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Pearson Test of English

COURSE

SECTION



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Unit 1 Exam Analysis & Sample Tasks

Listening - Section 1

What type of task is it?

Section 1 comprises a 3-option multiple choice item type. Candidates listen **once** to ten short recordings, either monologues or dialogues, and answer a single 3-option multiple choice question for each. There are ten questions to answer; one per recording.

What does it assess?

It assesses listening skills and tests ability to understand the main detail in short spoken utterances. Candidates will be expected to: identify the speaker's role, identify the speakers' relationship, identify the topic, identify the situation, recognize the function, understand idiomatic expression, understand implied meaning, understand expression of feeling and understand expression of attitude.

What types of recordings are used?

Short authentic recordings are used, by one or two speakers, including transactional conversations, social conversations and public announcements. Language functions that are included are: request for goods or services, request for action, request for information, factual information, expression of feelings, offer, invitation, apology/excuse, criticism/expression of dissatisfaction, suggestion and persuasion.

EXAMPLE SECTION 1

You will have 10 seconds to read each question and the corresponding options. Then listen to the recording. After the recording you will have 10 seconds to choose the correct option. Put a cross (X) in the box next to the correct answer, as in the example.

Example. What does he say about travelling?

- A. Security issues make journeys longer.
- B. It broadens the mind.
- C. It's more worthwhile watching documentaries on TV.

Teacher's Transcript for Example. (to be read by teacher)

Example: Listen to the man. What does he say about travelling?

(10 second pause)

I enjoy watching travel documentaries on television and quite often use them to make up my mind about where to travel to next. Despite the difficulties and delays involving the high level of security at airports and ports, I firmly believe that spending time in other countries is far more educational than simply sitting and staring at documentaries on a TV screen.

(10 second pause until next item)

Teacher's Transcript for Number 1. (to be read by teacher)

Number 1: Listen to the conversation? Why is the man wearing a bathing suit? (10 second pause)

F: Err, why are you wearing your bathing suit around the house Jake?

M: I went swimming at a friend's house yesterday and I forgot to put on any sunscreen. I can't stand anything on my skin today.

F: That wasn't very clever. It was in the mid 30s yesterday.

M: Mm, it didn't feel any hotter than normal, but I guess it was.

(10 second pause until next item)

Teacher's Transcript for Number 2. (to be read by teacher)

Number 1: Listen to the speaker. What is the speaker discussing?

(10 second pause)

Elocution is one of the most successful ways of developing confidence and this is why educational institutions regularly hold debates and encourage students to attend meetings. Subjects related to the school curriculum create self-assurance and self-belief during a discussion session. A typical topic might be whether school uniform is necessary, what purpose it serves and students' opinion of it.

(10 second pause until next item)

1. Why is the man wearing a bathing suit?

- A. It is hotter than normal.
- B. He is suffering from sunburn.
- C. He has been swimming.

2. What is the speaker discussing?

- A. the topics of school discussions
- B. elocution in academia
- C. the need for school uniforms

3. - 10. There will be ten such items in the exam.

How is this section scored?

This item type is marked as either correct or incorrect. Each correct answer has a weighting of one score point. A maximum of ten score points can be achieved in this section of the test.

Listening & Writing - Section 2

What type of task is it?

Section 2 comprises a *dictation* item type. Candidates listen to one person speaking and write exactly what is heard with correct spelling. The extract is played **twice**; the second time with pauses, giving time to write down word-for-word what is heard. There is one dictation to complete and one recording.

What does it assess?

It assesses listening and writing skills and tests ability to understand an extended utterance by transcribing a spoken text.

What types of recordings are used?

The extracts are authentic, descriptive and contain relatively formal language and include instructions, news bulletins, announcements, broadcast features and factual information.

EXAMPLE SECTION 2

You will hear a recording about Switzerland. Listen to the whole recording once. Then you will hear the recording again with pauses for you to write down what you hear. Make sure you spell the words correctly.

11. The best part about Switzerland is that all the tourist attractions are close to each other. In the heart of the country are the majestic Alps, which give Switzerland its unique climate and unforgettable landscapes. Of all the wonderful cities in this country, Basel is a good option for settling down as it is conveniently located and has many industries and work opportunities.

Teacher's Transcript for Section 2.

(to be read by teacher)

The best part about Switzerland is that all the tourist attractions are close to each other. In the heart of the country are the majestic Alps, which give Switzerland its unique climate and unforgettable landscapes. Of all the wonderful cities in this country, Basel is a good option for settling down as it is conveniently located and has many industries and work opportunities.

(5 sec. pause)

The best part about Switzerland is that

(15 second pause)

all the tourist attractions are close to each other.

(15 second pause)

In the heart of the country are the majestic Alps,

(15 second pause)

which give Switzerland its unique

(15 second pause)

climate and unforgettable landscapes.

(15 second pause)

Of all the wonderful cities in this country,

(15 second pause)

Basel is a good option for settling down

(15 second pause)

as it is conveniently located and has

(15 second pause)

many industries and work opportunities.

How is this section scored?

This item type has a weighting of ten score points. A maximum of five score points for listening and five for writing can be achieved in this section of the test.

Reading - Section 4

What type of task is it?

Section 4 comprises a gap fill 3-option multiple choice item type. Candidates read five short texts, each containing a gap, and choose which of three answer options is the missing word or phrase. There are five gaps to complete; one per text.

What does it assess?

It assesses reading skills and tests ability to understand the purpose, structure and main idea of short written texts.

What types of text are used?

Authentic text types are used; for example, labels, instructions, signs, notices, menus, advertisements and announcements.

EXAMPLE SECTION 4

Read each text and put a cross (X) by the missing word or phrase, as in the example.

Example.

Whenever you buy travel insurance, ensure you get the best. Travel insurance, after all, is an important way of your safety and financial interests when you travel.

- A. securing
- B. locking
- C. saving

23. You can upload several types of video files through the Upload Command. Files that you upload must be uniquely named in your account. If you upload a file with the same filename as a file you, your old file will be overwritten.

- A. are about to upload
- B. are uploading
- C. previously uploaded

25. My first role may have brought me fame and fortune, but I've been acting since high school. The film I'm acting in at the moment features and I'm really honoured to be acting with such talented personalities.

