

***DIVISION OF LIBERAL ARTS AND HUMAN  
SERVICES***

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**AND**

**COMMUNICATIONS STUDIES**

**ENGLISH PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- The duration of this examination is **2 hours**
- Do not open this booklet until you are instructed to do so by the invigilator.
- Please read examination instructions carefully.
- Answer **ALL** questions on the answer sheet provided.
- In no circumstances must question sheets or answer sheets, used or unused, be removed from the examination Room by any candidate.

## PART A

*Instructions for Questions (1) – (10):* Using the first letter provided, complete the passage by writing each missing word on your answer sheet. (Write only **one** word in each case).

N.B.: Read the entire passage first before attempting to answer.

### **Air Pollution**

We have to breathe air as it provides us the oxygen that we need to live. Many things that humans do can release pollutants into the air, which (1) c..... sometimes seriously affect humans themselves, plants, and animals. There (2) a..... many developments that result from pollution. They include smog, acid (3) r....., the greenhouse effect, and holes in the ozone layer. (4) E..... of these developments can negatively affect our health (5) a..... well-being and also the environment as a whole. One (6) t..... of air pollution that occurs quite often is the (7) r..... of particles into the air from burning fossil fuels (8) b..... automobiles. This type of pollution is called black carbon (9) p..... Diesel smoke is a perfect example of this. The (10) e..... produced by automobiles, homes, and industries is a great contributor to pollution in the air.

## PART B

*Instructions for Questions (11) – (20):* Complete the following passage by writing in the missing word on your answer sheet. (Beginning with a capital letter **only when necessary**, write only **one** word in each case).

N.B.: Read the **entire passage** first before attempting to answer.

### **MEMORIZATION**

Perhaps you think that memorizing material for a test is a waste of time; you may be convinced that you will forget what you memorize as soon as a test is over. Moreover, because some teachers (11) b----- that memorization and learning are incompatible, they

may tell (12) y----- that you should not memorize material; rather, you should (13) u----- it.

Memorization, however, can be an important aid to (14) u-----and not just in situations where basic, uncomplicated material (15) i----- involved. Effective memorizing requires that you organize and repeatedly (16) t----- yourself on the material to be learned. As you (17)d----- this, you are sure to enlarge your comprehension of (18) t----- material and notice the relationships you had not seen (19) b----- . In short, memorization and understanding reinforce one another. Together, (20) t----- help you learn—and learning is the goal of education. What you need, then, is a series of strategies, or steps, to help memorize effectively.

Adapted from:

Langan, J. (1990). *Reading and study skills: Form B*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc.

### PART C

**Instructions:** There are **ten errors** in the following sentences. These errors can occur due to incorrect word usage, punctuation, capitalization, spelling or grammar. Correct each error on a separate line on the answer sheet provided, identifying the number of the sentence in which each error occurs.

**Examples:**

1) Does crime have a strong affect on our society. 2) The dog bit it's tail.

**Ans.:**1) effect.

1) ...our society ?

**Ans.:** 2) its

### **Carnival**

21. Trinidad Carnival, which is truly the greatest show in the world, is celebrated two days prior to Ash Wednesday.
22. The word Carnival is Latin in it's origin and means farewell to flesh.
23. Celebrations starts with the launching of Bands.
24. Steel bandmen begin to practise there calypso of choice at the start of January when Carnival parties also begin.

25. An all-inclusive party cost a lot.
26. Have you any idea how much people take loans to purchase costumes and pay for parties?
27. Very often these “party animals” do not see their families for weeks.
28. Carnival weekend start with Soca Monarch on Friday night.
29. This is followed by Kiddies’ Carnival on Saturday and Panorama finals that very same night.
30. Dimanche Gras on Sunday night followed by everyone’s favourite J’ouvert.
31. The parade of the bands on Monday and Tuesday is spectacular.
32. There are a lot of colourful costumes of many hues and energetic performances by bands.
33. It is really a magnificent season!

## **PART D**

*Instructions for Questions (34) – (43):* Use each of the words in brackets to form new words to complete the following passage. (Write only **one** word in each case).

