

LEVEL B on the scale set by the Council of Europe
MODULE 1 Reading comprehension and language awareness

November 2013

PART A - CHOICE ITEMS

ACTIVITY 1

1.1 Read the text and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 1a-2a.

- 1a. This text is probably written by
A. a tour guide. B. a historian. C. a festival organiser.
- 2a. This text will be useful for someone planning to
A. visit Edinburgh. B. perform in a show. C. organise a show.

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Doing a Show

The Edinburgh Fringe is the world's largest arts festival. It started in 1947 as an alternative to the Edinburgh International Festival. Today, it is included in the Festival which takes place in Scotland's capital lasting four weeks every August.

How do I use this guide?

The Fringe Guide to Doing a Show presents a step-by-step procedure on how to put on a show at the Fringe, from planning your budget to collecting Box Office revenue in September.



Choosing a venue

Here are some of the most important things for you to think about when choosing where to perform your show and keep to your budget.

1. Capacity

- Try and predict the number of tickets you think you will sell.
- Think also of the atmosphere you want to create for your audience: is your show small and friendly or big and spectacular?
- It is better to have a full, small theatre than an empty, large one – from a financial point of view.

2. Location

The central venues are, of course, going to be the most popular and the most expensive. However, audiences come to Edinburgh to experiment and they won't mind going further away if it means enjoying a show which is a bit unusual. In the past, successful shows have been performed in the street, in taxis, lifts, department stores, apartments and even swimming pools!

3. Time of day

The price of your venue will be affected by the time of day you are performing. Just know: the earlier, the cheaper!

ATTENTION

- Try to answer all the questions.
- Mark your answers on Answer Sheet 1 [ΑΠΑΝΤΗΤΙΚΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1].
- Provide ONE answer for each item.
- You have **85 minutes** to complete this exam.

1.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 3a-6a.

- 3a. The Fringe
 A. has replaced the Edinburgh Festival. B. is now part of the Edinburgh Festival. C. is older than the Edinburgh Festival.
- 4a. The text gives the reader a lot of practical information about how to
 A. stage a play. B. improve shows. C. control the cost of a show.
- 5a. Why may small venues be better than large ones?
 A. They are more popular. B. It is easier to fill them. C. Audiences prefer them.
- 6a. According to the text, festival audiences
 A. like to try something different. B. avoid leaving the city center. C. prefer popular locations.

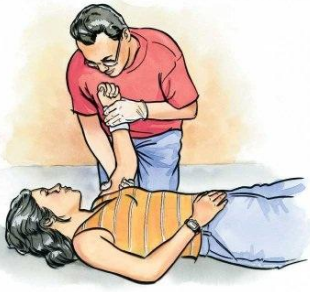
ACTIVITY 2

Read the information in the leaflet below and match the meaning of each underlined word (7a-11a) with options A-F. There is one option you do not need.

A. take care of	B. study	C. get better	D. end up	E. keep	F. continue
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 FIRST AID



Helping out

The first few minutes after an injury can be critical. If you know how to **(7a)** treat an injury, it will help you **(8a)** stay calm and do what you can to help the victim **(9a)** recover. If you work with other people, if you have children, if you do sports or if you have other hobbies that could **(10a)** result in injuries, you should be able to give them first aid.

You never know when someone might injure himself or herself. Knowing what to do, until professional help arrives, might be crucial. If you **(11a)** take a course on first aid, you will be able to help when there is an accident or you may even save a life!

ACTIVITY 3

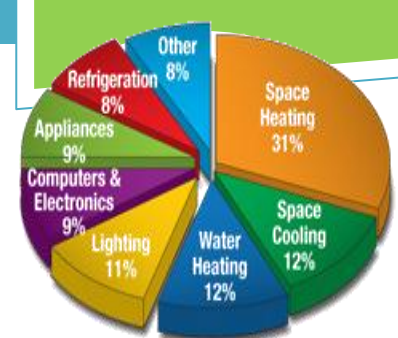
Read the leaflet below and for each gap (12a-16a) choose the best option (A-F). There is one option you do not need.

A. money	B. home	C. driving	D. office	E. advice	F. years
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Save Energy!

The *Save Energy Campaign* provides homeowners with tips for saving energy and money, both at **(12a)** _____ and on the road. We bring you the latest information on efficient technologies. We even give you **(13a)** _____ for using clean, renewable energy. Moreover, we provide guidelines on economic **(14a)** _____ and car maintenance, to help you beat the high cost of petrol and to help you save some of your hard-earned **(15a)** _____.

