

STUDENT TEST BOOKLET

READING SECTION

READING PASSAGE 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 1-13**, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.

The Psychology of a Wager

The allure of gambling has captivated humanity for centuries, from ancient bone games to the glittering casinos of Las Vegas and the virtual betting world of the internet. While for many, gambling is a harmless recreational activity, for a significant minority, it can spiral into a devastating addiction. Understanding the psychological underpinnings of gambling addiction is crucial for addressing this growing public health concern. At its core, gambling addiction, or gambling disorder, is a behavioral addiction characterized by an uncontrollable urge to gamble despite negative consequences. The fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) reclassified it from an impulse-control disorder to an addictive disorder, placing it in the same category as substance abuse.

This reclassification reflects the growing body of evidence that gambling affects the brain in a manner remarkably similar to addictive drugs. The brain's reward system, a network of neural pathways responsible for pleasure and motivation, is central to this process. When a person engages in a potentially rewarding activity, such as eating a delicious meal or, in this case, placing a bet, the brain releases a neurotransmitter called dopamine. This dopamine surge creates a feeling of pleasure and reinforces the behavior, making it more likely to be repeated. In individuals with a gambling addiction, this system becomes hijacked. The anticipation of a win, and the occasional actual win, can trigger a dopamine release far more powerful than that experienced by casual gamblers. This intense neurological response creates a powerful craving that can override rational decision-making.

Several psychological factors contribute to the development and maintenance of gambling addiction. One of the most significant is the concept of ‘variable ratio reinforcement’. Unlike activities where the reward is predictable, gambling offers intermittent and unpredictable rewards. This pattern of reinforcement is notoriously effective at establishing and maintaining behavior. The gambler never knows which bet will be the winning one, and this uncertainty keeps them hooked. The ‘near miss’ phenomenon, where a gambler comes close to winning but ultimately loses, is another powerful psychological driver. These near misses are often interpreted not as losses, but as signs that a win is imminent, further encouraging the individual to continue gambling.

Cognitive distortions, or irrational ways of thinking, are also a hallmark of gambling addiction. Many problem gamblers hold erroneous beliefs about their chances of winning. They may believe they have a special skill or knowledge that gives them an edge, or that they can control the outcome of a game of chance. This ‘illusion of control’ can lead to excessive risk-taking and a failure to recognize the true odds of the game. Another common distortion is ‘gambler’s fallacy’, the belief that a particular outcome is ‘due’ after a series of other outcomes. For example, a gambler might believe that after a string of losses on a slot machine, a win is inevitable. These cognitive distortions prevent the gambler from seeing the reality of their situation and perpetuate the cycle of addiction.

Certain individuals are more vulnerable to developing a gambling addiction than others. Genetic predisposition appears to play a role, with studies suggesting that a significant portion of the risk for gambling disorder is inherited. Co-occurring mental health conditions are also a major risk factor. Individuals with depression, anxiety, or substance abuse disorders are more likely to develop a gambling problem, often using gambling as a way to escape from their emotional pain. Personality traits such as impulsivity, competitiveness, and a tendency towards boredom can also increase a person’s susceptibility. The social and environmental context is also critical. Easy access to gambling venues, whether physical or online, and the normalization of gambling within a person’s social circle can significantly increase the risk of developing a problem.

In conclusion, gambling addiction is a complex disorder with deep psychological and neurological roots. The brain’s reward system, powerful reinforcement schedules, cognitive distortions, and individual vulnerabilities all contribute to the development and maintenance of this destructive behavior. A comprehensive understanding of

these factors is essential for developing effective prevention and treatment strategies to help those who have fallen prey to the psychology of the wager.

Questions 1-13

Questions 1-6

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?

In boxes 1-6 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information **FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information **NOT GIVEN** if there is no information on this

1. The DSM-5 was the first manual to recognize gambling as a disorder.
2. Dopamine is only released after a gambler has won a bet.
3. Variable ratio reinforcement is a concept exclusive to gambling.
4. The ‘near miss’ phenomenon is a particularly strong motivator for gamblers.
5. All people who gamble regularly will eventually develop cognitive distortions.
6. Gambling addiction is more common in individuals with a history of substance abuse.

Questions 7-10

Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.

Write the correct letter in boxes 7-10 on your answer sheet.

1. What is the main idea of the second paragraph? A. Gambling addiction is a result of a lack of willpower. B. The brain’s reward system is not affected by gambling. C. Gambling addiction has a similar neurological basis to drug addiction. D. Dopamine is a neurotransmitter that is only found in problem gamblers.
2. The author mentions ‘variable ratio reinforcement’ to illustrate A. why gambling is a predictable and safe activity. B. how gambling can become a compulsive behavior. C. the mathematical principles behind games of chance. D. the difference between casual and professional gamblers.
3. Which of the following is an example of the ‘gambler’s fallacy’? A. Believing that you can influence the outcome of a coin toss. B. Thinking that a slot machine is

'due' for a win after many losses. C. Quitting gambling after a significant loss. D. Setting a strict budget for gambling activities.

4. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT a risk factor for gambling addiction? A. Having a parent with a gambling problem. B. Being highly competitive and easily bored. C. Having a high income and a stable job. D. Living in an area with many casinos.

Questions 11-13

Complete the summary below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 11-13 on your answer sheet.

The Psychology of Gambling Addiction

Gambling addiction is a complex issue with both neurological and psychological causes. The brain's reward system can be 11. _____ by the powerful release of dopamine, leading to intense cravings. Psychological factors, such as intermittent and unpredictable rewards, contribute to the compulsive nature of gambling. Furthermore, problem gamblers often hold 12. _____, such as *the illusion of control, which perpetuate the addiction. A number of factors can make individuals more 13. _____ to developing a gambling problem, including genetics and co-occurring mental health conditions.*

READING PASSAGE 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 14-26**, which are based on Reading Passage 2 below.

The Socio-Economic Ripple Effect of Problem Gambling

A. The dazzling lights and thrilling sounds of a casino floor can be intoxicating, promising instant wealth and a temporary escape from the mundane. However, beneath this glamorous facade lies a darker reality: the pervasive and often devastating socio-economic consequences of problem gambling. While the individual gambler bears the most immediate burden, the ripple effect of their addiction extends far beyond them, touching families, communities, and even national economies. The financial strain caused by problem gambling is often the most visible consequence.

Individuals may deplete their savings, accumulate massive debts, and even resort to illegal activities such as theft or fraud to fund their habit. This can lead to bankruptcy, home foreclosure, and a cycle of poverty that is difficult to break.

B. The impact on the family unit is equally profound. Spouses and children of problem gamblers often experience significant emotional distress, including anxiety, depression, and anger. The constant financial pressure and the gambler's preoccupation with their addiction can lead to marital breakdown and domestic conflict. Children, in particular, are vulnerable to the negative effects of a parent's gambling problem. They may suffer from neglect, emotional trauma, and an increased likelihood of developing their own addictive behaviors later in life. The breakdown of trust and communication within the family can have long-lasting and far-reaching consequences.

C. Beyond the immediate family, the wider community also feels the impact of problem gambling. Increased crime rates are a common consequence, as some problem gamblers turn to illegal activities to support their addiction. This places a greater burden on law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Local businesses can also suffer, as money that could have been spent on goods and services is instead lost to gambling. In some cases, the presence of a large casino in a community can lead to a decline in other forms of entertainment and a hollowing out of the local economy.

D. The economic arguments in favor of legalized gambling often center on the jobs and tax revenue it can generate. Proponents argue that casinos and other gambling establishments create employment opportunities and contribute significantly to government coffers. However, a closer examination reveals a more complex picture. The jobs created by the gambling industry are often low-wage and precarious, with high turnover rates. Furthermore, the social costs associated with problem gambling, such as increased healthcare and criminal justice expenses, can offset the tax revenue generated. A comprehensive cost-benefit analysis is needed to determine the true economic impact of gambling on a community.

E. The debate over the economic impact of gambling is further complicated by the issue of 'cannibalization'. This refers to the phenomenon where a new gambling venue, such as a casino, does not generate new economic activity but simply diverts spending from other local businesses. For example, instead of going out to a restaurant or a movie, people may choose to spend their disposable income at the casino. This can lead to a decline in revenue for other businesses in the community, and a net loss of

economic activity. The promise of economic revitalization through gambling can therefore be a double-edged sword.

F. In response to the growing awareness of the social and economic costs of problem gambling, many governments and organizations have implemented responsible gambling initiatives. These programs aim to educate the public about the risks of gambling, provide resources for those who are struggling with addiction, and promote a safer gambling environment. Self-exclusion programs, which allow individuals to voluntarily ban themselves from gambling venues, are one example of such an initiative. While the effectiveness of these programs is still being debated, they represent an important step towards mitigating the negative consequences of problem gambling.

Questions 14-26

Questions 14-19

Reading Passage 2 has six paragraphs, **A-F**.

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number, **i-viii**, in boxes 14-19 on your answer sheet.

List of Headings

i. The hidden costs of gambling-related crime ii. The debate over the economic benefits of gambling iii. The impact of problem gambling on family life iv. The displacement of local economic activity v. The individual financial consequences of problem gambling vi. The limitations of responsible gambling programs vii. The role of government in regulating the gambling industry viii. Efforts to reduce the harm caused by problem gambling

1. Paragraph A
2. Paragraph B
3. Paragraph C
4. Paragraph D
5. Paragraph E
6. Paragraph F

Questions 20-23

Choose the correct letter, **A, B, C or D.**

Write the correct letter in boxes 20-23 on your answer sheet.

1. According to the passage, what is one of the most visible consequences of problem gambling? A. Emotional distress B. Marital breakdown C. Financial strain D. Increased crime rates
2. The author suggests that the jobs created by the gambling industry are often A. high-paying and secure. B. a source of economic stability. C. low-wage and insecure. D. a major contributor to the local economy.
3. The term ‘cannibalization’ is used to describe A. the process of a casino driving other businesses out of town. B. the way in which gambling addiction consumes a person’s life. C. the diversion of spending from other local businesses to a casino. D. the competition between different casinos in the same area.
4. What is the main purpose of responsible gambling initiatives? A. To generate more tax revenue from gambling. B. To promote gambling as a safe and harmless activity. C. To mitigate the negative consequences of problem gambling. D. To encourage more people to gamble.

