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English B – Higher level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension
Anglais B – Niveau supérieur – Épreuve 2 – Compréhension écrite
Inglés B – Nivel Superior – Prueba 2 – Comprensión de lectura

7 May 2026 / 7 mai 2026 / 7 de mayo de 2026

Zone A afternoon	Zone B afternoon	Zone C afternoon
Zone A après-midi	Zone B après-midi	Zone C après-midi
Zona A tarde	Zona B tarde	Zona C tarde

Session number
Numéro de session
Número de convocatoria

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1 h

Question and answer booklet – Instructions to students

- Write your session number in the boxes above.
- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer all questions. Each question is allocated **[1 mark]** unless otherwise stated.
- Answers must be written within the answer boxes provided.
- All answers must be based on the appropriate texts in the accompanying text booklet.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[40 marks]**.

Livret de questions et réponses – Instructions destinées aux élèves

- Écrivez votre numéro de session dans les cases ci-dessus.
- N'ouvrez pas cette épreuve d'examen avant d'avoir reçu l'autorisation de le faire.
- Répondez à toutes les questions. Chaque question vaut **[1 point]**, sauf indication contraire.
- Rédigez vos réponses dans les cases prévues à cet effet.
- Toutes les réponses doivent s'appuyer sur les textes correspondants dans le livret de textes.
- Le nombre maximum de points pour cette épreuve d'examen est de **[40 points]**.

Cuadernillo de preguntas y respuestas – Instrucciones para el alumnado

- Escriba su número de convocatoria en las casillas de arriba.
- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Conteste todas las preguntas. Cada pregunta vale **[1 punto]** salvo que se indique lo contrario.
- Escriba sus respuestas en las casillas provistas a tal efecto.
- Todas las respuestas deben basarse en los textos adecuados del cuadernillo de textos correspondiente.
- La puntuación máxima para esta prueba de examen es **[40 puntos]**.



Text A — The dos and don'ts of your first semester at university

Find the words that complete the following sentences. Answer using the words as they appear in **paragraphs 1–3**.

1. Although university is something to look forward to, the experience...

.....

2. You should attend freshers fairs, because they will inform you...

.....

3. Students with a passion for a particular sport should...

.....

4. It's worth remembering that first year results often make an important contribution...

.....

Find the phrase in **paragraphs 3–4** which means the following:

5. in the future

.....

6. clever people

.....

7. study hard

.....



8. Choose the **three** true statements.

[3]

☐

A. First-year students are likely to have similar queries.

☐

B. Other students may be able to answer some of your questions.

☐

C. Some staff at the university will be of more help to you than others.

D. Having to look after your spending may be quite worrying.

E. You should call your parents regularly for financial advice.

F. The main priority for your money is to cover living expenses.

Choose an appropriate heading from the list that completes each gap in the text.

9. [– 9 –]

☐

A. Don't skip lectures

10. [– 10 –]

☐

B. Don't forget about the books

11. [– 11 –]

☐

C. Do join as many groups as possible

12. [– 12 –]

☐

D. Do get involved

E. Don't worry about being new

F. Don't spend too much

G. Do get the answers you need

H. Do explore the library



Text B — An extract from *Small Wars*, by Sadie Jones

Choose the correct answer.

13. The text states that, as the rain fell, ...

☐

- A.** the band tried to protect their instruments.
- B.** the cadets were grateful for their felt hats.
- C.** spectators sheltered under their umbrellas.
- D.** the surrounding countryside looked beautiful.

14. The sounds of the ceremony...

☐

- A.** highlighted the uniqueness of the occasion.
- B.** reflected the noises of the recently ended war.
- C.** were masked by the band's enthusiastic playing.
- D.** appeared to signal optimism for the years ahead.



The following statements are either true or false. Tick [✓] the correct option, then justify it using words as they appear in the text. **Both** parts are required for **[1 mark]**.

15. The spectators gathered in a single row to watch the parade.

☐ True	Justification:
☐ False	

16. The cadets were wearing clothes made of a waterproof fabric.

☐ True	Justification:
☐ False	

17. Family members had difficulty identifying individual cadets.

☐ True	Justification:
☐ False	

18. There were spectators who had watched similar ceremonies before.

☐ True	Justification:
☐ False	



Answer the following questions.

19. What were the characteristics of passing-out parades before the war?

.....

20. Which phrase in **lines 15–23** shows how strongly people may react to these ceremonies?

.....

21. What did Hal focus on while he was marching?

.....

22. When did Hal finally experience an emotional reaction?

.....



To whom or to what do the underlined words refer? Answer using words as they appear in the text.

23. ...countryside around them... (line 5)

.....

24. ...the application of the other. (line 8)

.....

25. ...suddenly, he felt it, ... (line 28)

.....



Text C — Who speaks Australian English? Ethnolects and language(s) in the lucky country

Choose the correct answer.

26. Donald Horne titled his book *The Lucky Country* because he wanted to...

☐

- A.** highlight the positive aspects of language diversity.
- B.** warn that Australia was not sufficiently independent.
- C.** compliment those fortunate enough to live in Australia.
- D.** celebrate the lives of those living in provincial Australia.

27. According to the text, in present-day Australia, ...

☐

- A.** most of the people moving to major cities are English-speaking.
- B.** the population doesn't sound the same as it did in the 1960s.
- C.** the majority of migrants have come from one region of the world.
- D.** most of the population still claim a strong connection with Britain.

28. In *The Lucky Country*, Horne...

☐

- A.** focused specifically on the way language is used in Australia.
- B.** explored the impact of English on Australia's cultural life.
- C.** examined the effect of the increase in language diversity.
- D.** discussed various aspects of the culture of Australia.



Find the words that complete the following sentences. Answer using the words as they appear in lines 21–33.

29. In Australia, in addition to English and other languages brought by migrants, there are...

.....

30. Early language researchers noticed that Australian English doesn't have...

.....

31. The term "ethnolects" is defined as differences in speaking...

.....

Choose an appropriate ending from the list that completes each sentence.

32. For language researchers,
it is now increasingly
common...

☐

33. For most Australians,
it is natural...

☐

34. For the descendants of
migrants, it is beneficial...

☐

- A. to employ broad speech in every context.
- B. to examine negative perceptions of ethnolects.
- C. to try to lose the accent of their parents' language.
- D. to use the ethnolect to maintain links to their heritage.
- E. to modify their speech in different situations.
- F. to consider ethnolects as an advantage.



What do the following words mean in the text? Choose the appropriate word from the list.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 35. influential (line 1) | ☐ | A. principal |
| 36. in vogue (line 20) | ☐ | B. rejected |
| 37. dominant (line 20) | ☐ | C. educated |
| 38. cultivated (line 40) | ☐ | D. popular |
| | | E. thoughtful |
| | | F. best-selling |
| | | G. important |
| | | H. required |
-



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