



HIPPO 2024 NATIONAL FINAL ROUND READING TEST

CEFR LEVEL **B1**
HIPPO CATEGORY **HIPPO 3-S2**

Candidate Number _____

Date of Birth _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

Do NOT turn over the page until instructed.

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



Reading Task 1

Read the text and circle the best option to complete each gap – a, b, c, or d.

Monkey Escapes in Scotland

A monkey that 0)_____ five days in the wild Scottish mountains is doing really well after being 1) _____ in somebody's garden and returned to a wildlife park.

It is thought that the Japanese monkey, named Honshu, was found after being attracted to some cake that had been left for birds to eat. The 2)___ search operation, involving many people including police, eventually discovered him less than two miles 3)_____ the wildlife park.

Honshu escaped from his home at Highland Wildlife Park near the town of Kingussie, Scotland, on Sunday morning. He has been 4)_____ the nickname 'Kingussie Kong' by local people, who combined the name of the town with the famous film, *King Kong*.

Stephanie Bunyan, who told the 5)___ she saw Honshu having a snack in her garden, said to *The Guardian* newspaper that as well as peanuts, she had left out some tasty cake, 6)_____ was gone by the morning.

In an 7 _____ on Friday, the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS), which runs the wildlife park, said that Honshu did not lose any weight. The animal seems to have "consumed quite a lot of peanuts" during his time outside the wildlife park. The monkey has now been returned to the park and 8 _____ by experts.

Local residents were asked to hide their outdoor waste bins in 9) _____ to encourage the monkey to go home and not eat from them. The head of the RZSS said: "Honshu is being carefully watched by our doctors and is doing well. We want to say a huge thank you to the local community for their help and support 10)_____ the past week."

- Example:** (a) spent b) found c) lost d) went
1. a) welcomed b) updated c) caught d) introduced
 2. a) major b) permanent c) comfortable d) minimum
 3. a) close to b) away from c) near by d) far from
 4. a) refused b) given c) valued d) excused
 5. a) media b) documentary c) headline d) audience
 6. a) what b) when c) where d) which
 7. a) exam b) action c) information d) update
 8. a) checked b) controlled c) reported d) decreased
 9. a) an opinion b) an effort c) a choice d) a decision
 10. a) along b) into c) throughout d) outside

(10 marks)

Reading Task 2

Read the text and answer the questions below. Circle the correct option, a, b, c, or d.

The Life of Charles Babbage

Para. 1

Charles Babbage was a famous British nineteenth-century mathematician and engineer. Babbage had lots of ideas about how machines could be made to do maths, and is considered by some people as the 'father of the computer'. His first design is now recognised as an early computer, called the Difference Engine, which GAP)_____led to more complicated electronic designs. All the essential ideas of modern computers can be found in Babbage's work.

According to one source, Babbage was most likely born at 44 Crosby Row, London, though there is a lack of real evidence for this. *The Times* newspaper gave his date of birth as 1792; but there is doubt about this as well, because one of his nephews claims that Babbage was born one year earlier, in 1791.

To begin his education, Babbage joined Holmwood Academy, a school in London. Although it was a private school, it was not one of the most well-known and had only 30 students. But it had an enormous library, which encouraged Babbage's love of mathematics. After leaving Holmwood Academy, he studied with two private tutors.

Section 1 Title

In October 1810, Babbage went to Trinity College at Cambridge University. He had already learnt some parts of advanced mathematics and had read all the books by the most famous mathematicians of his time. As a result, he was disappointed by the quality of the maths teaching at the university.

Para. 5

As a student, Babbage had an active GAP)_____ life, just like any other student. He was known for going to parties, and was a member of various student groups, such as The Ghost Club, which investigated whether ghosts exist.

In 1812, he transferred to Peterhouse College, also part of Cambridge University. He was the top mathematician there but did not fully graduate. This is because his work was considered as an attack on religion and the university did not like it.

Section 2 After Cambridge

During his studies, Babbage depended on money from his father. He found this difficult, because of his father's attitude to people marrying at a young age. Babbage married Georgina Whitmore in his early twenties, which his father thought was far too young. However, Charles still managed to make a home in London and had a large family. When his father died in 1827, Babbage received a lot of money (the same as around £9 million today), making him very rich.

