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ENGLISHWITHOUTBORDERS

# HIPPO THE CONTEST

## 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 text and circle the best option to complete each gap – a, b, c, or d. An example has been done for you.

### The Rise of Competitive Gaming

Competitive gaming is becoming increasingly 0) \_\_\_\_\_ as a form of entertainment worldwide. In recent years, it has developed from a 1) \_\_\_\_\_ hobby into a professional sport. Players can now earn a good wage by competing in tournaments that 2) \_\_\_\_\_ thousands of spectators. The largest events fill entire sports stadiums, and millions more people watch online.

Professional gaming teams are now very 3) \_\_\_\_\_ organisations: they operate in line with official guidelines, have proper training facilities, and employ various experts. Players follow 4) \_\_\_\_\_ training schedules and work with coaches to improve their skills. Many teams also provide 5) \_\_\_\_\_ support to help players handle the pressure of competitions. The most successful teams have their own training centres where players live and practise together throughout the year.

The gaming industry has created many new 6) \_\_\_\_\_ opportunities for young people, as the professional player salaries have never been more competitive. Professional players need reliable equipment and spend many hours practising specific techniques. Most successful teams 7) \_\_\_\_\_ a scientific approach to training, combining physical exercise with game practice. Players must also learn to work together 8) \_\_\_\_\_, as most popular games are team-based competitions.

Research shows that gaming can have lasting effects on 9) \_\_\_\_\_ skills. Regular practice can improve concentration and effective thinking. Many schools now recognise gaming as a mainstream activity, and some universities even offer special programmes for e-sports players. These programmes help students develop both their gaming skills and their understanding of the gaming 10) \_\_\_\_\_, which has consistently grown over the last decade.

New technology continues to make competitive gaming 11) \_\_\_\_\_ enjoyable to watch and play. With better graphics and faster internet connections, more people can enjoy watching these events from home. Virtual reality systems are making the experience even more appealing to both players and spectators. Industry experts 12) \_\_\_\_\_ this trend will continue as new technologies develop, making competitive gaming an important part of the future of sports and entertainment.

- Example:**       a) popular      b) social      c) frequent      d) wide
1.                  a) single                  b) relaxed                  c) successful                  d) casual
2.                  a) attract                  b) follow                  c) appreciate                  d) contain
3.                  a) structured                  b) traditional                  c) flexible                  d) adventurous
4.                  a) sufficient                  b) strong                  c) strict                  d) typical
5.                  a) financial                  b) sudden                  c) psychological                  d) motivated
6.                  a) travel                  b) career                  c) hobby                  d) sport
7.                  a) approve                  b) entertain                  c) achieve                  d) employ
8.                  a) incredibly                  b) effectively                  c) precisely                  d) initially
9.                  a) physical                  b) technical                  c) mental                  d) emotional
10.                  a) strategy                  b) programme                  c) industry                  d) appearance
11.                  a) necessarily                  b) admittedly                  c) steadily                  d) increasingly
12.                  a) predict                  b) justify                  c) represent                  d) define

(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 Changing World of Music Festivals

The story of how music festivals changed from simple weekend concerts into major international events shows how much the entertainment industry has developed over the past fifty years. What began as small groups of music fans has grown into a global industry worth billions of pounds, attracting millions of visitors each year.

Para.2 In the 1960s and 70s, most music festivals were fairly basic events. Organisers would find an empty field, set up a simple stage, and rely on local food sellers to feed the crowds. Sound systems were often poor quality, and if it rained, the whole event could turn into a muddy mess. Despite these GAP) \_\_\_\_, people loved the feeling of spending a weekend outdoors listening to their favourite bands with friends. The success of these early festivals showed that people valued the social experience as much as the music itself.

