



HIPPO 2024 NATIONAL FINAL ROUND READING TEST

CEFR LEVEL **C1**
HIPPO CATEGORY **HIPPO 5-S4**

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.

Glossary: *Vending machine (noun)* – a machine from which you can buy items, e.g. drinks or snacks

Cans and Bottles Deposit Return Scheme

The Deposit Return Scheme, 0) ___ has been on the government's agenda for a while, is due to start soon. The best thing about it? You will earn money for recycling plastic bottles and cans!

A 1) ___ found that if people paid small deposits on single-use drinks containers, they'd be more likely to recycle. 83% of people who responded were in 2) ___ of the introduction of a deposit return scheme. As part of the scheme, reverse vending machines will be installed at 3) ___ sites, for example supermarkets. People will be able to return their bottles and cans and get their deposit back. Most of the machines will be on retail 4) _____.

The UK Government will work with the administrations in Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as industry, to deliver the scheme. Infrastructure must be established, and existing labelling is set to be 5) ___ to include clear instructions. The Government is also setting 6) ___ a Deposit Management Organisation to run the scheme. It's this organisation that will decide how much the refundable deposit will be. The hope is that in the three years following the 7) ____, there'll be 85% fewer drinks containers polluting the environment.

As well as having the 8) ___ of a vast majority of people in the UK who want to get paid for recycling, the industry has responded well to the news. Coca-Cola said it welcomed the Government's commitment to making recycling easier for people while delivering the best 9) ___ for the environment. The British Soft Drinks Association said it looked forward to working with the Government.

Each year, UK consumers drink their 10) ___ through 14 billion plastic bottles and 9 billion drink cans. Only about half of these are recycled; the rest end up as litter or in a landfill site. The scheme will build on what the government has already done to try to 11) ___ unnecessary plastic waste. Last month, the Government announced that a ban on single-use items like plastic plates, trays, bowls, cutlery etc. will come into 12) ___ in England in a few months. There are also restrictions on the selling of single-use plastic straws and drink stirrers.



- Example:** a) which b) that c) when d) what
1. a) reference b) movement c) policy d) consultation
2. a) search b) difficulty c) favour d) agreement
3. a) designated b) selective c) exclusive d) customary
4. a) programmes b) premises c) promotions d) structures
5. a) placed b) limited c) amended d) determined
6. a) up b) off c) back d) out
7. a) usage b) innovation c) launch d) tactic
8. a) opinion b) advice c) offer d) support
9. a) phase b) outcome c) reason d) promise
10. a) line b) path c) road d) way
11. a) eliminate b) receive c) impose d) recognise
12. a) life b) strength c) force d) future

(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.

Cultivating calm: how gardening helps me find peace, by John Smith

It was the runner beans that did it. My neighbour, who is in her 90s, dropped off an envelope filled with a small handful of dried beans, which looked as if they'd been dipped in pink and black paint. A few months later, I was eating the best runner beans I'd ever tasted, and they kept coming, for weeks and weeks. We gave bunches and bunches away, ate more, learned that you have to de-string them, and then finally, recently, when the plants started to look tired, let them dry out, and saved the seeds for next year's batch.

Para. 2

I have a restless mind and I have tried everything to quieten it. Running, meditation, yoga. Working hard, hardly working. I have repeatedly listened to an app that's meant to help you relax, only to find myself feeling guilty for not being able to concentrate on it for long enough. But gardening works like nothing else has. I can pop to the garden for five minutes and find that three hours have passed. I don't look at my phone. I tend not to worry, and I can eat (most of) the spoils.

Para. 3

For most of my adult life, I've lived in rented flats in London, never in one location long enough to be certain of seeing a full seasonal cycle through. Outdoor space was a rarity and a luxury. During the first lockdown, in another flat with no garden, I went for it GAP) _____. A few herbs by every window, mostly the easy ones, parsley and mint, but a few tomato plants, too, grown from seed, surprisingly tough on the tiny balcony.