Questions 24-26

Complete the sentences below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 24-26 on your answer sheet.

1. The children of problem gamblers are at an increased risk of developing their own _____ in the future.
2. The social costs of problem gambling can _____ the tax revenue generated by the industry.
3. Self-exclusion programs are an example of a _____ initiative.

READING PASSAGE 3

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 27-40**, which are based on Reading Passage 3 below.

Breaking the Cycle: Treatment and Prevention of Gambling Addiction

The journey from problem gambler to recovery is a challenging one, but with the right support and interventions, it is possible to break free from the grip of addiction. A multifaceted approach that addresses the psychological, social, and biological aspects of the disorder is essential for long-term success. Treatment for gambling addiction typically involves a combination of therapy, medication, and support groups, tailored to the individual needs of the person seeking help.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) is one of the most effective and widely used therapeutic approaches for treating gambling addiction. CBT helps individuals to identify and challenge the irrational thoughts and beliefs that fuel their gambling behavior. For example, a therapist might help a client to recognize the gambler's fallacy and the illusion of control, and to develop more realistic and adaptive ways of thinking. Behavioral techniques, such as stimulus control and response prevention, are also used to help individuals to avoid triggers and to develop coping mechanisms for dealing with cravings. By changing their thoughts and behaviors, individuals can gain a sense of control over their addiction.

Motivational Interviewing is another therapeutic technique that has shown promise in the treatment of gambling addiction. This client-centered approach aims to resolve ambivalence and to enhance intrinsic motivation for change. Rather than confronting the individual and telling them what to do, the therapist works collaboratively with them to explore their reasons for wanting to change and to build their confidence in their ability to do so. This can be particularly effective for individuals who are resistant to treatment or who are in the early stages of considering a change.

While there are no medications specifically approved for the treatment of gambling addiction, some have been found to be effective in reducing the urge to gamble. Opioid antagonists, such as naltrexone, which are used to treat alcohol and opioid addiction, have been shown to reduce gambling cravings and to decrease the pleasurable effects of gambling. Antidepressants, particularly selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), may be helpful for individuals who have co-occurring depression or anxiety. However, medication is typically used in conjunction with therapy, rather than as a standalone treatment.

Support groups, such as Gamblers Anonymous (GA), can also play a crucial role in the recovery process. GA is a twelve-step program that provides a supportive and non-judgmental environment where individuals can share their experiences and learn from others who have faced similar challenges. The sense of community and shared purpose can be a powerful antidote to the isolation and shame that often accompany gambling addiction. While the twelve-step model is not for everyone, many people find it to be an invaluable source of support and encouragement.

Preventing the development of gambling addiction is just as important as treating it. Public health campaigns that raise awareness of the risks of gambling and that promote responsible gambling practices are an essential component of any prevention strategy. School-based programs that educate young people about the dangers of gambling and that teach them critical thinking skills can also be effective. Furthermore, the regulation of the gambling industry is crucial. Measures such as restricting the accessibility of gambling venues, limiting the advertising of gambling products, and implementing responsible gambling features on electronic gaming machines can all help to create a safer gambling environment.

In conclusion, a comprehensive and individualized approach is needed to address the complex problem of gambling addiction. By combining evidence-based therapies, such as CBT and motivational interviewing, with medication and support groups, it is possible to help individuals to break the cycle of addiction and to rebuild their lives. At the same time, a strong focus on prevention, through public education and industry regulation, is essential for reducing the harm caused by problem gambling in our communities.

Questions 27-40

Questions 27-32

Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in Reading Passage 3?

In boxes 27-32 on your answer sheet, write

YES if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer **NO** if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer **NOT GIVEN** if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

1. A single, universal treatment approach is effective for all problem gamblers.

2. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy is the only therapy that has been proven to work for gambling addiction.
3. Motivational Interviewing is most effective for individuals who are already highly motivated to change.
4. Medications are a more effective treatment for gambling addiction than therapy.
5. Gamblers Anonymous is a suitable support group for everyone with a gambling problem.
6. The regulation of the gambling industry is a key part of preventing gambling addiction.

Questions 33-36

Choose the correct letter, **A, B, C or D**.

Write the correct letter in boxes 33-36 on your answer sheet.

1. What is the main goal of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for gambling addiction? A. To explore the gambler's childhood experiences. B. To identify and change irrational thoughts and behaviors. C. To provide a supportive and non-judgmental environment. D. To prescribe medication to reduce gambling cravings.
2. The author suggests that Motivational Interviewing is particularly useful for individuals who are A. experiencing severe financial problems. B. in the later stages of addiction. C. resistant to treatment. D. highly motivated to change.
3. According to the passage, which type of medication has been shown to reduce gambling cravings? A. Stimulants B. Benzodiazepines C. Opioid antagonists D. Antipsychotics
4. What is the author's main argument in the passage? A. Gambling addiction is an untreatable disease. B. A combination of approaches is needed to treat and prevent gambling addiction. C. Medication is the most important component of treatment for gambling addiction. D. Prevention of gambling addiction is more important than treatment.

