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ENGLISHWITHOUTBORDERS

HIPPO THE CONTEST

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. An example has been done for you.

Local Film Festival Success

Our town's first youth film festival 0)____ attracting hundreds of visitors this week. The event not only 1)____ entertainment for local people, but also gives young filmmakers a chance to show their work.

Recent reports 2)____ that making short films helps students improve their communication skills. To encourage creativity, several schools now organise filmmaking clubs 3)____ students learn to tell stories through video.

One recent student film about life in our town has received an excellent 4)____ in the local newspaper. The film shows everyday life in an interesting way. Students who 5)____ the film club spend their free time learning about cameras and editing.

The festival includes workshops for beginners. Many students are making their own short films and learning new 6)____. The workshops have become so successful that they will 7)____ after the festival. Students have reported that they understand films better after being 8)____ how they are made.

The festival organisers are now planning to 9)____ similar events in other towns. They believe giving young people the chance to be creative is 10)____ valuable for the wider community.

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Example: | <input checked="" type="radio"/> a) is | b) has | c) does | d) was |
| 1. | a) explores | b) makes | c) provides | d) develops |
| 2. | a) indicate | b) involve | c) realise | d) approve |
| 3. | a) which | b) that | c) when | d) where |
| 4. | a) audience | b) summary | c) review | d) record |
| 5. | a) enter | b) attend | c) go | d) watch |
| 6. | a) aims | b) tasks | c) skills | d) challenges |
| 7. | a) disappear | b) continue | c) explore | d) confirm |
| 8. | a) learnt | b) taught | c) studies | d) seen |
| 9. | a) arrange | b) name | c) celebrate | d) prevent |
| 10. | a) particularly | b) completely | c) fortunately | d) entirely |

(10 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 School Podcast Project

Para. 1 When Lisa Martinez started a podcast at her school last year, she didn't expect it would become so popular. The idea came during a class discussion about school news. While the school newspaper was good for announcements, Lisa thought students would prefer listening to stories about school life. "Our English teacher said it was GAP 1) ___ trying," Lisa remembers. "She told us that good ideas need time and effort to succeed."

The podcast team started with just four students, meeting in the computer room during lunch breaks. At first, they struggled with the technical side - none of them had used recording equipment before. Fortunately, Mr. Roberts, the IT teacher, offered to help them learn the basics. "The first few recordings weren't very good," Lisa laughs, "but we improved each time."

Their first episodes focused on interviewing teachers about their lives before they became teachers. Students were surprised to learn that their math teacher had been a professional musician, and their science teacher had worked in several different countries. The interviews helped students see their teachers differently, and soon other students were suggesting questions for future interviews.

Para. 4 After two months, the podcast was getting more listeners each week. The team had to decide whether to GAP) ___ the podcast to include stories from outside school. Some teachers thought they should stay focused on school news, but the students wanted to talk about local community events too. After discussing it with their English teacher, they decided to try both types of stories.

Para. 5 The podcast has now been running for a year. People have come to expect new episodes every week, and many parents listen to it too. The team chooses topics that interest both teenagers and adults, from local sports events to interviews with people who have interesting jobs in the town. They've learned how to plan interviews from a local journalist, edit audio, and work as a team.

Para. 6 What started as a simple school project has grown into something bigger. The podcast now has over a thousand regular listeners, including students from other schools. Local businesses have asked them to make GAP) ___ about youth events, and the town library regularly invites them to record special episodes about their activities for young people.

Lisa and her team recently won a local youth media award for their work on the podcast, and a number of schools in the area are beginning to create their own. "We never expected to win any awards," says Lisa. "We were just trying to make something interesting for our school."

Even with this success, the team still focuses on making good content for their listeners. They meet twice a week to plan episodes and practise their interviewing skills. New students are welcome to join the team, and older members help teach them the technical skills. "The best thing," says Lisa, "is that we're learning valuable skills while having fun. Some of us are even thinking about careers in media now."

