

Skills test 5

READING

History remembers winners. Only rarely do we commemorate those who came second. The story of Robert Falcon Scott is one of those rare exceptions.

In January 1912, Scott and four others reached what is possibly the most remote place on Earth: the South Pole. It was not Scott's first voyage to the Antarctic; he led a successful mapping expedition there between 1901 and 1904. In fact, it was the results of that expedition that enabled Ernest Shackleton to attempt but narrowly fail to reach the Pole in 1909. To his credit, Shackleton did succeed in returning all his men safely. Scott made it his mission in life to surpass Shackleton's achievement. Scott knew about a number of other expeditions being prepared at the same time as his. The most important one was in Norway, by the veteran explorer Roald Amundsen, but Scott insisted that he would not sacrifice their scientific goals to win a race to the Pole. He even wrote in his diary that if Amundsen got through first, he would deserve his luck.

Scott selected 65 men out of over 8,000 applicants for the expedition – including several members of his own mapping trip and Shackleton's aborted expedition. Scott's team left Britain in June 1910, on board the sailing ship *Terra Nova*. Reaching the Pole was only one of the expedition's stated goals; Scott also wanted to carry out geological explorations of the regions called King Edward VII Land and Victoria Land. In fact, while completing this assignment in early February 1911, some of Scott's men ran into Amundsen's team camping in a small bay east of Scott's base. When Scott was told this, he decided that they should "proceed exactly as though this had not happened". In the Antarctic summer of 1911, Scott and his men set up a series of campsites with food and other provisions along the planned route to the Pole. The campsite nearest to their destination was the One Ton Depot.

In October 1911, a team of 16 left the base, and headed for the Pole. At the beginning, they moved more slowly than they had anticipated, but by late December they had made up for the lost time. They had been stopping and resting at the previously established campsites, and leaving behind some members of the team to start resupplying the camps for the return journey. When the small final team of five explorers reached the South Pole on January 17, 1912, they thought they had won the race. A day later, they came across Amundsen's tent nearby, with a letter the Norwegian had kindly asked Scott to deliver to the King of Norway. The Norwegians only beat the British by four weeks, arriving at the Pole on December 15, 1911.

Scott's party set out on their journey home across the ice. One of them died shortly afterwards as a result of multiple hand and head injuries. The remaining survivors came up against extreme weather conditions. They were unable to walk more than five miles a day, and their supplies were fast running out. In March, a fierce snowstorm stopped them completely, only 11 miles from One Ton Depot. Scott made the final note in his diary on March 29, 1912: "I do not think we can hope for any better things now. We shall stick it out to the end, but we are getting weaker, of course, and the end cannot be far. It seems a pity but I do not think I can write more. R. Scott."

A rescue expedition found their tent and the explorers' frozen bodies on November 12, 1912. A large memorial was erected near their base in January 1913, with a quotation from Tennyson's poem "Ulysses": "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield".

1 Read a magazine article about a famous explorer. Which of these would be a good title?

- a A destination that was never reached
- b Lessons of a failed expedition
- c The sacrifice of a true leader
- d A tragically near miss

2 points for the correct answer

2

2 Read the article again. Are the following statements true (T), false (F), or not stated (NS)?

- 1 Scott didn't know about other planned expeditions to reach the South Pole. ____
- 2 All members of the 1909 Shackleton expedition survived the journey. ____
- 3 The One Ton Depot was the campsite closest to the expedition's main base. ____
- 4 Scott wanted to speak to Amundsen when they met at the Norwegian camp in the Antarctic. ____
- 5 The first thing the British team saw when they reached the Pole was the Norwegian camp. ____
- 6 By the end of 1911, Scott's team was several weeks behind its plans. ____
- 7 A group of five explorers made it all the way to the Pole. ____
- 8 All the members of the final polar team died only 11 miles from One Ton Depot. ____
- 9 The explorers were found nearly eight months after they died. ____

2 points for each correct answer

18

3 There are ten underlined phrasal verbs in the text. Match five of them to their definitions. The definitions are in their dictionary form.

- 1 get started _____
- 2 become depleted _____
- 3 gain back _____
- 4 find unexpectedly _____
- 5 conduct _____

1 point for each correct answer

5

Reading total **25**

Skills test 5

WRITING

1 Complete sentences 1–6 on learning online with the best word or expressions a–h. There are two words or expressions you do not need.

