



HIPPO 2024 NATIONAL FINAL ROUND READING TEST

CEFR LEVEL **B2**
HIPPO CATEGORY **HIPPO 4-S3**

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 45 minutes





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.

Bird Accused of Being a Spy

A bird has finally been released after it was 0) _____ it was innocent of spying. The bird, a pigeon, was put in prison by officers after it was captured in May last year near a port in Mumbai, India. It was found with two rings tied to its legs that had words on them which 1) _____ to be Chinese writing.

Detectives 2) _____ the pigeon was involved in spying and grabbed it, before sending it to Mumbai's Hospital for Animals. However, after eight months in bird-jail, it was discovered that the bird was a racing pigeon from Taiwan, which had 3) _____ and flown to India.

Police then approved the bird's 4) _____ to the Bombay Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, where doctors set free the 5) _____ accused animal on Tuesday.

This is not the only time that Indian police have taken action against what they believed to be flying spies. They have also 6) _____ arrested other birds over security fears. In 2020, suspicious police in the Indian region of Kashmir, on the northern border of India, captured a pigeon that belonged to a Pakistani fisherman. A thorough 7) _____ found that the bird was not looking for secret information, but had 8) _____ flown across the border between the countries.

And it isn't just India that arrests animals. In Colombia, Lorenzo the parrot was 9) _____ from birth to shout when police came near. When drug gang members were 10) _____ being caught by law officers, the parrot would cry "Run, run, the cat is going to get you!"

After many 11) _____ attempts at catching the Columbian criminals, the police finally realised why they always disappeared, so they arrested Lorenzo. They then discovered 200 weapons, a stolen motorbike, and lots of drugs in the house. Once they took Lorenzo to prison, the police 12) _____ to look at other birds and have now caught over 1,000 similar lookout birds.



- Example: a) decided b) passed c) processed d) cheated
1. a) interpreted b) appeared c) proposed d) inquired
2. a) prayed b) watched c) suspected d) altered
3. a) scheduled b) returned c) escaped d) processed
4. a) retirement b) attachment c) input d) transfer
5. a) increasingly b) falsely c) newly d) happily
6. a) generally b) primarily c) previously d) particularly
7. a) appointment b) investigation c) procedure d) study
8. a) largely b) perfectly c) highly d) simply
9. a) trained b) prohibited c) distracted d) contracted
10. a) in hope of b) in danger of c) in spite of d) in place of
11. a) suggested b) desired c) submitted d) failed
12. a) started b) preferred c) refused d) compromised

(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.

What is a Rodent?

Rodents are the most widespread and most diverse group of mammals. There are more than 2000 species of rodents, including mice, guinea pigs, squirrels, and beavers, and they make up about half of all mammal species.

The secret of rodents' success is their teeth. These keep growing throughout their lives and always stay sharp, enabling rodents to consume lots of different types of food, from wood to meat, and even household rubbish. However, rodents must keep chewing things, otherwise the teeth can become too long.

Rodents are known to be quite quick learners. Guinea pigs, for example, can learn and remember complicated pathways to food, and other rodents can quickly recognise how to avoid poisoned traps. This makes them a difficult animal to eliminate if they have started to cause a problem, such as entering your home.

Para. 4

In the wild, rodents display a variety of social behaviours, ranging from creating the extensive "towns" of the prairie dog, where a lot of families live together in large groups, through to preferring small family groups like the guinea pig, and even to leading the independent, solitary life of a certain species of dormouse. The pocket gopher is another example of a solitary animal, with each individual digging its own tunnels and GAP) ____ their territory. However, the last two species are the exceptions, and living with many others is the norm.

Some species live in trees, while others, such as gophers, live almost completely underground, where they build complex tunnel systems. Others live above ground but may have a hole where they can hide. Beavers are famous for loving being in water, but the rodent best adapted for water-life is probably the earless water rat from the island of New Guinea. Rodents also successfully make their homes in human-created environments, such as agricultural and urban areas.

Though some species are annoying for humans, rodents are important to the environment. Some rodents are considered 'ecosystem engineers' because they repair the natural environment. On the Great Plains of North America, the digging of prairie dogs plays an important role in soil health. This enhances the grasslands and some larger animals, such as bison, prefer to live alongside prairie dog colonies and consume the nearby grass because of its increased nutritional qualities.



Para. 7

Many rodent species have a wide range of alarm calls for when they GAP) _____ threats. There are both direct and indirect benefits to doing this. An animal that is hunting the rodent may stop when it knows it has been detected, or an alarm call may allow animals to run or hide. These calls can benefit any nearby animals, not just rodents in the same group. Several species of rodents have specialist defensive alarm call systems. And species may have different calls for different threats (e.g. birds or ground-based animals), with each call containing information about the exact nature of the threat. How urgent the threat is can also be conveyed by the way the call sounds.

