their business may become too busy.
- b) They might receive negative reviews online.
- c) Many have gone out of business.
- d) They have to focus more on their most popular dishes.

**19. In paragraph 6, the best option to complete the gap is**

- a) balancing
- b) combining
- c) assessing
- d) maintaining

**20. Why is street food important for keeping traditional food culture alive?**

- a) It uses new cooking techniques to attract young people.
- b) It mixes ingredients from different countries.
- c) It uses old techniques and recipes.
- d) uses only local ingredients.

**21. How does the text describe modern food truck equipment?**

- a) It's more basic than restaurant equipment.
- b) It's completely automatic.
- c) It can be as good as restaurant equipment.
- d) It's only suitable for making basic dishes.

**22. In paragraph 7, the best option to complete the gap is**

- a) At the same time
- b) One way or the other
- c) As a matter of urgency
- d) In place of that

**23. How has street food changed to become more environmentally friendly?**

- a) Sellers are only allowed to serve vegetarian food.
- b) Sellers are using more eco-friendly food containers.
- c) Street food must now be made from organic ingredients.
- d) Cooking methods must now use less energy.

**24. In paragraph 8, the best option to complete the gap is**

- a) Therefore
- b) Alternatively
- c) While
- d) Despite

**25. According to the text, what has international influence brought to street food?**

- a) It has made street food more expensive.
- b) It has created new combinations of styles and flavours.
- c) It has replaced all traditional cooking methods.
- d) It has reduced the number of customers.

**26. The writing style of this article can be described as**

- a) Friendly and personal.
- b) Technical and complex.
- c) Clear and balanced.
- d) Critical and opinionated.

(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.

### Glossary

**Dam** - a barrier constructed to hold back water and raise its level, forming a reservoir used to generate electricity or as a water supply.

### Text A: Three Gorges Dam

The Three Gorges Dam is a hydroelectric dam on the Yangtze River in Hubei province, China. It is the world's largest power station, though the amount of power it produces GAP 1) \_\_\_ on the water available. After the extensive rain of 2020, the dam broke the world record for the most power produced in a single year.

Construction started on December 14, 1994. The dam was expected to be ready to start operating in 2009, but additional projects delayed the start date until 2012.

Boats can get through the dam by going up what looks like a giant staircase. Or they can take the 'ship lift'. Designed by German company Lahmeyer, the lift can carry a ship over the dam in about 8 minutes. But the high demand to use the river means that the authorities are planning to expand the lift capacity.

On visiting the Three Gorges Dam it became evident to me that the Chinese are very proud of their GAP 2) \_\_\_, as they should be. When people write on TripAdvisor that it is worth a visit, they are correct. If you are in China, don't hesitate to go and see for yourself.

### Text B: Millau Viaduct

The Millau Viaduct is a tall bridge across a deep valley in Southern France. The design team was led by a French engineer and an English architect. It is the tallest bridge in the world, with a height of 343 metres. It was built over three years, and officially opened on 14 December 2004.

The bridge was built because there was too much traffic in the town of Millau. The French government asked architects to submit their plans to address the problem, and they chose the option they felt was best. Some of the proposed road routes were not possible because of the geology of the area, so eventually the high bridge was chosen as the best solution.

The bridge is considered very beautiful, and it is so famous it now has its own visitor centre, with guided walks where people can take photos. However, one unexpected effect of the bridge is that the large number of people coming to see the bridge now causes traffic issues. People are driving to the area just to look at the bridge!

**Text C: The Channel Tunnel**

The Channel Tunnel is a 50.46 km undersea railway tunnel that connects England with France. It was opened in 1994, It is sometimes called the 'Chunnel', a combination of the two words.

In the early 1800s, French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte supported the idea of building a tunnel under the English Channel to connect France and Britain. French engineer Albert Mathieu-Favier put the idea to him. The proposal was to build a tunnel lit by oil lamps for horse-drawn carriages. GAP 1) \_\_\_, the idea was not well received in London, where some believed it was part of Napoleon's plan to invade Britain, and the work on the tunnel was never started.

In the 1880s, another attempt to dig the tunnel was started and then promptly abandoned, after British politicians expressed worries that it would weaken national defences, which was clearly not the GAP 2) \_\_\_. But the idea did not go away: a 1907 film, *Tunnelling the English Channel*, shows the English King and the French President dreaming of building a tunnel.

Construction on the Channel Tunnel as it looks now began again in 1988. Today, it is the longest underwater section of railway in the world, and the third longest tunnel.

