

Answering strategy

- 1 Read the first text to get a general understanding.
- 2 Read the text again carefully and look at the choice of options.
- 3 Try each option in the gap before making your final decision.
- 4 Check that the word you have chosen fits the context before and after the gap.
- 5 If you are unsure about an answer, leave the question and come back to it when you have completed the other items.
- 6 Repeat the procedure for the other texts.

Question hints

Questions in this part of the test focus on:

- vocabulary in different contexts, e.g. fixed phrases, collocations, idioms, parts of phrasal verbs and complementation (where incorrect options can be wrong for grammatical reasons).
- the meaning of a word in a particular context, e.g. linkers or complete phrasal verbs. The incorrect options may be grammatically correct but they do not fit the gap.

Q1 Complementation: only one verb follows the pattern of verb + object pronoun + infinitive.

Q2 All the phrasal verbs fit grammatically into this sentence but only one has the correct meaning in this context.

Q3 This is a fixed phrase, i.e. *on the ... of doing something*.

Paper 1 Reading Part 1

For questions 1–18, read the three texts below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

Futile exercise?

Isn't it typical? For years, they have been (1) me to take up some regular exercise. Fortunately, I have been able to (2) the evil hour when I had to make a decision. And what happens when I am on the (3) of relenting? They double-cross me. A little but often, that's what I signed up for. No running up mountains or playing squash at lunch-time. I spent £200 on an exercise bike. Just 20 minutes of moderate (4) three times a week. But no sooner had I submitted to the new regime than I became aware that something was amiss. 'Twenty minutes?' said a friend when I (5) that I had taken ownership of my body. With a (6) in his eye, he added, 'I think you'll find that the necessary time per session is now 30 minutes minimum!'



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|---|---|-----------|---|-----------|---|------------|---|-----------|
| 1 | A | wishing | B | pleading | C | urging | D | demanding |
| 2 | A | clear out | B | break up | C | put off | D | set down |
| 3 | A | spot | B | point | C | edge | D | moment |
| 4 | A | exertion | B | labour | C | employment | D | toil |
| 5 | A | foretold | B | announced | C | advertised | D | published |
| 6 | A | beam | B | light | C | flash | D | twinkle |

Buzz words

Once upon a time, it was only metal that could be stressed out. Now, it seems that most workers are feeling the (7) Stress is described, with a certain paradoxical exuberance, by some as a 'modern plague'; by others as weak-minded nonsense fuelled by a community of therapists and counsellors, eager to (8) troubled minds. Stress is in (9) of becoming one of those words – along with empowerment and creativity – that is made worthless through (10) and overuse. It is certainly the case that each (11) on stress seems to outdo the last – but the findings may not (12) a real rise in stress levels. The trouble with statistics like these is that they influence each other.

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|----|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 7 | A stretch | B pull | C strain | D heave |
| 8 | A soften | B appease | C soothe | D compose |
| 9 | A threat | B danger | C menace | D hazard |
| 10 | A deformity | B contortion | C distortion | D perversion |
| 11 | A inspection | B view | C examination | D survey |
| 12 | A express | B display | C indicate | D designate |

Question hints

Q15 Two verbs cannot be followed by *of* in the active form. One verb can never be followed by *of*.

Doing the rounds

Dr Yealland came out of his room, flanked by two junior doctors, (13) hands briskly with the physician he had agreed to show around the hospital and said that he thought the best general (14) was perhaps simply a ward round. The party (15) of Yealland, the two junior doctors who were being put through their paces, a ward sister, who made no (16) and was invited to make none, and a couple of orderlies who hovered in the background in case they were required to lift. Yealland was an impressive figure. In conversation he did not merely meet your eye, but stared so (17) that you felt your skull had become transparent. His speech was extremely precise. Something in this steady, unrelenting projection of (18) made Rivers want to laugh, but he didn't think he'd have wanted to laugh if he'd been a junior doctor or a patient.

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|----|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 13 | A moved | B waved | C touched | D shook |
| 14 | A acquaintance | B presentation | C establishment | D introduction |
| 15 | A comprised | B consisted | C composed | D contained |
| 16 | A repetition | B interruption | C contribution | D intervention |
| 17 | A thoughtfully | B intently | C diligently | D emotionally |
| 18 | A authority | B weight | C might | D charge |

For questions 1–15, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only **one** word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Answering strategy

- 1 Read the whole text quickly to get a general understanding.
- 2 Read the text again, in complete sentences, not simply line by line. Try to choose a word to complete each gap.
- 3 Check that the word you have chosen fits the context before and after the gap.
- 4 If you are unsure about an answer, leave the question and come back to it when you have completed the other items.

Question hints

Questions in this part of the test can be:

- purely grammatical.
- lexico-grammatical (a mixture of vocabulary and grammar).

Q1 This is lexico-grammatical. A phrasal verb is required, and you need to find a meaning to fit the context of the first two sentences.

Q6 This is an idiom. Only one answer is possible.

Q9 This is grammatical. A connector is needed to ensure the coherence of the sentence.

Q14 Be careful here. You need to read the complete sentence to understand what kind of word is needed.

Light up your face with gladness



Are you frowning as you read this? Habitual frowners may not even be (0) *aware* that their foreheads are creased, and will need to touch their brows to (1) out. A permanent frown is forbidding and unattractive, yet it is very easy to get into the (2) of frowning. You can stop yourself by placing your hand on your forehead to check whether your brow is smooth (3) you happen to be reading or watching television. In this way, you can begin to unlearn a negative piece of body language – and if you suffer from headaches, you should find yourself suffering from them much (4)

Smiling at yourself may make you feel a (5) self-conscious – but it works! Next time you are (6) the weather, physically or emotionally, you can test for (7) the therapeutic powers of smiling. Each (8) the expression fades from your face, try again and again (9) you begin to notice an improvement in yourself. In a large number of cases, this simple technique will produce noticeable benefits (10) a short space of time – and it's free.

As (11) as cheering yourself up, smiling at someone else can help (12) of you to feel better, for a smile tends to call forth an answering smile. (13) of the reasons why we are attracted to smiling faces is because they can affect our autonomic nervous system. Facial expressions and moods are catching, (14) we are not simply registering that someone is cheerful or cross – we are experiencing the same emotion. If you are always surrounded by miserable people with long faces, you are more than (15) to suffer depressive feelings yourself eventually.