



## Self-Assessment Test: English

**Level: C2 Proficiency**

Thank you for your interest in our self-assessment test.

This test is for proficient learners of English and should help you to assess your current English skills.

We wish you good luck and hope you will have fun doing this test.

### Regulations

Time	100 minutes
Aids	No dictionaries or other aids allowed
Correction	Correct your test yourself with the key available on the pages 15 – 17. In the key you will find indicated how many marks are given for every correct answer.
Level	The tasks in this assessment are based on a CPE level. Nevertheless, your result will show which entry level (from B2 up to C2) you have achieved.

### Scoreboard

Assessment Test	Points	My Score
Paper 1 – Use of English	36	
Paper 2 – Reading	36	
Total	72	

### Assessment

Points Scored	Level	Recommendation
50 - 72	C2	Ready for the CPE-Diploma Exam
30 - 49	C1	Ready for the CPE-Diploma Course
1 - 29	B2	Ready for any B2 course

# Reading and Use of English

## Use of English

### Part 1: Multiple Choice Lexical Cloze

#### Instructions

For questions 1 - 8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

## Planetary Artistry

By Johanna Kean

For me, the highlight of this past week's science news was the images **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ back from the Curiosity rover, providing **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ geologic evidence that water flowed on Mars. Of course, this wasn't exactly a surprise; for decades, planetary scientists have suggested the channel networks visible in spacecraft imagery couldn't have been made by anything else. The evidence has been **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ as well, as various clay minerals and iron oxides have been identified through hyperspectral imagery.

Nonetheless, I suspect that the image of definitely water-lain **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ made the heart of more than one geologist **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ a beat. Ground truth. You could argue that the scientific exploration of the extra-terrestrial is, at least **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ part, a search for meaning: to position us within a larger cosmology. But our fascination with, and connection to, what we see in the night sky comes not just through science, but also through art. So it should come as no surprise that scientific images of planetary surfaces have **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_ inspiration to a range of artists from Galileo - whose first sketches of the moon through a telescope are **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_ beautiful - to Barbara Hepworth - whose interpretations of the lunar surface are far less literal.

- |    |              |                |               |               |
|----|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | a) thrown    | b) shot        | c) beamed     | d) fired      |
| 2. | a) final     | b) conclusive  | c) proven     | d) guaranteed |
| 3. | a) swelling  | b) expanding   | c) increasing | d) mounting   |
| 4. | a) sediments | b) dross       | c) grounds    | d) matter     |
| 5. | a) slip      | b) lose        | c) skip       | d) jump       |
| 6. | a) with      | b) in          | c) at         | d) for        |
| 7. | a) offered   | b) provided    | c) given      | d) made       |
| 8. | a) totally   | b) doubtlessly | c) surely     | d) truly      |

## Part 2: Open Cloze

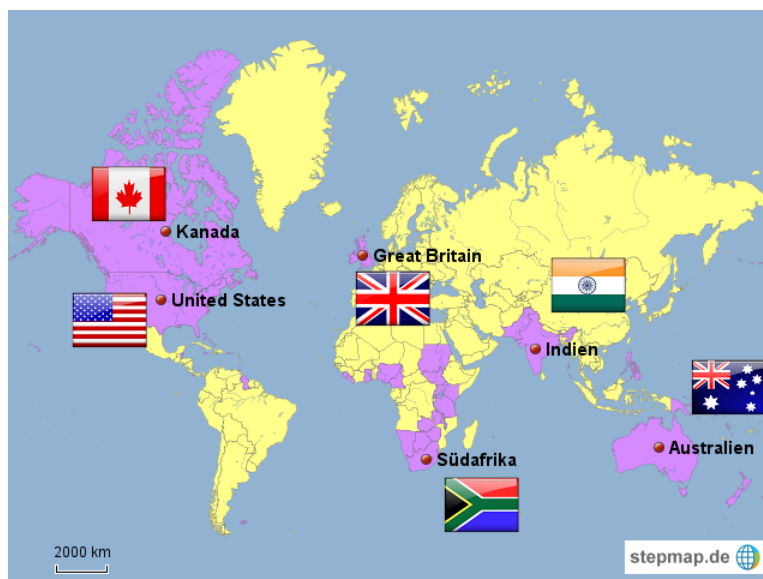
### Instructions

For questions 9 - 16, read the text below and write the word that best fits in each space. Use only one word in each space.