- A. the best crew in cinema
- B. a unique character
- C. a very strong cast

22. In today's society, we don't have to do much strenuous work, food is relatively abundant and modern medicine cures many diseases. However, with this comes a paradox, and that is that some of these benefits of modern society may pose

- A. value for money
- B. added advantages
- C. hidden dangers

24. Before the holidays sneak up on you, create a plan for incorporating fitness and good nutrition into your daily routine. Study your schedule today so as to determine how much time you have available to devote to

- A. creating your own holiday itinerary
- B. working out and eating healthy meals
- C. relaxation, sightseeing and other activities

26. Make up your own mind about what is important, and about how we can best achieve real progress in protecting the natural world. about environmental issues so as to find out which companies are environmentally friendly and make an effort to support them.

- A. Discuss
- B. Read
- C. Worry

How is this section scored?

This item type is marked as either correct or incorrect. Each correctly completed gap has a weighting of one score point. A maximum of five score points can be achieved in this section of the test.

Reading - Section 5

What type of task is it?

Section 5 comprises a 3-option multiple choice item type. Candidates read a text and answer five questions or complete five sentences from a choice of three answer options. There are five answers to choose and one text.

What does it assess?

It assesses reading skills and tests ability to understand the main ideas, opinions, attitudes and implied meanings in an extended written text.

What types of text are used?

Authentic text types are used; for example, newspaper articles, magazine articles, leaflets, brochures and website articles.

EXAMPLE SECTION 5

Read the weblog extract and answer the questions that follow. Put a cross (X) in the box next to the correct answer, as in the example.



The image shows a screenshot of a web browser window displaying a weblog extract. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.women's-Quit-Smoking-Group.com/>. The page title is "Women's Quit Smoking Group". The main text of the weblog is as follows:

One Monday evening last November, I turned up at my local "Quit Smoking Group for Modern Women" at the council hall. Although I felt enthusiastic and optimistic about my courageous decision, I was a little anxious about the sort of people I would meet there. I was expecting them all to be wrinkled, grey-haired people in their forties and fifties, who had been smoking a steady forty cigarettes a day for thirty years, whereas I just smoked a modest ten cigarettes a day.

I took up smoking 10 years ago, when I was 16, and for the last three years I have been trying to give up. But when I saw the group, I was in for a pleasant surprise. There were fourteen women sitting in the hall, many of whom looked more nervous than me, and there were two who were younger than me. We were led by Jerry, a cheerful woman in her thirties who had kicked the habit five years ago. In answer to our questions, she told us that nowadays, in our modern society, more women smoke than men, 30% more, according to statistics. In the United Kingdom 400 girls of 18 or younger start smoking every day. In fact, many smokers, after they have smoked just a hundred cigarettes in their lives, already want to give up, but do not know how.

Jerry insisted that in order to give up, it is a good idea to discover why we started in the first place, and here she put the blame squarely on the tobacco companies for directing much of their advertising at young women. She showed us a video of examples of cigarette advertising with pictures of young, attractive models smoking cigarettes, all of which make people believe that smoking is a fashionable activity for women. And if people believe something is fashionable, it is.

Many advertisements also give the impression that smoking is healthy: we see pictures of healthy young people, and especially sportsmen and sportswomen alongside advertisements for cigarettes. According to Jerry, our common sense will tell us we cannot smoke and keep fit, but subconsciously, we believe the opposite, at least to begin with. Smoking advertisements are particularly persuasive for women because they encourage us to believe that smoking will make us slim.

On the right side of the page, there is a large red octagonal "STOP" sign graphic. The sign is mounted on a cigarette butt that is partially smoked, with ash falling from the end. The sign is positioned over the bottom right corner of the text area.

Example.

Why did the writer feel nervous about joining the group?

- A. She imagined that the people there wouldn't want to quit smoking.
- B. She didn't smoke as many cigarettes as the rest of the women there.
- C. She thought the people there would be different to her.



27. What surprised the writer?

- A. the number of women in the group
- B. the age of most of the women
- C. how worried some of the women seemed



28. What do Jerry's statistics show?

- A. Women smokers outnumber their male counterparts.
- B. The majority of women smokers are under 18.
- C. Women become addicted to smoking very quickly.



29. What advice did Jerry give the group?

- A. to seek professional advice when deciding to give up smoking
- B. to find the initial reason for starting to smoke
- C. to stop watching cigarette adverts aimed at women



30. Which of these is NOT given as a reason for starting to smoke?

- A. interest in physical appearance
- B. doing what others do
- C. making new acquaintances

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31. What do smokers tend to overlook when taking up the habit?

- A. that smoking has a negative effect on health
- B. that it is fashionable to smoke
- C. that smoking prevents weight gain



How is this section scored?

This item type is marked as either correct or incorrect. Each correct answer has a weighting of one score point. A maximum of five score points can be achieved in this section of the test.

Writing - Section 8

What type of task is it?

Section 8 comprises a *write correspondence* item type. Candidates write an email, formal or informal letter, based on information given in Section 7. There is one text to write (150-200 words).

What does it assess?

It assesses writing skills and tests ability to write a piece of correspondence.

What instructions given?

Instructions are given which include the purpose of the text, the intended content of the message and the recipient. The task gives the candidate the opportunity to use language flexibly and effectively, to persuade, convince, amuse, impress or otherwise move the reader.

EXAMPLE SECTION 8

You have read the article about mobile phones. A friend of yours is considering getting her 12-year-old son a mobile phone. Write an email informing her about the situation. Write about 150-200 words and include the following information.

- what the NRPB has concluded
- what other studies show
- what she could do

Write your answer here. Do not write outside the box.

Hi Brenda,

I recently read an article about the possible health risks users of mobile phones face, and seeing that you're thinking about buying your son one, I think I should tell you what it said.

First of all, the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) has concluded that children under ten shouldn't use a mobile phone under any circumstances, while teenagers should use them only when really necessary. Although there's no definite proof that the emissions from mobile phones and their transmitter masts are dangerous, Prof Stewart, head of the NRPB, advises that we be careful when using a mobile phone.

What's more, studies carried out in Europe suggest that mobile phones may indeed be dangerous. A Swedish study claims that prolonged mobile phone use may cause acoustic neuroma, a German one argues that it may affect our DNA and cause cancer, while a Dutch one alleges that it may affect brain function. Of course, further research needs to be carried out to confirm these studies.

Whatever the case may be, I advise you not to buy your son a mobile yet. After all, he's only 12 and he could borrow yours if you really need to get hold of him from time to time.

Bye for now,
Jasmine

How is this section scored?

