

Part 1A: Vocabulary – Multiple-Choice Gap Fill

Theme: Pushing Boundaries | Nature or Nurture

Total Marks: 14 (2 marks per question)

Read the text below and choose the correct word for each blank.

Human behavior has long fascinated scientists who study whether our actions are shaped by (1) _____ or by our environment. Some researchers argue that our abilities and personality are (2) _____, meaning they are passed down through our genes. Others believe that experiences and surroundings influence how the (3) _____ develops and how we learn.

Twins who were separated at birth but later (4) _____ often provide surprising evidence. Many display (5) _____ similarities in their habits, preferences, and ways of thinking, even though they grew up in different places. Such cases highlight how (6) _____ and environment interact in complex ways.

Ultimately, both nature and nurture play a role in shaping our (7) _____, creating the unique mix that defines who we are.

Choose the correct answer for each blank:

- a) knowledge
- b) genetics
- c) chemicals

- a) heritable
- b) identical

c) powerful

a) brain

b) colleague

c) identity

a) be reunited

b) be reminded

c) be remembered

a) identical

b) natural

c) due

a) attitude

b) behavior

c) insight

a) personality

b) peer

c) thrill

Answer Key:

1. b

2. a

3. a

4. a

- 5. a
- 6. b
- 7. a

Part 1B: Grammar – Multiple-Choice Gap Fill

Theme: Rise to the Challenge! | My Roof Is Alive!

Total Marks: 14 (2 marks per question)

Read the text below and choose the correct word(s) to complete each blank.

Modern cities are finding creative ways to make buildings more (1) _____ and environmentally friendly. One popular innovation is the green roof — a roof covered with plants that help absorb rainwater and reduce heat. If more people (2) _____ green roofs, cities would become cooler and cleaner.

Green roofs provide natural (3) _____ and help reduce energy use. They are made up of several (4) _____ of materials that protect the building from leaks and overflow. If it (5) _____ heavily, the plants and soil absorb much of the rainwater, preventing flooding.

Architects say that cities (6) _____ include more eco-friendly designs to face the challenges of climate change. With continued innovation, we can build homes that are both beautiful and sustainable for the (7) _____ future.

Choose the correct answer for each blank:

a) historical

b) planet-friendly

c) overconfident

a) install

b) will install

c) installed

a) insulation

b) reduction

c) overflow

a) layers

b) creations

c) drawbacks

a) rains

b) rained

c) will rain

a) must

b) can't

c) may not

a) short-term

b) long-term

c) low-priced

Answer Key:

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

Part 2: Reading – Multiple Choice

Theme: Pushing Boundaries | The Truth About Multitasking

Total Marks: 16 (2 marks each)

Task: Read the text carefully and choose the correct answer for each question.

Text (approx. 340 words)

In today's fast-paced world, multitasking has become a common expectation. People believe that being able to do several things at once — answering emails while attending meetings or studying while listening to music — makes them more efficient. However, research suggests that multitasking might actually reduce productivity rather than improve it.

According to neuroscientists, the brain is not designed to focus on more than one complex task at a time. When you switch from one task to another, your brain needs time to reorient itself. This process, known as task-switching cost, can slow you down and lead to more mistakes. For example, a student who keeps checking messages while writing an essay may take much longer to finish and produce lower-quality work.

In one experiment conducted by Stanford University, participants who frequently multitasked performed worse on memory tests and had more difficulty filtering out irrelevant information. The researchers concluded that people who believe they are good at multitasking are often less competent at managing attention than those who focus on a single task.

Despite these findings, many companies still value employees who appear “busy” all the time. The impression of constant activity is often mistaken for productivity. However, true efficiency comes from being able to concentrate deeply on one thing until it is done well.

Experts recommend practicing single-tasking — turning off unnecessary notifications, setting priorities, and giving full attention to one task at a time. By doing so, people can improve their performance, reduce stress, and make better use of their mental energy. In the long term, focusing deeply may not only increase productivity but also lead to greater creativity and satisfaction at work and in life.

Questions

1. What is the main idea of the text?
 - a) Multitasking makes people faster and smarter.
 - b) Multitasking is less effective than focusing on one task.
 - c) Technology helps the brain multitask efficiently.
2. What does the term task-switching cost refer to?
 - a) The time lost when changing from one task to another.
 - b) The money spent on multitasking tools.
 - c) The cost of training employees to multitask.
3. According to the text, frequent multitaskers tend to:
 - a) Have better memory and focus.
 - b) Work faster with fewer errors.
 - c) Perform worse on memory tests.