Example: The text is mainly about

- a) how to make a podcast.
- b) a successful school.
- c) different types of school projects.
- d) ways to become popular at school.

11. In paragraph 1, the best word to complete the gap is

- a) powerful
- b) important
- c) recommended
- d) worth

12. What encouraged Lisa to go ahead with the podcast?

- a) Her English teacher's suggestion.
- b) Reading the school newspaper.
- c) Listening to other podcasts.
- d) A classmate's suggestion.

13. The start of the project was difficult because the students didn't have

- a) the right equipment.
- b) the right skills.
- c) the right help.
- d) a room to meet in.

14. What surprised students about their teachers?

- a) They didn't like being interviewed.
- b) They had various past experiences.
- c) They wanted to be on the podcast.
- d) They didn't enjoy their job.

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

- a) present
- b) move
- c) expand
- d) deliver

16. In paragraph 5, the underlined phrase 'have come to expect' suggests that people

- a) are advised to listen to
- b) now regularly listen to
- c) have to listen to
- d) might listen to

17. Which best describes the podcast's audience?

- a) only school students
- b) mainly teachers
- c) different groups of people
- d) local journalists

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

- a) articles
- b) apologies
- c) announcements
- d) animations

19. What change happened because of the podcast's success?

- a) The school stopped its newspaper.
- b) Other schools started podcasts.
- c) Lisa was offered work in youth media.
- d) The school got money from local businesses.

20. What do the students gain from the project?

- a) better grades at school
- b) money from advertising
- c) new equipment
- d) useful experience

21. What is Lisa's opinion about the project?

- a) It's educational and enjoyable.
- b) It's starting to feel like too much work.
- c) It's harder than she expected.
- d) It's particularly good for new students.

22. What is the main message of the text?

- a) School projects can grow beyond expectations.
- b) Podcasts are better than newspapers.
- c) Students should interview their teachers.
- d) Media skills are important for careers.

(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.

An example has been done for you.

Glossary:

a UNESCO World Heritage Site - a site of great cultural and/or natural importance

Text A – Youth Sports Centre

Our centre opened in 2020 and welcomes young people aged 12-18. We offer various activities including basketball, volleyball, and dance classes. All our instructors are qualified teachers who make sure everyone can join in, whatever their level of experience.

Morning sessions (9:00-12:00) are usually for school groups, while afternoons (2:00-6:00) are open to everyone. We organise special events at weekends, like competitions and dance shows. Our café serves healthy snacks and drinks, though some members say they would like more choice.

We are proud that our building uses solar panels for electricity and collects rainwater for our gardens. Members who walk, cycle, or use public transport to reach us get points on their membership cards, which they can use for free equipment hire or extra sessions.

Text B – Creative Centre

The Creative Centre has been running art and music activities since 2018. What makes us different is that young people can come to some activities to see if they enjoy them before they sign up for regular classes. We believe everyone has creative talent - they just need a chance to discover it.

The centre is especially busy after school hours, when students come to practise music, paint, or work on digital art projects. The top has recording equipment and practice rooms for bands. On the ground floor, there's an art studio where you can learn painting, drawing, and photography. Some equipment can only be used under supervision of the tutors, for safety reasons.

Our most popular new activity is called 'Digital Arts', where our members can bring their existing skills in traditional drawing or painting to the computer to create exciting new designs. Our trained staff show students how to use different techniques, from drawing on tablets to creating animations.

Text C – The Learning Centre

Instead of traditional study spaces, the Learning Centre offers a modern place where students can work together on projects or get help with their schoolwork.

Morning sessions are for school groups, and afternoon times are for individual students. Evening sessions let students who are at least 16 years of age use the computers and study rooms. The entire centre is located on the ground floor, GAP 1)___ makes it easy to access for people with physical disabilities.

Students can bring their own laptops or use our computers. We have fast internet access and printers, plus a library of textbooks and study guides. Our staff can help with research and computer problems. There's also a small kitchen where students can make hot drinks and heat up meals they bring from home.