There is an example below: (0) as

## English All Over the World

Global English exists (0) \_\_\_\_\_ a political and cultural reality. Many misguided theories attempt to explain why the English language should have succeeded internationally, whilst (9) \_\_\_\_\_ have not. Is it because there is something inherently logical or beautiful about the structure of English? Does its simple grammar make it easy to learn? Such ideas are misconceived. Latin was once a major international language, (10) \_\_\_\_\_ having a complicated grammatical structure, and English also presents learners with all manner of real difficulties, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ least its spelling system. Ease of learning, therefore, has little to do with it. (12) \_\_\_\_\_ all, children learn to speak their mother tongue in approximately the same period of time, (13) \_\_\_\_\_ of their language. English has spread not (14) \_\_\_\_\_ much for linguistic reasons, but rather because it has often found (15) \_\_\_\_\_ in the right place, at the right time. Since the 1960s, two major developments have contributed to strengthening this global status. Firstly, in a number of countries, English is now used in addition to national or regional languages. As well as this, an electronic revolution has taken place. It is estimated that (16) \_\_\_\_\_ the region of 80% of worldwide electronic communication is now in English.



## Part 3: Word Formation

### Instructions

For questions **17 - 24**, read the text below. Use the word in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the space in the same line.

There is an example **(0)** at the beginning.

### A Musical Genius

For many people Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) is the most  
**(0)** *influential* figure in the history of western classical music.  
His **(17)** \_\_\_\_\_ talent was already clearly evident as a young  
man, **(18)** \_\_\_\_\_ surviving a somewhat unconventional  
**(19)** \_\_\_\_\_ during which his eccentric father would often  
force him to take music lessons in the middle of the night. The  
young Beethoven's ability won him the admiration of the leading  
contemporary musical figures. Throughout the 1790s he worked  
hard to secure the interest of wealthy patrons. Such patronage  
**(20)** \_\_\_\_\_ him to concentrate on becoming a successful  
composer.

**INFLUENCE**

**ORDINARY**

**MERCY**

**BRING**

**ABLE**

Whatever his awe-inspiring musical **(21)** \_\_\_\_\_, however, his  
personal life was something of a disaster. His day-to-day  
**(22)** \_\_\_\_\_ with people invariably turned out to be rather  
turbulent. Although he apparently fell in love with a number of  
society women, the identity of the girl who lay closest to his heart  
remains **(23)** \_\_\_\_\_ to this day. However, just at the point  
when Beethoven was beginning to reap the rewards of his early  
endeavours, he had to come to terms with the crushing realisation  
that his increasing deafness was **(24)** \_\_\_\_\_. From that point  
on, his music displayed a striking change in style, becoming both  
heavier in tone and larger in scale.

**ACHIEVE**

**RELATE**

**ELUDE**

**CURE**

**“Music is ... a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy”  
- Ludwig van Beethoven**

## Part 4: Key Word Transformation

### Instructions

For questions **25 - 30**, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.

25. The mistake in the accounts was not noticed until the figures were re-checked.  
**LIGHT**  
The mistake in the accounts only \_\_\_\_\_ the figures were re-checked.
26. I had no problems at all during my trip to France.  
**PLAN**  
Everything \_\_\_\_\_ during my trip to France.
27. The heavy downpour brought their picnic to an abrupt end.  
**CUT**  
They had to \_\_\_\_\_ because of the heavy downpour.
28. The reforms will not succeed unless they are carefully planned.  
**CRUCIAL**  
Careful \_\_\_\_\_ of the reforms.
29. They think that Helen's brother stole the money.  
**SUSPECTED**  
Helen's brother \_\_\_\_\_ the money.
30. I feel completely exhausted when I've listened to Marion for half-an-hour.  
**LEAVES**  
Half-an-hour \_\_\_\_\_ completely exhausted.

# Reading

## Part 5: Multiple Choice

### Instructions

You are going to read the introduction from a book on sports. For question **1-6**, choose the answer (**A, B, C, or D**) which you think fits best according to the text.