Questions 37-40

Complete the notes below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 37-40 on your answer sheet.

Treating and Preventing Gambling Addiction

- **Treatment**

- A multifaceted approach is required.
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy helps to challenge 37. _____.
- Motivational Interviewing enhances 38. _____ for change.
- Medication, such as opioid antagonists, can be used to reduce cravings.
- Support groups like Gamblers Anonymous provide a sense of 39. _____.

- **Prevention**

- Public health campaigns are essential for raising awareness.
- School-based programs can educate young people.
- The 40. _____ of the gambling industry is crucial. “”

LISTENING SECTION

SECTION 1

Questions 1-10

Complete the form below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

Gambling Addiction Support Hotline

Caller's Name:	Sarah 1. _____
Date of Call:	2. _____
Main reason for calling:	Concern about her 3. _____ gambling problem
How long has he been gambling?	For about 4. _____
Types of gambling:	Online poker and 5. _____
Estimated debt:	6. £_____
Changes in behavior:	Secretive, irritable, and has lost 7. _____
Action suggested by counselor:	Attend a 8. _____ meeting
Location of nearest meeting:	The 9. _____ Centre
Helpline number:	10. _____

SECTION 2

Questions 11-20

Questions 11-15

Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B**, or **C**.

1. The speaker is a A. former gambling addict. B. financial advisor. C. psychologist.
2. What is the main topic of the talk? A. The history of gambling. B. The social impact of gambling. C. The warning signs of gambling addiction.
3. According to the speaker, what is one of the earliest signs of a gambling problem?
A. Borrowing money from friends and family. B. Lying about gambling losses. C. Spending more time and money on gambling than intended.
4. The speaker mentions that gambling can affect a person's A. physical health. B. mental and emotional well-being. C. both A and B.
5. What is the final piece of advice the speaker gives? A. To avoid all forms of gambling. B. To seek professional help if you have a problem. C. To only gamble

with money you can afford to lose.

Questions 16-20

What does the speaker say about the following types of people?

Match each type of person with the correct statement, **A-G**.

Types of People

1. Teenagers
2. University students
3. Men
4. Women
5. Older adults

Statements

A. Are more likely to develop a gambling problem quickly. B. Are often attracted to strategic forms of gambling. C. Are more susceptible to online gambling. D. May gamble to cope with loneliness. E. Are at a higher risk of developing a gambling problem. F. Are more likely to hide their gambling from their families. G. Are often introduced to gambling through video games.

SECTION 3

Questions 21-30

Choose the correct letter, **A, B, or C**.

1. The students are discussing a presentation on A. the causes of gambling addiction. B. the treatment of gambling addiction. C. the prevention of gambling addiction.
2. What does Chloe say about the role of dopamine in gambling addiction? A. It is the only factor that contributes to the addiction. B. It creates a powerful craving for the activity. C. It is not as important as psychological factors.
3. Mark suggests that cognitive distortions are A. a result of a lack of education. B. a common feature of gambling addiction. C. easy to overcome with therapy.

4. The students agree that a person's social environment A. has little impact on their risk of developing a gambling problem. B. can be a major contributing factor to gambling addiction. C. is the most important factor in determining a person's risk.
5. What point does Chloe make about the treatment of gambling addiction? A. It is a simple and straightforward process. B. It requires a long-term commitment from the individual. C. It is always successful if the person is motivated.
6. Mark believes that medication for gambling addiction A. is a cure for the disorder. B. should be used as a last resort. C. can be a helpful tool when combined with therapy.
7. The students disagree about the effectiveness of A. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. B. support groups like Gamblers Anonymous. C. public health campaigns.
8. What does Chloe think is the most important aspect of prevention? A. Educating young people about the risks of gambling. B. Stricter regulation of the gambling industry. C. Providing more resources for problem gamblers.
9. Mark concludes that A. more research is needed to understand gambling addiction. B. a combination of approaches is needed to address the problem. C. the government should do more to help problem gamblers.
10. The tutor suggests that the students should A. focus on a specific aspect of gambling addiction for their presentation. B. include more statistics in their presentation. C. practice their presentation before the next tutorial.

SECTION 4

Questions 31-40

Complete the notes below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer.

Lecture on the Neuroscience of Gambling Addiction

- **The Brain's Reward System**
 - The reward system is a key area of the brain involved in addiction.
 - It is responsible for processing pleasure and 31. _____.

- Dopamine is a neurotransmitter that plays a central role in this system.
- The release of dopamine reinforces behaviors and creates a sense of 32.
_____.

- **The Hijacked Brain**

- In gambling addiction, the reward system becomes 33. _____.
- The anticipation of a win can trigger a large release of dopamine.
- This creates a powerful craving that overrides 34. _____.
- The brain becomes less sensitive to other, more natural rewards.