This item type has a weighting of ten score points and responses are scored according to **how well** the candidate can perform and **what** he/she can do against the following criteria:

Range	Shows great flexibility reformulating ideas in differing linguistic forms to convey finer shades of meaning precisely, to give emphasis, to differentiate and to eliminate ambiguity. Has a good command of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms.
Accuracy	Maintains consistent grammatical and lexical control of complex language.
Coherence	Can create coherent and cohesive text, making full and appropriate use of a variety of organizational patterns and a wide range of cohesive devices.
Orthographic Control	Writing is orthographically free of error.
Written Interaction	Can express him/herself with clarity, precision and great flexibility differentiating finer shades of meaning in complex professional and/or academic texts.

Speaking - Section 11 (Discussion)

What type of task is it?

Candidate gives and supports opinions on a topic in response to **oral prompts** put by the oral examiner. The oral examiner will take an opposing view and aid the flow of conversation. This section of the test is **2 minutes**.

What does it assess?

It assesses ability to discuss a concrete or abstract issue.

EXAMPLE SECTION 1 1

Does intelligence ensure a financially stable future? What do you think?

Arguments for:

- If you are intelligent, you will be academically successful.
- Academic success is required for the best jobs/careers.
- If you are intelligent, you will always find solutions to any financial problems.
- If you are intelligent, you will always have the knowledge or ideas to improve your financial situation.

Arguments against:

- You can earn a good salary from jobs that don't involve an academic background, e.g. actress, dancer, singer.
- Intelligence alone is not enough; a person also needs to have certain personal characteristics to make/save money.
- Despite being intelligent and well qualified, you may not be able to find a job where you live or in your subject area.
- It is possible to be intelligent and have a good job but have so many dependents/commitments that your future is still not stable.

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Speaking - Section 12 (Picture Description & Discussion)

What type of task is it?

Candidate speaks without interruption about two pictures in response to a prompt posed by the oral examiner (up to 1 minute). This is followed by a second instruction to interpret some aspect of the pictures. The visuals are designed to elicit language of comparison and contrast as well as expression of ideas, opinions and feelings. This section of the test is **2 minutes**.

What does it assess?

It assesses ability to speak continuously about two related pictures and interpret some aspect of them.

Unit 2 Crime & Punishment!

WARM UP

Rephrasing:...

...with the appropriate verb and form.

deal with, tap into, branch out, bombard, prevail, track down, bring in, tamper

- Our firm must diversify if it wants to remain profitable. In order *for our firm to remain profitable, it must branch out*
- Poverty and hunger were widespread during the recession. During *the recession, poverty and hunger prevailed*
- A new department has been established to counter crime. We have set *up a new department to deal with crime*
- They have managed to find out where the criminals are. They have succeeded *in tracking down the criminals*
- Professor Hill was asked hundreds of questions. The students *bombarded Prof Hill with (hundreds of) questions*
- They are introducing the legislation at the end of the year. The legislation *is being brought in at the end of the year*
- Don't mess with the blender anymore - you'll break it! Stop *tampering with the blender - you'll break it*
- The company has found a new market for its products. The company *has tapped into a new market for its products*

...with the appropriate phrase and form.

a slew of problems, no laughing matter, fight fire with fire, up and running, pose a threat, take advantage of, dive headfirst into, come into force

- The sanctions will take effect next month. The sanctions will *come into force next month*
- You shouldn't exploit the customers if they're naïve. You shouldn't *take advantage of the customers'* naivety.
- Don't be aggressive to Jim when he's aggressive to you. Don't *fight fire with fire when* ... faced with Jim's aggression.
- The increase in juvenile crime is a very worrisome issue. The increase in juvenile crime *is no laughing matter*
- The lawyer came up against many difficulties in the trial. The lawyer faced *a slew of problems* ... in the trial.
- Think about what it entails before you take on the task. Don't *dive headfirst into the task* ... before considering what it entails.
- The gorilla is in serious danger thanks to habitat loss. *Habitat loss poses a (serious) threat to* ... the gorilla's existence.
- I'll fix the glitch when my computer is functioning. I'll fix the glitch as soon *as my computer is up and running*

...using the word provided. (Tenses & Modals)

- The lawyer hasn't won a case for quite a while. (last) It has *been quite a while since the lawyer last won a* case.
- I'm convinced that he was shot by a trained sniper. (must) To my *mind, a trained sniper must have shot* him.
- The witness hadn't taken the stand until yesterday. (yet) Until yesterday, *the witness had yet to take the* stand.
- We didn't need to question him as I have the facts. (needn't) I *have the facts so we needn't have questioned* him.
- When the jury announces the verdict, she'll faint. (soon) She'll faint *as soon as the verdict is announced by the* jury.
- You ought to have told me what happened. (better) It *would've been better if you'd told me what* happened.
- I'm sure he wasn't accused of the heinous crime. (can't) The authorities *can't have accused him of the* heinous crime.
- The warrant was delayed so she was set free. (time) She had *been set free by the time the warrant was* issued.

READING

Read the magazine article and answer the questions that follow.

INTERNET HACKING - Net Espionage Costing Billions

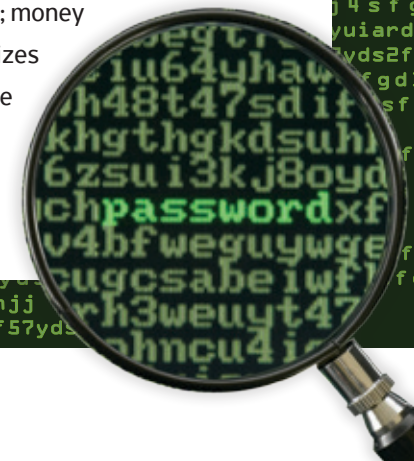
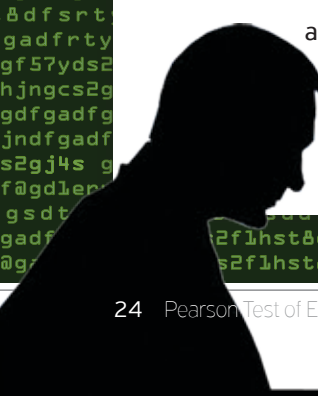
Computer hacking has been around for as long as we can remember - certainly for as long as we have had a World Wide Web. To some of us, our idea of hacking might include breaking into an email account or viewing confidential company information. Occasionally, the news speaks of silly pranks which imply nothing more than a temporary shutdown of a website.

