

Cumulative Skills Test Units 1–10 Test A

Name: _____

Everyday English

1 Choose the correct words (a–c) to complete the dialogues.

1 'Sarah and Claire are both tall and fair-haired.'

'Yes, I know. I think that Sarah _____ a lot like Claire.'

a seems **b** looks **c** appears

2 'It's raining, so we can't go for a picnic. I'm so disappointed.'

'Oh, _____ up! Let's watch a good film on TV instead.'

a cheer **b** clear **c** hurry'

3 'What's your view on banning hunting with dogs?'

'To _____ you the truth, I'm not sure what to think.'

a say **b** tell **c** make

4 'Would you _____ opening the window? It's very hot in here.'

a mind **b** like **c** possibly

5 'I think Picasso was a genius.'

'I agree _____ you.'

a for **b** to **c** with

Mark: ____ / 5

Listening

2 🎧 **Listen to a radio interview with Cathy Smith, a representative of Amnesty International. Circle the three sentences that refer to the campaigns that Cathy mentions.**

- A Reduce prison sentences for all prisoners.
- B Release people who are in prison for political reasons.
- C Abolish all armies.
- D Stop selling arms to countries that don't respect their citizens.
- E End all civil wars now.
- F Ban the death penalty in every country in the world.

3 🎧 **Listen again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?**

- 1 Cathy has been working for Amnesty International for a number of years. ____
- 2 Amnesty International started in 1951. ____
- 3 Amnesty International began as a result of the actions of a lawyer in London. ____
- 4 Amnesty International is supported financially by governments that agree with its actions. ____
- 5 Amnesty International wants to prevent sales of guns to countries where there is a civil war. ____
- 6 Amnesty International is fighting for a teenager who wants to join the army, but has been refused permission. ____
- 7 The presenter says that Amnesty International has succeeded in all its campaigns. ____

Mark: ____ / 10

Reading

SAD

You don't have to be a genius to know that, generally, most people are more likely to feel on top of the world on bright, sunny days in the height of summer and down in the mouth on dark, grey, miserable days in the depths of winter. For a significant number of people, however, facing up to the winter blues can be a really serious problem. In winter, they suffer from SAD, or seasonal affective disorder, which is a feeling of extreme tiredness and depression that is caused by the dark, cold weather. SAD is now widely accepted by doctors and psychiatrists as a serious medical condition, and it is thought to affect millions of people.

Scientists don't yet have a complete understanding of how or why some people are affected by SAD. Although the vast majority of us don't suffer from it, research has discovered quite a lot about it. It is believed to have something in common with the hibernation cycle of animals. A number of mammals, such as bears, fall asleep for the winter, when there isn't enough food to eat and it's too cold and dark to survive outside. As winter approaches, and the days grow shorter, these animals become increasingly sleepy and slow-moving. It seems that victims of SAD respond in the same way. They don't actually hibernate but their bodies behave as if that's what they are about to do.

Unsurprisingly, the overwhelming majority of people with SAD live in parts of the world where the length of days varies greatly between summer and winter, and, although it isn't unknown in countries closer than thirty degrees to the equator, it is extremely rare. Interestingly, people who were born near the equator and decided to move to northern countries later in life are more likely to develop SAD.

Typical problems of SAD sufferers include feeling anxious and unable to deal with everyday problems, feeling bad-tempered and very negative about life, falling out with friends and family, and finding it hard to sleep properly. SAD sufferers often can't stay awake during the day and keep waking up in the middle of the night. Not all SAD sufferers have the same symptoms, of course, and the intensity of how bad people feel varies from one person to the next.

Historically, the treatment for depression was to use drugs, and, for many years, doctors told their patients with SAD to take antidepressants. However, now that the diagnosis of the illness has become much better, sufferers are being treated differently. They are being given 'bright light treatment', using specially designed light boxes that give off a powerful light and trick the body into believing that it isn't winter. After four or five days of using one for just half an hour a day, most sufferers start to feel happier and less depressed.

4 Read the text. Circle the correct answer (a–d).

- 1 According to the text,
 - a only people with SAD feel blue during short, wintry days.
 - b a majority of people get seriously depressed in winter.
 - c fewer people feel down in the summer than in the winter.
 - d the number of people with SAD is growing significantly.
- 2 The text says that most doctors
 - a have doubts that SAD is really a medical condition.
 - b have started treating all their patients for SAD.
 - c believe that SAD has an effect on many people.
 - d are tired of having to deal with so many cases of SAD.
- 3 Research has shown that
 - a most people have some form of SAD.
 - b we know very little about what SAD is.
 - c hibernating animals sometimes develop SAD.
 - d SAD sufferers behave as if they want to hibernate.
- 4 People with SAD
 - a almost always live in regions which are quite close to the equator.
 - b tend to share almost identical symptoms of tiredness and irritability.
 - c can be very argumentative and have poor, interrupted sleep patterns.
 - d very rarely live in the arctic regions of the very far north.
- 5 The current treatment for SAD
 - a involves constant light treatment for four to five days.
 - b hasn't changed much in recent times.
 - c makes sufferers' bodies think that it's summertime.
 - d has more or less solved the problem.

Mark: ____ / 10

Writing

5 Write one of the following tasks.

- A Write a review of an interesting event that you have been to in the last year. Give background information about the event, give details of what happened, and say what you liked or disliked. Provide a summary or recommendation.
- B The local government wants to build new houses on the park where you and your friends often go, because there aren't enough houses in your town. Write a formal letter of complaint to the local government saying how you feel about this scheme. Show an understanding of the problem and make alternative suggestions. Conclude your letter with details of the response or action you expect.

Mark: ____ / 15

TOTAL MARKS: ____ / 40

Speaking

6 You bought a lottery ticket for last night's draw, but you didn't win anything! Choose one of the ideas below and answer the questions. Then tell your partner what you would have done if you'd won.

A You might have gone on a special, long holiday.

Where would you have gone and why? Who would you have gone with? How would you have spent your time?

B You could have invested your money.

What would you have invested in and why? If you had made a lot more money from your investments, what would you have done with it?

C You might have used the money to support a charity or political cause.

Which charity or cause would you have supported and why? What would you have done to support your charity or cause? How could you have changed the world if only you had won some money?

Challenge!

7 Complete the text with the correct words (a–d).

The elephant's trunk

Everybody knows an elephant when they see one, and ¹ _____ makes elephants so recognizable is their trunks. The trunk is actually made up of the nose and the upper lip, and ² _____ for a wide variety of purposes. As well as using them for breathing, elephants ³ _____ to use them to lift ⁴ _____ heavy objects and to perform delicate tasks such as wiping their eyes. If an elephant is thirsty, it ⁵ _____ up water with its trunk and spray the water directly into its mouth. Its mouth is ⁶ _____ long way from the ground that it can't actually drink without relying ⁷ _____ its trunk! Elephants only survive because of the versatility of their trunks – without them, they would die ⁸ _____.

1 **a** it **b** that **c** what **d** which

2 **a** can use **b** can be used **c** can be using **d** can have used

3 **a** have known **b** have been known **c** have being known **d** have been knowing

4 **a** comfortable **b** comfortably **c** incredible **d** incredibly

5 **a** is sucking **b** will suck **c** would suck **d** sucked

6 **a** so **b** such **c** so a **d** such a

7 **a** on **b** for **c** from **d** at

8 **a** over **b** out **c** along **d** after