



HIPPO 2024 NATIONAL FINAL ROUND READING TEST

CEFR LEVEL **C2**
HIPPO CATEGORY **HIPPO S5**

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 50 minutes

GATEHOUSE
AWARDS

12TH
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.

New Species of Pterosaur Discovered

A new species of pterosaur, which looks very much like a large flying lizard, has been discovered on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. The winged **0)** ____, named *Ceoptera evansae*, lived between 168 to 166 million years ago during the Middle Jurassic period when dinosaurs **1)** ____ the Earth.

Professor Paul Barrett, a researcher at the Natural History Museum, said the discovery was a "complete surprise" because "most of its close relatives are from China". Palaeontologists spotted the fossil **2)** ____ in 2006 during a field trip to Elgol, on the southwest coast of the island. Since then, the team have spent years physically preparing the specimen and taking scans of the bones, some of which remain completely or partly embedded in rock.

Despite the skeleton being **3)** ____ - with only parts of the shoulders, wings, legs and backbone left - the researchers said it provides key insights into evolutionary history and **4)** ____ of pterosaurs. Pterosaurs are sometimes **5)** ____ as pterodactyls - however pterodactyl is actually the name for just one particular family of the many species of pterosaurs.

Researchers said the new species of pterosaur belongs to a group known as *Darwinoptera*, with many fossils also found in China. **6)** ____, published in the *Journal of Vertebrate Palaeontology*, suggest *Darwinoptera* may have been considerably more widespread than previously thought, surviving for more than 25 million years.

Professor Barrett said: "The *Ceoptera Evanseae* found on the Isle of Skye helps to **7)** ____ down the timing of several major events in the evolution of flying reptiles. Its appearance in the Middle Jurassic period in the UK was a complete surprise, as most of its close **8)** ____ are from China. It shows that the advanced group of flying reptiles to which it belongs appeared earlier than we thought and quickly gained an almost worldwide distribution."

The researchers said that pterosaur fossils from the Middle Jurassic period are rare and mostly fragmentary, **9)** ____ attempts to understand more about how these creatures evolved.

Lead author Dr Liz Martin-Silverstone, a palaeobiologist from the University of Bristol, said: "The time period that *Ceoptera* is from is one of the most important periods of pterosaur evolution, and is also one in which we have some of the fewest specimens, indicating the **10)** ____ of this discovery. To find that there were more bones embedded within the rock, some of which were **11)** ____ in identifying what kind of pterosaur *Ceoptera* is, made this an even better find than initially thought. It brings us one **12)** ____ closer to understanding where and when the more advanced pterosaurs evolved."



- Example:** a) reptile b) mammal c) amphibian d) bird
1. a) eradicated b) surrounded c) roamed d) crossed
2. a) remains b) development c) precedent d) messages
3. a) compatible b) defective c) loose d) incomplete
4. a) indication b) resemblance c) diversity d) welfare
5. a) described b) referred to c) interpreted d) related to
6. a) Researchers b) Summaries c) Findings d) Introductions
7. a) narrow b) slim c) sharpen d) follow
8. a) offspring b) siblings c) residences d) relatives
9. a) asserting b) hindering c) misleading d) addressing
10. a) implication b) assurance c) significance d) substance
11. a) integral b) noticeable c) inadequate d) versatile
12. a) point b) move c) step d) time

(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 Perilous Race to the South Pole

In the early 1910s, explorers Roald Amundsen and Robert Falcon Scott engaged in a frantic, and ultimately tragic, race to be the first man to reach the South Pole. "Another afternoon of relentless struggle and only five miles added," British explorer Robert Falcon Scott wrote in his diary. "Our chance still holds good if we can put the work in, but it's a terribly trying time."

Para. 2

It was mid-January 1912, and the 43-year-old Royal Navy officer was nearly 800 miles into a journey to the geographic South Pole. Scott's five-man party had already endured brushes with snowstorms and frostbite during their trek. They were now less than 80 miles from the finish line, but a single question still loomed over their progress: would they be the first men in history to reach the South Pole, or the second?

