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ENGLISHWITHOUTBORDERS

HIPPO THE CONTEST

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

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.

Paying the toll

A toll bridge is a bridge where a 0)___ charge (or toll) is required to cross it. Generally, the owner of the bridge uses the toll to recover the money they invested in its construction, or to pay for ongoing 1)___.

The 2)___ of collecting tolls on bridges dates back to the days of ferry crossings where people paid a fee to be ferried across stretches of water. As boats became unable to carry large loads, ferry operators looked for new 3)___ of revenue. Having built a bridge, they hoped to make money back on their investment by charging tolls for people, animals, vehicles, and goods to cross it.

Did you know that all the bridges in central London are owned by a charity that started with just the original toll bridge across the river Thames? In a short time, they made so much money from tolls that they could 4)___ all the charges. Using interest on the capital they had acquired, the charitable trust now owns and runs all seven central London bridges at no cost to taxpayers or users.

Recently there has been a 5)___ in the number of toll bridges charging a fee in one direction. This helps reduce traffic congestion on the return journey, and generally does not 6)___ reduce revenue, as the charges are calculated to cover the cost of both crossings.

As a response to tolls, a practice known as 'shunpiking' has evolved. This involves finding another route for the specific purpose of avoiding paying a toll. In some situations where tolls are increased or felt to be unreasonably high, shunpiking by individuals can 7)___ to the point that large numbers of regular users simply stop using the bridge. If enough drivers start to avoid the bridge, then the owners are often 8)___ to reduce the toll to attract them back.

One famous example of shunpiking having an effect occurred at the James River Bridge in Virginia, USA. In 1955, without anyone visibly improving the roadway, the toll increased. The new rates infuriated the public and business users 9)___. Joseph W. Luter Jr., head of a local meat company, ordered his truck drivers to take a different route and cross a smaller and cheaper bridge. Although it took more than 20 years of drivers taking the longer route, tolls were finally 10)___ by the local highways department in 1976.

At the other end of the pricing scale, Warburton Bridge, England, has a tariff of 12 pence, the price 11)___ when the toll was permitted by an Act of Parliament in 1863. Tourists actually divert their drives to the bridge, just for the photo and to pay 12 pence, an amount so 12)___ that credit card payments are not accepted.

- Example:** (a) monetary b) proper c) calculated d) costly
1. a) support b) maintenance c) provision d) conservation
2. a) rule b) practice c) fashion d) convenience
3. a) fountains b) funds c) streams d) causes
4. a) prohibit b) destroy c) overthrow d) abolish
5. a) swell b) soar c) surge d) rocket
6. a) significantly b) virtually c) naturally d) responsibly
7. a) escalate b) threaten c) sharpen d) vary
8. a) compelled b) enforced c) considered d) targeted
9. a) together b) alike c) equivalently d) comparably
10. a) eliminated b) excluded c) ignored d) introduced
11. a) established b) condemned c) delegated d) questioned
12. a) miniature b) small-scale c) minute d) petite

(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.

Invasion Literature

'Invasion literature' is a literary genre which emerged in Britain in 1871 and continued throughout the First World War (1914–1918).

The first novel in the genre was *The Battle of Dorking: Reminiscences of a Volunteer* (1871), an account of an imaginary German invasion of England. This type of literature had a significant impact in Britain, shaping politics, national policies, debates in parliament, and popular perceptions in the years leading up to the First World War, and it remains part of popular culture to this day. Several of the books were written by, or even ghostwritten for, military officers, who believed that the nation would be saved if the particular policy that they favoured were to be adopted. They were really writing a story to promote their own point of view, and by 1914 over 400 novels and stories had been published in the invasion genre.

There had been an earlier mini-boom of invasion stories in the 1770s, soon after the French developed the hot-air balloon. Poems, novels and plays that centred on armies of balloons invading England were published in England, France, and even America. However, it was not until 1870 and the use of more advanced means of warfare in the novels that people began to really read books about mythical attacks on their country.

The Battle of Dorking: Reminiscences of a Volunteer (1871), by George Chesney was first published in serial form in *Blackwood's Magazine*, a respected magazine of the Victorian era. *The Battle of Dorking* describes the invasion of England by an unnamed country referred to as "The Other Power" or "The Enemy" (who just happen to speak German!), in which the narrator and a thousand citizens defend the town of Dorking, with neither supplies, nor news of outside world. The defenders lose and Britain is conquered. The narrative of the story then moves forward fifty years in time, and England remains devastated.

