



HIPPO 2020

8th International English Language Olympiad

IESOL Assessment Reading

RQF Level: Level 3

(CEFR Level: C2)

Candidate Booklet – Reading
HIPPO Semi-final Round 2020

Candidate Booklet – Reading

HIPPO S2

Semi-final Round

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

- Do NOT turn over the page until instructed.
- This examination is made up of 3 TASKS.
- Answer all the questions
- Remember to transfer your answers onto the answer sheet.
- Use only black or blue PEN.
- Dictionaries are NOT allowed.

Time allowed: 50 minutes

Total marks available: 40



Reading Task 1

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

Scientists invent 'transparent wood'

In an era of glass and steel construction, wood may seem **0)**_____. But now researchers have produced a material that is sturdy, transparent, and able to store and release heat. The researchers say the material could be used in the construction of energy-efficient homes. They also hope to develop a biodegradable version to increase its eco-friendly **1)**_____ as an alternative to plastic, glass or even cement.

“We created a material that is multifunctional – it can transmit light very well and also it can store heat. We **2)**_____ these two functions in a single material,” said Céline Montanari of the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm.

To produce the material, the team built on **3)**_____ work, in which they took balsa wood and removed its lignin – a component of wood that gives it strength and colour. Acrylic, which is non-biodegradable and water-repellent, was introduced into the remaining tissues. That helped maintain the wood’s structure and **4)**_____ its strength. The **5)**_____ was a frosted-looking, robust, wood-based material.

In the latest work, the acrylic was mixed with another substance called polyethylene glycol, which spreads through wood well. **6)**_____, polyethylene glycol also has another feature: when it is heated it absorbs energy and melts, but when temperatures fall it hardens, releasing energy in the **7)**_____. This means the wood-based material could be used to make buildings more energy-efficient, with energy **8)**_____ from the sun during the day released later to heat the rooms.

Materials containing substances that can store and release heat in such a way are not a new idea in the construction industry. Various types of insulation are available to reduce energy **9)**_____. But the team say their approach is different because it uses a natural material that reduces the need for oil-based materials and related CO₂ emissions.

However, Montanari said there was plenty of work still to do – including **10)**_____ the acrylic with a biodegradable alternative, scaling up production of the material, and carrying out computer models of buildings to see how transparent wood compares with glass.

Mark Miodownik, a professor at University College London who was not involved in the research, **11)**_____ engineering the material to be biodegradable, saying it would make the wood less environmentally sustainable, not more. “We need construction materials to absorb carbon, and so they need to be recyclable and reusable, not biodegradable,” he said, adding that one possibility would be for the new type of timber to be **12)**_____ from disused buildings and used in new projects.



- Example: a) old-school b) obligatory c) expired d) popular
1. a) experience b) credentials c) conclusion d) assumptions
2. a) assembled b) identified c) combined d) replaced
3. a) subsequent b) future c) planned d) previous
4. a) restored b) diminished c) compromised d) questioned
5. a) outcome b) inspiration c) consensus d) justification
6. a) Immediately b) Crucially c) Unfortunately d) Inevitably
7. a) past b) process c) way d) context
8. a) conceived b) captured c) diverted d) incorporated
9. a) requirement b) appetite c) consumption d) expenses
10. a) reversing b) reconstructing c) removing d) replacing
11. a) ruled out b) advocated c) cautioned against d) embraced
12. a) recovered b) evacuated c) eradicated d) replicated



Reading Task 2

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

History of Playgrounds

Ontario Place is an entertainment and event venue, and park in Toronto, Canada. It is located on three artificial landscaped islands just off-shore in Lake Ontario. It opened on May 22, 1971, and operated as a theme park until 2012 when the Government of Ontario announced that it would close for redevelopment. It has since reopened as a park without admission charges, but several of the old attractions are no longer available. The Government of Ontario is currently considering further redevelopment of the site.

The original architect behind Ontario Place, Eberhard Zeidler, had created a stunning design comprising the artificial islands. The question of what to do with these architectural wonders, however, seemed to come second. When the park opened in summer 1971, while visitors were awed by the park's self-flushing toilets and Imax movies, one oversight quickly became clear: there wasn't enough for kids to do. When the park decided to remedy that issue the following year, its director, James Ramsay, turned to Eric McMillan.

Para. 3 Up to that point, Eric McMillan had spent little time thinking about how kids played. In 1971, the 29-year-old English immigrant was a design consultant living in Toronto. McMillan had been responsible for the park's most successful exhibition that year – a multimedia tour through the province's history called 'Explosions' – but he'd never built anything for children. During a meeting with Ramsay, McMillan remembers his boss asking for his opinion on the park. McMillan didn't GAP) _____. "I think it's boring," he said straightaway. "Well, what would you do?" asked Ramsay. "I don't know," said McMillan. "Give me two weeks."