Scott's frozen nightmare had begun over a year earlier, when his ship Terra Nova had arrived on Ross Island in Antarctica's McMurdo Sound. His party was tasked with conducting scientific research and collecting wildlife and rock samples, but Scott, who had previously led an Antarctic mission in 1902, was also determined to make a run at the Pole. Before leaving for the expedition, he had vowed "to reach the South Pole and to secure for the British Empire the honour of this achievement."

Section 2 Title

Scott's mission was made all the more urgent by the knowledge that another explorer was seeking the Pole. Roald Amundsen was a 39-year-old Norwegian who had spent most of his life venturing to the far corners of the globe. He had been to Antarctica in the late 19th century, and later became the first man in history to sail the perilous Northwest Passage linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

In 1909, Amundsen announced a new expedition to navigate the ice-riddled waters of the Arctic to the North Pole. He had hoped to be the first man to achieve the feat, but after the American explorers claimed to have beaten him to the punch, Amundsen secretly changed his plans. Without telling his financial backers or even his own crewmen at first, the Norwegian steered his ship toward Antarctica and set his sights on reaching the South Pole.

The Norwegian expedition enjoyed a few clear advantages. Amundsen set up his camp on the Ross Ice Shelf in the Bay of Whales, a point that was over 60 miles closer to the Pole than Scott's home base in McMurdo Sound. And unlike Scott, whose expedition was burdened by its scientific obligations, Amundsen was focused only on reaching the Pole and returning safely. "Science," he later admitted, "would have to look after itself."

After spending the early part of 1911 preparing food and supplies for their polar journeys, Amundsen and Scott's expeditions took shelter and spent several months waiting out the dark and frigid Antarctic winter. Amundsen later tried to get a head start by beginning his



journey early in September 1911, but was forced to turn back after temperatures dipped as low as 68 degrees below zero. Finally, on October 20, 1911, the situation improved enough for his five-man team to begin their dash to the Pole. Scott got underway just a few days later, on November 1.

Section 3 Amundsen Arrives First

Para. 8

Amundsen and Scott relied on vastly different forms of transport during their journeys. Scott employed a combination of sled dogs, Manchurian ponies and even a few motorised tractors. The machines quickly broke down, however, and his ponies grew weak in the cold and had to be shot. After sending the dogs back to camp, he and his team were forced to spend much of their journey dragging their heavy supply sleds on foot. Amundsen, GAP) ____, relied solely on skis and sled dogs to cross the tundra. The dogs helped his men save their strength, and thanks to the speed of his dog teams, Amundsen's party managed to move to the Pole at a pace of over 20 miles per day. The Norwegians took an untested route that forced them to navigate difficult terrain, but by early December, they had travelled farther into the heart of Antarctica than anyone in history. Amundsen would later write that he "had the same feeling that I can remember as a little boy on the night before Christmas Eve—an intense expectation of what was going to happen."

Finally, on December 14, 1911, he and his companions arrived at the South Pole. The men planted the Norwegian flag and posed for snapshots, but they only remained for a few days before beginning the arduous trek back to their base camp.

Section 4 Scott Arrives, But Too Late

Over a month later, on January 17, 1912, Scott and his weary British team finally reached the Pole. To their dismay, they spotted the remains of Amundsen's camp just as they were approaching.

Scott had been beaten to the Pole, but his troubles were only beginning. The British team had reached their destination late in the Antarctic summer, which is why temperatures were dropping rapidly. They began their return, but exhaustion, frostbite and malnourishment had soon spread through their ranks. On February 17, a man named Edgar Evans became the first of the British party to die.