Then my partner and I fled the city, moved to a town and a small house with a garden at the back and front, loved at one time, but largely left to their own devices in recent years. It had become a massive battle with the greenery, and the winner turned out to be ivy, which was everywhere. And then one day, we got stuck in. What a simple pleasure, to have a reason to be outside whenever it was light and dry, to get mucky from digging and tired from lifting, to watch as a plant bed we had strived hard to clear reveal itself over time. We even found garlic under shrubs, along with long forgotten vegetable patches.

Para. 5

People say that bakers are sharers by nature. I think gardeners are the same. The neighbour who gave us runner beans also gave us a pepper plant that is now indoors and has just given up a late ripened red pepper. Another neighbour dropped off cucumbers that had done far better than my own. As we attempted to wrestle the semi-wild front garden into some sort of shape, someone brought out a wheelbarrow, in case we needed it, GAP) _____ someone else offered the use of the skip he'd hired for his own garden clear-out. Ah, I thought. This is what community feels like.



Para. 6

You're supposed to leave a garden for a year, I read, to see what's there, but I couldn't wait that long. I got some pretty flowers going from seed – some pink sweet peas, cosmos that look like fireworks – but it was the fruit and vegetables, mostly the vegetables, that were the biggest revelations. In an otherwise miserable year, being able to go into the garden and pick dinner was miraculous. On the night I made garden ratatouille, every ingredient grown by us, the onion, garlic, pepper, tomatoes, courgettes, herbs, I felt a satisfaction that still cheers me up when I think about it today, GAP) ___ most of those plants have long since gone onto the compost heap.

As a hobby, gardening is not cheap at the beginning, though the amount of recycling and reusing that goes on makes it easier as you go, and it's not quick, but it is calming, and it is soothing, and it is useful. Being able to give people lettuce from the garden when the supermarket shelves were running short felt good.

Para. 8

It is becoming all-consuming. It's getting out of hand. I went to the Chelsea Flower Show this year for the first time and came back with a bagful of bulbs and seeds, largely chosen for what they were called and whether they looked funny. I am working my way through the RHS level 2 qualification in gardening, studying soil improvement and other stuff. But I am not a good gardener yet, or a knowledgeable one. I am a beginner, learning as I go by rolling up my sleeves.

Example: This article is about

- a) gardening.
- b) runner beans.
- c) neighbours.
- d) cooking.

13. In the introduction, the author mentions his neighbour because of

- a) her old age.
- b) her gardening skills.
- c) her excessive generosity.
- d) a small gesture she made.

14. Which best describes the author's first attempt at growing vegetables in his garden?

- a) It took him a long time to get it right.
- b) The plants didn't look very healthy to start with.
- c) He only liked some of the vegetables he grew.
- d) He produced more vegetables than he needed.



15. What does the author say about gardening and his mental health?

- a) Gardening has improved it more than other activities.
- b) The effect of gardening is comparable to meditation.
- c) Gardening makes him feel bad for spending time not working.
- d) He still feels a bit anxious at times when he gardens.

16. In paragraph 2, what is the main purpose of the underlined sentence?

- a) to illustrate two extreme behaviours
- b) to summarise a previously made point
- c) to highlight the loss of income
- d) to provide an alternative solution

17. In paragraph 3, the best option to complete the gap is

- a) enough
- b) mostly
- c) anyway
- d) again

18. Which best describes the time the author used to live in London?

- a) The plants he tried to grow in his flats didn't do well.
- b) The living arrangements made it impossible for him to garden.
- c) He only ever stayed in one place for less than a year.
- d) He tried to rent a house with a garden but without any success.

19. The garden at the author's first house outside of London

- a) had never been looked after by the previous owner.
- b) required a lot of work to make it look nice at the front.
- c) showed signs that a keen gardener lived there before.
- d) was so overgrown it required a professional to restore it.

20. In paragraph 5, the underlined phrase 'given up' means the same as

- a) stopped trying
- b) produced
- c) left behind
- d) planted



21. In paragraph 5, the best option to complete the gap is

- a) however
- b) when
- c) during
- d) while

22. Why does the author compare gardeners to bakers?

- a) Because both activities require a substantial time commitment.
- b) Because people doing both activities show similar personality traits.
- c) Because he enjoys gardening as much as others enjoy baking.
- d) Because both activities result in producing healthy food.