Para. 4 McMillan huddled with his assistant, David Lloyd, and when they returned it was with a series of sketches for a playscape unlike any seen before. Children's Village would be a massive success. It would GAP) _____ McMillan's career. It would sit at the centre of children's entertainment for a generation of Torontonians and, briefly, promise to revolutionise the way the world plays.

The playground is a curious creation. The first one in North America was a simple pile of sand in Boston's north end, installed in 1885 by female philanthropists who wanted to give poor immigrant children a place to play and, crucially, a means to assimilate into American society (the fact that it was relatively inexpensive to put in place was an added bonus). That push and pull, between providing children with autonomy and controlling them, has been at the heart of playground design ever since. They are places to expand children's imaginations while constraining their physical bodies.

Para. 6 In theme parks, where the prerequisites of play meet the GAP) _____ of capitalism, the balance between stimulating a child's creativity and keeping them under control becomes more wobbly. Parks in the Disneyland mould are, above all, about managing the play of children, moving them along efficiently, safely and profitably. The equipment is to be used in a specific way, with no latitude for experimentation. The modern theme park seems to apportion its share of imagination in a perverse way, offering boundless creativity to its designers while leaving little scope for the children themselves.



Para. 7

McMillan wasn't interested in controlling kids. In designing Children's Village, his driving philosophy was simple: "What would I, as a child, like to do?" But his conception of what a child might like to do was shaped by a childhood so full of Dickensian deprivation and casual violence that the idea of transplanting that experience to quiet 1970s Toronto is GAP) _____ to imagine.

As a child, McMillan was often hungry and nearly always dirty. For a time, his family lived in the shadow of the Manchester prison called Strangeways. They were desperate enough that, one cold winter, his uncle and father broke into the prison to steal coal. He was constantly moving from one shared house to another and from school to school. His father was a day labourer, when he had work. On weekends, he would put on his one good suit and play the piano in local pubs, earning as much in a single night as he would in a week.

The other side of a childhood of neglect is absolute freedom. "My early memories were just being like a dog, let out in the mornings and let in at night," says McMillan. In those early years, he would play in old deserted buildings, playing violent games with bricks, or building paper airplanes out of the pages of discarded books. There were no restraints, no control.

When he left school at 15, he could barely read or write. "Have you seen when the live crabs at the market are trying to crawl out of their crates? You'll observe that the ones in the back are pulling back the ones that are trying to escape," says McMillan. "That's basically where I grew up."

He got a job as a painter's apprentice and prepared for a life as a labourer. However, the school where he was learning was attached to an art school. As he slowly began to talk with the neighbouring students, members of a social class he had never really encountered, the idea of applying there himself became fixed in his mind. He took the exams, got in and immediately entered a new world. After graduating a few years later and designing exhibitions in England, he saw adverts looking for a designer in Montreal and made his way across the Atlantic.

Para. 12

At Children's Village, McMillan was left to himself with a \$700,000 budget. Prickly and protective over his vision, he demanded full control. The time in which he was working was a remarkably fertile one for children's design. In the post-war era, with the "baby boom", there were suddenly new economies around childhood, which GAP) _____ tremendous innovation. This was the era in which "junk playgrounds" or "adventure playgrounds" – places where tiny children were given tool belts and fistfuls of nails and left to build their own forts – proliferated across the western world.

At Children's Village, McMillan built two and a half acres of mayhem under an orange canopy – reproducing in the safety of Toronto his feral childhood spent scrabbling through rubble, with mountains of colourful vinyl and foam. He erected an enormous spider web structure that hung from soaring watchtowers. He built a series of wooden ladders that spun on their axes, hurling would-be climbers to the mats below. He strung swinging monkey bars over a pool of water and suspended a forest of punching bags at the centre of the village that was, for decades, the most reliable producer of bloody noses in Toronto.

When the park opened in July 1972, it immediately became the city's capital of kids' play. "I had never seen anything like it," remembers Irina Ceric, now a professor in British Columbia. "It was entirely designed just for kids in a way that other parks weren't. It was the best thing that I had ever seen."



Example: What is Ontario Place?

- a) a leisure facility.
- b) a lake.
- c) an island.
- d) a government office.

13. Ontario Place:

- a) is no longer open to the public.
- b) is currently being redeveloped.
- c) has been opened continuously since 1971.
- d) has been closed but is currently open.

