THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXAM SAMPLE

SECTION 1 (Duration: 1 hour 50 minutes, Total: 70 points)
  READING COMPREHENSION (Total: 36 points)
  GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY (Total: 34 points)

SECTION 2 (Duration: 30 minutes, Total: 30 points)
  LISTENING (Total: 30 points)

Appendix 1 – TAPESCRIPTS (Section 2)
Appendix 2 – ANSWER KEY (Sections 1 and 2)
SECTION 1 (Duration: 1 hour 50 minutes, Total: 70 points)

READING COMPREHENSION (Total: 36 points)

Part 1 (Total: 18 points)
Instructions: For Questions 1-10, read the passage and answer the questions below. (1.8 points each)

SMART ENERGY

The next few decades will see great changes in the way energy is supplied and used. In some major oil producing nations, ‘peak oil’ has already been reached, and there are increasing fears of global warming. Consequently, many countries are focusing on the switch to a low carbon economy. This transition will lead to major changes in the supply and use of electricity. [A] Firstly, there will be an increase in overall demand, as consumers switch from oil and gas to electricity to power their homes and vehicles. [B] Secondly, there will be an increase in power generation, not only in terms of how much is generated, but also how it is generated, as there is growing electricity generation from renewable sources. [C] To meet these challenges, countries are investing in Smart Grid technology. [D] This system aims to provide the electricity industry with a better understanding of power generation and demand, and to use this information to create a more efficient power network.

Smart Grid technology basically involves the application of a computer system to the electricity network. The computer system can be used to collect information about supply and demand and improve engineer’s ability to manage the system. With better information about electricity demand, the network will be able to increase the amount of electricity delivered per unit generated, leading to potential reductions in fuel needs and carbon emissions. Moreover, the computer system will assist in reducing operational and maintenance costs.

Smart Grid technology offers benefits to the consumer too. They will be able to collect real-time information on their energy use for each appliance. Varying tariffs throughout the day will give customers the incentive to use appliances at times when supply greatly exceeds demand, leading to great reductions in bills. For example, they may use their washing machines at night. Smart meters can also be connected to the internet or telephone system, allowing customers to switch appliances on or off remotely. Furthermore, if houses are fitted with the apparatus to generate their own power, appliances can be set to run directly from the on-site power source, and any excess can be sold to the grid.

With these changes come a range of challenges. The first involves managing the supply and demand. Sources of renewable energy, such as wind, wave and solar, are notoriously unpredictable, and nuclear power, which is also set to increase as nations switch to alternative energy sources, is inflexible. With oil and gas, it is relatively simple to increase the supply of energy to match the increasing demand during peak times of the day or year. With alternative sources, this is far more difficult, and may lead to blackouts or system collapse. Potential solutions include investigating new and efficient ways to store energy and encouraging consumers to use electricity at off-peak times.

A second problem is the fact that many renewable power generation sources are located in remote areas, such as windy uplands and coastal regions, where there is currently a lack of electrical infrastructure. New infrastructures therefore must be built. Thankfully, with improved smart technology, this can be done more efficiently by reducing the reinforcement or construction costs.

Although Smart Technology is still in its infancy, pilot schemes to promote and test it are already underway. Consumers are currently testing the new smart meters which can be used in their homes to manage electricity use. There are also a number of demonstrations being planned to show how the smart technology could practically work, and trials are in place to test the new electrical infrastructure. It is likely that technology will be added in ‘layers’, starting with ‘quick win’ methods which will provide initial carbon savings, to be followed by more advanced systems at a later date. Cities are prime candidates for investment into smart energy, due to the high population density and high energy use. It is here where Smart Technology is likely to be promoted first, utilising a range of sustainable power sources, transport solutions and an infrastructure for charging electrically powered vehicles. The infrastructure is already changing fast. By the year 2050, changes in the energy supply will have transformed our homes, our roads and our behaviour.

1. According to paragraph 1, what has happened in some oil producing countries?
   A. They are unwilling to sell their oil any more.
   B. They are not producing as much oil as they used to.
   C. The supply of oil is unpredictable.
   D. Global warming is more severe here than in other countries.

