

Skills test 1 answers

READING

1 2 g 3 c 4 f 5 j 6 l 7 i 8 h 9 k 10 b 11 a Extra ending: d

2 2 frustrated 3 appreciate 4 extended 5 routine 6 negotiation

WRITING

1 Model answer

Hi Olivia,

I'm really sorry to mess up your plans, but I'm afraid I won't be able to come to the movies with you tonight. My grandmother has become sick and I'll have to go to the hospital this evening to visit her.

How about going to the movies on the weekend instead? I should be free in the afternoon on Saturday or all day on Sunday. Or we could go dancing on Saturday night?

Let me know what you'd prefer to do.

Lots of love, Annie xx

2 Model answer

Inversions: a book review

The book that I am recommending for you to read is called *Inversions*. It was written by Iain M. Banks, author of many successful novels. He writes about our world and about imaginary worlds.

Inversions tells us two connected stories taking place on another planet in the time of knights and kings.

One story is about a king and his doctor. The doctor has a mysterious past, and she seems to know more about the modern world than anyone else. The king really likes her, but people are jealous of her and they make a plan to get rid of her.

The other story is about another king and his bodyguard. The bodyguard's past is also a mystery. A lot of people try to kill the ruler because they feel he makes too many changes to their world.

Inversions is about progress and people who do not want progress. It is an exciting adventure, but if you read it, you will learn a lot about our own world as well.

LISTENING

1 2 F 3 F 4 T 5 T 6 F 7 F 8 F 9 F 10 T 12 T

2 2 employees 3 business 4 ingredients 5 provide 6 positive

SPEAKING ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

1 Maximum 1 point for each question (total 5): 1 relevant answer, using appropriate vocabulary and grammar 0.5 short, basic answer 0 irrelevant or incorrect answer

2-3 Maximum 10 points for each task:

5	4 or 3	2 or 1	0
Content			
• relevant answer covering all the points from the task • no help needed	• mostly relevant answer covering most but not all points from the task • some details incomplete or incorrect • only a little help required	• answer covering some points from the task • incomplete or incorrect answers or misunderstood part of the task • help needed throughout	• answer not relevant or correct • completely misunderstood task • unable to express ideas in English
Language			
• varied and correct grammar • wide range of appropriate vocabulary • very few minor mistakes • good communicative skills	• adequate, mostly correct grammar • mostly appropriate vocabulary • mistakes not too serious to hinder comprehension • adequate communicative skills	• limited, often incorrect grammar • limited vocabulary, some repetition • mistakes throughout, can only be followed with some difficulty • poor or limited communicative skills	• mostly incorrect grammar • very basic vocabulary, unable to express ideas required • serious mistakes hindering comprehension • lack of communicative skills

Skills test 2 answers

READING

1 2 G 3 D 4 B 5 F 6 C Extra heading: A

2 2 T 3 F 4 F 5 T 6 F 7 T 8 F 9 F 10 T 11 T

WRITING

1 Model answer

Dear Mr. Thompson,

I am planning to apply for a scholarship abroad next semester, and I would like to make an appointment with you to discuss which classes I should take while I am abroad. Also, could you provide me with a letter of recommendation, please?

Can you please let me know what time would work for you in the next two weeks?

I would not be able to make the appointment next Monday because our class will be on a school trip.

Thank you.

Best wishes,

James Holland

2 Model answer

Hi Anna,

Thanks for your message. It was really interesting to read about where you live.

I live on the 9th floor of an apartment building near downtown. Our apartment is quite small, but it's comfortable and it's very convenient for shopping and school.

I live with my parents, and my older sister, Lilly. I don't have my own room. I have to share with my sister. In the room we've got two beds, a big bookcase, two desks, a computer, and lots of posters on the walls.

My favorite place in the whole apartment is the balcony. It's nice to be outside but still be at home! When the weather's good, I love reading there, and listening to music. In the evenings I just sit there and watch the sunset.

What about you? What do you like doing? Do you have any hobbies?

Write soon.

Lots of love, Angie

LISTENING

1 2 b 3 b 4 a 5 a 6 b 7 b 8 a 9 a 10 b 11 a

2 2 T 3 T 4 F 5 F 6 T

SPEAKING

See guidelines for Test 1.

Skills test 3 answers

READING

1 1 F 2 D 3 E 4 G 5 A

2 2 F 3 T 4 F 5 T 6 T 7 T 8 T 9 T 10 T 11 F

3 2 pilgrimage 3 rugged 4 unspoiled 5 immerse 6 heritage

WRITING

1 Model answer

Hi Chris,

Greetings from sunny Miami! I'm having a great time here with my friends. We rented a small house near the beach and it's really cozy! Miami was the cheapest vacation we found, but we don't regret it!