14. What was the initial issue with Ontario Place?

- a) There weren't enough islands on the lake.
- b) The space was not big enough for all the visitors.
- c) The park was predominantly adult-centred.
- d) The architectural designs were not well received.

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

- a) hesitate
- b) consent
- c) disclose
- d) insist

16. How did Eric McMillan respond to the request to remedy the initial issue?

- a) He underestimated its extent.
- b) He was initially reluctant to accept the job.
- c) He was concerned about his lack of experience in this area.
- d) He couldn't present an on the spot solution.

17. In paragraph 4, the best word to complete the gap is:

- a) crush
- b) launch
- c) slow down
- d) stall



18. What is the central idea behind the design of a traditional playground?

- a) It is meant to foster children's creativity at all cost.
- b) It is meant to be affordable to build.
- c) It is meant to encourage children to play as a group.
- d) It is meant to achieve a balance between freedom and safety.

19. In paragraph 6, the best word to complete the gap is:

- a) demands
- b) requests
- c) offers
- d) dangers

20. Compared to traditional playgrounds, theme parks:

- a) are better at encouraging creativity.
- b) are equally good at encouraging creativity.
- c) are not as good at encouraging creativity.
- d) are created by designers who lack creativity.

21. In paragraph 7, the best word to complete the gap is:

- a) tempting
- b) awkward
- c) desperate
- d) impossible

22. McMillan mentions the crab behaviour in order to illustrate:

- a) how little people could afford.
- b) the mentality of other people.
- c) the common food at the time.
- d) the job he did after leaving school.

23. McMillan's decision to study art can be best described as:

- a) a lifelong aspiration.
- b) an ambition enforced upon him by others.
- c) a result of luck.
- d) a mistake that he came to regret later in life.



24. In paragraph 12, the best phrase to complete the gap is:

- a) prevented
- b) led to
- c) resulted from
- d) were seen as

25. McMillan started to work on the Children's Village design at a time when:

- a) there was a lot of interest in children's play.
- b) there were very few playgrounds in the country.
- c) the budgets for this type of work were unlimited.
- d) people had very little money to spend on children.

26. Which best describes McMillan's project at Children's Village?

- a) It was successful at eliminating any physical risks to kids.
- b) It was significantly influenced by his childhood experience.
- c) It was not as much fun as the experiences he had as a child.
- d) It did not attract as much interest as everyone had hoped.



Reading Task 3

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

An example has been done for you.

Text A

For decades, researchers seeking the origin of our species have scoured the Great Rift Valley of East Africa. Now, their quest has taken an _____ (GAP) detour west to Morocco: researchers have, with a high degree of accuracy, re-dated a skull from a cave called Jebel Irhoud to a startling 300,000 years ago. The result is the oldest evidence of *Homo sapiens* pushing back the date that scientists thought our kind first appeared by 100,000 years. "This stuff is a time and a half older than anything else put forward as *Homo sapiens*," says lead researcher John Fleagle of the State University of New York in Stony Brook. The discoveries, reported in *Nature magazine*, suggest that our species evolved modern facial traits first, at a time when the back of the skull remained elongated like those of much earlier forms of the human sub-species. The findings also suggest that the earliest chapters of our species' story may have played out across the African continent. "These early people lived on the edge of society. We know little about them. We urgently need to search for more evidence of their existence" says Mr Fleagle.

Text B

It wasn't easy to make a meal of teosinte, a grass that was the ancient precursor to maize. Each cob was shorter than your little finger and harboured only about 12 seeds. But in a dramatic example of the power of crop domestication, around 9000 years ago people in Mexico and the Southwestern U.S. transformed teosinte into the many-seeded maize that today feeds hundreds of millions around the world. Researchers have identified a handful of genes involved in this transformation. Now, studies of ancient DNA by two rival research groups came to the same conclusion: that genetics changed over time as generations of people selected plants with their preferred traits. "These results sharpen the focus of what we know of this early period," says Professor Michael Blake, an anthropologist at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, who was not involved in the original research work. "They have implications for understanding later developments in maize domestication and help us to see what people were selecting at the time."



Text C

If you travel along the Sepik River of New Guinea, it quickly becomes apparent that the people along the banks speak distinct languages. Researchers decided to investigate whether this linguistic diversity reflected real genetic differences - could it suggest that the inhabitants simply didn't mix? Unexpectedly, the research team has recently concluded that the genetic variations between the distinct groups of people date back just 10,000 to 20,000 years, rather than to 50,000 years ago, which was the main hypothesis in the early research.