2. Where in Paragraph 1 can the following sentence be placed?
   We are also likely to see more electricity generation centres, as households and communities take up the opportunity to install photovoltaic cells and small scale wind turbines.
   A. In [A]
   B. In [B]
   C. In [C]
   D. In [D]

3. Which of the following is NOT a benefit of Smart Grid technology to consumers?
   A. It can reduce their electricity bills.
   B. It can tell them how much energy each appliance is using.
   C. It can allow them to turn appliances on and off when they are not at home.
   D. It can reduce the amount of energy needed to power appliances.
4. According to paragraph 4, what is the problem with using renewable sources of power?
A  They do not provide much energy.
B  They often cause system failure and blackouts.
C  They do not supply a continuous flow of energy.
D  They can’t be used at off-peak times.

5. In paragraph 6, what can be inferred about cities in the future?
A  More people will be living in cities in the future than nowadays.
B  People in cities will be using cars and buses powered by electricity.
C  All buildings will generate their own electricity.
D  Smart Grid technology will only be available in cities.

6. The word 'remote' in paragraph 5 could be best replace by:
A  isolated
B  crowded
C  attractive
D  alone

7. The word 'underway' in paragraph 6 is closest in meaning to:
A  permanent
B  complete
C  beneficial
D  in progress

8. What is the main idea of the final paragraph? (paragraph 6)
A  To describe who will benefit from Smart Grid technology first.
B  To outline the advantages of Smart Grid technology.
C  To summarize the main ideas in the previous paragraphs.
D  To describe how, where and when Smart Technology will be introduced.

9. In paragraph 6, what can be inferred about the introduction of Smart Grid Technology?
A  The technologies which produce most benefits will be introduced first.
B  The cheapest technologies will be introduced first.
C  The technologies which are most difficult to put into place will be introduced first.
D  Technologically advanced systems will be introduced first.

10. Which of the aspects below is NOT answered in the passage?
A  The ways Smart Grid technology will affect the way consumers use energy.
B  The problems which will have to be overcome in switching to Smart Grid Technology.
C  How consumers are likely to respond to Smart Grid technology.
D  The reasons why Smart Grid technology will be needed in the future.
Part 2 (Total: 18 points)
Instructions: You are going to read a magazine article about successful young people. For questions 11-25, choose from the people (A-D). There is an example at the beginning (0). (1.2 points each)

| A | Justin Weston |
| B | Tom Hall |
| C | Adam Huntley |
| D | Josh Rendell |

Which of the people (A-D):

- has been successful at writing? 0
- thinks criticism has a positive effect on him? 11
- found a job was easier than expected? 12
- has seen his income increase? 13
- is grateful to a teacher? 14
- was influenced by the area where he lived? 15
- wants to change the responsibilities of a job? 16
- considers experience more important than qualifications? 17
- always had a clear sense of purpose? 18
- does not want to be a role model? 19
- is worried about leaving others in charge? 20
- did not accept a job he was offered? 21
- thinks his success may have a positive effect on others? 22
- is unhappy about the calls he receives? 23
- is not liked by some fellow workers? 24
- is in contact with young people in his area? 25

MEET THE RISING TALENTS

A Justin Weston is one of the most hotly discussed young British artists. After a childhood in the south of England, he discovered his passion for art while at secondary school in Scotland, where the whole family had moved when he was fifteen. 'I owe my success to the arts instructor who pushed me all the way to Arts College,’ he says. The move from England to Scotland also brought him into direct contact with the landscape that was to become his main subject matter. Mr Weston looks set to become one of his generation’s great painters, but his style is not universally popular, as a number of negative comments from colleagues has shown. ‘Such comments only give me more courage to do new and exciting things and to paint more effectively,’ he says.

B Tom Hall is a political correspondent. He has built up a glittering career in television journalism since graduating from London University in 1993. Even at university, he knew where he was going. While fellow history students enjoyed an active social life, Tom performed in plays and edited the student newspaper. When he graduated, he turned down job offers from the national papers for the exciting performance aspects of television reporting. He found the work much less demanding than he had thought it would be. ‘I was able to turn my attention to writing as well,’ he says. Days after publication, his thriller, Shadows, has won critical acclaim. The only thing Tom Hall dislikes about his job is finding an average of thirty messages on his answering machine every day. ‘Mostly from newspaper editors asking my opinion,’ he says.