Para. 5

The author, like many of his countrymen at the time, was alarmed by the success of Prussia (part of Germany) and its successful invasion of France in 1870, defeating Europe's largest army in only two months. *The Battle of Dorking* was initially meant to shock readers into becoming more aware of the possible dangers of a foreign threat, but unwittingly created a new literary genre appealing to popular anxieties. The story was an immediate success, with one reviewer saying, "We do not know that we ever saw anything better in any magazine... it describes exactly what we all feel." It was so popular that the magazine was re-printed six times, a new pamphlet version was created, dozens of spoofs were created, and it was for sale throughout the British Empire. The novel was so popular that a saying in England at the time was that a visible injury, such as a bruise or scrape, could be attributed to a wound received at the 'Battle of Dorking'.

All the research conducted on who actually bought these works has suggested that they had a very distinct readership. Unsurprisingly, women just were not interested, instead preferring classic authors like the Brontes or Jane Austin. Girls were encouraged to read, and indeed

seem to have enjoyed, books that gave advice about how to run a good home. Predictably, it was younger males of all classes who consumed war stories, something encouraged by the authorities who wanted to encourage a 'military spirit' in them.

Para. 7

Surprisingly, everyone's favourite vampire novel, *Dracula* (1897), also played on widespread English concerns about foreign forces arriving unopposed on their shores. Although most people would think of it as a gothic horror novel, it is classed as invasion fiction because Count Dracula sneaks into Britain on boat. He is not the same as the local people and even brought some 'foreign' soil from his home country to sleep in, which gave the impression he was GAP)___ the country he came to. Had people not had a fear of invasion, they would have been less gripped by the novel, which tries to be realistic by presenting itself as the genuine letters and diaries of the people involved.

Possibly the most famous book in the genre is Erskine Childers's 1903 novel *The Riddle of the Sands*. It was still compulsory reading in English schools until the 1970s, although it is not read so often these days. Sometimes called the first modern spy novel, the plot involves two men on a sailing holiday who prevent a German invasion of England when they discover a secret fleet of invasion barges assembling on the German coast. It was popular and almost certainly influenced the later James Bond stories.

Childers was a British army soldier who fought for his country in the Boer War but whose life then took a surprising twist. An expert sailor, he piloted a boat to smuggle German guns to Irish rebels who were fighting the British government during the First World War. However, he was still recruited into the British Navy and served against the Germans with some success. Returning to Ireland, he was executed by the new Irish state, which helped ensure his notoriety and an ongoing interest in his books.

Of the hundreds of books produced, few are read today or even in print. 'Saki', the penname of H H Munro, is one of the exceptions, although his 1913 novel *When William Came* is more simple nationalism than a novel worthy of any literary praise. Another author still available is John Buchan, whose novel *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, published in 1915 but written just prior to the outbreak of World War I, is a thriller dealing with German agents in Britain preparing for an invasion. It also reached a wider audience because it has been made into a film on four separate occasions.

Para. 11

The genre reappeared after the Cold War (the conflict between Russia and America that lasted from approximately 1947 to 1991). It has had something of a revival recently, GAP)___ with the 2016 book by a former NATO commander General Sir Richard Shirreff's *War With Russia* which predicted that Russia would be aggressive towards its neighbours. Readers responded positively to the book and critics praised it for its accurate details. More recent books have focused on the possibility of China invading Taiwan and the seemingly real threat that Chinese aggression may move from threats to military action.

Example: This article is about

- a) a particular type of writing.
- b) the struggles of authors before 1914.
- c) how reading habits have changed.
- d) the origins of the First World War.

13. Between 1871 and 1914, invasion literature

- a) surged and then declined in popularity.
- b) failed to influence the British government.
- c) was primarily written by military experts.
- d) grew significantly as a genre.

14. The difference in invasion literature between the 1770s and the 1870s was that

- a) in 1870, technology allowed for cheaper printing.
- b) in 1770s, the writing focused on just one threat.
- c) by 1870, people were concerned about American power.
- d) in the 1770s, poetry was the most important style.

15. *The Battle of Dorking* novel

- a) clearly identified the country that invaded Britain.
- b) had a different focus than other invasion literature.
- c) is written from the point of view of the invaders.
- d) ends with a pessimistic scenario for the defenders.

16. The best title for paragraph 5 of the text would be

- a) One of the greatest comedies ever written
- b) Catching the public mood
- c) If at first you don't sell any, try again
- d) Never mind what the reviewers say

17. Why did people say they were wounded at the Battle of Dorking?

- a) In order to explain how they felt about the book.
- b) Because so many people were injured there.
- c) To highlight the dangers of joining the army.
- d) To exaggerate a minor injury as a joke.

18. What does the writer say about who read invasion literature?

- a) Boys were a part of the target audience.
- b) It really wasn't the groups you would expect.
- c) Men and women were equally interested in it.
- d) Women preferred the earlier invasion novels.