- 1 Recently, the case of hackers tampering with the CIA's website, altering the title to 'Central Stupidity Agency' and filling it with obscenities was revealed. According to the CIA, it posed no real threat because the CIA's files are inaccessible via that Internet site. Undoubtedly, there are some who see irony in this - a civilian, probably not even a professional, outwitting an elite US agency.
- 2 However, cybercrime is no laughing matter. In one case of corporate espionage, two manufacturing firms were bidding on a \$900 million contract; one outbid the other by a fraction of a percent. This was no co-incidence as the losing company later discovered that someone had broken into its computer network and accessed files that contained bidding strategy information. In another case, authorities are after an individual who regularly hires teenagers to access confidential documents. One of them was paid \$3,000 - and promised \$10,000 more - for stealing design documents for kitchen appliances. In such cases the criminal's identity is especially difficult to trace because of the nature of the Net.

When the Internet was gaining immense popularity, businesses were scrambling to secure domain names and using the Web to expand their market. Seeing e-commerce as an untapped goldmine, many were eagerly diving headfirst into a slew of problems, including security breaches. Companies like eBay, Buy.com, Yahoo! and Amazon were unprepared when 'Mafiaboy' decided to strike. The 16-year-old Montreal teenager crippled their sites when he bombarded them with thousands of simultaneous messages, preventing legitimate users from gaining access. His five-day tirade caused an estimated \$2.1 billion in damages.

- 4 When the Internet was gaining immense popularity, businesses were scrambling to secure domain names and using the Web to expand their market. Seeing e-commerce as an untapped goldmine, many were eagerly diving headfirst into a slew of problems, including security breaches. Companies like eBay, Buy.com, Yahoo! and Amazon were unprepared when 'Mafiaboy' decided to strike. The 16-year-old Montreal teenager crippled their sites when he bombarded them with thousands of simultaneous messages, preventing legitimate users from gaining access. His five-day tirade caused an estimated \$2.1 billion in damages.
- 5 Of course, many organizations are taking extra security measures, including the use of firewalls (a security mechanism that allows limited access to sites from the Internet). Recently, Ernst & Young, a major consulting and accounting firm, set up computer labs across North America, which allow information security consultants to perform 'ethical hacks' to assess the strengths and weaknesses of a client's network. By using existing hacker tools, they're fighting fire with fire. 'Ethical hackers' are being paid thousands of dollars to provide clear evidence of how vulnerable the firm's clients' networks are to attacks that could compromise their most sensitive information.

In many instances of cybercrime, people commit it to defy corporations or the government; money is not always the motive. However, it is an unacceptable, illegal act, which victimizes all Internet users. Viruses, shutdowns, crashes and email hacking will be the burden of the user, a company's money lost to theft will be the burden of its customers and a government's money spent on security will be the burden of its citizens.



Try to find the answers and underline them in the text.



1. What did the hackers do after they broke into the CIA's website?

- A. They threatened to shut down the agency's website.
- B. They changed the title and uploaded information.
- C. They viewed some confidential files.

The answers are in the text, but they are expressed in a different way. e.g. in #1, altering the title...and filling it with obscenities

2. What is the writer's opinion of cybercrime?

- A. It is ironic that individuals are able to commit it.
- B. It should not be classified as a criminal act.
- C. It is a serious affair and not to be taken lightly.

Here, #2 assesses your ability to comprehend what the writer thinks (read the end of paragraph 1, all of paragraph 2, and the beginning of paragraph 3). Where is the writer's opinion stated?

3. Why was the youngster given money?

- A. to steal files with details of household equipment
- B. to access files containing bidding strategy information
- C. to spy on manufacturing firms in the US

For #3, the passage mentions for stealing design documents for kitchen appliances

4. What problems emerged with the Internet as it grew in status?

- A. a shortage of domain names
- B. difficulty of access
- C. security violations

For #4, the passage mentions diving headfirst into a slew of problems, including security breaches

5. What is Ernst & Young doing?

- A. getting its clients' networks breached so as to gauge their security
- B. spending billions of dollars improving its security mechanisms
- C. training information security consultants in hacking techniques

For #5, the passage mentions which allow information security consultants to perform 'ethical hacks'...and... to provide clear evidence of how vulnerable the firm's clients' networks are

WORD BUILDING

Complete with the correct form of the word in brackets.

1. Ice cream and chocolate are Damien's two major weaknesses (weak)
2. The presidential candidate saw a dramatic drop in his popularity after the scandal. (popular)
3. Mabel was hired on the strength of her computer skills. (strong)
4. The employee was accused of leaking confidential information to the press. (confidence)
5. People who exercise regularly are more energetic and healthier than those who don't. (regular)
6. The isolated mountain village was inaccessible because of the heavy snowfall. (access)
7. "Your rudeness and tardiness are simply unacceptable," shouted the supervisor. (accept)
8. There are said to be trillions of gallons of untapped oil reserves in the Mediterranean. (tap)
9. Five escaped convicts have managed to outwit the police and are still at large. (wit)
10. The marine sergeant hurled obscenities at the new recruits. (obscene)

PRACTICE TEST 1



SECTION 1

(10 marks)

You will have 10 seconds to read each question and the corresponding options. Then listen to the recording. After the recording you will have 10 seconds to choose the correct option.

Put a cross (X) in the box next to the correct answer, as in the example.

Example. How would you describe the man's reaction to what happened?

- A. He was totally surprised.
B. He was somewhat surprised.
C. He was hardly surprised at all.

1. What does the woman recommend the man do?

- A. complain to the manufacturer about the questionnaire
B. not register the product online
C. ignore the questionnaire for the time being

2. What is the speaker least impressed with?

- A. the graphics
B. the gameplay
C. the storyline

3. What does the woman think of the song?

- A. She thinks it could win.
B. She is not sure if it can win.
C. She doesn't believe it can win.

4. In which film does the speaker think Huang Lu's acting was finest?

- A. The Dragon's Tomb
B. The Serpent's Curse
C. The Mistress of Shanghai

5. What does the speaker say about collecting posters?

- A. People will pay thousands for any old rock poster.
B. Collecting posters is a recent phenomenon.
C. The Internet has boosted the rock poster market.

6. What is the profession of the person being talked about?

- A. an actor
B. a musician
C. a painter

7. What is being advertised?

- A. a funfair
B. a music festival
C. a travelling circus

8. What does the speaker say about some Hollywood studios?

- A. They have had to fire staff.
B. They are more profitable than they used to be.
C. They have recently increased video sales.

9. What does the woman think of the homepage?

- A. It may be an eyesore.
B. It is representative of the company.
C. It is user friendly.

10. What kind of work does the scheme involve?

- A. setting up dot.com ventures
B. providing the Internet to disadvantaged people
C. entering data online for American companies



SECTION 2

(10 marks)

You will hear a recording about start-up companies. Listen to the whole recording once. Then you will hear the recording again with pauses for you to write down what you hear. Make sure you spell the words correctly.