- 1 First of ..., we must consider changes in how much face-to-face contact teachers need to have with students. **b**
- 2 In ... to the advantages previously mentioned, an Internet-based learning system allows each student to work at their own pace. ____
- 3 ... point to consider is that the teaching content can be updated whenever necessary without reprinting costs. ____
- 4 Tests, for ... , can be assessed automatically by the system and sent to students. ____
- 5 Last but not ..., the popularity of smartphones and tablets means that classroom materials can now be accessible for students on the go. ____
- 6 In ..., the benefits on the whole outweigh the drawbacks. ____

- a each
- b all
- c addition
- d conclusion
- e finally
- f another
- g least
- h instance

1 point for each correct answer

	5
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2 Write an article about the pros and cons of keeping in touch with friends on social networks. Include the following points:

- which social networks are popular, and which ones you use.
- how you and your friends use social networks.
- how much time you and your friends usually spend communicating online and through other means.
- the advantages of communicating via social networks.
- the disadvantages.
- how you see social networks changing relationships between people.

Write your essay in 150–220 words.

Writing task

	20
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Writing total

	25
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LISTENING

Part 1

1 Listen to three people talking about getting married. Match two statements from a–h to each speaker.

Speaker 1 ____ , ____
Speaker 2 ____ , ____
Speaker 3 ____ , ____

- a wants to go diving for his/her wedding ceremony
- b hates being on top of high buildings
- c is considering getting married abroad
- d believes it is no good planning for something so unpredictable as a wedding day
- e is not sure his/her wedding day will happen in the near future
- f was inspired by an old movie
- g and his/her partner have families in different countries from where either of them live
- h wants something different from everyone else

1 point for each correct answer

	6
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2 Listen to the people again. Are these statements true (T), false (F), or not stated (NS)?

- 1 Speaker 1 is probably going to have a conventional church wedding. ____
- 2 Speaker 1 is a firm believer in having a long engagement. ____
- 3 Speaker 2 isn't keen on having her wedding at a fast food restaurant. ____
- 4 Speaker 2 isn't in a relationship at the moment. ____
- 5 Speaker 3 believes there is no point in planning a wedding. ____
- 6 Speaker 3 would only invite family members. ____

2 points for each correct answer

	12
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Skills test 5

Part 2

3 Listen to two more people talking about their weddings.

Do the following statements apply to Speaker 4, Speaker 5, both of them, or neither of them?

1 He got married abroad.

Speaker 4 / Speaker 5 / Both / Neither

2 His wedding lasted for days.

Speaker 4 / Speaker 5 / Both / Neither

3 He was moved by an ancient custom.

Speaker 4 / Speaker 5 / Both / Neither

4 His anniversary is today.

Speaker 4 / Speaker 5 / Both / Neither

5 He bought his wife some jewelry.

Speaker 4 / Speaker 5 / Both / Neither

6 He got married in the evening.

Speaker 4 / Speaker 5 / Both / Neither

7 He felt obliged to get married.

Speaker 4 / Speaker 5 / Both / Neither

1 point for each correct answer

	7
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Listening total		25
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Skills test 5

SPEAKING

1 Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 What exciting, but unexpected, family news have you had in the past? What was the news? How did other people react when they heard it?
- 2 Describe an inspirational person or story. Why do they/does it inspire you?
- 3 How have your living habits changed over the years, e.g., TV, food, sports, etc.?
- 4 Who do you turn to when you need advice? What sorts of issues do you ask their advice on?
- 5 If you could have a special talent in something you're not currently good at, what talent would you want to have? Why?

max. 1 point for each topic

	5
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2 Look at the photos. Compare the different situations and speculate on what may have happened. Describe people's likely reactions. In your opinion, what could, or should, have been done to prevent or help deal with these situations?

max. 10 points

	10
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3 Discuss the statements. Do you agree or disagree?

- 1 "Young people today are only interested in fame, not talent."
- 2 "The faster you live your life the less you enjoy it."

max. 5 points for each topic

	10
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Speaking total

	25
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Skills test 5A total

	100
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