



Candidate's  
name

## English Language Entrance Test

Entry point: Year 9

### **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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**Hot Air Balloon Launch Riot!**

Being an aeronaut<sup>1</sup>, in the early days of hot air or gas ballooning, was a risky endeavour. You might pass out in the thin upper air. Your balloon might crash into a house or go up in a fiery blaze. And then, there was always the risk of your craft being torn apart in a classic hot air (or gas) balloon riot.

Such events were surprisingly common. One eyewitness recorded events in Paris in the late 1780s: “The Balloon should have gone up at 4 o’clock...[instead] the balloon caught fire and the experiment did not succeed... The people were furious and threw themselves upon the Balloon, tearing it in pieces...”

10 In these early days of ballooning, launches were highly experimental, and correspondingly prone to failure. When it looked like failure was imminent, the crowd’s mood would begin to turn. Balloons had to be filled slowly, as hydrogen was produced by pouring sulfuric acid onto iron filings. That meant, for every event – gas ballooning specifically – there was a long period of suspense during which it was uncertain whether or not the balloon would successfully rise – plenty of time for the crowd to grow restless and uneasy.

20 Aeronauts were thus obliged to make risky calculations: was it better to wait while the crowd became increasingly restive, or take off in a less-than-fully inflated balloon? In 1784, Italian Vincenzo Lunardi made the first successful manned balloon launch in England. The pioneering aeronaut was forced by an impatient crowd to make his ascent early, in a semi-inflated gas balloon that reportedly more resembled an upside-down pear. The gamble paid off, and Lunardi became an instant national hero, but it could easily have gone the other way.

Balloon riots were the dark side of the otherwise massive enthusiasm for ballooning that followed swiftly on the heels of the first successful launch, in France, 1783. As news of the launch spread, balloons began to pop up on every conceivable surface. Soon, you could outfit your whole life in them: for the home, there were balloon tea caddies, chairs, saucers, plates, flower pots, cups, and clocks; for the body, balloon watches, handkerchiefs, fans, snuff boxes, and waistcoats...Toymakers quickly began to produce tiny hot air balloons, so that anyone could recreate a launch at home in miniature.

30 It was a time of great optimism and great uncertainty. In the press, writers argued over the import of the new invention: these air balloons were a sign of man’s triumph over nature; hot or gas air balloons were a dangerous trend that was infecting the populace with ‘ballomania.’ Giving voice to public concerns, the Times of London opined: “It is high time that some restriction should be laid on the madness of their frequent trips to the air, without one single good purpose being produced.”

This technological advance was clearly divisive. Air balloons would make cross-continental travel swift, easy and pleasant; but air balloons could become the new naval fleets and turn the skies into a war

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<sup>1</sup> Aeronaut (n.) = a traveller in a hot-air balloon, airship, or other flying craft.



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zone. One political cartoon pictured French and English balloons bombarding one another with cannon fire, accompanied by a caption claiming such sights would be common by the year 1800.

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

**READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

1. Look at lines 1-3. What **three** reasons are given to explain why being an aeronaut was difficult in the early days of ballooning? The number of marks available is an indicator of the number of points you should make.

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[3 marks]

2. Look at lines 5-7. Choose one word from the following list to describe the behaviour of the people watching the balloon event. Please **circle** the word you choose.

- a) Violent
- b) Generous
- c) Vocational
- d) Agreeable

[1 mark]

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<sup>2</sup> Source: Adapted from: <https://daily.jstor.org/hot-air-balloon-launch-riot/>



3. Look at lines 9-14. Name **two** reasons why crowds would get restless when waiting for the balloons they had come to see, according to this part of the text. The number of marks available is an indicator of the number of points you should make.

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**[2 marks]**

4. Look at lines 16-21. Using your own words, describe three things that Vincenzo Lunardi did or achieved. The number of marks available is an indicator of the number of points you should make.

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**[3 marks]**

5. Look at lines 16-21 once more. Why did Italian Vincenzo Lunardi become a national hero in England?

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**[1 mark]**



6. Look at lines 23-28. Using your own words, describe how the public reacted to the first successful balloon launch.

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**[1 mark]**

7. Look at lines 23-28 once again. Choose the correct definition for the expression “to pop up” from the following list (please circle your choice):

- a) To suddenly disappear
- b) To eat something
- c) To create something
- d) To suddenly appear

**[1 mark]**

8. Look at lines 30-34. Using your own words, explain why the invention of the balloon caused “great uncertainty” in the minds of some people.

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**[2 marks]**

9. Look at line 33. The word ‘ballomania’ is a new word that has been invented to describe something referred to in the text. What do you think it means?

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**[1 mark]**



10. Look at lines 36-39. Using your own words, describe what the political cartoon showed. The number of marks available is an indicator of the number of points you should make.

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**[2 marks]**

11. Thinking about the text as a whole, give **three** reasons for why you think ballooning was **OR** was **not** a good development for the people at the time.

You can provide **short** quotes from the text to support your reasons.

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**[3 marks]**



**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 seven sentences (there is only one possible answer per sentence):

1. Everyone loves to have a ... on their birthday.

- (a) balloon                      (b) baloon                      (c) ballon                      (d) balloons

2. You should always check the time at the ... of the test.

- (a) beginning                      (b) begginning                      (c) beggining                      (d) begining

3. Challenge yourself so you can ... the most you are able to.

- (a) acheve                      (b) achieve                      (c) acheive                      (d) achive

4. Learning how to use ..., for example, commas and full stops, is very important to write clearly.

- (a) puntuation                      (b) punctation                      (c) punctuation                      (d) punctuality

5. Mothers love to receive cards and kisses on ..., so don't forget!

- (a) Mother's Day                      (b) mother's day                      (c) Mothers Day                      (d) mothers day

6. Both cats and dogs love to ... people's knees.

- (a) jump at                      (b) jump to                      (c) jump in                      (d) jump on



7. If your pet goes outside and later is always scratching themselves, you'll need to check them for ...

- (a) flea                      (b) flee                      (c) fleas                      (d) flees
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*In the next two questions, 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

8. There are [VARY] types of cat and dog breeds to suit different homes.

**ANSWER:**

9. Cats and dogs were once wild species who have adapted [SUCCESS] to living with humans.

**ANSWER:**

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*In the following question complete this sentence with the correct article (a / an / the) or no article (-):*

10. Before you buy ... pet, check your local ... animal shelters to see if you can adopt ... lovely cat or

dog instead: ... pet will be very grateful!

**[END OF SECTION B]**















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