4. What common misconception do many companies have?
 - a) They think being busy means being productive.
 - b) They believe focusing deeply wastes time.
 - c) They assume creativity comes from multitasking.
 5. What advice do experts give to improve efficiency?
 - a) Work longer hours without breaks.
 - b) Focus on one task at a time.
 - c) Increase the number of daily tasks.
 6. What is a likely benefit of single-tasking according to the text?
 - a) Greater creativity and satisfaction.
 - b) Increased competition at work.
 - c) Better ability to multitask later.
 7. The author's tone in the text can best be described as:
 - a) Critical and persuasive.
 - b) Humorous and informal.
 - c) Neutral and indifferent.
 8. Which statement best summarizes the author's conclusion?
 - a) The brain is naturally built for multitasking.
 - b) True productivity requires focus and attention.
 - c) Multitasking improves performance in all cases.
-

Answer Key

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

7. a
8. b

The Myth of Multitasking

In today's fast-paced world, many people believe that multitasking is the key to success. Students often listen to music while studying, workers reply to emails during meetings, and drivers attempt to send text messages while on the road. Multitasking seems to give the impression of efficiency, but in reality, it is often a rare exception rather than the rule. Research shows that the brain is not designed to handle several demanding tasks at the same time. Instead, the brain switches rapidly from one activity to another, which reduces concentration and increases mistakes.

One major problem with multitasking is its negative effect on memory skills. When attention is divided, people fail to encode information properly. For instance, a student who scrolls through social media while reading a textbook may later realize that very little of the material was memorized. This inefficiency can lead to lower academic performance and unnecessary stress.

Furthermore, multitasking creates a false sense of competence. People assume that finishing two or three activities at once saves time, but research has proven otherwise. In fact, completing tasks sequentially is usually faster and produces higher quality results. A computer-based study, for example, found that participants who focused on one task completed it 40% faster than those who attempted to juggle multiple tasks.

Supporters of multitasking argue that certain simple activities can be combined without difficulty—like walking while listening to music. However, these are exceptions that do not involve the same level of cognitive demand as reading, solving problems, or making critical decisions. In situations that require focus, multitasking is not only inefficient but also dangerous, as seen in the case of texting while driving.

In conclusion, while multitasking might appear impressive, it is far from effective. To achieve real success, people should practice concentration, finish one task before moving to the next, and recognize that quality is always more valuable than speed.

Word Count: 344

9

Q1. What is the main argument of the passage?

- A) Multitasking improves memory skills.
 - B) Multitasking is less effective than focusing on one task.
 - C) Multitasking is the only way to succeed in modern life.
-

Q2. According to the passage, what does the brain actually do when multitasking?

- A) It processes all tasks simultaneously.
 - B) It switches rapidly between tasks.
 - C) It ignores less important tasks.
-

Q3. What is one negative effect of multitasking on students?

- A) It increases the chance of memorizing more information.
 - B) It reduces their ability to encode information properly.
 - C) It makes studying more enjoyable.
-

Q4. The computer-based study mentioned in the text found that:

- A) Multitaskers completed tasks 40% faster.
 - B) Focused participants completed tasks 40% faster.
 - C) Both groups finished tasks at the same speed.
-

Q5. Why is multitasking sometimes seen as efficient?

A) It gives the impression of saving time.

B) It always improves concentration.

C) It guarantees higher quality work.

Q6. Which of the following is presented as an exception to the negative view of multitasking?

A) Texting while driving.

B) Walking while listening to music.

C) Solving math problems while talking.

Q7. The author suggests that real success comes from:

A) Completing as many tasks as possible at the same time.

B) Prioritizing speed over quality.

C) Practicing concentration and finishing one task before another.

Q8. What type of text is this passage?

A) Narrative

B) Argumentative

C) Descriptive

Q1: B

Q2: B

Q3: B

Q4: B

Q5: A

Q6: B

Q7: C

Q8: B

English End-of-Term 1 Test – Grade 12 Advanced

Part 4: Writing

Theme: Rise to the Challenge – Two Different Ways of Living: A Personal Viewpoint

Total Marks: 40

Word Count: At least 220 words

Text for Questions 4.1 and 4.2

Two Different Ways of Living

In today's world, people have very different ideas about the best way to live. Some believe that living in a busy city offers endless opportunities for success and excitement. Cities provide access to education, job opportunities, entertainment, and modern conveniences. City life is often described as fast-paced and stimulating, where people can meet others from all over the world and stay connected to global trends. However, city life can also be stressful and expensive, with constant noise, traffic, and limited personal space.

Others, however, prefer the peace and simplicity of life in the countryside. They value clean air, open spaces, and a slower lifestyle. In rural areas, people often have closer relationships with neighbors and a stronger sense of community. Life in the countryside allows people to connect with nature and live more sustainably, away

from the pressure of city life. Yet, it may lack access to healthcare, education, and job opportunities found in urban areas.

In the end, both lifestyles have their advantages and disadvantages, and choosing between them often depends on what a person values most: excitement and opportunity, or peace and simplicity.

4.1

Read the text carefully.

What are the two different points of view presented in the text?

Summarise them in your own words. (Write about 200 words in total.)


4.2

Read the text again.

Main Writing Prompt:

Write a comparative essay in response to the prompts below.

- Prompt 1: Which lifestyle do you personally prefer — city life or country life?
- Prompt 2: Explain why you agree with that point of view.
- Prompt 3: Support your opinion with evidence or examples from the text.

 Write at least 220 words.

Remember to:

- Organize your essay into clear paragraphs.
- Use linking words and cohesive devices.
- Express agreement or disagreement appropriately.
- Use correct grammar, vocabulary, and structure.