### **West Indian History**

The recorded history of the West Indies begins with a definite event – the (34 arrive) of Columbus. To say that Columbus discovered America is a (35 use) of words. Columbus revealed to Europeans the (36 exist) of continents and islands which were inhabited already, and had been so for many centuries. Columbus did not discover a new world; he was responsible for the (37 establish) of contact between two worlds, both already old.

In the West Indies the shock of (38 conquer) proved too much for the Arawaks. They felt (39 alien) by the Europeans and their aggressive culture. Within a century they were extinct, and were (40 place) by a new society of (41 immigrate) from Europe and Africa.

Our knowledge of the Arawaks is derived partly from accounts of sixteenth century Spanish writers, and partly from (42 exam) of (43 bury) caves.

## PART E

*In the passage below someone describes a local hero to his friend.*

### **Dread—a Village Hero**

“Dread” cool for so. He does always be liming on the block; taking in the scenes; minding he own business. He could beat any man at vibing it up. But when the brethren and them getting outta hand, he could put he foot down pronto, pronto and get he respect immediately. No matter what, he not sticking. The man have aliases like peas: “Dread”, “Mr. Big”, “Uncle” and “Big Daddy”. All them name tell you the respect he have.

He have no particular education but he real streets smart with a LLL degree in life—first class honours to boot. Any play that does play he could read. He know how to survive. By “LLL” he mean he could handle he scenes just by “looking, listening and learning”.

Dread is nobody fool. He know that the day will come when he whole posse go find out that he can’t read—not even papers self. He decide to take in front before in front take he. He register quiet, quiet in a remedial class in “Basic English”. You think he stupid? Sense make before book. He didn’t go to any school by which part he living in Rio Claro, you know. He choose a school quite in San Fernando. That man know moves too bad!

**Instructions for Questions (44) – (53):** In the passage below, **based on your understanding of the passage above**, pretend that you are in a formal setting and describing “Dread” to someone whom you have never met before. Fill in the blanks in the passage with words and phrases which will adequately transmit the message. (*Note that you will not find the words and phrases that you need in the passage above.*)

“Dread” was an affable and (44) r..... person. He could be seen regularly (45) r..... and enjoying himself on the village street corners. Even though he was fun loving, he could be very serious when the situation (46) d..... His (47) n..... “Mr. Big”, “Uncle”, and “Big Daddy” all (48) a..... to the respect which he enjoyed in the community.

“Dread” had little (49) f..... education but was well (50) v..... in survival skills. He could analyze situations by exercising keen insights and fine tuned observation skills. He knew how to look, listen and learn about activities taking place around him. In this sense he boasted of having a first class honours “L.L.L” degree.

Dread was (51) i..... enough to know that sooner or later his friends would find out that he was (52) i..... As a consequence he would lose his reputation. This he could not afford. He decided to take prompt action to remedy this situation before his friends found out. He decided to register quietly in a “Basic English” course. In order to maintain absolute (53) p....., he registered for a school, not in Rio Claro where he and his friends lived, but in the far away city of San Fernando. His friends would therefore not be aware that he was still attending school. By this means his one problem would be remedied.

### **PART F**

**Instructions:** The following sentences constitute one paragraph that has been jumbled. Each sentence has been labeled by a letter. Identifying each sentence by the letter that labels it, rearrange the sentences by writing the corresponding letter *on each the numbered line on your answer sheet* so as to form the original coherent paragraph.

- a. They bothered him.
- b. However, as soon as he tried to execute a graceful about-turn they would maliciously tangle themselves and throw him flat on his face.
- c. He would often stand for hours at a time staring at his feet and willing his toes to shrink to normal size.
- d. Reynold’s feet tormented him all his life.
- e. Without them he was sure that he could have the gracefulness of a Russell Latapy or a Dwight Yorke on the football field.
- f. It was a constant danger that he would trip on his own toes and fall.
- g. Sometimes he imagined that he had control of his feet.
- h. His entire life was ruled by the desire to free himself of these encumbrances.

- i. There seemed to be too many of them and they somehow got in the way of his walking.
- j. His toes, not surprisingly, still remained splayed out on his feet.

**\*\*\*\*END OF EXAMINATION\*\*\*\***

SAMPLE