APPENDIX A

Singapore Polytechnic
Specimen English Language Entrance Test

Time: 2 hours (120 minutes)

Name: _______________________________ Date: _______________

Address: ___________________________________________________________

Instructions to Candidates

1. This Test consists of four Sections. You have two hours to complete the test. Answer all questions. Read quickly through the test paper from the beginning to the end to know what is in the different sections before you start.

2. Try to keep within the time given for each section.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section I - Structures</th>
<th>(20 marks)</th>
<th>(15 minutes)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section II - Reading Comprehension</td>
<td>(20 marks)</td>
<td>(35 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section III - Cloze Test</td>
<td>(20 marks)</td>
<td>(30 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section IV - Free Writing</td>
<td>(20 marks)</td>
<td>(40 minutes)</td>
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3. For Sections I and II:
   For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer from the four alternatives given as a, b, c, and d and put an “X” in the correct box in the Answer Sheet. For example:

   Students ________________ lectures from Monday to Friday.
   a. attending               c. attend
   b. are attended            d. attends

   The correct answer is c. So, on your Answer Sheet, put an ‘X’ in the box under c, like this:

   a b c d X

   For other types of questions, follow the instructions given in each section.

4. For Section III: Write your answers in the space provided in the Answer Sheet.

5. For Section IV: Write your answer in the space provided in the Question Paper.

6. After the Test, hand in both the Answer Sheet and Question Paper to the Invigilator.

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE OR LOOK AT THE QUESTIONS INSIDE THIS QUESTION PAPER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.
Dear Mr Froyd

I __1__ to you for advice on how to persuade my husband __2__ a family. There is nothing physically wrong with either of us that would prevent us __3__ having children. My husband assures me that he loves me and that he really does want to start a family eventually. __4__, as I see it, my husband is a perfectionist in his way, and he says that we will not have children until we can afford it financially.

When I point __5__ to him that we both earn high salaries and __6__ our own house and car, he says that it is a question of __7__ sure of the deeper security that only money and social respect can bring. He argues that he would not want his children to suffer hardships or __8__ socially acceptable __9__ the lack of money.

What can I do? I’m thirty years old. I’m afraid I’ll soon be __10__ to enjoy being a mother. I know that for me, money is no substitute for the happiness of having a child.

Yours sincerely

Anguished

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<tr>
<th>1.</th>
<th>a. have written</th>
<th>b. wrote</th>
<th>c. am writing</th>
<th>d. was writing</th>
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<td>2.</td>
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<td>c. down</td>
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<td>c. are having</td>
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<td>7.</td>
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<td>b. his being</td>
<td>c. we are</td>
<td>d. we will be</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>a. would not be</td>
<td>b. will not be</td>
<td>c. not have to be</td>
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<td>d. old</td>
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1B. Instructions: Choose the most suitable word or phrase for each blank.

11. Would you mind _______?
   a. don’t smoke c. not smoking
   b. not to smoke d. no smoking

12. Of course we will help you. _______, we have appointed an adviser to help you with your problem.
   a. In addition c. Furthermore
   b. In fact d. Actually

13. The cost of buying new computers _______.
   a. is lower than repairing them
   b. is lower than that of repairing them
   c. are lower than repairing them
   d. are lower than that of repairing them

14. The technician _______ the breakdown of the machine before he left.
   a. has reported c. has to report
   b. reported d. is reporting

15. Every day for the past two years, I have had a sandwich for lunch. I _______ a small lunch.
   a. used to eat c. am used to eat
   b. used to be eating d. am used to eating

16. A robot, given artificial intelligence, will be able to make _______ own decisions.
   a. its c. it’s
   b. their d. his

17. The metal rusted very quickly because of _______.
   a. the sea water constantly exposing it
   b. the constant exposure to sea water
   c. its constant sea water exposure
   d. it is exposed constantly to sea water

18. _______, there is no cure for cancer, AIDS and many other diseases.
   a. At present c. In present time
   b. At present days d. In present days

19. If doctors found a cure for all incurable diseases, everyone _______ be able to live for more than 100 years.
   a. will c. would
   b. may d. Shall
20. It is ______ to get to Raffles Place by MRT than by bus.

a. more faster   b. much more faster   c. much faster  d. much more fast

SECTION II - READING COMPREHENSION (20 marks)
Reading Text 1 (10 marks)

Instructions: Read the text below and answer the questions that follow.