A) Which text...	Text
Example is about a place that opened in 2020?	A
23. mentions travel options?	_____
24. says the centre allows people to try before joining?	_____
25. mentions that technical support is available?	_____
26. is about a centre which offers separate sessions for older members?	_____
27. talks about saving energy?	_____
28. is about a centre with an area where members can prepare food?	_____
29. describes different levels in the building?	_____
30. talks about an activity which combines old and new skills?	_____

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

31. In Text A, the underlined phrase “whatever their level of experience” suggests that

- a) Anyone can participate.
- b) Everyone must be skilled.
- c) Activities are very easy.
- d) Teachers are very strict

32. In Text B, the underlined words “a chance” could be best replaced with

- a) an attempt
- b) a risk
- c) an opportunity
- d) luck

33. In Text B, the underlined phrase “under supervision” means

- a) with special equipment
- b) in special rooms
- c) with a staff member present
- d) at specific times only

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

- a) that
- b) which
- c) what
- d) where

(12 marks)

END OF READING ASSESSMENT



END OF READING ASSESSMENT

REMEMBER TO TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS
ONTO THE ANSWER SHEET!

13th HIPPO

national finals

HIPPO 3-S2 Writing Test VI

Time allowed: 45 minutes



Candidate Number

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Date of Birth

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1. How does playing sports affect people? (Write about 80 words.)

2. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form (positive, interrogative, negative, active or passive) to complete the sentences.

- 1) Jim _____ (be) really busy lately with all the work at the new branch.
- 2) Just as we _____ (arrive) our daughter rang to tell us that...
- 3) Can you believe it! It says people _____ (live) on Mars in the future.
- 4) She told me she _____ (wear) that dress only once before but don't believe her.
- 5) After you _____ (finish) with Dr. Gupta, we will take you for an x-ray.
- 6) It appears that these tools _____ (use) to break open the window.
- 7) What is wrong with the cat? I don't know, it _____ (lie) there since we got home.
- 8) Jeremy went to bed early tonight, he _____ (must/be) tired.
- 9) I am the tallest boy in my class, _____ (be/I)?
- 10) I've heard that Rick _____ (see) that cute cheerleader for the past few weeks.

3. Write the correct word to complete the sentences, for example, c h i c k e n or chicken.

- 11) Most cases of _ a _ d _ u _ _ can be easily treated with specialized shampoos.
- 12) Do you _ _ _ _ _ to know what size XL is in centimeters?
- 13) 'Will the table fit in here?' 'I don't know - let's _ e _ s _ r _ it.'
- 14) I am knackered; I am going to hit the _ _ _ _ .
- 15) He's been feeling _____ the weather recently. No wonder he hasn't shown up at work.

13th HIPPO

national finals

HIPPO 3-S2 Writing Test VI

Time allowed: 45 minutes



Candidate Number

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Date of Birth

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- 16) I think it's time we addressed the _____ in the room. We should discuss it openly...
- 17) People don't use silver _____ for eating anymore. It's mostly made of stainless steel these days.
- 18) I hate _ _ _ _ late. I try to be as punctual as I can.
- 19) The _____ exit on your left is clearly marked with yellow and black.
- 20) No _ _ _ _ than 3.000 people came to greet the Hippo winner at the airport in ...

4. Decide if the sentences are correct or incorrect. Write C for the correct ones and correct the incorrect ones.

- 21) If I had money, I would have gone to Paris. But I didn't.

- 22) Over the past fifty years, we witnessed improved safety in air traffic regulations.

- 23) Should you see Peter, tell him that I will be waiting for him in my office.

- 24) I got a square new table from my friends.

- 25) We have little milk, but I think it is enough to make pudding.

- 26) The noise and fumes of the traffic really inconvenient the residents.

- 27) Many of our distant cousins, whom we hadn't seen for years, came to my sister's wedding.

- 28) Never have I seen such a beautiful sunset as the one above the home for the blind.

- 29) The less you know about the whole situation, the better for you.

- 30) I will never understand why the bicycle seat is called the saddle.