We often hear a lot about protecting animal species, but with rodents, this is not usually the case because they are often unwelcome guests. For example, rodents travelled on the old-style sailing ships and landed with sailors on numerous islands where there were no rodents, such as those in the Pacific. When the black rat reached Lord Howe Island in 1918, over 40 percent of the bird species of the island became extinct within ten years. This is because these rats eat birds' eggs.

Similar things happened on other islands and conservation projects are often launched to eliminate rodents. These have met with mixed results, and in some cases, they have managed to remove the rodent but in others, the rodents have proved difficult to control.

Para. 10

Given that there are so many rodents, it is only natural that people eat them. They might not be common in the restaurants of Europe, but in Cuzco, Peru, guinea pigs are a popular dish. And it might surprise you to know that the Romans were particularly GAP) ___ of the dormouse, spending time giving it special food to make it tastier. According to some written records, they were best roasted and dipped in honey. Today, around 90 species of rodent are still eaten by humans, but they tend to be eaten most where larger animals are not present, such as jungles or high mountains.

Example: Rodents such as squirrels and mice are

- a) very common animals.
- b) quite hard to find.
- c) only found in Europe.
- d) limited to only a few species.

13. Why does the author mention rodents' teeth?

- a) They stop growing when they reach adulthood.
- b) They are useful for biting in defence.
- c) They often grow too big, causing problems.
- d) They allow rodents to eat almost any food.



14. What is the main reason rodents hard to get rid of?

- a) They are immune to most poisons.
- b) Because of their intelligence.
- c) There are many species of rodents.
- d) They enjoy coming into houses.

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

- a) limiting
- b) maintaining
- c) revealing
- d) browsing

16. Which best describes the lifestyle of most rodents?

- a) They tend to live in larger groups.
- b) They are primarily solitary creatures.
- c) Two species of rodents often live together.
- d) They live in groups for the purpose of defence.

17. What does the text say about the places where rodents live?

- a) Warm shelter is their priority.
- b) Only beavers like to live in water.
- c) Some live in both trees and underground.
- d) They can do well in areas where people live.

18. How are prairie dogs thought to help bison?

- a) They dig holes that the bison can use.
- b) They improve the food the bison eat.
- c) Bison like to be near them for company.
- d) Prairie dogs lead bison to water sources.

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

- a) avoid
- b) risk
- c) identify
- d) pose



20. In paragraph 7, the underlined phrase ‘conveyed by’ means the same as

- a) answered
- b) demanded
- c) replaced
- d) represented

21. What does the author say about the sounds made by rodents?

- a) That all rodent noises are fundamentally the same.
- b) They are usually too quiet for other animals to hear.
- c) The warnings given by rodents can be quite specific.
- d) They make sounds when they are being aggressive.

22. What happened after rodents reached Lord Howe Island?

- a) The local residents were curious about them.
- b) It had a negative impact on the native wildlife.
- c) A particular species of rodent became protected.
- d) The rodents became increasingly overweight.

23. How effective are the programmes to control rodents?

- a) They have usually been successful.
- b) They have affected other animals as well.
- c) Some of them have worked well.
- d) It is too early to be able to tell.

24. In paragraph 10, the best option to complete the gap is

- a) fond
- b) aware
- c) critical
- d) suspicious

25. What does the author say about humans eating rodents?

- a) It should be common in Europe.
- b) It is influenced by geographical factors.
- c) They are particularly tasty when roasted.
- d) The Romans refused to eat rodents.

26. The main purpose of this text is to

- a) present factual information about rodents.
- b) show the author’s passion for rodents.
- c) explain the threats to rodent numbers.
- d) persuade people to stop eating rodents.

(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.

Text A

Haka are a variety of ceremonial dances in the Māori culture of New Zealand. Haka are often performed by a group, with movements and stamping of the feet and lots of shouting and singing. Other actions include showing the whites of the eyes, sticking out the tongue, and slapping the hands against the body. As well as singing, a variety of cries are used.

New Zealand sports teams usually perform a haka to GAP 1) ___ the other team before international matches, to let the opposition know the team are ready for the fight. This has made the dance form widely known around the world. Although haka are popularly associated with the traditional battle preparations of male warriors, this is only because of a lack of understanding of the key reasons for the dance. Mostly, they are performed to welcome distinguished guests, or to recognise important occasions, for example funerals.

Haka have been traditionally performed by both men and women for a variety of social functions within Māori culture. Inaccurate performance of haka by non-Māori is often considered GAP 2) ___ by Māori scholars, as they consider the dance to be central to their culture. The Haka is now seen around the world and the Māori continue to promote it whenever they can.

Text B

Bossa nova (meaning 'new trend') is a relaxed style of dancing developed in the late 1950s in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In Brazil, the word bossa is an old-fashioned Portuguese word for something done with charm or natural ability.