After his wife's death, also in 1827, Babbage spent time travelling across Europe, including Italy. He then returned to his work in the UK, and published books on economics and factories. Today, he is considered as an expert on these subjects.

Para. 9

Babbage also became well-known in his lifetime for his dislike of street-musicians. He was badly affected by the noise, and wanted to ban people playing music in the streets. He even helped to organise a society that tried to get the law changed. GAP)____, very few people agreed with him, and a lot of papers printed cartoons laughing at him, which people found very funny. His campaign failed and some musicians even played outside his house to annoy him.

Para. 10

He died in 1871 at the age of 79. GAP)____, his brain is still on display at The Science Museum in London!

Example: Charles Babbage was

- a) a British mathematician.
 - b) an American scientist.
 - c) a British teacher.
 - d) an Italian engineer.
11. In paragraph 1, the underlined phrase 'father of the computer' means
- a) his children loved computers.
 - b) the computer was based on his ideas.
 - c) people sent him their ideas to make a computer.
 - d) his father helped him build a computer.
12. In paragraph 1, the best option to complete the gap is
- a) eventually
 - b) frequently
 - c) personally
 - d) seriously
13. What does the text tell the readers about Babbage's birth?
- a) We know exactly when and where he was born.
 - b) We know only where he was born.
 - c) We know only when he was born.
 - d) We are not sure about the date or place.
14. Which best describes Babbage's early education?
- a) He missed school and went straight to university.
 - b) He attended a school with very few pupils.
 - c) He went to one of the most famous British schools.
 - d) He was only taught at home by his tutors.

15. The best title for Section 1 of the text is
- Thinking about Cambridge
 - Studying at Cambridge
 - Return to Cambridge
 - Giving up Cambridge
16. In paragraph 5, the best word to fill the gap is
- social
 - private
 - simple
 - safe
17. Which of the following is true about Charles Babbage's father?
- He would not let Charles get married.
 - He was not married to Charles' mother.
 - He was unhappy when Charles got married.
 - When Charles married, he bought him a new house.
18. What did Babbage do after his wife died?
- He took some time off work.
 - He gave up work and retired.
 - He took up a new job in Italy.
 - He immediately went back to work.
19. In paragraph 9, the best option to complete the gap is
- Therefore
 - Rather
 - Besides
 - However
20. Which best describes the reaction to Babbage's dislike of street-musicians?
- He got a lot of support, and the rules were changed.
 - The newspapers were not interested in what he said.
 - People really did not take his opinion seriously.
 - Musicians refused to play in his neighbourhood.
21. In paragraph 10, the best option to complete the gap is
- Surprisingly
 - Clearly
 - Completely
 - Possibly
22. This text is
- an advertisement for Babbage's computer company.
 - an explanation of the development of the computer.
 - a largely factual biography of a famous person.
 - a newspaper article based on an interview with Babbage.

(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.

Text A

My son had shown very little interest in hobbies and activities until I introduced him to horse riding. He started when he was 10 years old.

When I first took him, he didn't seem to be very keen. The horse appeared quite big compared to him, which I think might have made him nervous. But he then rode a calmer, older horse, and GAP)_____ went well, and he started to enjoy riding.

Today, his favourite thing is jumping; with the horse of course! He isn't interested in horse racing, which I am pleased about, as when they go fast, I tend to worry about a possible injury. My son practises every weekend and on two evenings a week. He has taken part in a lot of local competitions. Next year, he is going to enter the national championship.

Of course, he still has to do all his schoolwork. That is just GAP)_____ having a fun hobby. Life isn't just about having fun and you can learn a lot of valuable things in school.

Text B

My dad always says that learning how to create useful things is better than reading books or doing well in exams at school. He is an electrician, so was very keen for me to learn how to make or repair things.

Dad has a lot of tools, wood and metal, so I can make whatever I want. When I first started, in my first year of high school, I couldn't get anything right, but today I can make a lot of useful things. I used to struggle just to bend the metal to the right shape, but last week I made a lamp. I even put all the electric parts in by myself, and the lamp works well. I also learnt to cook with my mum, which some people think is difficult, but I find really fun.

Of course, I also have lots of hobbies like all other kids. I love cycling, playing on my computer and playing chess. But none of them are as good as making useful things. It is far more interesting, and you have a finished product GAP) ___ that you can keep forever.