11. *A start-up company is a business / with a limited operating history. / They are generally newly created companies, / which are in a phase / of development and research. / The term achieved international popularity / at the end of the twentieth century / when there was a speculative bubble, / the so-called dot-com bubble, / as a result of the rapid growth / in the Internet sector.*



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SECTION 3

(10 marks)

You will hear the CEO of a software company talking about augmented reality. First, read the notes below then listen and complete the notes with information from the talk.

Example. Augmented reality is a computer system which *enhances* reality.

12. With augmented reality, people could watch their favourite band appear to play in their living room using a *handheld interface*.
13. The CEO says that his product could provide *a unique experience* to television viewers.
14. The experience will be further improved once the software is incorporated into *glasses/spectacles*, which can be worn by the user.
15. The CEO suggests that soon visitors to museums could be accompanied by an *animated avatar* as a guide.
16. According to the CEO, augmented reality will soon become so integral *a part* of our lives that we will stop paying attention to it.

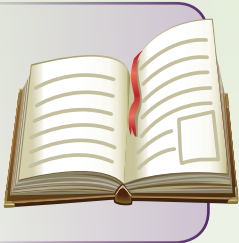


SECTION 3 continued

You will hear part of an interview with Garran Miller, a film critic about the use of 3-D technology in films. First, read the notes below then listen and complete the notes with information from the interview.

Example. Garran Miller is a film critic and a writer for *the London Film Guide*.

17. Another name for the technique of making 3-D films is *stereoscopic filmmaking*.
18. Although the principals are the same as before, today's 3-D films are much *more sophisticated*.
19. To convert a conventionally shot film to 3-D costs around \$ *10 million*.
20. One reason for the decrease in profits from films has been the *decline in DVD sales*.
21. Garran argues that 3-D films provide greater profits for both *(film/movie) studios and theatres*.



SECTION 4

(5 marks)

Read each text and put a cross (X) by the missing word or phrase, as in the example.

Example.

In the world of computers, a base station refers to a wireless access point for computers with wireless cards. Wireless base stations are manufactured by companies such as D-Link and Apple. The term 'base station' refers to the towers that can be seen by the side of the road, which relay mobile phone calls. They handle all calls made within their area, receiving information from one end of the call and

- A. transmitting it to the other
- B. sending it to the manufacturer
- C. gaining accessing to the base

23. We are looking for an experienced developer with exceptional coding skills and a flexible approach to working in a commercial environment. You should be fluent in English, comfortable working in a small company, open to learning new skills, and not take on responsibility.

- A. keen to
- B. reluctant to
- C. delighted to

25. Online application for spring 2012 entry to our courses is now closed. To track their application, applicants may click on the link below to review and check for receipt of references, transcripts, and prerequisite forms.

- A. previously submitted application data
- B. a book that they have read
- C. the courses that are still open

22. Like many an ambitious game, this is a game which will sometimes leave you feeling frustrated, especially, in this case, as a result of some unfortunate bugs. this notable game makes an important statement: that all the elements which make an RPG great: stunning graphics, exciting action, and challenging decision-making can coexist in a modern RPG.

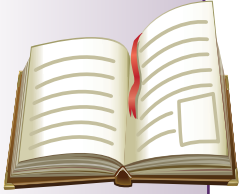
- A. Yet
- B. In addition
- C. Despite

24. A new cyber-attack on the Entertainment Network has recently been announced. A hacker group is reported to have stolen millions of passwords, e-mail addresses and other information. The estimated loss to the company from the data breach is around 130 million euros. The Entertainment Network has become a major target for hackers and at least four other break-ins have been

- A. confirmed by the company
- B. accused of hacking the Entertainment Network
- C. carried out by the company

26. Funding problems, an argument over actors' salaries and a surgical operation for their director, caused almost catastrophic delays in the filming of the two new Hobbit movies. Filming has eventually got underway after

- A. it was far too late
- B. that moment in time
- C. a delay of more than two months



SECTION 5

(5 marks)

Read the passage and answer the questions.

Put a cross (X) in the box next to the correct answer, as in the example.

Gaming

Since its conception, the continual growth of the gaming industry has increased beyond anyone's imagination making it a multi-million-dollar business. The reason for this booming industry could well be credited to children. Computer and video games have become very popular among children of all ages because the strategies that are used to build the games, the quality of sound, the interactivity and especially the graphics, make them irresistible, absorbingly enjoyable and challenging among the younger generation.

For many years it has been thought that playing these games was harmful for growing minds but recently a new strategy, based on genuine research and medical back-up, has emerged. Researchers have found that games such as Sim City and

Age of Mythology, where houses and cities are built and war strategies are developed, help gamers enrich their logical skills and also aid in decision-making and problem-solving. Consequently, children who once lacked self-confidence or suffered from an inferiority complex begin to feel excited, positive and enthusiastic about their lives, which is therapy in itself.

Teachers have also observed an improvement in mathematics, spelling and reading amongst children who play these games, to such an extent that educational departments are discussing and researching ways to integrate such programmes into the academic curriculum.

On the other hand, it cannot be ignored that although beneficial to some extent, detrimental effects do exist. The most common complaints found among children obsessed with these games are physical, with eye-strain, wrist, neck and back pain being the most common. Photosensitive epilepsy, headaches, hallucinations, obesity, nerve and muscle damage are also evident. A prominent doctor of a well-known children's hospital recently highlighted the case of an 11-year-old boy who acquired tendonitis, an inflammation of the tendons and joints, after spending many hours playing on his Nintendo Game Boy, a condition which has now become known as 'Nintendonitis'. Simple relaxation exercises, physiotherapy and hydrotherapy can all be used to alleviate symptoms, but these methods of treatment are long and arduous for a child.

Social problems resulting in children becoming shy and introverted are also contenders in the controversy due to the fact that they prefer to be in front of their monitors rather than outside socialising with friends. The violence featured in the games is also a questionable issue and tends to make gamers lose control and more aggressive.

So in the light of this research and the obvious drawbacks, how much gaming is beneficial and is it really worthwhile? Obviously, some method of control is necessary. How much time children spend in front of their screen should be monitored

and what type of game they play should also be given careful consideration. Maintaining a balance between these two aspects could well be the way forward, relieving the tension for the parents and creating a reasonable solution for the child.

Example. What are the writer's feelings about the gaming industry?