Most of the suggestions are easy to put into practice. For some you will have to try a bit harder, but they will all bring big savings over the **(16a)** _____. **Why not give it a try?**



Calculate how much energy you save on a daily basis!

ACTIVITY 4

4.1 Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 17a-19a.

17a. This text would NOT be of interest to

- A. computer experts. B. gadget consumers. C. technology fans.

18a. The aim of the text is to

- A. instruct. B. advertise. C. inform.

19a. This text suggests that e-ink electronic books are

- A. too expensive. B. less secure. C. quite practical.

The screenshot shows the Reports.org website. The main article is titled "e-book readers". The text discusses the e-book revolution, the increase in e-book readers, and the importance of the screen type and size. It also mentions that e-ink is monochrome and offers different shades of grey to give images more depth. The article is accompanied by an image of a person reading a tablet.

e-book readers

The e-book revolution is already with us. The first e-book appeared some years ago. In the past year, there has been a huge increase in e-book readers and there's no sign of it stopping any time soon. Now that prices are lower, everybody can afford to buy e-book readers. But if you're interested in buying an e-book reader, you've got to check which the best buy is.

So before you decide which e-reader to buy, you have some decisions to make. Here's what to consider when you're shopping for an e-book reader.

What Screen Type and How Big?

If you become hooked like me, you will find yourself reading more than ever with your precious new gadget; your eyes will spend a lot of time looking at your e-reader, so the screen is important.

Many models use an e-ink screen to display text. Actually, e-ink looks a lot like paper, and has the advantage of not being too hard on your eyes during long reading sessions. It's also easy to see in sunlight.

One thing you won't see is colour: e-ink is monochrome, but offers different shades of grey to give images more depth. And just like with a good old hardcover book, you'll need light to read. But, fortunately, there is long battery life on e-ink readers. Another strong point: by using e-ink you can turn your electronic pages very quickly.

4.2 Read the text again, and decide if statements 20a-25a are True (A), False (B), or Not Stated (C).

STATEMENTS		A	B	C
		TRUE	FALSE	NOT STATED
20a.	The rise in demand of e-book readers had not been predicted.			
21a.	E-books are now more expensive.			
22a.	E-book technology is changing all the time.			
23a.	E-ink makes your eyes feel tired.			
24a.	E-ink does not re-produce colour pictures.			
25a.	E-ink batteries last a long time.			

ACTIVITY 5

Read the extract from Nelson Mandela's book* and do the task that follows.

I hardly recall any occasion as a child when I was alone. In African culture, the sons and daughters of one's aunts or uncles are like brothers and sisters, not cousins. We have no half brothers or half-sisters. My mother's sister is my mother; my uncle's son is my brother; my brother's child is my son, my daughter.

My mother had three huts, shaped like beehives with mud walls. One was used for cooking, one for sleeping, and one for storage. In the hut in which we slept, there was no furniture. We slept on mats and sat on the ground. I did not discover pillows until I went away to school. Everything we ate we grew and made ourselves. Crops were difficult but we always had plenty of milk from our cows and goats.

From an early age, I spent most of my free time in the field playing and fighting with the other boys of the village. A boy who remained at home, tied to his mother's apron strings, was regarded a sissy. At night, I shared my food and blanket with these same boys.

I was no more than five when I became a herd-boy, looking after sheep and calves in the fields. I discovered the almost mystical connection that our tribe –the Xhosa– have with cattle, not only as a source of food and wealth, but also as a gift from God and a source of happiness. It was in the field that I learned how to knock birds out of the sky, to gather wild honey and fruits and roots, to drink warm, sweet milk straight from the cow, to swim in the clear, cold streams, and to catch fish. I learned to fight with a stick –very useful knowledge for any rural African boy.

Nature taught me a lot of things. From these days I date my love of the country, of open spaces, the simple beauties of nature, the clean line of the horizon.

As boys, we were mostly left free to do what we liked. We played with toys we made ourselves. We made animals and birds out of clay. Nature was our playground. In the hills above the village, there were large smooth rocks which we made into our own roller coaster. We sat on flat stones and slid down the face of rocks. We did this until our backsides were so sore we could hardly sit down. I learned to ride by sitting on calves. After being thrown to the ground several times, I got the hang of it.