The island's independent invention of agriculture 10,000 years ago did not _____ (GAP) the genetic differences, as it did in Europe or parts of Asia. In Europe, farmers replaced local hunter-gatherers and erased much of their genetic contribution. That this did not happen on New Guinea is 'a big surprise' according to geneticist Chris Tyler-Smith, who led the team. The researchers analysed variation among 1.7 million DNA markers from 381 Papua New Guinea residents. They concluded that the people of New Guinea were isolated from Asians for most of prehistory, and that highland and lowland dwellers separated from each other 10,000 to 20,000 years ago.

Text D

Scientists have traced the origins of the notion of zero to an ancient Indian text, known as the Bakhshali manuscript - a text which has been housed in the UK since 1902, but which until recently had not been examined by experts. Radiocarbon dating reveals that the _____ (GAP) text, which is inscribed on 70 pieces of birch bark and contains hundreds of zeroes, dates to as early as the 3rd or 4th century - about 500 years older than scholars previously believed. This makes it the world's first mention of the zero symbol that we use today. Marcus du Sautoy, professor of mathematics at the University of Oxford, who went back to the drawing board on the manuscript on behalf of the University, said: "Today we take it for granted that the concept of zero is used across the globe and our whole digital world is based on nothing or something. But there was a moment when there wasn't this number." The Bakhshali manuscript was found in 1881, buried in a field in a village called Bakhshali, near Peshawar, in what is now a region of Pakistan. It was discovered by a local farmer and later bought by the Bodleian Library in Oxford.



Which text	Text
<i>Example</i> describes research that took place on the African continent?	A
27. describes how humans improved agricultural yields?	-----
28. reveals a date of origin closer to modern times than previously thought?	-----
29. describes an object that crossed continents?	-----
30. describes the origins of a concept that is common in modern society?	-----
31. includes the views of an external expert?	-----
32. compares differences in the evolution of two civilisations?	-----
33. includes a call for more research?	-----
34. describes a process involving competing researchers?	-----

B) Now answer the following questions by choosing the correct option.

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

- a) anticipated
- b) unconventional
- c) unexpected
- d) inflexible

36. In Text A, the underlined expression 'played out' means:

- a) to have made a choice
- b) to have happened in a particular way
- c) to have pretended to be something else
- d) to have become very tired

37. In Text B, the underlined phrase 'sharpen the focus' means:

- a) to deepen existing understanding
- b) to contradict widely held beliefs
- c) to increase the level of debate
- d) to correct previous mistakes



38. In Text C, the best phrase to complete the gap is:

- a) wipe out
- b) scour onto
- c) rub off
- d) dry up

39. In Text D, the best word to complete the gap is:

- a) incoherent
- b) intermittent
- c) fragmentary
- d) defective

40. In Text D, the underlined expression 'back to the drawing board' means:

- a) setting new rules
- b) starting over again
- c) taking something less seriously
- d) working as quickly as possible

Candidate Number

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Date of Birth

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

7. _____ you to change your mind about coming, we would be happy for you to stay with us.
8. I had no _____ told her what I thought of her than I wished I'd held my tongue
9. No one wants to have extra homework tonight, _____ they?
10. In such a plight did we find _____ that we had no choice but to radio for help.

3. Complete the sentence by changing the form of the word given.

11. You can wear what you want but there is a(n) _____ law that says you must not wear jeans.

WRITE

12. The farm house we stayed in was completely off the _____ track. **BEAT**
13. It is _____ to fasten your seat-belts before take-off. **ADVISE**
14. The potential income from this venture _____ the risks. **WEIGH**
15. Mia is the victim of her _____ to understand people's feelings. **ABLE**
16. The restaurant on the river bank is _____ a fantastic place to eat. **SUPPOSE**
17. _____ behaviour will not be tolerated in this school. **ABUSE**
18. Most of the food we buy at supermarkets is full of _____. **ADD**
19. Gia's _____ almost led to job loss. **CARE**
20. Lack of _____ has corroded public respect for business and political leaders. **ACCOUNT**

4. Correct the incorrect sentences and tick the correct ones.

21. I didn't have a problem with the new manager's ideas, but I disliked some of his manner.

22. Tom is bound to get a real wakeup call when he enters the world of work.

23. The guidelines for the office's policy on best practise are displayed in the folder.

24. The intravenous solution was a clear, blue liquid.

25. James is staying with Wilsons while he is in New York.

26. What with being so busy both at work and at home, she became bad-tempered.

27. The plans have come to fruition rather sooner than expected.

28. Don't peer! You will ruin the surprise.

29. Today's young people are disillusioned with the government.

30. Most children have been inoculated against tetanus.