- A. non-committal
- B. enraged
- C. opinionated

27. What does the writer say about the gaming industry in the first paragraph?

- A. The concept of video games has changed unimaginably since their inception.
- B. Many games these days are designed specifically with younger children in mind.
- C. A variety of factors are responsible for the popularity of video games among the young.

28. Why does the writer give two examples of video games?

- A. to highlight some positive points of video games
- B. to prove what the researchers experienced
- C. to convince educational departments of the advantages of video games

29. What conclusion is reached in paragraph two?

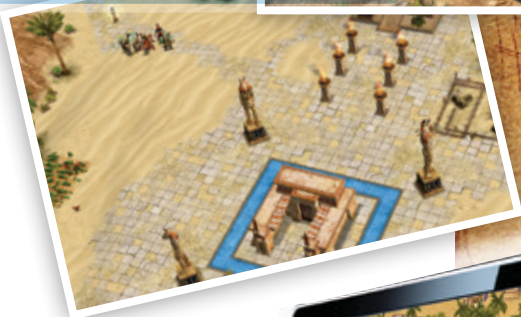
- A. Schooling methods have improved as a result of video games.
- B. Experts no longer think video games encourage logical thought.
- C. School performance among pupils who play certain video games tends to increase.

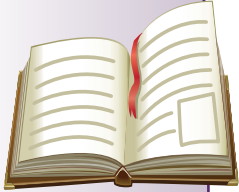
30. What is 'Nintendonitis'?

- A. a series of relaxation exercises to alleviate physical disorders
- B. a long list of ailments caused by too much game playing
- C. a condition resulting from excessive use of a hand-held game console

31. Regarding video games, the writer advises parents to

- A. steer away from games that include violence.
- B. find some type of equilibrium.
- C. discount the repercussions of the research.





SECTION 6

(8 marks)

Read the extract from a magazine and answer the questions.

Television and the Mind



- Even though television can provide the mind with release from our stressful lifestyle, the foremost unwanted effect of television is audio-visual addiction. This, in turn, affects the brain's activity. The left side switches off and the right emotional side begins to function more proactively leading to a reduction in our ability to think critically. Children, especially, could acquire Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, which causes a syndrome known as 'orienting response'.
- 33 This decreases the child's ability to focus on activities, thus distracting them from the most formative and vital years of learning.
- 34 Our body needs exercise and stimulation to operate normally and, although it may seem hard to believe, so does our brain. When watching television, however, our logical thinking tends to become restrained, our attention span is reduced and addiction sets in. All this, lumped together, hampers brain development. In time, viewing dominates many people's lives. It prevents us from participating in physical activity and precious time is wasted.
- 35 If you belong to this category, try other recreational pastimes such as reading, painting, walking or participating in sport. Pursuits such as these not only exercise the body but also develop the mind at the same time.

23

Example. What does the extract mostly dwell on? *the harmful effects of watching television*

32. What is the result of a more proactive right side of the brain?

a reduction in our ability to think critically / critical-thinking ability

33. What condition lessens the concentration powers of children?

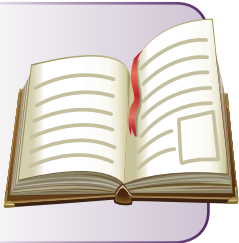
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

34. What does our brain need to perform correctly?

exercise and stimulation

35. What advice does the writer give to people who may have audio-visual addiction?

to try other recreational pursuits/activities/pastimes / to read, paint, walk or participate in sport



SECTION 6 continued

Read the website abstract and answer the questions.

Research on the Web

There has been much hyperbole about what the capabilities of e-mail and the World Wide Web are with regard to research, as well as some criticism of how limited they can be. In the Dawson report, researchers studied the effectiveness of the Internet for the purpose of research.

36 To be more precise, evidence was accumulated by measuring response rates, timeliness, data quality, and cost. As a result

37 of the evidence, the authors appraised popular claims that Internet-based surveys can be done more quickly, cheaply and easily than surveys conducted in more conventional ways. It was discovered

38 that the benefits of reduced costs and faster response times do not live up to the hype. Nonetheless, it was also proven that it is possible to implement certain Internet-based surveys in ways that are capable of producing the intended result and which are also cost-efficient.

39 The authors came to the final conclusion that the Internet will continue to increase in importance when conducting research surveys.

Example. What did the Dawson report examine? *the effectiveness of the Internet for the purpose of research*

36. What was measured in the research?

response rates, timeliness, data quality and cost

37. What is usually argued about the effectiveness of Internet surveys compared to conventional ones?

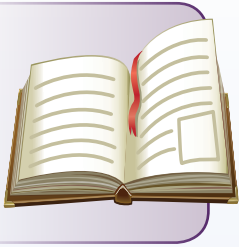
they are quicker, cheaper and easier to do / they can be done more quickly, cheaply and easily

38. Which two advantages of Internet surveys does the research find have been exaggerated?

reduced costs and faster response times

39. What role, according to the Dawson report, will the Internet play in performing research?

an increasingly/more important one



SECTION 7

(7 marks)

Read the web article and complete the notes.

Write no more than three words from the article in each gap.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.infoworld.com/d/cloud-computing/>. The page title is "Cloud Computing". The article text is as follows:

Computer engineers claim that cloud computing will be the next step in the evolution of computer systems. However, to some it is a nefarious way for corporations to get their hands on private data and to others it is simply a marketing gimmick that just renames what we already have. But what is it exactly?

At the moment, most conventional computers, laptops and notebooks run on various platforms such as Windows, Mackintosh or Linux which support their own software applications, all of which have to be installed on the computer. Data that needs to be saved is usually stored on an internal or external hard drive. All this requires substantial hardware and processing power on the computer and heavier applications can drastically slow down less powerful computers.

Cloud computing does away with a lot of this by letting a remote server provide software applications and data storage facilities for your device. When you are connected to your cloud server via the Net you can access software applications that the server makes available. The application data appears on your system display, but all computations and changes are recorded by the server and any data you want can be stored on the cloud server, available for access the next time you connect to it. So, cloud computing does away with the need to have software or hard discs. Your device simply needs to be a browser with adequate processing power for a good Internet connection. Therefore, notepads, mobile phones and other handheld devices will compete with conventional computers in the number of applications they will be able to use.

However, such remote systems are not without their dangers. Firstly, there is the question of information security, as using a cloud computing service to store data may expose the user to potential violation of privacy as information could be made available to third parties and data could be exposed to possible hacking and, in the case of industries or corporations, to cyber espionage. Moreover, such systems would be international, so if the server is in a foreign country, future access to information could not be guaranteed. This might also be the case if, for a variety of reasons, a cloud server was forced to terminate its service.