Usually the boys played among themselves, but sometimes we allowed our sisters to join us. Boys and girls would play games like hide-and-seek and touch-and-run. But the game I most enjoyed was what we called *khetha*, or choose-the-one-you-like. This was no organized game but a spur-of-the-moment sport, that took place when we met with a group of girls of our

Adapted from: *LONG WALK TO FREEDOM: The autobiography of Nelson Mandela*. Boston, New York, London: BackBay Books. Little Brown & Co., 1995

Choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 26a-35a.

- 26a.** Mandela's book is divided in eleven chapters. Three of them have the titles that appear below as A, B and C. Which of these three chapters is this text from?
A. A country childhood **B.** Birth of a freedom fighter **C.** The struggle is my life
- 27a.** The writer tells us that African families
A. are very close. **B.** often fight. **C.** tend to be small.
- 28a.** The hut in which Mandela used to sleep had
A. small beds. **B.** no pillows. **C.** storage space.
- 29a.** Where did everyone in Mandela's hometown get most of their food from?
A. Their own village. **B.** The nearby community. **C.** The forest.
- 30a.** Why was being out with the boys of the village important?
A. To learn to behave like a boy. **B.** To create bonds. **C.** To feel more free.
- 31a.** Working with animals helped Mandela
A. find friends. **B.** feel great joy. **C.** understand his tribe.
- 32a.** For Mandela, nature was
A. hard work. **B.** a threat. **C.** a blessing.
- 33a.** The word **face** in the phrase 'We ...slid down the *face* of rocks', means something like:
A. on top of. **B.** behind. **C.** on the side of.
- 34a.** The phrase **to get the hang of it** in the text means:
A. hang sideways. **B.** learn how to do it. **C.** become proficient at.
- 35a.** The word that follows the unfinished last sentence is probably
A. race. **B.** age. **C.** family.

ACTIVITY 6

Match extracts 36a-41a with the type of text from which they are taken (options A-H). There are two options you do not need.

A.	Short story	B.	Letter to newspaper	C.	Theatre poster	D.	Letter of recommendation
E.	E-mail	F.	News report	G.	Horoscope	H.	Medicine - instructions for use

36a.	To be taken twice daily after meals. Not suitable for children or women during pregnancy. Before starting this treatment, read the manufacturer's printed information leaflet from the pack.	
37a.	A chilling mystery, in the Barnstaple Town Hall. The ever-popular Barnstaple Players, produced and directed by Jenny Johnson. Reservations: 2239993 Monday to Friday 7.30. Saturday 5.15 and 8 pm.	
38a.	Sorry I've taken so long to get back to you, but my server was down and was out of touch. When I logged on, I found a huge backlog of messages to catch up with.	
39a.	Rescue teams are searching for a plane which crashed in a mountainous region of Indonesia, government officials say. It is believed the aircraft flew off course during a storm and gale force winds during which the pilot lost control. No survivors have been reported.	
40a.	I really must respond to your leader article on the state of the economy. It is quite inaccurate to say the government is responsible for the present crisis. In my view, and that of most commentators, the crisis is largely the result of global factors.	
41a.	What you do and say makes an impact on people from your work environment –especially those at the top! One or two of them are in a generous mood. Love could produce a puzzle, and you may have one admirer too many.	

ACTIVITY 7**7.1** Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 42a-43a.**42a.** A good way of completing the title of this text would be**A.** Life full of roses.**B.** The shock of reality.**C.** Not all fun and games.**43a.** The attitude to famous stars in this text is**A.** chiefly cynical.**B.** highly critical.**C.** basically neutral.**A Day in the Life of a Teen Star***By Martha Green*

Many people will tell you that being a young celebrity is more hard work than you think, but after watching Katie Knight for a day, I can't say the same. The more I dug around for a really troublesome experience for the teen co-star of sitcom *Face to Face*, the more apparent it became that Katie is really living the stereotypical life of a teenager blessed with fame and fortune. Granted, her life is far from being slave labour, and she makes quite a bit of money.



On a mild summer day in August, Katie arrived at Paramount Studios in Beverly Hills around 9 a.m. She stayed with her best friend Amanda, a teen model who lives around the corner from the studio. 'I was up at 8:20 this morning, but if I was home (in Los Angeles) I would have had to get up at 6

a.m,' says Katie, while having her face powdered. At 11 a.m., the makeup and wardrobe that Katie wore at the first rehearsal of the day, needed to be retouched and changed, respectively.