C Adam Huntley is a gardener. It is refreshing to meet a successful young person who is not happy at the thought of being seen as a leader of a generation. ‘I don’t like that at all,’ he says. But the facts speak for themselves. At the age of 26, Adam has just become Head Gardener at Cromart, one of the most renowned gardens in England. ‘My approach as Head Gardener will be different from what has gone on so far,’ he says, ‘the modern Head Gardener also has to be involved in attracting visitors.’ Adam has been awarded a grant for a trip to the Caribbean, where he hopes to find a number of plants to enrich the Cromart garden. ‘I am pleased at the prospect of travelling,’ he says, ‘but I’m also nervous about letting somebody else take over my job.’

D Josh Rendell is a farmer. Owner and manager of a large dairy and arable crop farm, 29-year-old Josh finds he is the youngest of all farmers in the area. In 1991, he and his three brothers inherited the land from their father. Since then, he has reduced costs and increased efficiency to such an extent that his profits have doubled. Josh has a geography degree from Exeter University and a degree in business management, but most of what he has learnt, he says, came from his day-to-day work on the job. His recreations include organizing visits to the farm for children in local schools, but his central role is running the farm well. ‘If your business is healthy,’ he says, ‘it can benefit the local community.’
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Earth is the only (0) ... we know of in the universe that can support human life. (26) ... human activities are making the planet less fit to live on. As the western world (27) ... on consuming two-thirds of the world’s resources while half of the world’s population do so (28) ... to stay alive we are rapidly destroying the (29) ... resource we have by which all people can survive and prosper. Everywhere fertile soil is (30) ... built on or washed into the sea. Renewable resources are exploited so much that they will never be able to recover (31) ... We discharge pollutants into the atmosphere without any thought of the consequences. As a (32) ... the planet’s ability to support people is being (33) ... at the very time when rising human numbers and consumption are (34) ... increasingly heavy demands on it.

The Earth’s (35) ... resources are there for us to use. We need food, water, air, energy, medicines, warmth, shelter and minerals to (36) ... us fed, comfortable, healthy and active. If we are sensible in how we use the resources they will (37) ... indefinitely. But if we use them wastefully and excessively they will soon run out and everyone will suffer.

26 A Although B Still C Yet D Despite
27 A continues B repeats C Carries D follows
28 A already B just C For D entirely
29 A alone B individual C Lone D only
30 A sooner B neither C Either D rather
31 A quite B greatly C Utterly D completely
32 A development B result C reaction D product
33 A stopped B narrowed C reduced D cut
34 A doing B having C Taking D making
35 A natural B real C Living D genuine
36 A hold B maintain C stay D keep
37 A last B stand C Go D remain

Part 4 (Total: 10 points)

Instructions: For Questions 38-47, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0). (1 point each)

Example: (0) A situation B place C position D site

You are (0) unlikely to know his face or his name, but he has changed our lives forever. Tim Berners-Lee was (38) .............. for the (39) .............. of the World Wide Web, the information super highway which has (40) .............. revolutionized the way we communicate. One of the most (41) .............. people of this century, he works at the Massachusetts College of (42) .............. where he leads research into the further (43) .............. of the Web. After (44) .............. Queen’s College, Oxford in 1976 with a degree in physics, he was (45) .............. as a programmer for a small Dorset firm. ‘He was one of the (46) .............. people I have ever met,’ says his ex-boss. He could always (47) .............. any problem. Tim makes no money from the Web, believing it should be free for anyone to use.

Part 5 (Total: 12 points)

Instructions: For Questions 48-59, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. (1 point each)

48. We have ........ for an accountant but haven’t appointed anyone yet.
   A noticed
   B advised
   C announced
   D advertised

49. There was a lot of noise so I didn’t understand what she was .........
   A saying
   B telling
   C speaking
   D talking
50. The financial director .......... for almost an hour.
   A kept us to wait
   B kept us waiting
   C made us to wait
   D made us waiting

51. If he .......... about it, I'm sure he'd help.
   A had known
   B knew
   C has known
   D would know

52. They were .......... hard questions that I had no chance.
   A so
   B some
   C such
   D quite

53. You have a terrible fever! .......... call a doctor?
   A Shall I
   B Do I
   C Must I
   D Will I

54. Do you know where ..........?
   A did I put the keys
   B put I the keys
   C I put the keys
   D I the keys put

55. The loudspeakers won't work unless you .......... those cables.
   A connected
   B don't connect
   C will not connect
   D connect