## SPORTSWRITING

Offices and bars are full of casual obscenity, but most British newspapers are ... well, not necessarily careful about language, but careful about bad words anyway. The phrase 'family newspaper' is an ineluctable part of our lives. Newspapers are not in the business of giving gratuitous offence. It is a limitation of newspaper writing, and one everybody in the business, whether writing or reading, understands and accepts. There are many other necessary limitations, and most of these concern time and space.

Newspapers have dominated sportswriting in Britain for years, and have produced their own totem figures and doyens. But ten years ago, a new player entered the game. This was the phenomenon of men's magazines; monthly magazines for men that had actual words in them - words for actually reading. GQ was the pioneer and, in my totally unbiased opinion as the long-term author of the magazine's sports column, it leads the way still, leaving the rest panting distantly in its wake.

Sport, is of course, a blindingly obvious subject for a men's magazine - but it could not be tacked in a blindingly obvious way. Certainly, one of the first things GQ was able to offer was a new way of writing about sport, but this was not so much a cunning plan as a necessity. The magazine was doomed, as it were, to offer a whole new range of freedoms to its sportswriters. Heady and rather alarming freedoms. Freedom of vocabulary was simply the most obvious one and, inevitably, it appealed to the schoolboy within us. But space and time were the others, and these possibilities meant that the craft of sportswriting had to be reinvented.

Unlike newspapers, a magazine can offer a decent length of time to research and to write. These are, you would think, luxuries - especially to those of us who are often required to read an 800-word match report over the telephone the instant the final whistle has gone. Such a discipline is nerve-racking, but as long as you can get it done at all, you have done a good job. No one expects a masterpiece under such circumstances. In some ways, the ferocious restrictions make the job easier. But a long magazine deadline gives you the disconcerting and agoraphobic freedom to research, to write, to think.

To write a piece for a newspaper, at about a quarter of the massive GQ length, you require a single thought. The best method is to find a really good idea, and then to pursue it remorselessly to the end, where ideally you make a nice joke and bale out stylishly. If it is an interview piece, you look for a few good quotes, and if you get them, that's your piece written for you. For a longer piece, you must seek the non-obvious. This is a good quality in the best of newspaper writing, but an absolute essential for any writer who hopes to complete the terrifying amount of words that GQ requires. If you write for GQ you are condemned to try and join the best. There is no other way.

GQ is not restricted by the same conventions of reader expectation as a newspaper. You need not worry about offending people or alienating them; the whole ethos of the magazine is that readers are there to be challenged. There will be readers who would find some of its pieces offensive or even impossible in a newspaper, or even in a different magazine. But the same readers will read the piece in GQ and find it enthralling.

That is because the magazine is always slightly uncomfortable to be with. It is not like a cosy member of the family, nor even like a friend. It is the strong, self-opinionated person that you can never quite make up your mind whether you like or not. You admire him, but you are slightly uneasy with him. The people around him might not altogether approve of everything he says; some might not care for him at all. But they feel compelled to listen. The self-confidence is too compelling. And just when you think he is beginning to become rather a bore, he surprises you with his genuine intelligence. He makes a broad joke, and then suddenly he is demanding you follow him in the turning of an intellectual somersault.

1. What does the writer say about newspapers in the first paragraph?
  - A. They tend not to include articles readers will find very challenging.
  - B. Articles in them do not reflect the way people really speak.
  - C. They are more concerned with profit than with quality of writing.
  - D. They fail to realise what kind of writing would appeal to readers.
  
2. What does the writer imply in the second paragraph?
  - A. GQ magazine contains articles that are well worth reading.
  - B. Some of the more recent men's magazines are unlikely to survive.
  - C. The standard of sportswriting in newspapers has improved in recent times.
  - D. He is in a position to give an objective view of sportswriting in magazines.
  
3. Why were sportswriters for GQ given new freedoms?
  - A. Some restrictions of newspaper writing do not apply to writing for GQ.
  - B. The magazine's initial plans for its sports articles proved unrealistic.
  - C. Notions about what made good sports journalism were changing.
  - D. The writers that it wanted to employ demanded greater freedom.