Finally, the service depends on continuous and ever-present access to the Internet, and loss of a connection could cause serious disruptions to work.

Cloud computing has the power to radically alter the way we use computer systems, but it is still in its formative stages and is not without its inherent dangers. Until such issues are resolved it seems unlikely that cloud computing will completely replace conventional systems.

Example. Some view cloud computing as a means for *corporations/companies* to obtain personal information.

40. Conventionally, each kind of computer platform runs its *own software application(s)* and data is stored on hard drives.
41. In cloud computing, software applications and data storage capabilities are made available by *a remote server / remote servers*
42. Whenever you connect to your cloud server you can *access / gain access to* data that you have previously stored there.
43. Therefore, all your device needs is a *good Internet connection* and adequate processing power.
44. As well as the danger of exposure of private data and hacking that individual users face, corporations face the added threat of *cyber espionage*
45. Global cloud servers cannot assure continued *access of information / information access* to foreign clients.
46. The fact that there are certain *inherent dangers/risks* to cloud computing means that they are unlikely to replace conventional systems in the immediate future.

SUPER
COURSE
ELT PUBLISHING





SECTION 8

(10 marks)

Use the information in Section 7 to help you write your answer.

47. You have read the article on cloud computing. Write an email to a work colleague who you think would be interested in what it says. **Write about 150-200 words** and include the following:

- what you think the benefits and drawbacks of cloud computing are
- the practical implications of such a system
- your own thoughts on the future of information technology



Use your own words.

Dear Walter,

I am writing to inform you about cloud computing, an innovative type of IT service that differs from the traditional way data is stored.

First of all, storing information on a remote server on the Net frees an organisation's computing capacity as it reduces the need for powerful hardware, software and high processing speeds. A further advantage of cloud computing is that it enhances efficiency as it enables the user to access data from anywhere and at any time.

However, cloud computing may give rise to security issues as the stored information could be accessed by hackers, which could lead to data being accidentally or deliberately altered or even deleted. Moreover, cloud computing is totally dependent on network availability and stability, which means that if a problem arises with the network connection, access to the data is restricted.

Of course, this technology is still in its infancy so we will have to wait for updates and upgrades until the service is perfected.

Fortunately, research and development is ongoing and I believe that its problems will be sorted out in the near future.

I hope this information has been of some assistance. Do let me know if you think our company could use a cloud computing service.

Yours,

Dave Attenborough



SECTION 9

 (10 marks)

Choose one of the topics below and write your answer in 250 - 300 words.

48. A. Either:

An international student magazine is asking readers to contribute articles on what they believe the future of home entertainment will be.

Write an article describing your vision of what changes we will see in home entertainment over the next 20 years.

48. B. Or:

You see this comment in an online magazine.

The Internet should be open to everyone and the freedom we have on the Internet should not be limited or controlled by multi-national corporations or governments.

Write an article explaining why you agree or disagree with the comment.

48. A.

In the past decade, advances in home entertainment have changed our lives dramatically. We have seen the introduction of technology that we now take for granted and I believe that the next twenty years are going to present us with even more radical developments in home entertainment.

The home entertainment market is evolving at an extremely rapid pace and home entertainment seekers are going to be in for a lot of excitement in the future. Within the next twenty years, TV, video and computer games will have integrated completely with the Web and will no longer be separate pieces of hardware. Furthermore, screens will become flexible, light and easy to use while remote controls and keyboards will become obsolete as appliances will use voice recognition and motion detection software. This means that we will be able to search for content and play games without having to use hand-held devices.

In addition, there will be a dramatic improvement in picture and sound quality with a more exciting 3D effect that will no longer require the use of special glasses. For example, whilst watching a sports programme or music concert at home, the experience will be no different than being at the actual stadium. It will also be possible to select different camera angles, pause the screen and zoom in on a specific location. In this way, we will not just be passive viewers, but be completely involved in the event while getting an all-round sensory experience.

All in all, in this digital high-tech age, a time span of twenty years is a long time. Things will certainly continue to develop significantly and many more remarkable innovations are likely to come with future developments that will go far beyond our imagination giving 'home entertainment' a whole new meaning.

48. B.

The Internet has become a widespread source of entertainment and information over the past decade. As more and more people have become familiar with the Internet, the amount of content it offers has grown at an uncontrollable rate and without any restrictions. Consequently, debate about whether or not Internet content should be censored is inevitable.

On the one hand, those who argue against censorship claim that it is a violation of human rights as it is an unjustifiable restriction of access to information. They also maintain that people have the right to express their views regardless of how offensive they may be. While the principle of free expression may theoretically be appealing, I am inclined to believe that free access to certain material often poses moral and social dilemmas.

The first and foremost reason why the Internet should be monitored concerns the issue of morality and children. Children are not mature enough to be exposed to websites that contain explicit violence, obscenities and pornography as the potential of permanently affecting a child's morality remains high. Furthermore, I am of the opinion that the government should have the power to restrict access to information concerning its armed forces and state secrets for reasons of national security. In this way, criminals, racist groups and terrorists are prevented from abusing the Internet for any illegal activity. Some censorship is thus vital in order to protect society.

On the other hand, repressive governments in both the developed and developing world restrict and control Internet access with the help of multi-national corporations. This is a violation of human rights and aims to shape and control public opinion, misinform society and maintain power, a policy which is totally unacceptable.

In conclusion, a certain degree of censorship is necessary, especially where public morals and national security are concerned. However, individual rights should not be overlooked.

Practice Speaking Test 1

Section 10 (Sustained Monologue)

2 minutes

I'd like you to speak on your own for about one and a half minutes.

Main Prompt:

What do you do to keep fit?

Follow-up Prompts:

Why do you think it's important to exercise?
Do you think schools offer children opportunities to keep fit? Why/Why not?
What are the sports facilities like in your area?
Do you believe they are adequate?
What can the government do to encourage people to stay in shape?

OR

Main Prompt:

Would you say that you have a healthy diet? Why/Why not?

Follow-up Prompts:

What kinds of things do you consider healthy options when choosing what to eat?
How important is it that we watch what we eat and drink?
What do you think of the eating habits and food in your country?
Many young people these days are obese. Why do you think this is so and what can be done to help them?

(Examiner attempts to extend the conversation if the candidate responds with yes/no answers.)

Section 11 (Discussion)

2 minutes

We are going to discuss something together. The question is:

Higher education is the key to a successful life.

What do you think?