- **Structural and Functional Changes**

- Studies have shown that there are 35. _____ in the brains of problem gamblers.
- There is reduced activity in the prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for 36. _____.
- This can lead to impulsivity and poor decision-making.
- There are also changes in the brain's 37. _____ to stress.

- **Genetic and Environmental Factors**

- Genetic predisposition plays a significant role in the development of gambling addiction.
- However, 38. _____ are also crucial.
- Early exposure to gambling can increase a person's 39. _____.
- The interaction between genes and the environment is a key area of 40.
_____. “ ” “ ”

WRITING SECTION

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The chart below shows the percentage of people in a particular country who experienced problems with gambling in 2022, categorized by age group.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

(A bar chart would be inserted here showing the following data:)

- **16-24 years:** 2.5%
- **25-34 years:** 1.8%
- **35-44 years:** 1.2%
- **45-54 years:** 0.8%
- **55-64 years:** 0.5%
- **65+ years:** 0.2%

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people believe that the legalization and expansion of gambling bring significant economic benefits to a country. Others argue that the social costs of gambling addiction far outweigh any financial gains.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

SPEAKING SECTION

PART 1

Let's talk about gambling.

1. Have you ever gambled? Why or why not?

2. What are some popular forms of gambling in your country?
3. Do you think it is right for governments to legalize gambling?
4. What are the potential dangers of gambling?
5. Do you think people are more or less likely to gamble now than in the past? Why?

PART 2

Describe a time when you took a risk.

You should say:

- what the risk was
- why you took it
- what the result was

and explain how you felt about the experience.

You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes. You have one minute to think about what you are going to say. You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

PART 3

Let's consider this in more detail.

1. Why do you think some people are attracted to risky activities like gambling?
2. What is the difference between taking a calculated risk and being reckless?
3. Do you think modern society encourages people to take more or fewer risks?
4. What role does the media play in shaping our attitudes towards risk-taking?
5. In what ways can taking risks be beneficial for a person's character development?

“” “”

GRAMMAR SECTION

Questions 1-20

Questions 1-5

Identify the error in each sentence and rewrite it correctly.

1. The man, who he was a compulsive gambler, lost all his money.
2. Despite of his promises to quit, he continued to bet online.
3. She was much worried about her husband's gambling habit.
4. If I would have known about the risks, I would have never started gambling.
5. The number of people with gambling addictions have increased in recent years.

Questions 6-10

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. **Do not change the word given.** You must use between three and six words, including the word given.

1. He started gambling because he wanted to escape his problems. (**ORDER**) He started gambling _____ escape his problems.
2. She regrets not seeking help for her addiction sooner. (**WISHES**) She _____ help for her addiction sooner.
3. The government should regulate the gambling industry more strictly. (**NEEDS**) The gambling industry _____ by the government more strictly.
4. He was so addicted to gambling that he lost his job. (**SUCH**) He had _____ that he lost his job.
5. It is possible that he has a hidden gambling problem. (**COULD**) He _____ a hidden gambling problem.

Questions 11-15

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb, an article, or a preposition.

1. He has been _____ (struggle) with a gambling addiction for over ten years.
2. She borrowed money _____ her parents to pay off her debts.
3. _____ (gamble) can be a very destructive habit if it is not controlled.
4. He is at _____ risk of developing a gambling problem because of his family history.
5. She is thinking of _____ (seek) professional help for her addiction.

Questions 16-20

Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line.

1. Gambling can be a very _____ habit. (**ADDICT**)
 2. He was _____ to control his urge to gamble. (**ABLE**)
 3. The _____ of online gambling has made it more accessible. (**EXPAND**)
 4. She felt a great sense of _____ after losing all her money. (**SHAMEFUL**)
 5. It is important to be aware of the _____ risks of gambling. (**POTENTIAL**) “” “”
-

LISTENING SCRIPTS

SECTION 1

(Sound of a phone ringing)

Counselor: Hello, Gambling Addiction Support Hotline. This is David speaking. How can I help you?

Sarah: Hello, David. My name is Sarah. I'm calling because I'm really worried about my husband.

Counselor: I see. Can you tell me your husband's name?

Sarah: It's Mark. Mark **(1) Jones.**

Counselor: And can I just confirm the date today? It's the **(2) 18th of January**, 2026.

Sarah: Yes, that's right.

Counselor: Okay, Sarah. Tell me about Mark's situation. What makes you think he has a gambling problem?

Sarah: Well, it's been going on for a while now. I think for about **(4) two years**. He's always been secretive about his finances, but recently it's gotten much worse. He spends hours on his computer, and I know he's playing online poker and betting on **(5) sports**.

Counselor: And has this had a financial impact on your family?

Sarah: A huge one. I found a credit card statement the other day, and he's in debt for over **(6) £10,000**. I don't know how we're going to pay it back.

Counselor: I understand this must be a very difficult and stressful situation for you. Have you noticed any other changes in his behavior?

Sarah: Yes, he's become very irritable and withdrawn. He's lost all **(7) interest** in his hobbies and spending time with me and the children. It's like he's a different person.

Counselor: It sounds like Mark is displaying many of the classic signs of a gambling addiction. The good news is that there is help available. I would strongly recommend that he attends a **(8) Gamblers Anonymous** meeting. It's a support group for people with gambling problems, and it can be very effective.