56. Polly wants to cycle round the world. She's really keen .......... the idea.
   A about
   B for
   C on
   D with

57. The librarian asked us .......... so much noise.
   A don't make
   B not make
   C not making
   D not to make

58. I just had to take the dog out .......... of the awful weather.
   A despite
   B although
   C even though
   D in spite

   A I am used to living
   B I used to living
   C I used to live
   D I use living
SECTION 2 (Duration: 30 minutes, Total: 30 points)

LISTENING (Total: 30 points)

Part 6 (Total: 21 points)
Instructions: You will hear an interview with Pamela Green, a young fashion designer. For Questions 60-66, choose the best answer A, B or C. You will hear the recording twice. (3 points each)

60. What helped Pamela to decide to become a fashion designer?
   A  Working as an assistant in a fashion shop.
   B  Doing research into the fashion industry.
   C  Attending a course on fashion design.

61. What does Pamela say about having a degree in fashion?
   A  It’s essential for promotion.
   B  It’s evidence of your ability.
   C  It guarantees you a better income.

62. Pamela says that when starting your own fashion label, it’s most important to
   A  enjoy the creative process.
   B  contact shops that might sell it.
   C  have a business plan.

63. Where does Pamela usually find inspiration for her fashion designs?
   A  In the work of other designers.
   B  In the styles of other countries.
   C  In the clothes her friends wear.

64. What aspect of her work does Pamela find most difficult to deal with?
   A  The pressure to meet deadlines.
   B  The failure of some of her designs.
   C  The need to attend fashion shows.

65. According to Pamela, successful designers need to be able to
   A  Predict future fashions.
   B  Recognize all past styles.
   C  Get their designs published.

66. What advice does Pamela have for people who want a career in fashion?
   A  Be aware of the options available.
   B  Don’t be afraid of sudden fame.
   C  Learn from your own errors.

Part 7 (Total: 9 points)
Instructions: You will hear people talking in three different situations. For Questions 67-69, choose the best answer A, B or C. You will hear the recording twice. (3 points each)

67. You overhear two friends talking about global warming. How does the girl feel about it?
   A  Pessimistic about the future.
   B  Surprised at the effects it’s having.
   C  Unconvinced that there’s a problem.

68. You hear the beginning of a program about college canteens. What point is being made about them?
   A  The choice of food has improved.
   B  Students like the food on offer there.
   C  Teachers complain about the quality of the food.

69. You hear a young woman talking about her career. Why did she accept a job in a bookshop?
   A  She needed a steady income.
   B  She thought it would be enjoyable.
   C  She hoped to improve certain skills.
Appendix 1 - TAPESCRIPSTS

Part 6

You will hear an interview with Pamela Green, a young fashion designer. For questions 60-66, choose the best answer A, B or C.

Interviewer: Hello, Pamela, welcome to the program. So many young people want to be fashion designers these days, but don’t know how to get started.

Pamela Green: Hi. I felt exactly like that myself! You must first discover if this is really what you want to do. I wasn’t sure to begin with, so I started off by looking for a store in my neighborhood that sold its own clothes. The owner invited me into her studio and told me what a typical day was like. She allowed me to ask as many questions as I wanted. Having made up my mind, I then contacted a few colleges to see what courses in fashion were on offer, and I was lucky to find one that seemed ideal.

Interviewer: So a degree in fashion is a must?

Pamela Green: Well, you often meet designers who go to college later in life, after years of working in the industry. The truth is the best students aren’t always the best designers, but there’s no denying that a degree will show that you’ve got certain basic skills and get you your first job. Don’t be surprised to find colleagues with fewer qualifications on higher pay than yourself though. Making progress from that point will depend entirely on your personal talent.

Interviewer: What basic skills do you need?

Pamela Green: When you ask a fashion student what they want to do, they often reply ‘have my own line’. Not an easy task, I must say. You need work experience first, ideally in a successful fashion shop, to understand that this industry is led by commerce. Starting your own line requires capital and a clear overview of how it’s going to develop. Without it, clothes design can only be a hobby. Of course, if you’ve got an eye for color, style and shape and an ability to draw, you shouldn’t let go of the dream.

Interviewer: Where do you get the inspiration for your designs?