Section 5 Scott: 'I Do Not Think I Can Write More'

Para. 12

Scott, his friend Dr. Edward Wilson and another man named Henry Bowers continued the journey for another few days, but temperatures continued to plunge, and they were later caught in a blizzard. All three would pass away in their tent just days later. "We shall stick it out to the end, but we are getting weaker, of course, and the end GAP) ___ be far," Scott wrote in his last diary entry. "It seems a pity, but I do not think I can write more."

Para. 13

By the time the bodies of Scott, Wilson and Bowers were found later that November, Roald Amundsen had already returned home in triumph and embarked on a lecture tour across the country. Despite having won the race without losing a single man, he was in many ways overshadowed by Scott, whose GAP) ___ march had made him a hero in his native Britain. Amundsen continued his wandering and reached the North Pole in 1926. Two years later, he died in a plane crash while searching for a missing explorer over Norway's Svalbard archipelago.



Example: This article is about

- a) South Pole exploration.
- b) South Pole weather.
- c) South Pole geography.
- d) South Pole plants and animals.

13. The first diary entry quoted describes the journey as

- a) slightly challenging.
- b) highly rewarding.
- c) extremely tough.
- d) surprisingly tolerable.

14. In paragraph 2, the author states that the explorers experienced

- a) unexpected company.
- b) a change of route.
- c) an 80-mile-long journey.
- d) dangerous weather.

15. Scott's Antarctic expedition which started in 1910

- a) was organised with the aim of reaching the South Pole.
- b) had a different primary purpose to reaching the South Pole.
- c) was expected to only last approximately a year.
- d) did not have enough people to reach its objective.

16. The best title for Section 2 of the text is

- a) Amundsen Changes Course and the Race Is On
- b) Norwegian Explorers in the Arctic
- c) Different Ways to Prepare for Arctic Exploration
- d) Scott Doesn't Seem to Want to Win

17. Scott's main competitor, Amundsen, can be best described as

- a) young and quite inexperienced.
- b) brave and not discouraged by danger.
- c) reckless and difficult to work with.
- d) well-travelled but rather cautious.

18. Why did Amundsen decide to travel to the South Pole?

- a) He managed to secure enough funding.
- b) His ship accidentally steered off course.
- c) It had been his lifetime ambition.
- d) Someone got in the way of his original plans.

19. Why was Amundsen's expedition more likely to succeed?

- a) He had the backing of great scientists.
- b) He only had to travel a distance of 60 miles.
- c) He didn't have to deal with any distractions.
- d) He was more experienced in navigating ice and snow.



20. Why did Amundsen have to call off his initial attempt?

- a) He didn't have enough supplies at the time.
- b) Due to adverse weather conditions.
- c) Some of his men withdrew their support.
- d) Because it was too dark to navigate safely.

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

- a) meanwhile
- b) although
- c) consequently
- d) anyhow

22. What does the text say about transport during the race?

- a) Relying on several methods of transport presented an advantage.
- b) The pole was impossible to reach without motorised vehicles.
- c) Dogs appeared to have been the most reliable and useful choice.
- d) Each form of transport offered its own, distinct benefits.

23. Which best describes the feeling Amundsen had just before reaching the South Pole?

- a) relief
- b) suspense
- c) satisfaction
- d) doubt

24. After Scott and his team reached the South Pole,

- a) their situation temporarily improved.
- b) there was an unexpected change in weather.
- c) Scott stopped making further entries in his diary.
- d) the men started to lose their strength.

25. In paragraph 12, the best option to complete the gap is

- a) cannot
- b) must
- c) shall
- d) may

26. In paragraph 13, the best option to complete the gap is

- a) dubious
- b) secluded
- c) stern
- d) doomed

(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 Honshu Island, Japan

Honshu is the largest island in Japan at almost 228,000 square kilometres. Located to the north is Hokkaido, and Shikoku and Kyushu islands are located to the south and southwest respectively. The island GAP) ___ the Sea of Japan, which lies to its north and west, from the North Pacific Ocean to its south and east. It is the seventh largest island in the world, and the second most populous after Java.