The style of dance was created by drummer Milton Banana in the 1950s, though it was not till 1959, when João Gilberto's 'Chega de Saudade' album was released, that a wider audience came into contact with the music. It was mostly played on the guitar, but it also used piano, trumpet, saxophone, and drums.

Surprisingly, bossa nova had faded out by the late sixties. Bossa nova music, with its sophisticated rhythms, is well suited for listening but failed to take off as dance music, despite extensive promotion in the early 1960s.

To help people understand the dance, about ten simple patterns of steps were published. A typical dance was: "step forward, tap foot, step back, step left together, tap foot, repeat from the opposite foot".

Today, there is only one famous song that is described as bossa nova: The Girl from Ipanema. Originally written in Portuguese, it was sung in English by Astrid Gilberto and became a world-wide hit.



Text C

The Tarantella is probably one of the most recognised forms of traditional southern Italian dance.

It began in the Italian province of Taranto, where the bite of a specific local spider was popularly believed to be highly poisonous, and led to an illness known as 'tarantism'. This could apparently be cured by dancing, and this dance became known as the "tarantella". Exactly when the dance originated is unknown, but in 186 BCE, the tarantella was banned by the Roman Empire due to being considered GAP 1) ___ and was then only done in secret as emergency therapy for bite victims.

In another area of the Italian peninsula, close to Naples, the tarantella is traditionally performed by couples that wish to get married and it is quite distinct from the original Taranto dance, using faster, more cheerful, music.

Today, people across the South of Italy in particular celebrate the Tarantella and it is surprisingly popular with young people, who regard it as something from their region to value and celebrate. GAP 2) ___, it allows young talented performers to show their skill on the trumpet and clarinet.

Which text describes a dance ...

Text

Example: whose name comes from the Portuguese language?

B

27. whose main purpose has been misunderstood?

28. which is no longer popular?

29. which involves behaviours unusual for a dance?

30. which was created by a specific individual?

31. which does not use any musical instruments?

32. which was not allowed to be performed for a period of time?

33. which was believed to have healing properties?

34. which varies between regions in a country?



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

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

- a) challenge
- b) congratulate
- c) cheat
- d) advertise

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

- a) important
- b) entertaining
- c) thoughtful
- d) offensive

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

- a) improving jobs
- b) sounding good
- c) advertising heavily
- d) being popular

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

- a) guides to
- b) advantages of
- c) additions to
- d) preferences for

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

- a) insufficient
- b) inappropriate
- c) incredible
- d) innovative

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

- a) Therefore
- b) However
- c) Additionally
- d) Unfortunately

(14 marks)

END OF READING ASSESSMENT

HIPPO 2024

National Finals

HIPPO 4-S3 Writing Test V2

Time allowed: 45 minutes



Candidate Number

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| D | D | M | M | Y | Y | Y | Y |

1. Describe the world 100 years from now. (Write about 120 words.)

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

- 1) I've got a test tomorrow, so I have to _e v _ _ e tonight.
- 2) It was nothing special, just a(n) _r _ _ n a _ _ Saturday morning.
- 3) I like spring, the weather is _ _ l _ ; it is warm and pleasant.
- 4) The minimum number of patients _ _ c _ _ _ a _ _ to test the new drug is 50.
- 5) The whole valley was covered with _ _ s _ this morning.
- 6) There's a large flat _ _ a _ _ separating two mountain ranges.
- 7) I have never heard such a(n) d _ _ _ _ _ r _ _ _ insult in my life. How dare he?
- 8) A number of plants and insects in the rainforests have already become _ _ t _ _ _ t.
- 9) _ n _ _ _ e is the money that someone gets from working or from investing money.
- 10) We'll only have real _ _ ua _ _ _ _ when women earn as much money as men.

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

11) In average, 5 out of 6 students do their homework on time.

12) Did you go to cinema on your own?

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

HIPPO 2024

National Finals

HIPPO 4-S3 Writing Test V2

Time allowed: 45 minutes



Candidate Number

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14) They delayed the decision as long as possible.

15) The advertisement is an announcement in a newspaper, on TV, on the internet, etc. that is designed to persuade people.

16) The Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, are a truly revealing landmark of the capital city.

17) I got sunburnt despite having worn a hat.

18) But for his quick thinking, Boris would have been badly maimed for life.

19) The President of France's visit to England will be good for the economy.

20) Our business is doing quite well, but I hear Simon and Julie are having problems with their.

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

21) Jo and Jane _____ (go) to a concert tomorrow night.

22) They _____ (look) forward to it the whole week.

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

24) They _____ (stand) in the queue for over an hour when the manager told them that there were no more tickets.

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

26) We were tired because we _____ (walk) for over three hours so we decided to have a little break.

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

28) I _____ (think) of calling my daughter Alice because it was my grandmother's name.

29) Ah, there you are! I _____ (wait) for you to arrive.

30) I _____ (wonder) if I could borrow your car on Sunday. It's just that there aren't any buses then.