For:

- A good university degree can lead to better career opportunities.
- Knowledge allows you to understand and appreciate the world better.
- A good general education provides the necessary mental skills to deal with life's problems
- Education teaches you how to think and behave.
- Society today is so complex that a good education is needed to understand it.
- People tend to appreciate and respect someone who is well educated.

Against:

- Many successful people are not well educated; for example, businessmen, actors, singers, painters.
- Higher education has become extremely specialised and does not necessarily give us the skills for dealing with life.
- Some say that 'ignorance is bliss' and that, perhaps, to be happy, it's better not to know too much.
- Completing higher education takes so long that by the time you are finished it's too late to have a career.
- Experience, luck or knowing the right people are often more useful than a good education.
- Higher education can often hinder a successful career as for many jobs such people might be considered over qualified.

(Examiner takes an opposing view so as to encourage discussion. Candidate and examiner are not expected to reach agreement. Candidate does not have access to the arguments for or against.)

Section 12 (Picture Description & Discussion)

2 minutes

Here are two pictures showing people taking exercise. These pictures are being considered for the cover of a brochure from the Ministry of Health encouraging young people to keep fit. Please tell me what you can see in the pictures.



Which of these pictures would you choose for the cover of the brochure? Why?

Section 13 (Role Play)

2 minutes

We are going to take part in a role play. Here is a card with the situation on it.

(Candidate is given 15 seconds to study the card.)

Candidate's Card

The situation:

You are attending an interview for a place at a prestigious college to study the subject you have chosen. Answer the interviewer's questions.

Your goal:

Persuade the interviewer to accept you at the college.

Oral Examiner's Script

You are in a college office being interviewed for a place in the college. I'm the interviewer. I'll start.

- Why do you wish to attend our college?
- How did you find out that we offer what you are interested in?
- Do you think your grades accurately reflect your potential?
- What do you believe you can contribute to the college?
- What has been your biggest achievement so far?
- Which of your free-time activities is most rewarding and why?
- What's the most difficult situation you've ever faced?
- What do you intend to do once you graduate from college?

(Oral Examiner may extend the script to assist interaction.)

Thank you. That is the end of the test.

GLOSSARY

UNIT 1

section 5 p.10

quit σταματώ
council hall αίθουσα συμβουλίου
optimistic αισιόδοξος
courageous θαρραλέος
anxious ανήσυχος
wrinkled ρυτιδιασμένος
a steady σταθερά
a modest μετρημένα
kick the habit κόβω συνήθεια
squarely ευθέως
subconsciously υποσυνείδητα

section 6 p.12

falls καταρράκτες
let sth loose απελευθερώνω
floodplain κοίτη πλημμυρών
swell φουσκώνω
tributary παραπόταμος
plateau οροπέδιο
gorge φαράγγι
rumble βουητό
furious μανιασμένος
tumble down πέφτω
jut προεξέχω
crest κορυφογραμμή
humidity υγρασία
indigenous αυτόχθων
swirl στροβιλιζομαι
overwhelming ακαταμάχητος
spectacular θεαματικός

section 6 continued p.13

emission εκπομπή
cabinet rift ρήξη υπουργικού συμβουλίου
carbon budget προϋπολογισμός άνθρακα
prompt παρακινώ
outcry κατακραυγή
legally binding νομικά δεσμευτικός
leak διαρρέω
row φασαρία
minister υπουργός
coalition συνασπισμός
undermine υπονομεύω
pledge υπόσχεση
legislation νομοθεσία
underpin στηρίζω
transition μετάβαση

section 7 p.14

urge προτρέπω
emit εκπέμπω
transmitter mast ιστός πομπού
health implications επιπτώσεις στην υγεία
suspend διακόπτω
launch λανσάρω
address απευθύνομαι
pend αναμένω
substantiated τεκμηριωμένος
handset ακουστικό τηλεφώνου
quadruple τετραπλασιάζω
tumour όγκος
caution προειδοποιώ
replicate επαναλαμβάνω
dismiss απορρίπτω
divergent αποκλίνουσα
tangible χειροπιαστός
comply with συμμορφώνομαι
exposure έκθεση
guideline κατευθυντήρια γραμμή
precautionary προληπτικός

UNIT 2

reading p.24

espionage κατασκοπία
prank φάρσα
imply υπονοώ
shutdown διακοπή λειτουργίας
tamper with ανακατεύομαι (χωρίς δικαίωμα)
obscenity αισχρότητα
reveal αποκαλύπτω
pose a threat αποτελώ απειλή
outwit υπερέχω σε εξυπνάδα
corporate εταιρικός
bid 'χτυπώ' προσφορά
outbid πλειοδοτώ
fraction κλάσμα
coincidence σύμπτωση
scramble 'τρέχω'
secure εξασφαλίζω
domain name όνομα τομέα
e-commerce ηλεκτρονικό εμπόριο
untapped ανεκμετάλλευτος
goldmine χρυσωρυχείο
slew σωρεία, αφθονία
security breach παραβίαση της ασφάλειας
cripple παραλύω
simultaneous ταυτόχρονος

legitimate νόμιμος
tirade ξέσπασμα
consulting παροχή υπηρεσιών συμβούλου
accounting λογιστική
assess αξιολογώ
vulnerable ευάλωτος
compromise εκθέτω
defy αψηφώ
crash κρασάρισμα (υπολογιστή)
burden βάρος

reading p.26

transnational διακρατικός
impending επικείμενος
multi-faceted πολύπλευρος
manifest εμφανίζομαι
trafficking εμπόριο (λαθραίο)
smuggle εισάγω λαθραία
migrant μετανάστης
money laundering ξέπλυμα βρώμικου χρήματος
generate παράγω
expand επεκτείνωμαι
broaden διευρύνω
diversify διαφοροποιούμαι
loose network χαλαρό δίκτυο
exploit εκμεταλλεύομαι
come into force τίθεται σε ισχύ
counter βάλλομαι ενάντια
framework σύστημα
mutual αμοιβαίος
extradition έκδοση (εγκληματία)
law enforcement επιβολή του νόμου
enhance ενισχύω
pervading διεισδυτικός
initiate ξεκινώ

reading p.27

claim διεκδικώ
botanist βοτανολόγος
convict settlement οικισμός κατάδικων
House of Commons Βουλή των Κοινοτήτων
deter αποτρέπω
fertile γόνιμος
surplus επιπλέον
colonist άποικος
avenue οδός
merchant ship εμπορικό πλοίο
moor αγκυροβολώ
makeshift προσωρινός, πρόχειρος