Para.3 Today's festivals are very different. Modern technology has transformed these events into carefully planned experiences. Professional sound systems ensure perfect audio quality, while giant video screens help everyone see the performances clearly. Many festivals now offer various types of places to stay, from basic camping to luxury tents with proper beds and electricity. Not everyone has appreciated this change, and some still miss the basic facilities of the past. Safety has also improved significantly, with modern systems using electronic wristbands to control access and stop fake tickets being used.

The business side has changed dramatically too. While early festivals often struggled to make money, today's events have multiple ways of increasing income. Besides ticket sales, festivals earn money from food and drink sellers, festival products, and advertising deals with major brands. Some of the bigger festivals even broadcast their performances online for paying viewers around the world. Festival organisers now employ marketing teams to maintain a social media presence throughout the year, keeping fans interested even when the festival isn't running.

Para.5 GAP) \_\_\_\_\_, this growth has brought new problems. As festivals have become more popular, ticket prices have increased significantly. The effect on the environment has also become important, with many festivals now working hard to reduce waste and use clean energy. Some people argue that the original spirit of music festivals has been lost, replaced by too much focus on making money. Smaller, independent festivals often find it hard to compete with large commercial events, which can afford to book more famous performers.

Para.6

The impact of technology continues to shape how people experience festivals. Social media allows fans to share their experiences instantly, while special festival apps help people plan their weekend schedule and find their friends in the crowd. Unlike streaming apps, these festival apps focus only on practical information and maps to help visitors during the event. Some festivals are even trying out virtual reality technology, allowing people to experience performances from home. These new developments have made festivals more GAP) \_\_\_\_\_ to people who can't attend in person, though some argue this makes the experience less real.

Weather remains a significant concern for outdoor festivals, but modern events are better prepared for bad conditions. Many now have covered stages and better systems to deal with rain and mud. Some festivals even employ weather experts to help with planning and decision-making. Insurance costs have gone up as a result, as organisers need to protect themselves against possible cancellations.

Para.8

Despite all these changes, the basic appeal of festivals remains the same – the excitement of seeing favourite artists perform live and sharing the experience with others. Modern festivals GAP) \_\_\_ be more organised and expensive than their earlier versions, but they still provide a unique way for people to enjoy music together. As technology continues to advance, festivals will likely keep evolving, finding new ways to combine traditional live music experiences with modern developments.

**Example: The text is mainly about**

- a) how to organise a festival.
- b) how festivals have changed over time.
- c) why festivals are expensive
- d) what happens at music festivals.

**13. What does the text suggest about earlier music festivals?**

- a) They were better organised than modern ones.
- b) They had basic facilities and equipment.
- c) They were more expensive to organise.
- d) They attracted larger crowds.

**14. In Paragraph 2, the best option to complete the gap is**

- a) characteristics
- b) points
- c) issues
- d) features

15. In paragraph 3, the underlined word 'transformed' means the same as

- a) moved rapidly
- b) changed completely
- c) improved slightly
- d) developed slowly

16. According to the text, which is true about modern technology?

- a) It has become overly important.
- b) It has made festivals less enjoyable.
- c) It has improved the audience experience.
- d) It has made festivals more difficult to organise.

17. In terms of finances, the text suggests that modern festivals

- a) make most of their money from ticket sales.
- b) find it easier to be profitable.
- c) often charge unreasonable prices.
- d) still sometimes run at a loss.

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

- a) Therefore
- b) In contrast
- c) However
- d) Despite this

19. The author is concerned that modern festivals

- a) care too much about the business side
- b) do not care about the environment.
- c) do not allow less-known artists to perform.
- d) don't pay enough to their employees.

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

- a) accessible
- b) preferable
- c) adequate
- d) sympathetic

21. What is the main purpose of festival apps according to the text?

- a) To sell festival tickets online.
- b) To watch festival performances.
- c) To help plan festival visits.
- d) To download festival music.

**22. How does the text describe virtual reality at festivals?**

- a) It has replaced live performances.
- b) It is still being tested.
- c) It has failed to work.
- d) It is better than attending in person.