Sarah: Okay, I'll talk to him about it. Where can we find a meeting?

Counselor: There's a meeting every Tuesday evening at the **(9) Community** Centre on the High Street. It's a very welcoming and supportive environment.

Sarah: Thank you, that's really helpful. Is there a number I can call for more information?

Counselor: Yes, the national helpline number is **(10) 0808 8020 133**. They can provide you with more information and support.

Sarah: Thank you so much, David. I really appreciate your help.

Counselor: You're welcome, Sarah. Please don't hesitate to call back if you need to talk again.

SECTION 2

(Sound of a person clearing their throat)

Speaker: Good morning, everyone. My name is Dr. Emily Carter, and I'm a psychologist specializing in addiction. Today, I want to talk to you about a growing problem in our society: gambling addiction. Specifically, I want to focus on the warning signs that can help you to identify if you or someone you know might have a problem.

One of the earliest and most common signs of a gambling problem is spending more time and money on gambling than you originally intended. You might find yourself chasing your losses, which means you continue to gamble in an attempt to win back the money you've lost. This can quickly spiral into a cycle of debt and despair.

Another key warning sign is lying about your gambling. You might hide your losses from your family and friends, or you might make excuses for the amount of time you spend gambling. This secrecy is a clear indication that you know your behavior is problematic.

Gambling addiction doesn't just affect your finances; it can also have a serious impact on your mental and emotional well-being. You might experience feelings of guilt, shame, and anxiety. You might become irritable and withdrawn, and you might lose interest in activities you once enjoyed. In severe cases, gambling addiction can even lead to depression and suicidal thoughts.

It's important to remember that gambling addiction can affect anyone, regardless of their age, gender, or background. However, some groups are more vulnerable than others. Teenagers, for example, are at a higher risk of developing a gambling problem, often because they are introduced to it through video games that have gambling-like features. University students are also a high-risk group, as they often have more free time and easy access to online gambling sites.

In terms of gender, men are more likely to be drawn to strategic forms of gambling, such as poker and sports betting, while women are more likely to develop a gambling problem quickly, often through non-strategic forms like slot machines. Older adults may also be at risk, as they may turn to gambling to cope with loneliness or boredom.

If you recognize any of these warning signs in yourself or someone you know, it's crucial to seek professional help. There are many resources available, including therapy, support groups, and helplines. Remember, you don't have to go through this alone.

SECTION 3

Tutor: Okay, so for your presentation next week, you've decided to focus on the causes and treatment of gambling addiction. That's a great topic. How are you planning to structure it?

Chloe: Well, we were thinking of starting with the neurological causes, specifically the role of dopamine. We've read that the brain's reward system is hijacked in gambling addiction, and the release of dopamine creates a powerful craving for the activity.

Mark: Yes, and we want to emphasize that it's not just about a lack of willpower. There are real biological factors at play. We also want to talk about cognitive distortions, like the gambler's fallacy and the illusion of control. We think it's important to explain how these irrational beliefs can perpetuate the addiction.

Tutor: That sounds like a good start. What about the social and environmental factors?

Chloe: We're definitely going to include that. We've found some interesting research on how a person's social environment, like having friends or family who gamble, can be a major contributing factor to developing a problem.

Tutor: Excellent. So, you've covered the causes. What about the treatment?

Mark: We're planning to discuss a few different approaches. We'll start with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, as it seems to be one of the most effective treatments. We'll explain how it helps people to identify and change their irrational thoughts and behaviors.

Chloe: We also want to talk about motivational interviewing and how it can help people who are resistant to change. And we'll touch on the role of medication. We've read that while there's no cure for gambling addiction, some medications can be a helpful tool when combined with therapy.

Tutor: That's a comprehensive overview. Do you agree on the effectiveness of all these treatments?

Mark: For the most part, yes. But we have slightly different views on the effectiveness of support groups like Gamblers Anonymous. I think they can be incredibly helpful, but Chloe is a bit more skeptical.

Chloe: It's not that I don't think they can be helpful. I just think it's important to acknowledge that the twelve-step model isn't for everyone. We want to present a balanced view.

Tutor: That's a fair point. It's good to show that you've considered different perspectives. And what about prevention?

Mark: We're going to finish with a section on prevention. We'll talk about the importance of public health campaigns and school-based education programs.

Chloe: And I think it's crucial to mention the need for stricter regulation of the gambling industry. I think that's the most important aspect of prevention.

Tutor: This all sounds very promising. My only suggestion would be to perhaps narrow your focus slightly. You have a lot of great information here, but you might struggle to fit it all into a ten-minute presentation. Perhaps you could focus on either the causes or the treatment in more detail?

Mark: That's a good idea. We'll have a think about that. Thanks for the feedback.

SECTION 4

(Sound of a lecturer speaking)

Lecturer: Good morning. In today's lecture, we're going to delve into the fascinating and complex world of the neuroscience of gambling addiction. We'll be exploring how this behavioral addiction hijacks the brain and what that means for treatment and prevention.

