

Skills Test Unit 9 Test A

Name: _____

Everyday English

1 Complete the sentences with the words below.

do got clear sure switch

- 1 Is everything _____ ?
- 2 I'm not quite _____ what you said.
- 3 What do I _____ with this machine?
- 4 Then, _____ it on.
- 5 Right, I've _____ that.

Mark: ____ / 5

Listening

2 Listen to Tom talking to his friend Amy about the inventor Trevor Bayliss. Circle the correct words to complete the description.

The wind-up radio uses ¹**batteries** / **hand power** to make it work. The invention has helped to solve problems ²**at home** / **abroad**.

3 Listen again. Circle the correct answer (a–c).

- 1 What do we find out about the wind-up radio?
 - a It's the only thing Trevor Bayliss has invented.
 - b It's the invention he's most well-known for.
 - c He invented the radio at home in England.
- 2 How did Tom become interested in Trevor Bayliss?
 - a He studied him at school.
 - b He read about him in a magazine.
 - c His dentist told him about Bayliss.
- 3 Trevor Bayliss decided to invent the wind-up radio
 - a after watching a television programme.
 - b after a trip to help people with AIDS in Africa.
 - c after discussing the problem with doctors.
- 4 How does Tom describe the wind-up radio?
 - a It's a bit inconvenient if you aren't near a plug socket.
 - b If you wind it up, it can last days before it needs recharging.
 - c It needs a bit of work, but it's cheap and practical.

Mark: ____ / 10

Reading

Technology that lets us communicate telepathically

Nowadays, advances in digital technology are so rapid that inventions which don't seem to have been around for very long can become out-of-date almost overnight. Within our parents' lifetimes the only way people could listen to their favourite music or catch up with the latest films was to buy audio and video cassettes and records. Of course, these have been replaced by CDs and DVDs, inventions which seemed so new and innovative not so long ago, but which may not have much of a future. Many experts believe they won't be around for much longer now that we can easily access music, books and films on the internet. But what will come next? Well, some scientists, whose job it is to predict the future, have argued that once we have perfected 'telepathic' technology, even laptops, iPads and smart phones will become museum curiosities.

Telepathic technology is probably something you haven't heard of before, but scientists are genuinely exploring its possibilities. The idea is to use our brains as we currently use our laptops. If we find out how to download pure data directly into our brains, we'll be able to watch a film or read a book without having to use an electronic device. And we're not all that far away from being able to do this. For example, an engineer has already invented glasses which allow the wearer to see instant language translations right in front of their eyes. Imagine a time when we can access this type of data without the glasses.

One current idea, which numerous scientists have been trying to develop, is to try to use thoughts to send messages to computers. It could be the first step towards using technology in order to communicate telepathically with each other. There have already been some significant experimental breakthroughs in this fascinating area. For example, one researcher used his brain to make characters move in a computer game, and another researcher was able to command a computer to send a tweet by using his brain as an input device. In other words, he managed to send a brainwave to the computer which the computer was able to understand. It will take years to develop and perfect this kind of technology, but it seems only a matter of time before we will be 'thinking' our texts, tweets and emails. Who knows? Perhaps we'll be able to sit and 'think' our homework and watch it magically appear on a screen.

4 Read the text and choose the correct answer (a–d) to complete the sentences.

- 1 Since our parents were born, technological advances have
 - a caught up with popular demand.
 - b taken place at a faster and faster rate.
 - c become less innovative.
 - d failed to improve on records and cassettes.
- 2 According to some scientists, current technologies such as laptops and iPads
 - a will be popular for a long time.
 - b could soon only be found in museums.
 - c are already outdated.
 - d can never be replaced.
- 3 If it were possible, telepathic technology would depend on
 - a connecting our brains to laptops and smartphones.
 - b translating the messages of our brains.
 - c getting our brains working quicker.
 - d changing the data we send to our brains.
- 4 As a result of telepathic technology, we may, one day, be able to watch movies
 - a without access to our brainwaves.
 - b while using a simple electronic device in our brains.
 - c by picking up data sent straight from our brains.
 - d with greater clarity than on laptops or smartphones.
- 5 So far, scientists haven't been able to
 - a send a tweet from a human brain to a computer.
 - b send a brainwave that a computer can understand.
 - c control the movement of characters in a computer game.
 - d pass messages telepathically from person to person.

Mark: ____ / 10

Writing

5 Choose one of the essay titles. Then write a for and against essay about it.

- A Writing letters is a better way of keeping in touch with family and friends overseas than writing emails or using a social networking site.
- B Twenty years from now, we won't need to learn a second language because we'll have instant translation devices in our brains.

Write your essay. Use the plan to help you.

Paragraph 1: Write an introduction with a clear outline of the topic.

Paragraph 2: Present the arguments in favour of the statement.

Paragraph 3: Present the arguments against the statement.

Paragraph 4: Write a conclusion to the essay. Include your own opinions.

Mark: ____ / 15

TOTAL MARKS: ____ / 40

Challenge!

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

Postcards

In London a hundred years ago, there were no such things as texts, tweets or emails, and only rich people ¹_____ a telephone in their house. So how did young people manage ²_____ with each other? Well, believe it or not, in London, postcards were used by young people ³_____ wanted to keep in touch with their friends during the day. They could do this because the postal service was so good back then. These days, if you sent a card on a weekday morning, it ⁴_____ two or three days to arrive at the recipient's address. If you ⁵_____ a card in 1900, however, it would have taken just an hour to get there! So, young men like Bill Clarke, ⁶_____ had a girlfriend called Molly, ⁷_____ travel long distances every day to see their sweethearts! Instead, Bill used to get up early and send a postcard, saying, *Hello! How are you? Would you like to meet at the theatre in Drury Lane tonight?* And Molly ⁸_____ back immediately, saying yes (or perhaps no). Bill had her reply by midday and still had plenty of time to write back again and receive another reply!

- 1 **a** were had **b** were having **c** used to have **d** would be having
- 2 **a** communicate **b** communicating **c** to communicate **d** for communicating
- 3 **a** who **b** which **c** where **d** than
- 4 **a** will take **b** would take **c** had taken **d** was taking
- 5 **a** would post **b** posted **c** will be posting **d** would have posted
- 6 **a** who **b** which **c** that **d** whose
- 7 **a** mustn't **b** doesn't have to **c** didn't have to **d** don't have to
- 8 **a** will often write **b** had often written **c** has often written **d** would often write