



Candidate's  
name

## English Language Entrance Test

Entry point: Year 10

### **EXEMPLAR**

**Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes**

#### **Instructions:**

- Use black ink or ball-point pen.
- Fill in the box at the top of this page with your name.
- Answer all the questions in all Sections (Section A, B and C).
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided – there may be more space than you need.

#### **Information**

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets
- Quality of written communication, including vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar, will be taken into account in your response to Section C.
- Dictionaries may not be used in this examination.

#### **Advice**

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.
- You are reminded of the importance of clear English and careful presentation in your answers.



**SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION**

**Firstly, please read the text. Then, answer ALL the questions in this section.**

**You should spend about 30 minutes on this section.**

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Why the Dutch embrace floating homes

When a heavy storm hit in October 2021, residents of the floating community of Schoonschip in Amsterdam had little doubt they could ride it out. They tied up their bikes and outdoor benches, checked in with neighbours to ensure everyone had enough food and water, and hunkered down as their neighborhood slid up and down its steel foundational pillars, rising along with the water and descending to its original position after the rain subsided.

"We feel safer in a storm because we are floating," says Siti Boelen, a Dutch television producer who moved into Schoonschip two years ago. "I think it's kind of strange that building on water is not a priority worldwide."

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A floating house like the ones found in Schoonschip can be constructed on any shoreline, and is able to cope with rising seas or rain-induced floods by remaining on top of the water's surface. Unlike houseboats, which can easily be relocated, floating homes are fixed to the shore, often resting on steel poles, and are usually connected to the local sewer system and power grid. They are structurally similar to houses built on land, but instead of a basement, they have a concrete hull<sup>1</sup> that acts as a counterweight, allowing them to remain stable in the water. In the Netherlands, they are often prefabricated, square-shaped, three-storey townhouses built offsite with conventional materials such as timber, steel and glass.

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As sea levels rise and supercharged storms cause waters to swell, floating neighbourhoods offer an experiment in flood defence that could allow coastal communities to better withstand climate change. In the land-scarce but densely populated Netherlands, demand for such homes is growing. And, as more people look to build on the water there, officials are working to update building laws to make the construction of floating homes easier.

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For cities facing worsening floods and a shortage of land for housing, floating homes are one potential blueprint to expand urban housing in the age of climate change. Koen Olthuis, who in 2003 founded Waterstudio, a Dutch architectural firm focused exclusively on floating buildings, contends that they have the potential to transform cities in ways not seen since the introduction of the elevator, which pushed skylines upward.

The floating communities in the Netherlands, which emerged over the past decade, have served as proof of concept for larger-scale projects now being spearheaded by Dutch engineers. These are not just in European countries such as Britain, France and Norway, but also French Polynesia and the Maldives, where sea level rise in the Indian Ocean nation now poses an existential threat. There is even a proposal for floating islands in the Baltic Sea on which small cities would be built.

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<sup>1</sup> Hull (n). = the bottom of a ship or other vessel.



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Floating homes pose numerous challenges, however. Severe wind and rain, or even the passing of large cruise ships, can make the buildings rock. Siti Boelen, the Schoonschip resident, says that when she first moved in, stormy weather made her think twice before venturing up to her third-floor kitchen, where she felt the movement the most. "You feel it in your stomach," she says, adding that she has since gotten used to the feeling.

**[End of Text]<sup>2</sup>**

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<sup>2</sup> Source: Adapted from: <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20220202-floating-homes-the-benefits-of-living-on-water>



1. Look at lines 1-2. Describe the attitude of the residents of Schoonschip to the storm of October 2021.

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**[1 mark]**

2. Look at lines 1-5. Using your own words, describe **three** things the residents of Schoonschip did to prepare for the storm. The number of marks available is an indicator of the number of points you should make.

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**[3 marks]**

3. Look at lines 11-18. Explain the characteristics and advantages of a floating house, as outlined in this paragraph. Mention **four** things. The number of marks available is an indicator of the number of points you should make.

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[4 Marks]

4. Look at line 18. Please identify the correct synonym for 'timber' from the list below:

- a) Tiles
- b) Grass
- c) Wood
- d) Boats

[1 mark]

5. Look at lines 20-24. Give **two** reasons why people from the Netherlands are interested in building floating homes.

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[2 marks]



6. Look at lines 26-30. Give **two** reasons to explain why floating homes may be particularly helpful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, according to this part of the text.

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[2 marks]

7. Look at line 35. What do you think “existential threat” means?

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[1 mark]

8. Look again at lines 7-9 and also at lines 38-42. Do you think Siti Boelen is happy with her floating home? Give **two** reasons based on these sections of the text.

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[2 marks]

9. Consider the text as a whole. Do you think that floating homes are **OR** are **not** an important innovation for urban development. You can provide **short** quotes from the text to support your reasons.

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**[4 Marks]**

**[END OF SECTION A]**



**SECTION B: USE OF ENGLISH**

**Read and answer ALL the questions in this section.**

**You should spend about 15 minutes on this section.**

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Choose the correct answer for the following five sentences (there is only one possible answer per sentence):

1. Many students want to start their own ... after university.

- (a) business   (b) bussiness   (c) busines   (d) busyness

2. Soft metals can be moulded into many different ... .

- (a) formats   (b) outlines   (c) shapes   (d) lines

3. When metals are heated to extremely high temperatures, they can be ... moulds to form new objects such as jewellery and coins.

- (a) poured onto   (b) poured into   (c) poured to   (d) poured in

4. Ancient cave paintings display wild cats ... are no longer in existence.

- (a) who   (b) what   (c) where   (d) which

5. Cats similar ... the ones we know today can be seen in later paintings.

- (a) as   (b) to   (c) by   (d) with





Use the word given in capital letters to form a word that fits the gap:

**EXAMPLE:** *The company "Gap Year Travel" offers a [SELECT] of student-friendly holidays.*

**ANSWER:** SELECTION

6. Economically, the [STRONG] of a country's banking institutions is vital.

**ANSWER:**

7. The [RESIDE] of a country form its stable population and contribute to the economy by paying taxes.

**ANSWER:**

8. Salaries and wages need to be [COMPETE] in order to attract the most suitable candidates for jobs.

**ANSWER:**

9. [VISIT] from overseas are also an important part of the economy.

**ANSWER:**

Complete this sentence with the correct article (a / an / the) or no article (-):

10. Tourists need to remember to carry their ... passport, ... money, ... name of their hotel or residence and ... contact telephone number.













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