**Which text describes a structure that...**

**Text**

- |                 |  |       |
|-----------------|--|-------|
| <b>Example:</b> | is located in China?                                   | A     |
| 27.             | was initially rejected as an idea?                     | _____ |
| 28.             | involved a competition for its design?                 | _____ |
| 29.             | is recommended online as a place to visit?             | _____ |
| 30.             | whose effectiveness relies on the weather?             | _____ |
| 31.             | requires some changes to allow it to operate smoothly? | _____ |
| 32.             | is also known by another name?                         | _____ |
| 33.             | appeared in a work of fiction?                         | _____ |
| 34.             | was delayed because of security concerns?              | _____ |

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) depends
- b) focuses
- c) carries
- d) holds

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

- a) victory
- b) performance
- c) achievement
- d) production

37. In Text B, the underlined word 'proposed' means the same as

- a) imagined
- b) rejected
- c) suggested
- d) expected

38. In Text B, the underlined word 'considered' means the same as

- a) remembered as
- b) represented as
- c) thought of as
- d) raised as

39. In Text C, the best word to complete the first gap is

- a) In reality
- b) However
- c) Additionally
- d) Possibly

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

- a) time
- b) impact
- c) event
- d) case

(14 marks)

END OF READING ASSESSMENT

# 13<sup>th</sup> HIPPO

## *preliminary round*

### HIPPO 5-S4 Use of English MC Test VI



Time allowed: 30 minutes

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

41. The absent-minded professor was wearing an \_\_\_\_\_ pair of socks.  
A) odd                      B) irregular                      C) uneven                      D) unequal
42. Sue met her future husband in 1915 while he \_\_\_\_\_ in the navy.  
A) served                      B) was serving                      C) had been serving                      D) had served
43. I don't \_\_\_\_\_ to know much about art, but that's a nice still life.  
A) tend                      B) attend                      C) intend                      D) pretend
44. Last Saturday's cricket match was \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) hailed on                      B) blowed out                      C) rained off                      D) snowed up
45. Traditionally, girls used to get up early on 1<sup>st</sup> May \_\_\_\_\_ their faces in dew.  
A) to wash                      B) to wash up                      C) for washing                      D) so to wash
46. \_\_\_\_\_ but surely, the firemen freed all the injured people from the wreckage of the train.  
A) Smoothly                      B) Slowly                      C) Carefully                      D) Steadily
47. Rena's a very indulgent wife, she always \_\_\_\_\_ a blind eye to her husband's adventures.  
A) shuts                      B) shows                      C) turns                      D) covers
48. To avoid publicity the princes travelled \_\_\_\_\_ an assumed name.  
A) in                      B) under                      C) with                      D) on
49. What \_\_\_\_\_ of car would you prefer?  
A) brand                      B) manufacture                      C) mark                      D) make

# 13<sup>th</sup> HIPPO

## *preliminary round*

### HIPPO 5-S4 Use of English MC Test VI



50. Come what \_\_\_\_\_, we shall go ahead with our plans.  
A) will                                      B) does                                      C) may                                      D) can
51. The new system is not so different \_\_\_\_\_ the old one after all.  
A) as    B) than                                      C) from                                      D) in comparison
52. When I returned, the seat \_\_\_\_\_ was occupied.  
A) in which I sat                              B) I had been sitting in                      C) in that I had sat                              D) where I was sitting
53. The rumours of a serious epidemic were officially condemned as \_\_\_\_\_, but they turned out to be well-founded.  
A) alarming                                      B) alarmed                                      C) alarmist                                      D) false alarm
54. I've got \_\_\_\_\_ news for you.  
A) a good    B) some good piece of                      C) good piece of                                      D) some good
55. It's hard to keep one's \_\_\_\_\_ to the grindstone in this beautiful weather.  
A) shoulder                                      B) face    C) back    D) nose
56. I'd be grateful if you \_\_\_\_\_ attend this matter promptly.  
A) should    B) would    C) shall    D) will
57. Would you like to know an excellent remedy \_\_\_\_\_ stomach pain?  
A) from    B) about    C) against    D) for
58. I promise not to be angry \_\_\_\_\_ you tell me the whole truth.  
A) as long as                                      B) as far as    C) until    D) unless
59. Only in Iceland \_\_\_\_\_ hot springs like these.  
A) I saw    B) I have seen                                      C) have I seen                                      D) was I seeing
60. The minister of health \_\_\_\_\_ the foundation stone of the new hospital.  
A) laid    B) placed    C) lay    D) set



# END OF ASSESSMENT

REMEMBER TO TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS  
ONTO THE ANSWER SHEET!

**IESOL L1/B2 READING ANSWER SHEET – HIPPO Preliminary Round 2025**

**Reading Task 1**

Question	Answer
1.	B
2.	D
3.	B
4.	A
5.	C
6.	A
7.	C
8.	D
9.	C
10.	B
11.	A
12.	C
<b>Total: / 12</b>	

**Reading Task 2**

Question	Answer	Question	Answer
13.	B	20.	C
14.	B	21.	C
15.	C	22.	A
16.	B	23.	B
17.	D	24.	C
18.	A	25.	B
19.	D	26.	C
<b>Total: / 14</b>			

**Reading Task 3**

Question	Answer	Question	Answer
27.	C	34.	C
28.	B	35.	A
29.	A	36.	C
30.	A	37.	C
31.	A	38.	C
32.	C	39.	B
33.	C	40.	D
<b>Total: /14</b>			

HIPPO 5-S4 USE OF ENGLISH MC KEY VI

41. A
42. B
43. D
44. C
45. A
46. B
47. C
48. B
49. D
50. C
51. C
52. B
53. C
54. D
55. D
56. B
57. D
58. A
59. C
60. A