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

- a) polluting
- b) abandoning
- c) burying
- d) enclosing

20. What does the author say about the novel *Dracula*?

- a) It is better to read it in the original language.
- b) It tapped into the fears of the period.
- c) It drew on many authentic stories.
- d) It is really not a very good novel.

21. Erskine Childers's novel, *The Riddle of the Sands*,

- a) is still a set textbook in all English schools.
- b) recounts the author spying in Germany.
- c) has a fairly standard theme for the genre.
- d) contains the first appearance of the spy, James Bond.

22. Erskine Childers's life could be described as

- a) like that of most authors.
- b) one dedicated to peace.
- c) really rather uneventful.
- d) tragic in its conclusion.

23. Why might the *Thirty-Nine Steps* be better remembered than other literature?

- a) Because it has an original theme.
- b) Because H H Munro's works are still in print.
- c) Because it was reproduced in another format.
- d) Because it was written before the First World War.

24. In paragraph 11, the best option to complete the gap is

- a) broadly
- b) possibly
- c) alternatively
- d) noticeably

25. Recent invasion literature has

- a) looked at contemporary global situations.
- b) directly copied some of the plots of earlier novels.
- c) proved unpopular with certain readers.
- d) primarily focused on historical events.

26. What is the author's approach to invasion literature?

- a) The text presents an overly positive view of the genre.
- b) The analysis relies on expert opinions and academic sources.
- c) The writing maintains a largely factual narrative.
- d) The approach emphasised the genre's problematic aspects.

(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 Bhutan

A tiny Himalayan country of only 750,000 people, Bhutan is not the easiest place to get to: its only international airport sits 2,200 metres above sea level, surrounded by 5000 metre Himalayan peaks. The landing is so perilous that only a handful of pilots are qualified to fly there.

GAP)___, the government requires visitors to book their trip through specific licensed Bhutanese tour operator, get a visa, and pay upwards of \$200 a day while there, though this does include accommodation, food, transportation, and a guide. All of this is part of their "low volume, high quality" visitor strategy: the isolated country has only been open to foreign visitors since 1974.

One of the country's biggest attractions, Tiger's Nest, also known as Paro Takstang, is a sacred Buddhist temple. It's also perched precariously on a cliff almost 1000 metres off the ground. To get to the isolated temple, visitors must hike up steep, mountainous paths for about two hours, then cross a dizzying narrow bridge over a waterfall, before ascending terrifying steps carved into stone.

Text B Machu Pichu, Peru

An ancient city of the Inca Empire located high up the Andes Mountains, Machu Pichu, is a remote location. Yet today, tourists flock there, despite a difficult 26-mile hike GAP)___ lasting four days, as well as generally adverse weather conditions, and the altitude they have to contend with as it is necessary to climb over 4000 metres. UNESCO has established a rule that only 2,500 visitors per day are permitted and only 500 on the Inca trail, in order to protect the ruins.

Although the site escaped detection by the Spaniards invaders, it was "discovered" in the early twentieth century by Hiram Bingham, who was seeking the "lost city of the Incas," from which the last Inca rulers led a rebellion against Spanish rule.

The dwellings at Machu Picchu were probably built and occupied from the mid-fifteenth to the early or mid-sixteenth century. Machu Picchu's construction style and other evidence suggest that it was a palace complex of the ruler Pachacuti Inca Yupanqui). Several dozen skeletons were GAP)___ there in 1912, and, both skeletal and material remains now suggest to scholars that Machu Picchu served as a royal retreat. The reason for the site's abandonment is also unknown, but decrease in the availability of water caused by an evolving climate may have been a factor.

Text C Lake Hillier, Australia

Lake Hillier, a stunning pink lake, is familiar to many as a travel Instagram staple. The bubblegum-coloured water is thought to be the product of a special kind of algae, but still somewhat of a mystery to scientists.

Getting that special photo is no easy feat. The lake is located on Middle Island, an eight-hour drive from the nearest city just to get to the town of Esperance, where the tour operators are found. You then need to charter a plane or boat with tour operators in Esperance.

Lake Hillier was visited by the Matthew Flinders expedition in 1802. Flinders's journal entries are GAP)____ to be the first written records of the lake. Flinders observed the pink lake after ascending the island's highest peak, describing the lake as 'so full of salt that sufficient quantities were crystallised near the shores to fill up a ship.' Flinders and other early explorers exploited this salt and returned considerable profits on their expeditions.

Text D The Savage Islands

The Savage Islands, also known as the Selvagens Islands, are a small group of islands located in the North Atlantic, approximately halfway between the Canary Islands and Madeira. These islands are part of Portugal's territory, although they are uninhabited and largely unspoiled by human activity.