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

- a) therefore
- b) in spite of
- c) even though
- d) as a result

24. When doing the initial work on his new garden, the author

- a) concentrated on growing plants that would make it look nice.
- b) managed to grow good crops despite bad weather.
- c) disregarded some of the advice on how to handle a new garden.
- d) only grew plants he wanted to use to make food with.

25. Which best describes the author's conclusion about gardening as a hobby?

- a) It offers many benefits that outweigh some disadvantages.
- b) If you are prepared to work hard, it hardly costs any money to start with.
- c) It is useful as you can produce vegetables that cost a lot in shops.
- d) It is necessary to get some qualifications if you want to get it right.

26. In paragraph 8, the underlined phrase 'it is getting out of hand' means the same as

- a) I'd prefer it to be less demanding.
- b) It's improving despite difficulties.
- c) I'm slowly learning how to do it.
- d) It is slowly taking over my life.

(14 marks)



Reading Task 3

Part 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, National Library Lover's Day

National Library Lover's Day was started in Australia in 2006 at the State Library of New South Wales. The day became a national holiday in 2007, when the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) ___ the campaign to promote their passion for books.

Since the day got its start, National Library Lover's Day has grown in popularity not just in Australia, but it has spread to other parts of the world. With events, special activities and annual campaigns encouraging thousands of libraries to join in, this day has certainly become something special.

Sure, as a kid the library might have been a place that didn't seem that appealing, because it is a place that required people to sit still and be quiet. But for many people, especially adults, the peace and quiet that is afforded by the library offers a respite from the busy chaos of the world outside. Not only that, but it is a place of virtually unlimited resources!

Text B, Book Giving Day

Whether you want to admit it or not, you probably enjoy giving and receiving gifts. There is no denying the special moment when you receive a wrapped package and get to find out what's inside. Or, as the gift giver, when you get to watch someone you love as they smile opening your present. This day is devoted to promoting a lifelong love of reading, especially in children, and providing books for children in need.

This day originally started in the United Kingdom. However, over the years it has spread and book lovers around the world now participate in the celebrations. The holiday was started by Amy Broadmoore and her son, through Delightful Children's Books, who conceived the original idea in 2012, after identifying a need for books for children in underfunded areas. The mother-son duo then worked with Zoe Toft to develop the day. After creating the event and working on developing celebrations and incentives, they passed the responsibility over to Emma Perry in 2013, who currently runs the day's website. The site defines the day as a "100% volunteer initiative aimed at increasing children's access to and enthusiasm for books."

Book Giving Day does not host large, organised events; they instead encourage volunteers to act out of their own goodwill. Volunteers, as well as holiday celebrators, are encouraged to gift a book to a child. This book can be your favourite book, one you haven't read, or one you think a child would love. This day is now celebrated officially in over 44 countries from six out of the seven continents!



Text C, Thesaurus Day

Thesaurus Day, celebrated on 18th January, is your opportunity to reintroduce yourself to that best friend of writers, the thesaurus.

In 1840, Dr Peter Roget retired from a successful career in medicine and spent the rest of his life working on Roget's Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases. The work was the result of decades of collecting lists of words and categorising them, GAP 1) ___ a scientist would collect specimens. In Roget's case, he collected words. He first published his thesaurus in 1852. And it was more than a book of synonyms - it was a complete categorisation and organisation of each word by meaning. Since then, poets and writers have used the thesaurus to help make their writing come to life. However, the thesaurus also has its downsides. For example, some say the thesaurus weakens language and destroys it.

Poets have long used words in their melodious composition of phrases to evoke the most powerful images, knowing that "very happy" is all good and well, but "exultant" brings an entirely different scene to mind. What makes an author a true expert is knowing how to blend together words and scenes to capture the mind and really GAP 2) ___ the personality of the characters in their stories.

Text D, National Book Lovers Day

Book Lovers Day, celebrated on the 9th of August, is widely recognised on a global scale, yet its origin and creator remain unknown to date. While the day's beginnings may remain a mystery, the history of books themselves is not. Starting from carving on stone tablets thousands of years ago, the book was designed to make writings and drawings portable, which was preferable to carrying them around on weighty stone tablets. Originally, these written documents were made on parchment or vellum (types of animal skin) that was then bound tightly with a wooden cover.

