

Skills Test Unit 9 Test B

Name: _____

Everyday English

1 Complete the sentences with the words below.

explain work clear catch see

- 1 I'm sorry, I didn't quite _____ that.
- 2 Let me _____ what to do.
- 3 How does it _____ ?
- 4 Do you _____ what I mean?
- 5 That's quite _____ , thanks.

Mark: ____ / 5

Listening

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

Trevor Bayliss invented the wind-up radio which has helped solve problems in some ¹poorer / richer countries. You use ²batteries / hand power to make it work.

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

- 1 What do we find out about Trevor Bayliss?
 - a He has invented a number of different things.
 - b He invented the wind-up radio ten years ago.
 - c He has lived at his home in England all his life.
- 2 When did Tom first hear about Trevor Bayliss?
 - a While he was doing his science course.
 - b While he was working for a magazine.
 - c While he was waiting for a dental appointment.
- 3 What inspired Trevor Bayliss to invent the wind-up radio?
 - a The need to communicate information about AIDS in Africa.
 - b A trip to see AIDS victims in Africa.
 - c A discussion he had with doctors about problems in Africa.
- 4 How does the wind-up radio work?
 - a You generate electricity by turning a handle on the radio.
 - b It stores electricity from a plug socket.
 - c It uses solar power.

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in digital technology are so rapid that inventions which don't seem to have been around for very long can become out-of-date almost overnight.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 Of course, these have been replaced by CDs and DVDs, inventions which seemed so new and innovative not so long ago, but which may not have much of a future.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 to be able 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 According to the writer, technological advances
 - a are getting faster all the time.
 - b are as rapid as they ever were.
 - c aren't likely to speed up.
 - d were faster in our parents' time.
- 2 The writer says that scientists argue that current technologies
 - a are expected to be around for a long time.
 - b cannot be improved.
 - c will soon be museum pieces.
 - d will never be replaced.
- 3 The writer says that telepathic technology is
 - a considered possible these days.
 - b merely science fiction fantasy.
 - c unreasonable and unlikely.
 - d already perfected by scientists.
- 4 The writer describes special glasses that
 - a download films.
 - b help you read books.
 - c connect directly to your brain.
 - d translate words.
- 5 In experiments, scientists have already been able to use the power of thought to
 - a connect two human brains.
 - b transmit a written message.
 - c send meaningful spoken messages.
 - d design a computer game.

Mark: ____ / 10

Writing

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

- A The internet has made today's young people much more well-informed than previous generations.
- B Twenty years from now, we won't need to carry around any phones, iPads or other electronic devices because we'll use devices in our brains to communicate.

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

1 a are b were c have been d had been

2 a are used b used c were using d were used

3 a when b that c which d who

4 a will send b sent c would send d had sent

5 a however b but c although d despite

6 a would be taking b would have taken c had taken d will have taken

7 a who b which c whose d that

8 a used to get up b had got up c was getting up d had been got up