World famous for their rugged beauty, the Savage Islands are GAP)____ by steep cliffs, dramatic rock formations, and a wide variety of bird species. They serve as a vital sanctuary for seabirds, particularly the Mediterranean shearwater and the rare Zino's petrel. The islands' isolation and protected status make them a haven for wildlife, offering a rare glimpse of nature in its most undisturbed state. The waters around the islands are also rich in marine animals, with clear waters that mean fish flock here in their millions.

Though comparatively safe and easy to get to, access to the Savage Islands is severely restricted, with the Portuguese government maintaining strict conservation regulations to preserve the delicate ecosystems. Every year only a few expeditions are granted visiting rights, ensuring that human impact remains minimal.

The Savage Islands remain a remote, untouched paradise, offering a glimpse into a world largely unaffected by modern development.

Which text...	Text
Example: describes an entire country	A
27. describes a place which used to provide a marketable product?	_____
28. talks about the most dangerous place to visit?	_____
29. contains the most historical information about a place?	_____
30. describes a place which is hardest to obtain permission to visit?	_____
31. presents the most information about the natural world?	_____
32. talks about a place that aims to attract a specific type of tourist?	_____
33. highlights the most pristine environment?	_____
34. speculates about why there was a significant change in habitation ?	_____

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) Furthermore
- b) Despite this
- c) Even so
- d) Nonetheless

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

- a) consistently
- b) typically
- c) occasionally
- d) naturally

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

- a) hollowed
- b) emptied
- c) excavated
- d) fragmented

38. In Text C, the underlined word 'no easy feat' means the same as

- a) really very difficult
- b) easier every time you do it
- c) appearing difficult
- d) rarely tried

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

- a) considered
- b) classified
- c) advised
- d) designed

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

- a) advertised
- b) characterised
- c) concluded
- d) created

(14 marks)

END OF READING ASSESSMENT



END OF READING ASSESSMENT

REMEMBER TO TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS
ONTO THE ANSWER SHEET!

13th HIPPO

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. 'All the world's a stage.' Shakespeare (Write about 160 words.)

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

- 1) He claimed that he _____ (deprive) of his freedom.
- 2) Since he _____ (have) his car serviced for such a long time it broke down.
- 3) I _____ (come) sooner, if I didn't live so far away. I am thinking of moving ...
- 4) We have no time to lose if we _____ (address) the climate emergency.
- 5) _____ (you / wait) for long before the taxi arrived?
- 6) Despite the circulation of the memo, the company's stock price _____ (soar) in recent days.
- 7) He _____ (practise) the piano for five years before he gives a solo performance.
- 8) The guerillas are said _____ (inflict) heavy casualties on the local population.
- 9) She sometimes got discouraged about her social life, which _____ (go) nowhere, she felt.
- 10) I _____ (just see) her in a film and developed a massive crush on her.

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

- 11) Did you finish your essay in the _ l _ ot _ _ _ time?
- 12) The area boasts miles of _ n _ p _ _ _ t coastline varying from cliffs to sandy beaches.
- 13) We always try to _ c _ o _ m _ d _ _ _ our clients with financial assistance if necessary.
- 14) Her voice was as _ _ m _ _ d and clear as a mountain spring.

13th HIPPO

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

- 15) Polly would spend hours in the stables _ ro _ _ _ n _ her pony.
- 16) The tow truck driver gave assistance to the _ t _ a _ d _ d motorist.
- 17) A(n) _ nd _ _ i _ _ _ _ has three years to file a personal injury claim, although the court has the power to allow claims later.
- 18) Those explosions must have been s _ _ s _ _ u _ n _ to our departure, because we didn't hear anything.
- 19) He never missed an opportunity to _ _ sp _ _ _ g _ his competitors; he thought very little of them.
- 20) He advised various _ _ _ _ c _ a _ s in Argentina from the President down to the Sub-secretary of Foreign Affairs.

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

- 21) Our range of children's clothing is generously sized to accommodate shrinking.

- 22) The amounts of mercury present far exceeded the Japanese government's allowable level.

- 23) The government raised wages and allowed opposition parties to participate in the 1981 legislation elections.

- 24) I tend to binge on chocolate when I'm watching TV.

- 25) Throughout the holiday, the weather has alternated between rain and sunshine every day.

- 26) The time lapse between lightning and thunder indicates how far away the storm is.

- 27) Discovering new oil deposits could substantially redress the balance in the region.

- 28) Many feminists disprove positive discrimination.

- 29) I took the coat back to the shop having it altered.

- 30) She shifted her weight uneasy from one foot to the other.