4. What does the writer say about the amount of time allowed for producing articles?
- The best articles are often produced under great pressure of time.
  - Having a long time to produce an article encourages laziness.
  - Writers are seldom satisfied by articles produced in a hurry.
  - Having very little time to produce an article can be an advantage.
5. Why can't writers for GQ use the same methods as writers for newspapers?
- Articles in GQ are not allowed to consist mainly of interviews.
  - They want to be considered better than writers for newspapers.
  - Writers for newspapers do not have so much space to fill.
  - They've been told to avoid the conventions of newspaper writing.
6. What does the writer say in the penultimate paragraph about certain pieces in GQ?
- They will create enormous controversy.
  - They unintentionally upset some of its readers.
  - They are a response to demand from readers.
  - They are a good fit for the GQ reader.





## Part 6: Gapped Text

### Instructions

You are going to read an extract from a short story. Seven paragraphs have been removed from the extract. Choose from the paragraphs **A-H** the one which best fits each gap **(7-13)**. There is one extra paragraph that you do not need to use.

## Short Story – The Indian Caterer

Just at that turning between Market Road and the lane leading to the chemist's shop he had his 'establishment'. At eight in the evening you would not see him, and again at ten you would see nothing, but between those times he arrived, sold his goods and departed. Those who saw him remarked thus, 'Lucky fellow! He has hardly an hour's work a day and he pockets ten rupees - even graduates are unable to earn that! Three hundred rupees a month!' He felt irritated when he heard such glib remarks and said, 'What these folks do not see is that I sit before the oven practically all day frying all this ...'

7. \_\_\_\_\_

At about 8.15 in the evening he arrived with a load of stuff. He looked as if he had four arms, so many things he carried about him. His equipment was the big tray balanced on his head with its assortment of edibles, a stool stuck in the crook of his arm, a lamp in another hand and a couple of portable legs for mounting his tray. He lit the lamp, a lantern which consumed six pies' worth of kerosene every day, and kept it near at hand, since he had to guard a lot of loose cash and a variety of miscellaneous articles.

8. \_\_\_\_\_

He always arrived in time to catch the cinema crowd coming out after the evening show. A pretender to the throne, a young scraggy fellow, sat on his spot until he arrived and did business, but he did not let that bother him unduly. In fact, he felt generous enough to say, 'Let the poor rat do his business when I am not there.' This sentiment was amply respected, and the pretender moved off a minute before the arrival of the prince among caterers.

9. \_\_\_\_\_

Though so much probing was going on, he knew exactly who was taking what. He knew by an extraordinary sense which of the jukta drivers was picking up chappatis at a given moment - he could even mention the license number. He knew that the stained hand nervously coming up was that of a youngster who polished the shoes of passers-by. And he knew exactly at what hour he would see the wrestler's arm searching for the perfect duck's egg. His custom was drawn from the population swarming the pavement: the boot polish boys, for instance, who wandered to and fro with brush and polish in a bag, endlessly soliciting 'Polish, sir, polish!' Rama had a soft spot for them.

10. \_\_\_\_\_

It rent his heart to see their hungry hollow eyes. It pained him to see the rags they wore. And it made him very unhappy to see the tremendous eagerness with which they came to

him. But what could he do? He could not run a charity show, that was impossible. He measured out their half-glass of coffee correct to a fraction of an inch, but they could cling to the glass for as long as they liked.

**11. \_\_\_\_\_**

He lived in the second lane behind the market. His wife opened the door, throwing into the night air the scent of burnt oil which perpetually hung about their home. She snatched from his hand all the ecumbrances and counted the cash immediately.

**12. \_\_\_\_\_**

After dinner, he tucked a betel leaf and tobacco in his cheek and slept. He had dreams of traffic constables bullying him to move on and health inspectors saying he was spreading all kinds of disease and depopulating the city. But fortunately in actual life no one bothered him very seriously. The health officer no doubt came and said, 'You must put all this under a glass lid, otherwise I shall destroy it some day ... Take care!'

**13. \_\_\_\_\_**

Rama no doubt violated all the well-accepted canons of cleanliness and sanitation, but still his customers not only survived his fare but seemed actually to flourish on it, having consumed it for years without showing signs of being any the worse for it.



