

# CAE PREMIUM Lesson 2.19



## In pursuit of excellence

In the early 1990s, the psychologist K Anders Ericsson and two colleagues conducted some research into the relationship **(0)** ..... talent and hard work at Berlin's elite Academy of Music. The curious thing **(13)** ..... , they couldn't find any musicians who could excel without any effort, or who could get to the top without practising as much as all **(14)** ..... peers. Also, they were unable to find any people who worked harder than everyone else and yet just didn't have exactly **(15)** ..... it takes to break into the top ranks. So their research would certainly seem to indicate that once someone makes **(16)** ..... into a top music school, the thing that distinguishes one performer from **(17)** ..... is how hard he or she works. That's it. What's more, with the musicians right **(18)** ..... the very top, it's not just a case of their **(19)** ..... worked harder, they have worked much, much harder.

This idea **(20)** ..... excellence requiring a minimum level of practice, arises time **(21)** ..... time in studies of expertise in various fields. In fact, researchers have come **(22)** ..... an agreement on what they believe to be the number of hours of practice required **(23)** ..... true expertise: 10,000. In their research, they have yet to come across **(24)** ..... who has accomplished world-class expertise in less time. It seems that people need **(25)** ..... amount of time in order for them to take **(26)** ..... everything they need to know to achieve genuine mastery. This is true even with individuals we think of **(27)** ..... geniuses.

- 1 The recent appearance of so many friendship websites online has been surprising.

**SPRUNG** (phrasal verb + adverb)

It's surprising that so many friendship websites ..... online.

- 2 Lisa threatened to resign if they did not increase her salary.

**UNLESS** (reporting structure with *that* + verb form with *unless*)

Lisa threatened that ..... her salary.

- 3 My internet connection was down so I wasn't able to follow events as they developed.

**TRACK** (structure following *prevent* + idiom)

My internet connection was down, which prevented ..... events as they developed.

- 4 Although Jake promised to continue to contact me, he never emailed me again.

**TOUCH** (noun + idiom)

Despite Jake's ..... he never emailed me again.

- 5 'We're sorry we didn't keep our word,' the company said.

**FOR** (reporting verb and structure with *for* + pronoun)

The company ..... word.

- 6 Defending himself against such a powerful opponent was a brave thing to do.

**STAND** (pronoun + three -part phrasal verb)

It was brave of ..... such a powerful opponent.

**Example:**

- 0 The government's announcement of investment in tidal energy came as a complete surprise.

**BLUE**

The government ANNOUNCED OUT OF THE BLUE that there would be investment in tidal energy.

- 1 Immediately after the storm began, lightning struck the roof.

**SOONER**

No ..... lightning struck the roof.

- 2 There seems little chance of paper shopping bags becoming popular with consumers.

**ON**

Paper shopping bags seem unlikely ..... consumers.

- 3 Visitors are not allowed to approach the animals in the Reserve, for whatever reason.

**SHOULD**

Under no ..... the animals in the Reserve.

- 4 Alone in that small boat, I had no idea what time it was any more.

**TRACK**

Alone in that small boat, I had completely ..... time.

- 5 Those trucks cause air pollution and they make a terrible noise, too.

**ONLY**

Not ..... the air, they make a terrible noise, too.

- 6 Ollie's attempt to make his in-laws feel relaxed by telling a joke was not a success.

**ICE**

Ollie tried ..... with his in-laws by telling a joke.

You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about photography courses they have taken.

### TASK ONE

For questions 21–25, choose from the list (A–H) each speaker's occupation.

A mechanical engineer

B teacher

C sculptor

D architect

E website designer

F journalist

G lawyer

H driver

Speaker 1  21

Speaker 2  22

Speaker 3  23

Speaker 4  24

Speaker 5  25

### TASK TWO

For questions 26–30, choose from the list (A–H) what each speaker appreciated most about their photography course.

A the tutor's feedback

B good value for money

C its creative atmosphere

D its wide-ranging content

E its traditional approach

F helpful comments from students

G the quality of the materials supplied

H its challenging assignments

Speaker 1  26

Speaker 2  27

Speaker 3  28

Speaker 4  29

Speaker 5  30

While you listen you must complete both tasks.

Match the adjectives in the box with the adjectives below which have a similar meaning.

absorbing	appalling	awesome	chaotic
complex	convincing	disastrous	gorgeous
gripping	hilarious	humorous	muddled
plausible	sophisticated	splendid	
staggering	stunning	unpredictable	

1 beautiful	gorgeous	.....
2 believable	.....	.....
3 complicated	.....	.....
4 confused	.....	.....
5 funny	.....	.....
6 interesting	.....	.....
7 surprising	.....	.....
8 terrible	.....	.....

