

File Test 5

Grammar, Vocabulary, and Pronunciation A

GRAMMAR

1 Underline the correct word(s).

Example: Police believe the robbers *might be* / *may have* escaped by motorcycle.

- 1 There is thought *to be* / *to have been* undiscovered oil beneath the Antarctic.
- 2 It's *announced* / *been announced* that inflation will rise again next year.
- 3 *It's appear* / *It appears* that the office is closed.
- 4 *According* / *Apparently* to the newspaper, the economy is going into recession.
- 5 The treatment *claims to* / *appears that* be effective for people who suffer from insomnia.
- 6 The missing man is *understood* / *understood to* have used his bank card in Milan yesterday.
- 7 There are *thought to be* / *appears to be* millions of species of insect in the world.
- 8 It would *seem* / *seems* that we have run out of time.

	8
--	---

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

Example: Would you rather we *went* (go) to the park?

- 1 I think it's time Jenna _____ (find) her own place to live.
- 2 Don't you think it's time you _____ (take) a break?
- 3 I wish Matt _____ (able to) find a job closer to home. Then he wouldn't have moved away.
- 4 If only Juan _____ (be) a bit more reliable, then we wouldn't have to wonder if the job is being done correctly.
- 5 I wish I _____ (know) the answer to your question.
- 6 If only I _____ (not forget) to bring my camera, I'd be able to get great photos here!
- 7 I'd rather you _____ (not call) the bank yet. I need to look through a couple of documents first.

	7
--	---

File Test 5

Grammar, Vocabulary, and Pronunciation A

3 Is the sentence right or wrong? Write C (correct) or I (incorrect). Correct the incorrect sentences by writing them below.

Example: I'd rather you not tell people about our plans. I

I'd rather you didn't tell people about our plans.

1 According to scientific studies, walking is as effective for relieving stress as jogging.

2 It is said that the standard of living is now lower than it was five years ago. _____

3 If only Sergei is more careful with money, we would have fewer arguments. _____

4 I'd rather you not wear your shoes in the house. _____

5 There are thought being several ways to achieve a good work-life balance. _____

	5
--	---

Grammar total		20
---------------	--	----

VOCABULARY

4 Complete each expression with a preposition.

Example: I see Nora from time to time. We always have such a laugh together!

1 I couldn't afford to buy the car on my own. I had to take _____ a loan.

2 Why don't you ask Mark to help? He's got a lot of time _____ his hands at the moment.

3 I don't want to take _____ too much of your time but I just have one last question ...

4 Carys will never be able to afford that. She's already _____ debt!

5 Hurry up. It's going to be dark _____ the time we get there!

6 I wouldn't bother doing that. It's a waste _____ time if you ask me.

	6
--	---

File Test 5 Grammar, Vocabulary, and Pronunciation A

5 Complete the words in the sentences.

Example: I can't wait for pay day. I'm completely broke!

- 1 I love getting bargains – this jacket only cost me ten **q**_____ in the sales!
- 2 Our **st**_____ of living has improved greatly since we moved to the countryside.
- 3 A spokesperson for the charity announced that they are grateful for every single **d**_____.
- 4 Nigel's absolutely **l**_____ – it would take him years to spend all his money!
- 5 Once the will is sorted out, each of John's children will receive a **l**_____ sum.
- 6 Ben got caught going through a red traffic light so he had to pay a **f**_____.
- 7 I have to pay the first **i**_____ for my car next week – I couldn't afford to pay for it all in one go.
- 8 Jake has received an education **g**_____ to study biosciences in the US!

	8
--	---

6 Complete the time expressions in the sentences using one or two words.

Example: Time's up! The alarm's rung so you have to stop writing now.

- 1 It's only a _____ time before the country is plunged into recession.
- 2 I know you're _____ time this evening, so I'll pick up some takeaway for us on the way home.
- 3 Wait a minute, please. I can only do _____ thing _____ a time!
- 4 We needn't have worried about making it to the wedding on time. In fact, we had time _____.
- 5 It's not his fault we're late. Stop giving him such a _____ time!
- 6 We had an hour till our train was due to leave so we went to the café at the National Museum to _____ time.

	6
--	---

Vocabulary total		20
------------------	--	----

PRONUNCIATION

7 Match the words to the same sound.

afford	waste	opportunity	borrow	means	loan
--------	-------	-------------	--------	------------------	------

Example: **fee** means

- 1 inflation _____
- 2 deluge _____
- 3 quote _____, _____
- 4 mortgage _____

	5
--	---

File Test 5

Grammar, Vocabulary, and Pronunciation A

8 Underline the stressed syllable.

Example: ca|pi|tal|ist|

- 1 punc|tual
- 2 al|ter|na|tive
- 3 ex|change
- 4 con|si|dered
- 5 in|fla|tion

	5
--	---

Pronunciation total		10
---------------------	--	----

Grammar, Vocabulary, and Pronunciation total		50
--	--	----

File Test 5 Reading and Writing A

READING

Read the article about 'busyness'. Five sentences have been removed. Which sentence (A–F) fits each gap (1–5)? There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Time-poor or just 'busy'?

I've been thinking recently about 'busyness'. Busy is something I just always seem to be, and I know I'm not the only one. There are so many 'busy' terms these days: time-starved, time-poor, time pressure, overworked, overscheduled. We say things like, 'Sorry, I'm pushed for time', 'There's never enough time in the day', and that we are 'running out of time' because we've 'got a deadline!' (---- 1 ----) Given the modern conveniences and flexible working practices we now have, we should actually be saving time, shouldn't we? What exactly is going on?