We've explored a lot of the city already – we go on a lot of walking trips, visit charming little stores and amazing museums. I never knew Miami had so much to offer besides the beach! And the people are very friendly.

Wish you were here!

Love,
Andy

2 Model answer

The most exciting day of my life

The most exciting day in my life was the day I moved to the first apartment of my own.

The day started very early in the morning. I'd packed everything the week before but I wanted to make sure I didn't forget anything. The van I had hired arrived at eight. Two of my friends helped me put everything in the back – it took us an hour.

We arrived at the apartment after a two-hour drive, and started unpacking immediately. When I first opened the door with my own key, I cried. I was so happy. I felt really grown-up and independent.

I celebrated with a pizza in the middle of the living room with my friends. There were lots of boxes everywhere. We had to sit on the floor because we'd forgotten to put the chairs in the van. But we didn't mind.

I'm now living in a bigger, more comfortable apartment. But I know I'll never feel the same happiness that I felt in my first home.

LISTENING

1 2 F 3 F 4 T 5 T 6 T 7 F 8 F 9 T 10 T 11 F

2 1 a 2 b 3 a 4 a 5 b 6 b

SPEAKING

See guidelines for Test 1.

Skills test 4 answers

READING

1 1 A month ago 2 Twelve 3 200 close friends, including international celebrities 4 She wanted to share her happiest day with her fans.

2 1 b 2 c 3 a 4 c 5 c 6 b 7 c

3 2 propelled to stardom 3 became romantically involved 4 a private occasion 5 in the public eye 6 a complete waste of time

WRITING

1 Model answer

Hi Nick,

Thank you very much for inviting me to your party last weekend. It was fantastic! What I loved best was the karaoke competition at the end of the evening. It's a shame you didn't win! You have a great voice.

How about meeting up this weekend to go to a football game or something? It would be fun!

Let me know which day would work for you. I'm free all weekend.

Hope to see you soon.
Darren

2 Model answer

Finding research online is easy

Most people feel that the fact that you can find endless amounts of information on any subject online is a good thing. However, finding endless amounts of information has both advantages and disadvantages.

It is true that nowadays we have access to information that was not easy to find before. On the plus side, people can search online any time of any day. There aren't opening hours like a library, so it is really convenient. On top of that, there is probably no subject in the world that isn't discussed about online. This makes it easy to find information on any topic.

Finally, anyone can publish opinions and thoughts online and this allows us to communicate with people from all over the world and share our knowledge. This is also a disadvantage, however. Although there is endless information available, it is often difficult to know if the information is correct or current.

In conclusion, my view is that finding research online is easy, but we should check that the source of the information is correct.

LISTENING

1 1 b 2 c 3 d 4 a 5 e

2 1 T 2 T 3 T 4 F 5 F

3 1 6:30 2 4 people: 3 male and 1 female 3 in a van 4 cash 5 a backpack

SPEAKING

See guidelines for Test 1.

Skills test 5 answers

READING

1 2 F 3 T 4 T 5 F 6 F 7 T 8 F 9 T 10 F 11 F

2 2 defeated 3 cherished 4 loathed 5 feud 6 confront

WRITING

1 Model answer

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am planning a vacation and would like to receive a copy of your current catalog by email.

I am especially interested in vacations in late June. I have a limited budget, so I would not mind a camping vacation. I am very interested in extreme sports like bungee jumping or rafting.

Do you think you could recommend something suitable for me? Can you please also let me know about total costs, including the flight?

Many thanks.

Best wishes,

Louise Evans

2 Model answer

Everyone in the community is responsible for the way young people behave.

My view is that young people behave the way they learn to behave from the community they live in.

Older generations often criticize young people for their behavior. They accuse them of being rude and irresponsible. I think, however, that this reflects a very one-sided view. It is true that some young people are irresponsible, and some of them even break the law. I think it is important for them to accept responsibility for their own actions.

On the other hand, we should not generalize, and treat all young people the same way. There are many responsible young people who deserve a place in adult society.

Older generations should also show a positive example for young people. They definitely should not promote negative ideas like racism, intolerance, or sexism. The community should give young people meaningful things to do, so they learn how to contribute to society.

In my view, community means doing things together: everybody doing what they can for the benefit of everyone else. This includes teaching young people about responsibility.

LISTENING

1 2 c 3 f 4 i 5 g 6 h 7 a 8 j 9 e 10 k 11 d

2 2 seven 3 fifty 4 secondary 5 cold 6 parents

SPEAKING

See guidelines for Test 1.