**1a** Here are some expressions an exam candidate used in a film review. Mark each one according to whether you think they are most likely to be positive (✓) or negative (✗).

- |                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| A are simply stunning        | .....✓..... |
| B really bothered me         | .....       |
| C this lack of               | .....       |
| D simply do not move me      | .....       |
| E manages very ably to       | .....       |
| F is nothing but             | .....       |
| G was really impressed       | .....       |
| H pleasantly surprised me    | .....       |
| I literally lose the plot    | .....       |
| J with a depressing sense of | .....       |

I have been asked to write a review of the best and worst films I have seen, and for me personally selecting the two movies is not at all hard. Without doubt, the best film I have ever watched is *Alien*. Special effects without a gripping story (1) .....*simply do not move me*..... and I usually avoid Hollywood blockbusters, but *Alien* (2) ..... It combines two of my favourite film genres, given that it is an awesome science fiction film that is also an absorbing thriller. Subsequently the director (3) ..... create a convincing atmosphere of fear, while teaching us a valuable lesson about the beast we all hide inside. The actors' performances are splendid, especially that of Sigourney Weaver, who is the leading actress. The costumes are well designed and the special effects (4) .....

In complete contrast, the worst film I have ever watched is *200 Warriors*. This film (5) ..... a disastrous combination of special effects with a chaotic story. Initially I (6) ..... by the colourful explosions and the epic battles between the good and evil immortal warriors, but in the end too many events take place and too few plausible explanations are given. As a result, you (7) ..... For me, (8) ..... a strong storyline is a major fault. Another issue that (9) ..... is that there is not a single complex character to identify with and no sophisticated ideas to think about and you therefore emerge from the cinema (10) ..... dissatisfaction.



Read the essay written by an exam candidate who completed this Part 1 task. Then complete it using the linking words and phrases from the box below. Some words can be used in more than one space.

although despite firstly however in this way  
moreover nevertheless on the other hand secondly since



'Person of the Year' is a prestigious award given to someone from our town every year. It's always a difficult choice to make. So many make a valuable contribution to our community.

(1) ..... , we can only recognise one with this award. I would like to give my views on two of the

types of people the town could honour (2) ..... : a teacher and a sportsperson.

(3) ..... , let's consider teachers. 'Ordinary' citizens such as these are often overlooked for awards of this type, (4) ..... the vital work they do in our communities. On the one hand, we should definitely show our appreciation for their role in our lives.

(5) ..... , it would be difficult to choose just one teacher as the recipient of the award, (6) ..... they all work so hard on our behalf.

(7) ..... , I would like to consider the pros and cons of choosing a sportsperson. On the positive side, the well-known sportsmen and women from our town are an inspiration to young people. (8) ..... , they have given us all something to celebrate and put our small town on the map. (9) ..... , those who excel in sports have already been rewarded for their efforts with trophies, medals and celebrity.

Having considered these two groups of people, my personal view is that the award should go to a sportsperson. (10) ..... teachers definitely deserve our appreciation and respect, I feel it would be difficult to single out just one to receive this accolade.

## Writing | Part 2

### A letter

- 1a Match the phrases on the right to a function on the left. Some functions have more than one phrase.

giving an opinion .....	A to summarise
persuading .....	B some people argue that ... but others
summing up .....	C in my point of view
comparing and contrasting .....	D I would be grateful if you could let me know
recommending and advising .....	E the benefits of doing this are
asking for advice or help .....	F I would be more than happy to
making an offer .....	G the main advantage for you is
describing .....	H in conclusion,
	I on the one hand ... (on the other hand)
	J it would be a good idea to
	K I would like to know what
	L I think it would definitely
	M is an essential feature of

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of all members about the extremely poor state of the showers and changing rooms at the tennis club. **(1)** .....<sup>K</sup>..... you intend to do about them.

At present everything is in a very dilapidated condition, and the supply of hot water is constantly running out. In our opinion, **(2)** ..... completely refurbish the showers. **(3)** ..... that current members will be much more content with the facilities, while in addition, having state-of-the-art showers and a pleasant décor **(4)** ..... any club hoping to attract new members in competitive times.

I appreciate that **(5)** ..... the refurbishment will require major investment, but on the other there are long-term benefits, both financial and practical. I would have to say, however, that **(6)** ..... putting an end to the constant flow of complaints you receive from us all.

**(7)** ..... when the management committee will be able to discuss these matters. Please note that **(8)** ..... come and discuss them with you if it would be helpful. Most of the players at the club live locally, and wish to continue their membership.

Yours

Tina Brown