'They work me as long as they can,' says Katie, referring to her schedule at *Face to Face*. But because she is still a minor, the most she can work is nine hours a day with an hour for lunch, so the studio has to stop at this limit.

Katie isn't that big on makeup, and all the other glamorous aspects of the business. 'I am not too keen on the heat, hair spray, or tugging on my hair', says Katie. 'For the weeks that I don't have to work, I don't wear makeup at all. Even for premieres, parties, and shows I usually wear my hair just straight.'

It's 1 p.m. and Katie is freshly dressed in a fitted pink sweat suit. On the set there are 12 crew members. The makeup artist powders Katie's face. Everyone else is busying themselves and making small talk. Although Katie, and Maggie Arnold—who is guest-starring this season—have just appeared on the set, no one is star struck. It's just another day at work!

Director Ona Roberts bellows 'Action!' and Katie responds with her lines: 'Wow, I'm back with my mom, my life sucks.' This is hard work; the process repeats about five times until around 1:45 p.m. Then, the cast starts rehearsing two new sentences. Who knew that it took so long to perfect one line?

At 2pm Katie was off to her trailer for some lunch. At the trailer was Debbie Johnson, who is technically Katie's set sitter, but Debbie says Katie sees her differently. 'By law someone has to accompany minor-aged actresses on the set', explains Debbie. 'I get temporary guardianship of Katie, and I make sure she eats lunch and works the correct number of hours for her age'.

7.2 Read the text again, and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 44a-50a.

- 44a. What do we learn about the life of Katie Knight in the first paragraph?
 A. Her job is easier than people think. B. She has a lot of problems at work. C. She isn't enjoying her fame very much.
- 45a. How is Katie's everyday life as an actress different from when she was at home?
 A. She gets up later now. B. She travels further to work. C. She works much harder.
- 46a. What does the text suggest about the studio's behaviour towards Katie?
 A. They take advantage of her. B. They pay her well. C. They do what the law says.
- 47a. One thing Katie doesn't like about her work is
 A. the clothes she has to wear. B. changing the way she looks. C. the roles she has to play.
- 48a. 'The process' in the 6th paragraph refers to
 A. rehearsing a scene. B. learning lines. C. talking to the director.
- 49a. What is Debbie's role on the set?
 A. To make Katie's meals. B. To make sure the law is kept. C. To give Katie advice.
- 50a. Who, besides Katie, did the writer talk to in order to write this article?
 A. Katie's biographer. B. Katie's guardian. C. Katie's employer.

PART B - SHORT ANSWERS

ACTIVITY 1

Fill in gaps 1b-5b with the correct form of the word in parenthesis, as in the example.



Respect the countryside

Looking after the countryside is everyone's **(EX)** responsibility (response)

Nature is there for your benefit, it gives you life and **(1b)** _____ (please).

You should treat the countryside with respect. **(2b)** _____ (visit) have a duty to leave it as they found it, if not better.

Guidelines

- When you go through a gate in a field or footpath, make sure you don't leave it **(3b)** _____ (lock) behind you. That way you make sure that animals won't escape.
- Be careful when using matches in the countryside. You could **(4b)** _____ (accident) start a fire. Avoid lighting matches unless you really have to.
- When you come across a herd of cows or goats, leave them alone; it may be **(5b)** _____ (risk) for you and dangerous for the animals, too, if there are guard dogs around!



ACTIVITY 2

Complete the items below (6b-10b) with ONE word that suits both statements. The first letter of the word is given.

- 6b. a) I'm not sure what to use to s _____ this poster on my bedroom wall.
b) He's so old now he even uses a walking s _____.
- 7b. a) The opposition parties put up a united f _____ against the government.
b) She's broken one of her f _____ teeth.
- 8b. a) Sadly, the speaker failed to turn up at the conference – she l _____ us down at the last minute.
b) I'd like to eat more chocolate but my doctor won't l _____ me eat sweets.
- 9b. a) Jim and I w _____ out in the gym every day.
b) We really need to make this plan w _____.
- 10b. She has always been a caring person and that will m _____ her a fine nurse.
He decided to find a second job so that he can m _____ more money.

**ΣΑΣ ΥΠΕΝΘΥΜΙΖΟΥΜΕ ΟΤΙ ΠΡΕΠΕΙ ΝΑ ΜΕΤΑΦΕΡΕΤΕ ΟΛΕΣ ΤΙΣ ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΕΙΣ ΣΤΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1
ΤΕΛΟΣ ΜΗΝΥΜΑΤΟΣ**