A significant proportion of the population is found in the coastal lowlands, notably in the Kantō plain, where 25% of the total population resides in the Greater Tokyo Area. As the historical centre of Japanese culture and political power, the island includes several past Japanese capitals, including Kyoto, Nara, and Kamakura. Much of the island's southern shore forms part of the Taiheiyō Belt, a megalopolis (a huge sprawling city) that spans several of the Japanese islands.

Most of Japan's industry is located in a belt running along Honshu's southern coast, from Tokyo to Kyoto, Osaka, Nagoya, Kobe, and Hiroshima. By contrast, the economy along the northwestern Sea of Japan coast is largely based on fishing and agriculture. The island is linked to the other three major Japanese islands by a number of bridges and tunnels. Its climate is humid and mild.

Text B, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

Sumatra is a region of Indonesia and the 6th largest island in the world. People who spoke Austronesian languages first arrived in Sumatra around 500 BC, as part of the Austronesian expansion from Taiwan to Southeast Asia. With its location on the India-China sea trade route, several trading towns flourished, especially on the eastern coast, and were influenced by Indian religions and the Srivijaya Buddhist monarchy in particular.

The Srivijayan influence diminished in the 11th century and Sumatra was then subject to conquests from Javanese kingdoms. At the same time, the Islamic religion GAP 1) ___ to Sumatra through Arabs and Indian traders in the 6th and 7th centuries. Marco Polo visited the island in 1292. The powerful Aceh Sultanate ruled from this time into the 20th century. With the coming of the Dutch, the many Sumatran states gradually fell under their control. Aceh area in the north of the island was the major GAP 2) ___, as the Dutch were involved in the long and costly Aceh War (1873–1903).

Sumatra came under the control of the Dutch East Indies and became a major producer of pepper, rubber, and oil. In the early and mid-twentieth century, Sumatran academics and leaders were important figures in Indonesia's independence movements before full independence was gained in 1945.



Text C Victoria Island, Canada

Victoria Island is a large island in the Arctic Archipelago that straddles the boundary between Nunavut and the Northwest Territories of Canada. It is the eighth-largest island in the world.

With long, frigid winters and short, cool summers, the island's climate is characterized by extreme temperatures and minimal precipitation. During the winter months, temperatures often plummet well below freezing, with average lows reaching -30°C (-22°F) or even colder. Blustery winds and heavy snowfall are common, creating challenging conditions for residents and wildlife. In contrast, summers are brief but relatively mild, with temperatures hovering around $5\text{-}10^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($41\text{-}50^{\circ}\text{F}$) on average. Despite the short growing season, the island's landscape bursts into bloom with vibrant wildflowers and supports a variety of Arctic wildlife.

Text D Baffin Island, Canada

Baffin Island, located in the Canadian territory of Nunavut, is renowned for its stunning natural beauty and unique cultural heritage. As the largest island in Canada and the fifth largest in the world, Baffin Island boasts a diverse landscape characterised by towering mountains, expansive glaciers, and intricate fjords carved by ancient ice sheets. Its dramatic scenery attracts outdoor enthusiasts and adventurers seeking hiking, skiing, and wildlife encounters amidst its rugged terrain.

The island is also home to vibrant Inuit communities whose traditions and way of life are deeply rooted in the Arctic environment. These resilient communities have thrived for centuries, relying on hunting, fishing, and gathering to sustain themselves in this harsh but breathtaking landscape. If you're considering an adventure on Baffin Island, you'll have the opportunity to learn about Inuit culture, history, and art through local museums, cultural centres, and interactions with community members.

Baffin Island's remote location and pristine wilderness make it a haven for wildlife, including polar bears, Arctic foxes, and migratory birds. Its Arctic waters are bursting with marine life, offering opportunities for whale watching and kayaking among icebergs. Whether exploring its rugged coastline or immersing oneself in its rich cultural tapestry, Baffin Island offers a truly unforgettable Arctic experience.