There is no doubt that a common language used throughout the world would do much to bring countries closer to each other. Though it is becoming increasingly easy to move from place to place, our inability to communicate with one another gives rise to numerous misunderstandings and makes real contact between people of differing nationalities impossible.

Many attempts have been made to overcome this problem and they have all failed. The fear of foreign influence and domination rules out the universal acceptance of any one of the existing major languages. Aware of this difficulty, many linguists have constructed artificial languages which could have no possible political overtones. They have argued that a language of this sort would perform much the same service as Latin did in the Middle Ages.

Although linguists succeeded in making their artificial languages extremely simple so that they would be easy to learn, their attempts seemed doomed from the start. The reason for this is that there is no real incentive to learn an artificial language. There is nothing to guarantee that everybody is willing to make the effort; there is no assurance that the learner will have any adequate return for his toil. When people today undertake to learn a foreign language, they are not interested in only speaking it. Mastery of a language makes available to the learner a great deal of worthwhile literature and many current publications. This is the biggest stumbling-block of all for the artificially-constructed tongue. Having no literature of its own, all it can offer is a limited number of translations which are valueless in themselves. Nor can it acquire any literature; for it would have to be used for a great many generations before this could become possible. Moreover, constant use over a long period would bring into being many national dialects and the language would thus defeat its own purpose.

Another serious objection is the fact that a language is shaped by use and not by design. It is a living thing which is forever growing and changing. It takes hundreds of years before it can acquire richness and depth. In an artificial language, however, the meanings of words are rigidly defined. Inflexibility makes for an absence of subtlety, so that no really fine meaning can be conveyed.

Though this quality might be admirable for scientific publications, it greatly impedes the development of any significant literature. Latin was ideal in this respect, for it was a 'dead' language with a literature; an artificial one is "dead" from the start. This makes it likely that existing language barriers will remain with us for a very long time.
Instructions: Choose the best option to complete the sentence or to answer the question.

21. People from different countries often misunderstand each other because they
   a. do not like to learn each other's language.
   b. fear foreign influence and domination.
   c. do not share a common language.
   d. are unable to master a common language.

22. Many linguists have tried to invent artificial languages because
   a. they think existing languages are too difficult to learn.
   b. it is part of their work to do so.
   c. they want to construct a language as beautiful as Latin.
   d. they believe that only an artificial language will be accepted as a common language by everybody.

23. “this problem” in Line 6 refers to
   a. the communication problem among people of differing nationalities.
   b. the problem of international travel.
   c. the problem of constructing a new language.
   d. the fear of foreign domination.

24. “Aware of this difficulty” in Line 8 refers to
   a. the difficulty of making people accept an existing language as a common language.
   b. the difficulty of reintroducing Latin in schools.
   c. the difficulty of learning a new language.
   d. the difficulty of finding enough teachers to teach an artificial language.

25. “language of this sort” in Line 10 refers to
   a. a language as old as Latin.
   b. a language with very simple grammar.
   c. a neutral language with no political overtones.
   d. any of the major existing languages.

26. Which one of the following statements is true?
   a. No linguist has succeeded in constructing an artificial language.
   b. Artificial languages were popular at first but died out like Latin later.
   c. Although artificial languages are easy to learn, few people are interested in learning them.
   d. Many linguists use artificial languages among themselves today.

27. The main reason why all artificial languages have failed is that
   a. they do not have any literature of their own.
   b. they are all too childish for intelligent adults.
   c. people cannot decide which one to choose.
   d. English already serves as an international language.
28. What would happen to an artificially constructed language after constant use over a long period of time?
   a. It would develop into a scientific language.
   b. It would become a dead language like Latin.
   c. It would become a truly world language.
   d. It would develop many different variations.