So, let's start with the brain's reward system. This is a network of neural pathways that is responsible for processing pleasure and **(31) motivation**. When we engage in a rewarding activity, our brain releases a neurotransmitter called dopamine. This dopamine surge creates a sense of **(32) pleasure** and reinforces the behavior, making us more likely to repeat it.

In a healthy brain, this system is well-regulated. However, in the case of gambling addiction, the reward system becomes **(33) hijacked**. The intense and unpredictable

nature of gambling can trigger a massive release of dopamine, far greater than what is experienced in response to natural rewards. This creates a powerful craving that can override a person's (34) **rational judgment**.

Over time, the brain adapts to these high levels of dopamine. It becomes less sensitive to the neurotransmitter, which means that the person needs to gamble more and more to achieve the same level of pleasure. This is known as tolerance. At the same time, the brain becomes less responsive to other, more natural rewards. Activities that were once enjoyable no longer provide the same level of satisfaction.

Recent neuroimaging studies have revealed that there are both structural and functional (35) **changes** in the brains of individuals with a gambling addiction. For example, there is often reduced activity in the prefrontal cortex, a region of the brain that is crucial for (36) **decision-making** and impulse control. This can explain the impulsivity and poor decision-making that are characteristic of the disorder.

Furthermore, there are alterations in the brain's response to (37) **stress**. Many problem gamblers report that they gamble to escape from negative emotions, and there is evidence to suggest that their brains are wired to be more sensitive to stress and less able to cope with it in a healthy way.

Of course, neuroscience is not the whole story. Genetic predisposition is a significant factor, but (38) **environmental factors** are also crucial. Early exposure to gambling, for example, can increase a person's (39) **vulnerability** to developing a problem later in life. The complex interaction between our genes and our environment is a key area of ongoing (40) **research**.

By understanding the neuroscience of gambling addiction, we can develop more effective treatments and prevention strategies. For example, medications that target the dopamine system may be helpful in reducing cravings. And therapies that focus on improving decision-making and stress management skills can help to counteract the changes that have occurred in the brain. It is a challenging but ultimately hopeful field of study.

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ANSWER KEY

READING

1. NOT GIVEN
2. FALSE
3. NOT GIVEN
4. TRUE
5. FALSE
6. TRUE
7. C
8. B
9. B
10. C
11. hijacked
12. erroneous beliefs
13. vulnerable
14. v
15. iii
16. i
17. ii
18. iv
19. viii
20. C
21. C
22. C
23. C
24. addictive behaviors
25. offset

26. responsible gambling

27. NO

28. NO

29. NO

30. NO

31. NO

32. YES

33. B

34. C

35. C

36. B

37. irrational thoughts

38. intrinsic motivation

39. community

40. regulation

LISTENING

1. Jones

2. 18th of January

3. husband's

4. two years

5. sports

6. 10,000

7. interest

8. Gamblers Anonymous

9. Community

10. 0808 8020 133

11. C

12. C

13. C

14. C

15. B

16. G

17. E

18. B

19. A

20. D

21. A

22. B

23. B

24. B

25. B

26. C

27. B

28. B

29. B

30. A

31. motivation

32. pleasure

33. hijacked

34. rational judgment

35. changes

36. decision-making

37. stress

38. environmental factors

39. vulnerability

40. research

GRAMMAR

1. The man, who was a compulsive gambler, lost all his money.
 2. Despite his promises to quit, he continued to bet online.
 3. She was very worried about her husband's gambling habit.
 4. If I had known about the risks, I would have never started gambling.
 5. The number of people with gambling addictions has increased in recent years.
 6. in order to
 7. wishes she had sought
 8. needs to be regulated
 9. such an addiction
 10. could have
 11. struggling
 12. from
 13. Gambling
 14. a
 15. seeking
 16. addictive
 17. unable
 18. expansion
 19. shame
 20. potential
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TUTOR GUIDE

MODEL ANSWER FOR WRITING TASK 1

The bar chart illustrates the percentage of people in a specific country who reported having problems with gambling in 2022, broken down by age group.

Overall, the chart shows a clear inverse correlation between age and the prevalence of gambling problems. The youngest age group, 16-24, had the highest percentage of people with gambling problems, at 2.5%. This figure was significantly higher than that of any other age group.

The percentage of people with gambling problems steadily decreased with age. The 25-34 age group had the second-highest rate, at 1.8%, followed by the 35-44 age group, at 1.2%. The decline continued in the 45-54 and 55-64 age groups, with rates of 0.8% and 0.5% respectively.

The lowest percentage of people with gambling problems was found in the oldest age group, 65+, at just 0.2%. This is more than twelve times lower than the rate for the 16-24 age group. In conclusion, the data clearly indicates that young people in this country are disproportionately affected by gambling problems.

MODEL ESSAY FOR WRITING TASK 2 (BAND 9 LEVEL)

The proliferation of legalized gambling has sparked a contentious debate. Proponents champion its economic virtues, citing job creation and substantial tax revenues. Conversely, opponents sound the alarm about the devastating social consequences of gambling addiction, arguing that they eclipse any fiscal benefits. This essay will examine both perspectives before offering a concluding viewpoint.