We all have time-saving machines and gadgets around the house (who washes the dishes or cleans their clothes by hand these days?). And work-wise, the average amount of scheduled time we are obliged to spend working each week hasn't increased for decades. (---- 2 ----) Surely with all this, we should have more time, not less. But then I got to wondering: do we really have control over how we spend that time, or is time simply running away with us? I did some reading about it, and here are some of my theories of why we are – or why we *feel* – busy:

Busyness has become a status symbol

Our cultures are becoming increasingly individualistic, which means we as individuals are all competing to prove our value in society. The majority of us these days live in and around cities, and commute to our workplaces alongside millions of other people. (---- 3 ----) As a result, we're beginning to see our time in terms of money and status. What's the most common first question asked at a party? 'What do you do?' It's so commonplace, that it's completely acceptable for strangers to ask it. And we're almost always happy to share. Because if we have a job, we are 'productive', and that means we can feel a sense of self-worth and importance – we have a role to play. We have status.

Busyness shows loyalty

Any social system needs to maintain itself on a perpetual loop – get people to work hard – make money – demonstrate success. In this goal-orientated model, we just don't have time for conversations, hobbies, or pastimes. Why? Because they aren't quantifiable in the same way as you can count up hours or money. And if money is the goal, you need employment. Proving that productivity to your employer is essential, and most people do this by looking busy – putting in desk time. (---- 4 ----) In reality though, we all know we're merging work and leisure. After all, your workplace is likely to have good Wi-Fi ... and that brings me to my next theory.

Busyness is a by-product of the digital age

We now expect to be able to connect to the internet 24/7, and this 'connected culture' is blurring the line between life and work more and more. Work no longer starts and finishes at the office. We might use social media on our work computers (go on, admit it!) but, conversely, we respond to work emails in our leisure time. While on the one hand, flexibility

File Test 5 Reading and Writing A

can be convenient. On the other, there's just no escape from our work commitments, nor from the expectations of others.

In theory, technology should save us time, not waste it. But along with all the excitement of superfast broadband, and the endless entertainment and social media opportunities it facilitates, comes the stress and anxiety of being permanently contactable. We're constantly multi-tasking and never truly 'switching off'. (----- 5 -----) Just managing the constant demands of a connected life involves switching tasks multiple times a day. We always have something to check on or respond to and, as a result, our work never quite feels done. So, in effect, we're neither using our time to work effectively nor to relax sufficiently. It all sounds pretty scary, but don't worry – I'll cover some suggestions for dealing with that in my next post.

- A We expect people to answer our texts immediately; reply to an e-mail within an hour; update their status several times daily, and at the same time, they expect the same of us too.
- B According to research, employers see people at their desks as a sign of productivity and loyalty.
- C Some enlightened employers even allow their workers a certain number of 'mental-health' days a year that they can just take to recharge their batteries.
- D Indeed, current employment law allows for more holidays, sick days, and parental leave for early-years childcare.
- E But the irony is that nothing has changed – there are still 24 hours in a day.
- F In this seemingly hectic, competitive environment, personal achievement and financial reward are the ultimate goals.

Reading total		10
---------------	--	----

WRITING

Write an article of approximately 250 words for an English-language magazine about how one of the areas below has changed in the last 20 years in your country and say whether you think the changes are positive or negative.

- 1 People's work-life balance
- 2 Food businesses such as cafés and restaurants
- 3 Family life

Writing total		10
---------------	--	----

Reading and Writing total		20
---------------------------	--	----

File Test 5 Listening and Speaking A

LISTENING

1 Listen to five people talking about innovative businesses they have started up. Match the speakers (1–5) to the descriptions of their businesses (A–H).

- Speaker 1 ☐
 Speaker 2 ☐
 Speaker 3 ☐
 Speaker 4 ☐
 Speaker 5 ☐

- A a food delivery service
 B a recycled product
 C a business which is run by volunteers
 D a family business
 E a business which promotes environmentally friendly practices
 F a new local product
 G a pop-up café
 H a social charity enterprise

	5
--	---

2 Listen to two friends talking about the zero-waste lifestyle. Tick (✓) A, B, or C.

- 1 Emile makes the point that _____.
 A recycling facilities in his area are not very extensive ☐
 B food keeps longer if it's packaged in plastic ☐
 C you can't rely on labelling to tell you if your packaging will be recycled ☐
- 2 In Clara's opinion, _____.
 A companies deliberately use misleading recycling information ☐
 B friends should be honest about their views on giving presents ☐
 C people should only buy second-hand items ☐
- 3 Emile suggests that businesses should _____.
 A operate a business model which does not create waste ☐
 B use a linear production system ☐
 C embrace anti-capitalism ☐
- 4 Clara makes her own beauty products because _____.
 A she feels that artificial ingredients harm the environment ☐
 B she can't afford conventional brands ☐
 C it cuts down on the number of containers she has to buy ☐

File Test 5

Listening and Speaking A

5 According to Clara, _____ a positive impact on the planet.

A humans have mostly had ☐

B making changes to your lifestyle over time will have ☐

C there is little an individual can do to have ☐

	5
--	---

Listening total		10
-----------------	--	----

SPEAKING

1 Ask your partner these questions.

- 1 What would you most like to be able to buy?
- 2 Which modern gadget do you find the most useful? Why?
- 3 Would you say your life is too busy? Why / Why not?
- 4 Amongst your friends, what is considered to be most important: money, social status, family, environment, or something else? Give reasons and examples.
- 5 What do you wish you had or hadn't done in the last five years?

2 Now answer your partner's questions.

3 Talk about one of these statements, saying if you agree or disagree. Give reasons.

- 1 'In future, everyone will live an anti-capitalist lifestyle.'
- 2 'It's better to be busy than have too much time to kill.'
- 3 'It's important for me to save money for my retirement.'

4 Now listen to your partner. Do you agree with him / her?

Speaking total		20
----------------	--	----

Listening and Speaking total		30
------------------------------	--	----