29. Which one of the following statements is NOT true about an artificial language?
   a. Its words have fixed meanings.
   b. It is simple but has richness and depth.
   c. It is good for scientific publications.
   d. It is easy to learn.

30. A suitable title for the passage would be
   a. Linguists are Strange Creatures.
   b. The History of Artificial Languages.
   c. Latin and the Middle Ages.
   d. Why All Artificial Languages Have Failed.

SECTION II - READING COMPREHENSION
Reading Text 2 (10 marks)

Instructions: Read the text below and answer the questions that follow.

SA Briefing Guide

Scheduled Briefings

The Polytechnic’s Self Access (SA) programme is now available to all SP students. We would like to inform all first-year students about the programme, but logistical constraints do not allow for all classes to be scheduled for briefings. Thus, only 130 classes have been timetabled for a half-hour briefing each. The briefings will spread over two weeks. The briefing schedule is available at the Self Access Centre (SAC) for your reference. The briefing will cover two main areas:

Self Access Facilities
The Self Access Programme

1. Self Access Facilities

   • The Self Access Facilities consist of two rooms: the Self-access Centre (SAC) and the Self-access Interactive Language Learning Laboratory (SAIL).
   • At the Self Access facilities, you are encouraged to learn language and communication skills on your own, in your own time, and at your own pace.
   • What’s available at the SAC:
     o SA worksheets
     o GCE “O” Level Package
     o Reading Corner
     o Multi-purpose room
• What’s available at SAIL:
  o Personal computers (PCs)/ CD-ROMs/Internet
  o TV sets and Video Players (for training and entertainment videotapes)
  o Tape recorders

2. The SA Programme

Who Is Eligible
All students are encouraged to be on the programme. If you are taking an English Language module in Year 1 and feel you need more help or practice in English Language, we strongly recommend that you come and do SA work. International students are especially welcome to enrol in the programme.

How Long It Takes
You can take two semesters to complete a module, if you are not able to do it in one. Each module comprises about 20 hours of work.

What You Can Do There
You may choose to work on any one of the following modules:
  • Learn Better (for developing study skills)
  • Write Better (for developing writing skills)
  • Read Better (for developing reading skills)
  • Better Grammar (for developing a knowledge and understanding of essential grammar rules)
  • Listen Better (for developing listening comprehension skills)
  • Better Vocabulary (for developing vocabulary)

You are required to make appointments to meet teacher helpers once a fortnight to discuss your work. When you complete an SA module you will be awarded two co-curriculum activity points. You will also be given a Certificate of Completion.

Questions 31 – 35: Say whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F). Write your answers (T or F) in the Answer Sheet.

31. At the SAC, each class is briefed for half an hour each day for a period of two weeks.
32. You can find out when these briefings take place at the SAC.
33. At the SAC you can do language worksheets to improve your English Language.
34. You may take three semesters to complete a module if you cannot finish it in time.
35. You are not allowed to watch a movie or musical show at the SAC.
**Questions 36 – 40:** Based on what you have read in the text above, complete the sentences in Section B with the most suitable option from Section A. Write your answers in the Answer Sheet.

**Section A**

36. If you are a second or third year student . . .

37. Classes are not scheduled for students at the Self Access Centre because . . .

38. At the SAC you can improve on your areas of weakness. This is because . . .

39. You must meet with the teacher helper regularly because . . .

40. A certificate of completion shows that . . .

**Section B**

a. you need someone to advise and help you.

b. you can go to SAIL and use the computers there any time.

c. you have enrolled in the programme and done the required amount of work.

d. you are supposed to work on the programme whenever you have some free time.

e. the SAC cannot schedule you for the programme.

f. you can choose the module that suits you.

g. you can complete the work and get a certificate.

h. you are also eligible to enrol for the Self-Access programme.