From an economic standpoint, the arguments in favor of legalized gambling are compelling. The construction and operation of casinos, for instance, can generate a significant number of jobs, ranging from construction workers to hospitality staff. These employment opportunities can be a lifeline for communities with high unemployment rates. Furthermore, the tax revenue generated from gambling activities can be a substantial boon to government budgets. These funds can be used to finance public services such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure, thereby benefiting the wider community. The state of Nevada in the United States, with its world-renowned gambling hub of Las Vegas, is a prime example of an economy that is heavily reliant on the gambling industry.

However, the economic benefits of gambling are often overshadowed by its social costs. Gambling addiction is a serious public health issue that can have a devastating impact on individuals, families, and communities. Problem gamblers often accumulate massive debts, leading to bankruptcy, home foreclosure, and even criminal activity. The emotional toll on families can be immense, with increased rates

of divorce, domestic conflict, and child neglect. Moreover, the social costs associated with problem gambling, such as increased healthcare and criminal justice expenses, can place a significant strain on public resources. These costs can, in some cases, outweigh the tax revenue generated by the industry.

In my opinion, while the economic benefits of gambling are undeniable, the social costs are far more significant and long-lasting. The pursuit of short-term financial gains should not come at the expense of the well-being of individuals and communities. It is incumbent upon governments to implement robust regulations to protect vulnerable individuals and to mitigate the harm caused by problem gambling. This should include stricter controls on advertising, the provision of comprehensive treatment and support services, and public education campaigns to raise awareness of the risks. Ultimately, a society should be judged not by the size of its economy, but by the well-being of its citizens.

SPEAKING PART 2 SAMPLE RESPONSE

I'd like to talk about a time when I took a risk by deciding to move to a new country for my university studies. It was a huge step for me, as I had never lived away from home before, let alone in a different country with a different culture and language. I was both excited and terrified at the same time.

The main reason I took this risk was for my personal and academic growth. I had always dreamed of studying abroad and immersing myself in a new environment. I knew that it would be a challenging experience, but I also believed that it would be incredibly rewarding. I wanted to push myself out of my comfort zone and to become more independent and resilient.

The result of taking this risk was that I had the most amazing and transformative experience of my life. I learned so much, not just academically, but also about myself and the world. I made friends from all over the globe, and I became fluent in a new language. It wasn't always easy, of course. There were times when I felt homesick and overwhelmed, but I persevered, and I'm so glad I did.

Looking back, I feel incredibly proud of myself for taking that risk. It was a leap of faith, but it paid off in more ways than I could have ever imagined. The experience taught me that it's important to take calculated risks in life, as that's how we grow and learn. It gave me the confidence to face new challenges and to embrace the unknown. It was a truly life-changing experience.

KEY VOCABULARY LIST

1. **Allure (n.)**: The quality of being powerfully and mysteriously attractive or fascinating.
2. **Underpinning (n.)**: A solid foundation laid below ground level to support or strengthen a building. In a figurative sense, the basis or foundation of a theory, argument, or other structure.
3. **Devastating (adj.)**: Highly destructive or damaging.
4. **Neurotransmitter (n.)**: A chemical substance that is released at the end of a nerve fiber by the arrival of a nerve impulse and, by diffusing across the synapse or junction, causes the transfer of the impulse to another nerve fiber, a muscle fiber, or some other structure.
5. **Hijacked (v.)**: Illegally seize (an aircraft, ship, or vehicle) in transit and force it to go to a different destination or use it for one's own purposes. In a figurative sense, to take control of something for one's own purposes.
6. **Intermittent (adj.)**: Occurring at irregular intervals; not continuous or steady.
7. **Cognitive distortion (n.)**: In cognitive-behavioral therapy, an exaggerated or irrational thought pattern involved in the onset or perpetuation of psychopathological states, such as depression and anxiety.
8. **Erroneous (adj.)**: Wrong; incorrect.
9. **Gambler's fallacy (n.)**: The mistaken belief that, if a particular event occurs more frequently than normal during the past, it is less likely to happen in the future (or vice versa), when it has otherwise been established that the probability of such events does not depend on what has happened in the past.
10. **Predisposition (n.)**: A liability or tendency to suffer from a particular condition, hold a particular attitude, or act in a particular way.
11. **Ripple effect (n.)**: The continuing and spreading results of an event or action.
12. **Intoxicating (adj.)**: Exhilarating or exciting.
13. **Mundane (adj.)**: Lacking interest or excitement; dull.
14. **Pervasive (adj.)**: (especially of an unwelcome influence or physical effect) Spreading widely throughout an area or a group of people.
15. **Cannibalization (n.)**: In marketing strategy, the negative impact of a company's new product on the sales performance of its existing and related products.

16. **Mitigate** (v.): Make (something bad) less severe, serious, or painful.
17. **Multifaceted** (adj.): Having many facets or aspects.
18. **Ambivalence** (n.): The state of having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something or someone.
19. **Intrinsic** (adj.): Belonging naturally; essential.
20. **Proliferation** (n.): Rapid increase in the number or amount of something.

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