Often the wooden cover was tightly wrapped in leather to prevent the wood from getting wet and had straps to hold it GAP 1) ____. In Eastern cultures, carved wooden blocks were used with ink to print out texts on cloth, as early as 220 AD.

Later, printing capabilities made books cheaper and easier to print. The printing press was invented in Germany in 1436 by Johannes Gutenberg, with the original intention of printing Bibles. Of course, the printing press, the typewriter, and the computer all had an impact on the way that books were created, produced, marketed and sold.

In recent years, the surge in electronic devices that can be used to read has taken the world by surprise. Computers, tablets, and most mobile phones now enable the user to read books, making it much easier to carry around a small library to enjoy no matter GAP 2) ___ a person finds themselves.



Which text...	Text
Example: describes a national day that celebrates libraries?	A
27. mentions both pros and cons of something?	-----
28. provides most details of how the celebration started?	-----
29. explains how a skill can be useful in someone's job?	-----
30. does NOT provide information about how the day started?	-----
31. explains how modern developments have affected an activity?	-----
32. says that the same activity may not be enjoyable to different people?	-----
33. states that the day was a result of someone noticing a problem?	-----
34. makes a practical suggestion on how to celebrate the day?	-----

Part B. Now answer the following questions. Circle the correct option, a, b, c, or d.

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

- a) initiated
- b) opposed
- c) impacted
- d) abandoned

36. In Text A, the underlined word 'respite' means the same as

- a) further investment
- b) significant improvement
- c) temporary relief
- d) sudden interference

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

- a) much like
- b) meanwhile
- c) effectively
- d) otherwise



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

- a) bring back
- b) bring up
- c) bring across
- d) bring round

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

- a) close
- b) shut
- c) dense
- d) dry

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

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

(14 marks)

END OF READING ASSESSMENT

HIPPO 2024

National Finals

HIPPO 5-S4 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. If you could be a teacher for the day, what decisions would you make and why?
(Write about 140 words.)

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

- 1) This year's _ n _ _ _ _ conference will be held next month.
- 2) All visitors to the national park must take their _ _ _ t _ _ to the recycling center.
- 3) The little boy _ u _ _ _ e _ something about not wanting to go to school.
- 4) Oh no! My jeans got _ i _ _ e _ when I jumped over the fence.
- 5) If anyone calls, tell them I don't want to be _ _ s _ _ _ b _ _ .
- 6) Al Capone was a(n) _ n _ a _ o _ _ gangster.
- 7) The jury took 16 hours to reach a(n) _ e _ d _ _ _ .
- 8) The situation in the country has _ et _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ and tourists are advised not to go there.
- 9) Svetozar will _ t _ b _ _ _ _ _ y refuse to change his opinion in spite of all attempts to persuade him.
- 10) She soon became accustomed to her new s _ _ _ o _ n _ _ _ _ _ .
- 11) Michela is very _ n _ u _ s _ _ _ v _ , and always wants to know the latest news about Hippo.
- 12) Your report is clearly _ re _ u _ _ _ ed against the minorities.

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

- 13) Liam startled me when he suddenly appeared next to me.

HIPPO 2024

National Finals

HIPPO 5-S4 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) I'd rather you don't come with me to the fashion show tomorrow.

15) I got sunburnt despite having worn a hat.

16) We are still waiting for Sarah's decision about who to take on.

17) Dealing with other people's preconceptions about depression added to his anxiety.

18) If you had failed your driving test, how would you felt?

19) At no point I was told what the test involved.

20) I went to university to net get a job.

21) Some students fail taking their exams and so they have to repeat.

22) Hefty fines are payable for those whom exceed their overdraft limit.

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

23) Whenever I went to Nicolo's house, he would _____ (play) on his computer.

24) _____ (you/help) me with my physics homework?

25) I _____ (finish) my chemistry homework by the time you come home.

26) Ben _____ (tidy) his room when I got home because it was a real mess.

27) This milk tastes funny. I think it _____ (go) off.

28) Emma _____ (still/used/be) around animals. She is still nervous when she has to feed them.

29) The referee blew the whistle and the most important match I _____ (play) began.

30) Heart disease is thought _____ (cause) by having a poor diet.