Text C

I learnt to swim before I started school, and my instructor recently described me as an advanced swimmer. My friends don't like to compete with me, as most of the time I can easily beat them, even when I am not trying. Last year, I took part in some races in my area, and I got the silver medal, so I got to go to London to participate in a race against people from all over Britain. I came top out of two hundred people, and even though I had practised a lot, I still didn't expect it.

The odd thing is, my mum and dad can't swim! They didn't tell me first, in case it stopped me from taking up swimming.

The one thing I never managed to achieve is to learn to ride a bike. I did make several GAP) ____, but I kept falling off, and so eventually I just gave up. I put the bike in the garage, and I haven't touched it since.

Which text...

Example:	is about learning to ride a horse?	A
23.	highlights the importance of practical skills?	_____
24.	describes success in a competition?	_____
25.	mentions a worry about danger?	_____
26.	talks about something a person failed at?	_____
27.	was written from the point of view of an adult?	_____
28.	compares different hobbies?	_____
29.	mentions a surprise about someone's parents?	_____
30.	talks about a future plan?	_____

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

31. In Text A, the best option to complete the first gap is

- a) anything
- b) nothing
- c) somehow
- d) everything

32. In Text A, the best option to complete the second gap is

- a) as important as
- b) as crazy as
- c) as well as
- d) as quick as

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

- a) not far from
- b) to start with
- c) in the future
- d) at the end

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

- a) returns
- b) enquiries
- c) attempts
- d) results

(12 marks)

END OF READING ASSESSMENT

HIPPO 2024

National Finals

HIPPO 3-S2 Writing Test V2

Time allowed: 45 minutes



Candidate Number

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Date of Birth

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

1. What is your worst habit? Has it ever got you in trouble? (Write about 80 words.)

2. Write letters in the gaps to form the correct word.

- 1) The position _ n _ o _ _ _ _ a lot of hard work and attention.
- 2) I think you should wear something more _ _ f _ _ _ _ _ to the house party.
- 3) He did finally come with us, although it took a long time to _ e _ s _ _ _ _ him.
- 4) The company publishes a wide _ e _ e _ _ _ o _ of books.
- 5) I find some Italian words very difficult to _ r _ _ _ u _ _ _ .
- 6) `Be careful! ` she said in a(n) _ h _ _ _ e _ , so that nobody would hear.
- 7) What makes people _ o _ _ i _ crimes?
- 8) To cure someone means to stop someone from being _ _ _ e c _ _ _ by an illness.
- 9) We might get dirty so bring some _ p _ _ _ clothes.
- 10) The minimum number of patients _ _ c _ _ _ a _ _ to test the new drug is 50.

3. Decide if the sentences are correct or incorrect. Write C next to the correct ones and correct the incorrect ones.

11) The government has announced the plan to raise the minimum wages next year.

12) She is heavily involved in local politic.

13) Many residents have objected to the new road being built.

HIPPO 2024

National Finals

HIPPO 3-S2 Writing Test V2

Time allowed: 45 minutes



Candidate Number

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Date of Birth

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

14) It shouldn't take too long to return to our old routine.

15) His son followed the family tradition and joined army.

16) Did you go to cinema on your own?

17) I was taken back by his claims that wolverines are ugly.

18) You shouldn't criticise people because the way they look.

19) You had better get this sorted out or you will be in trouble.

20) A few people bought tickets, so the concert was cancelled.

21) It was awful. My dog just laid there and I couldn't help him.

22) It's a small business, so each person is doing lots of different jobs.

4. Use the correct verb of the form in brackets to complete the sentences.

23) Over the past years, Ana _____ (train) by the best coach in the country.

24) I didn't have money last year, but if I _____ (have), I would _____ (go) to the seaside.

25) Gina _____ (always leave) things around the flat. You must tell her not to do that.

26) We _____ (have) a party on Friday. Would you like to come?

27) When I graduate I _____ (join) the Clown Without Borders organisation.

28) The judge sentenced the man to eight years in prison because he _____ (rob) a bank.

29) She _____ (not see) her brother since he started to work in London two years ago.

30) When I saw him last, he _____ (not/be) married for so long.