**23. What opinion does the text express about weather and festivals?**

- a) It affects festivals more now than in the past.
- b) It affects festivals less now than in the past
- c) It affects festivals as much now as in the past.
- d) It's unclear how it affects modern festivals.

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

- a) must
- b) should
- c) may
- d) ought to

**25. What does the text suggest about the future of festivals?**

- a) They will become fully virtual.
- b) They will continue to change.
- c) They will return to basics.
- d) They will become less popular.

**26. This text can be described as**

- a) strongly critical of modern festivals.
- b) highlighting only positive changes.
- c) presenting different viewpoints.
- d) providing an overview of world festivals.

(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 – Smart Cities

Cities are starting to use new technology to make life better for people living there. Smart traffic lights can now study traffic patterns and change their timing to help cars move better. In Manchester, these new systems have helped reduce driving time by 15% during busy hours. Modern buildings also have special sensors that control lights and heating based on when people are using rooms, which helps save energy.

These digital systems also make cities safer. Special cameras can spot problems as soon as they occur, and better communication helps emergency services arrive faster. Most city councils now have smartphone apps where people can report problems like broken roads or streetlights that don't work.

However, making cities smart comes with some difficulties. The systems cost a lot of money to install, and must be protected from cyber-attacks. Many people also worry about their privacy because these systems collect information about residents move around the city and which services they use.

GAP) \_\_\_ these problems, most cities believe smart technology is necessary for the future. As more people move to cities each year, finding better ways to manage traffic, energy, and public services becomes more important. Early results from cities using this technology show it can really help solve urban problems.

#### Text B – Digital Libraries

Digital libraries are changing how people find and use information around the world.

GAP) \_\_\_ traditional libraries with limited space and opening hours, online collections are available at any time and from any place with internet access. This is especially helpful for students and researchers who can now read materials that were previously difficult to find.

These online libraries use advanced search systems to help users find exactly what they need quickly. People can highlight important parts of a book, make notes, and share sections with others. Some digital libraries also provide extra learning tools, like practice tests and study guides. Students can get together online to share their notes and discuss what they're reading.

However, digital libraries face several challenges. They need to find ways to make sure writers and publishers still get paid for their work, while keeping access open to readers. There are also worries about keeping digital books and documents safe for the future. Some people are concerned that digital materials might be lost if websites close down or if computer systems change too much.

Still, most experts believe digital libraries will become more important in coming years. They make learning possible for people who live far from traditional libraries or cannot visit them easily, although good internet connection remains necessary.

**Text C – Modern Farming**

Farming is changing with new technology. Farmers now use satellites and special devices to check if their crops are healthy, while computer systems control water and plant food automatically. This modern way of farming helps grow more food while using less water and fewer chemicals than traditional methods.

Farmers can now get important information about their fields from computer programmes. These programmes show which areas need more water or plant food, helping farmers make better GAP) \_\_\_\_\_. Special weather stations in the fields can warn farmers before frost or storms happen, so they can protect their crops in time.

One interesting development is indoor farming, where plants grow in layers inside buildings. These indoor farms can work in cities, making the distance for food to be delivered from farms to shops much shorter. They use special lights and temperature control to grow plants all year round, no matter what the weather is like outside. While setting up these farms costs more money than traditional farming, and requires a significant amount of energy, many experts think they will become very important for feeding people in cities.

These new farming methods are especially useful in places where good farmland is hard to find or where the weather makes growing food difficult. They might help solve food supply problems as cities get bigger and the climate becomes less predictable.