Which text...	Text
Example: describes an island in Japan?	A
27. describes the smallest of the islands?	-----
28. provides the most information about the island's history?	-----
29. says that the island provides opportunities for winter sports?	-----
30. suggests that the island's population is concentrated in urban areas?	-----
31. includes the most information about the climate on the island?	-----
32. does NOT give information about the economy on the island?	-----
33. suggests that visitors to the island can gain knowledge about its past?	-----
34. says that the island was conquered by another nation?	-----

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) separates
- b) shares
- c) spreads
- d) succeeds

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

- a) made an effort
- b) made time
- c) made its point
- d) made its way

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

- a) victory
- b) obstacle
- c) benefit
- d) measure



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

- a) barely
- b) both
- c) alike
- d) badly

39. In Text C, the underlined verb 'supports' means the same as

- a) encourages
- b) provides for
- c) agrees with
- d) holds the weight of

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

- a) rooted
- b) formed
- c) stuck
- d) created

(14 marks)

END OF READING ASSESSMENT

HIPPO 2024

National Finals

HIPPO S5 Writing Test V1

Time allowed: 45 minutes



Candidate Number

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Date of Birth

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

1. 'It is only shallow people who do not judge by appearances.' Oscar Wilde (Write about 160 words.)

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

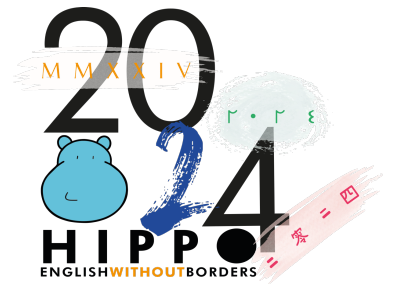
- 1) The situation in the country has _et_____ and tourists are advised not to go there.
- 2) A bomb was the only __a_s___e explanation for the crash.
- 3) Your report is clearly _re_u___ed against the minorities.
- 4) My daughter graduated last year and now she works as a business c_n_____a___.
- 5) Most mobile phones rapidly become __s___te.
- 6) Your change in attitude is long o__r___, and we will have to let you go.
- 7) She regards the wedding ceremony as the quaint a_a_h_____m.
- 8) Nowadays a lot of people are a_a___e___c when it comes to politics and so when elections come they don't bother to vote.
- 9) He came to California after a brief _t_n_ as a waiter in New York.
- 10) Her career as a writer _pa___d half a century.
- 11) The little boy _u___e_ something about not wanting to go to school.
- 12) Dad suddenly braked because he saw a(n) _a___rd in the road.
- 13) We've had a few __is_a___ on the way, but at least we're here now.
- 14) The _r_u___ this summer means that crops are at risk of drying.
- 15) When the earthquake happened, the statue w__b___ and then fell over.

HIPPO 2024

National Finals

HIPPO S5 Writing Test V1

Time allowed: 45 minutes



Candidate Number

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Date of Birth

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

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

16) There is ample evidence to prove his guilt.

17) Perhaps he will never know what had transpired that night.

18) There was only a meagre food supply.

19) Actually, this train does stop at Botos.

20) Having been afraid of needles, Jo was not looking forward to the injection.

21) When she was young, Timi was always taking things apart to see how they worked.

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

22) _____ (you have) your computer long before it broke down?

23) I am sure I will beat Jason at poker because I _____ (play) it with my brother since we were kids.

24) She _____ (write) computer games for over ten years before she finally had a hit.

25) It looks as if Jake _____ (lose) his job by the end of the week.

26) This time next month, I _____ (watch) the football world cup.

27) They _____ (ask) the Prime Minister much more searching questions. I wonder why they didn't.

28) _____ (you/not/better) check that facts are actually true?

29) I don't really know. She _____ (well/do) it, but I haven't seen it yet.

30) Tony looked as if someone _____ (just/hand) him a million euros.