**SECTION III – CLOZE TEST** (20 marks)

**Instructions:** Fill each blank in the passage with the most suitable word. Write this word in the space provided in the Answer Sheet.

A daughter complained to her father about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved a new one arose.

Her father, a chef, (41)______ her to the kitchen. He filled three pots (42)______ water and placed each on a high fire. (43)______ the pots came to a boil. In one (44)______ placed carrots, in the second he placed eggs, (45)______ the last he placed ground coffee beans. He (46)______ them sit and boil, without saying a word.

(47)______ daughter sucked her teeth and impatiently waited, wondering (48)______ he was doing. In about twenty minutes he (49)______ off the burners. He fished the carrots out (50)______ placed them in a bowl. He pulled the (51)______ out and placed them in a bowl. Then he (52)______ the coffee out and placed it in a (53)______.
Turning to his daughter, he asked. "Darling, what do (54)_____ see. "Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied. He (55)_____ her closer and asked her to feel the (56)_____. She did and noted that they were soft. (57)_____ then asked her to take an egg and (58)_____ it. After pulling off the shell, she observed (59)_____ hard-boiled egg inside. Finally, he asked her to (60)_____ the coffee. She smiled as she tasted its (61)_____.

She humbly asked. "What does it mean (62)_____?" He explained that each of them had faced (63)_____ same adversity, boiling water, but each reacted differently.

(64)_____ carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. But (65)_____ being subjected to the boiling water, it softened (66)_____ became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its (67)_____ outer shell had protected its liquid interior. But (68)_____ sitting through the boiling water, its inside became (69)_____. The ground coffee beans were unique however. After (70)_____ had been in the boiling water, they had changed the (71)_____.

"Which are you," he asked his daughter. "When (72)_____ knocks on your door, how do you respond? (73)_____ you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee (74)_____?"

Are you the carrot that seems hard, but (75)_____ pain and adversity it wilts, becomes soft and loses (76)_____ strength? Are you the egg which starts off (77)_____ a soft heart, but having experienced suffering, becomes (78)_____ and stiff? Your shell looks the same, but (79)_____ you bitter and tough with a stiff spirit (80)_____ heart? Or are you like the coffee beans which change the hot water, the thing that is bringing the pain. When the water gets the hottest, the coffee just tastes better. If you are like the beans, when things are at their worst, you get better and make things better around you. So, how do you handle adversity and what are you?
SECTION IV – WRITING (20 marks)

Situation

In the past two years, there have been many rumours and stories about your Government building a dam. Yesterday, the Minister of Water and Power announced that his Ministry had finalised plans to build a huge dam in the valley you live. The hope is that the dam will be able to generate electricity for the farming communities that live nearby and for the cities within the state. The Minister has said that the new dam will supply power to three million homes. In fact, the World Bank has loaned your country US$ 2 billion for this project.

Instructions

Although you understand the benefits that a dam will have, you are very worried about the project. As a leader of the community, write a letter of about 150 words to your local newspaper expressing your views and concern. You may use any or all of the points given below. Remember that your tone must be formal.

- damage to the surrounding forests and wild-life
- loss of farming land
- loss of villages in the valley
- relocation of many families from the valley
- advantages – too far in the future

The length of your letter should be roughly 150 – 200 words. Remember to write your name on the top of this page as well as the following page. Write in the space provided below.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to express my views and concerns on the much publicised dam project that the government is undertaking. (continue with the rest of the letter)
Name: ________________________________

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Yours faithfully

(sign off)

END OF PAPER
Singapore Polytechnic
English Language Entrance Test
Answer Sheet

Name: _______________________________________________ Date: __________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________________

Write your answers to Sections I – III on this Answer Sheet.

**SECTION I: STRUCTURES (1 mark each)**

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<thead>
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**SECTION II: READING COMPREHENSION (1 mark each)**

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**SECTION III: CLOZE TEST (1/2 mark each)**

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Sub-Total for Sect. IV = 

Total = /80