Pamela Green: To be a good designer, you have to be aware of the world you live in, you need to go out and look at people’s lives and attitudes, you really have to learn how to observe what’s happening around you. And I don’t mean going abroad necessarily – my social circle is invaluable for me, for example – a constant source of ideas. You have to remember the clothes are not for you, you have to adapt to what other people want. And don’t be tempted to imitate the famous designers, however beautiful their collections might look.

Interviewer: Now you’re a successful designer, are things easier?

Pamela Green: It took me a while to learn to cope with criticism, though. You think your design drawings look brilliant but you mustn’t get upset if the garment doesn’t look as you’d imagined it. What I’ve never managed to get used to is the sheer amount of work involved in finishing your collection well in advance of the season. Some designers stop attending fashion shows, for example, which involve lots of time-consuming travelling, but I’d be unhappy to give that up.

Interviewer: Do you have to do a lot of reading to keep up with trends?

Pamela Green: You have to read fashion magazines and other media that reflect current trends and tastes. It doesn’t matter whether you want to use them in your own designs. Nobody knows what styles will be fashionable in, say, two years’ time, but the point is you have to know just about everything that’s been done before, so that you can spot it when it becomes popular again.

Interviewer: This is a very competitive industry. Realistically, what are the chances for somebody starting?

Pamela Green: Don’t make the mistake of aiming just for designing outfits, which is just one part of a vast industry. You may be perfectly happy as an obscure but competent designer of small pieces for collections – jewellery, hats, shoes – all of which need to be created. And then somebody has to market them, sell them, write about them. Fame and glory is just for the top twenty world designers, and life isn’t always wonderful even for them.

Interviewer: Pamela, many thanks.
Part 7
You will hear people talking in three different situations. For questions 67-69, choose the best answer A, B or C.

67. Male: I've just got back from the Alps. Lots of the mountain passes that are normally full of snow at this time of year, are still green. If this is the result of global warming, it's very worrying.

Female: There are certainly strange things happening to the weather, but there's nothing to worry about really. My sister spent two weeks in Cape Town last year, where she'd hoped to find big waves and plenty of wind to surf, and she was shocked to find nothing. I went two weeks ago and it was a completely different story.

Male: I can't believe that you're saying that. There's no hope for our planet unless something's done soon.

68. A team of nutritionists has been evaluating the food which is on sale in a number of college canteens, with surprising results. The survey shows that the increased variety of snacks on offer is remarkable, though the situation's still far from ideal. It wasn't long ago that there were constant complaints about the lack of fruit and vegetables and the predominance of high sugar and fatty items, from teachers in particular. Probably as a result of that pressure, colleges became aware of the problem, without ever promising quick results. Perhaps not surprisingly, the students themselves say they miss the sweeter snacks.

69. I'd recently left school and I was helping my parents in their shop, when I heard about this half-day vacancy at the bookshop. The only work I'd ever done was a few hours at the shop and a few little holiday jobs, which were great fun because my friends were doing them too. But whilst I was a bit uneasy about this job because I'm not that good at admin tasks, I could see that this was my chance to focus on those weak points. I'd have made more money if I'd stayed working in the shop, as my parents were keen to point out, but I don't regret my choice.
Appendix 2 - ANSWER KEY

Part 1 (Total: 18 points, 1.8 points each)

1. B
2. C
3. D
4. C
5. B
6. A
7. D
8. D
9. A
10. C

Part 2 (Total: 18 points, 1.2 points each)

11. A
12. B
13. D
14. A
15. A
16. C
17. D
18. B
19. C
20. C
21. B
22. D
23. B
24. A
25. D

Part 3 (Total: 12 points, 1 point each)

26. C
27. C
28. B
29. D
30. C
31. D
32. B
33. C
34. D
35. A
36. D
37. A

Part 4 (Total: 10 points, 1 point each)

38. RESPONSIBLE
39. INVENTION
40. COMPLETELY
41. CREATIVE
42. TECHNOLOGY
43. DEVELOPMENT
44. LEAVING
45. EMPLOYED
46. CLEVEREST
47. SOLVE
Part 5 (Total: 12 points, 1 point each)

48. D  
49. A  
50. B  
51. B  
52. C  
53. A  
54. C  
55. D  
56. C  
57. D  
58. D  
59. A

Part 6 (Total: 21 points, 3 points each)

60. B  
61. B  
62. C  
63. C  
64. A  
65. B  
66. A

Part 7 (Total: 9 points, 3 point each)

67. C  
68. A  
69. C