A) Which text...	Text
<b>Example</b> focuses on agriculture?	C
27. mentions early warning systems?	_____
28. describes people working as a group?	_____
29. talks about reducing the need for transportation of goods?	_____
30. refers to the time a facility can be accessed?	_____
31. refers to safety improvements?	_____
32. <b>does not</b> explain how automated systems save resources?	_____
33. talks about the issue of fair payment?	_____
34. includes an example from a specific location?	_____

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

**35. In Text A, the underlined word “spot” means the same as**

- a) find quickly
- b) leave a mark
- c) prevent easily
- d) create new

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

- a) As a result of
- b) In spite of
- c) Throughout
- d) Leading to

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

- a) Unlike
- b) Including
- c) Owing to
- d) Within

**38. In Text B, the underlined word ‘advanced’ means the same as**

- a) reasonably difficult
- b) ready to progress
- c) highly developed
- d) user friendly

**39. In Text C, the best option to fill the gap is**

- a) purchases
- b) decisions
- c) sales
- d) promises

**40. In Text C, the underlined phrase “no matter what” means the same as**

- a) whatever the level
- b) it is important
- c) under certain conditions
- d) it makes no difference

(14 marks)

**END OF READING ASSESSMENT**



# END OF READING ASSESSMENT

REMEMBER TO TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS  
ONTO THE ANSWER SHEET!

# 13<sup>th</sup> HIPPO

*national finals*

HIPPO 4-S3 Writing Test VI

Time allowed: 45 minutes



Candidate Number

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Date of Birth

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

1. Do social media and smartphones strengthen one's relationships? (Write about 120 words.)

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

- 1) Just as we \_\_\_\_\_ (set off), we remembered that we need to pick Jenny up first..
- 2) I really like \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) drinks by my friends.
- 3) I'd rather if you \_\_\_\_\_ (touch) my instruments; they are very expensive and delicate.
- 4) Once you \_\_\_\_\_ (wrap) all the gifts, put them under my bed.
- 5) By 2030, I \_\_\_\_\_ (work) at the same company for 35 years.
- 6) They \_\_\_\_\_ (go) out for a while but then he got cold feet and ....
- 7) If John didn't live so far away, he \_\_\_\_\_ (be) so late to the lecture yesterday.
- 8) Sonya looked tired because she \_\_\_\_\_ (exercise) all morning.
- 9) I \_\_\_\_\_ (help) you with the cleaning, if you like.
- 10) When I went to get the tickets, I realised I \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) the wallet at home.

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

- 11) All pupils are expected to attend school \_ s \_ e \_ \_ \_ y.
- 12) They really cut \_\_\_\_\_ when they built this bathroom; it's so bad!
- 13) At the welcome party, the cold \_ e \_ e \_ a \_ \_ \_ were provided by the establishment.
- 14) I really like the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ c you used for these pillows.

# 13<sup>th</sup> HIPPO

*national finals*

HIPPO 4-S3 Writing Test VI

Time allowed: 45 minutes



Candidate Number

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Date of Birth

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

- 15) No \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ than 3.000 people came to greet the Hippo winner at the airport in ...
- 16) I wish the tourists wouldn't drop so much \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ on the ground.
- 17) I've \_ a \_ \_ \_ \_ a lot of weight this winter.
- 18) But you promised to help me out this weekend! You can't \_ a \_ \_ \_ \_ now.
- 19) My father, who \_ \_ m \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ to work every day, says that the trains are always busy.
- 20) Jonathan was found in \_ o \_ \_ e \_ s \_ \_ \_ of \$8000 worth of counter band cigarettes.

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

- 21) We have few eggs, but I think it is enough for an omelette.  
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- 22) Hardly had I arrived there when I was called back to the head office 100 miles away.  
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- 23) Once Ivy went to university, she had developed a lot of self-confidence.  
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- 24) The children have reached the age when they want more privacy.  
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- 25) Put the pan on the hob and heat gently.  
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- 26) She may need operation on her knee, but we are still waiting for the second opinion.  
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- 27) A large number of minorities were prosecuted by people in the past.  
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- 28) He dreamt to become a famous football player.  
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- 29) I didn't think of a good answer to the interviewer's question until later.  
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- 30) This pump is powered with an electric motor.  
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