## Paragraphs

- A.** Rama prepared a limited quantity of snacks for sale, but even then he had to carry back remnants. He consumed some of it himself, and the rest he warmed up and brought out for sale the next day.
- B.** All the coppers that men and women of this part of the universe earned through their miscellaneous jobs ultimately came to him at the end of the day. He put all his money into a little cloth bag dangling from his neck under his shirt, and carried it home, soon after the night show had started at the theatre.
- C.** No one could walk past his display without throwing a look at it. A heap of bondas, which seemed puffed and big but melted in one's mouth; dosais, white, round, and limp, looking like layers of muslin; chappatis so thin you could lift fifty of them on a little finger; duck's eggs, hard-boiled, resembling a heap of ivory balls; and perpetually boiling coffee on a stove. He had a separate aluminium pot in which he kept chutney, which went gratis with almost every item.
- D.** His customers liked him. They said in admiration, 'Is there another place where you can get six pies and four chappatis for one anna?' They sat around his tray, taking what they wanted. A dozen hands hovered about it every minute, because his customers were entitled to pick up, examine, and accept their stuff after proper scrutiny.
- E.** They gloated over it. 'Five rupees invested in the morning has produced another five...!' They ruminated on the exquisite mystery of this multiplication. Then it was put back for further investment on the morrow and the gains carefully separated and put away in a little wooden box.
- F.** But he was a kindly man in private. 'How the customers survive the food, I can't understand. I suppose people build up a sort of immunity to such poisons, with all that dust blowing on it and the gutter behind.'
- G.** He got up when the cock in the next house crowed. Sometimes it had a habit of waking up at three in the morning and letting out a shriek. 'Why has the cock lost his normal sleep?' Rama wondered as he awoke, but it was a signal he could not miss. Whether it three o'clock or four, it was all the same to him. He had to get up and start his day.
- H.** When he saw some customer haggling, he felt like shouting, 'Give the poor fellow a little more. Don't begrudge it. If you pay an anna more he can have a dosai and a chapatti.'



## Part 7: Multiple Matching

### Instructions

You are going to read an extract from an article about modern art and whether it can be called 'art'. For questions **14-23**, choose from the people (**A, B, C or D**). The people may be chosen more than once.

### Is it Art?

#### Corinne

Art is the result of an artist using her or his skill or creative imagination for a creative purpose, to give pleasure to the viewer through its aesthetic qualities, or to get a reaction from the audience to a wider more significant issue outside of the work of art itself. That work of art might be a painting, a sculpture, an installation of some kind or an example from the performing arts like dance or mime. I think we sometimes get bogged down by the notion of 'skill'. For many in the anti modern art camp, there needs to be evidence of the artist's craft on show before the work is taken seriously and can merit the term 'art', be it intricate drawing skills, expert use of form or an artist's eye for colour. I'm not suggesting that an artist need not have these credentials but hand in hand with craft is, as I said earlier, creative imagination, the ability to see the value or beauty of something unremarkable which would often go unnoticed by the untrained eye. Much of modern art I think possesses this second quality which is why I often leave an exhibition of modern art feeling that I've had the chance to reflect on something that I wouldn't normally have given the time of day to. The art has engaged me, has had an impact, made me think about something in a way that I wouldn't have thought about before.

#### Michael

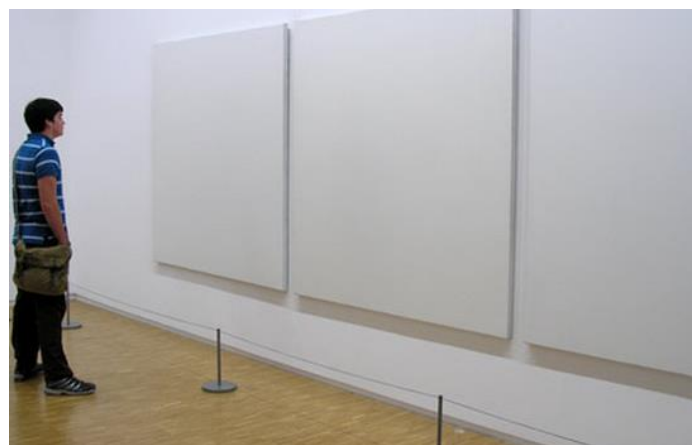
I would certainly call myself an art enthusiast and have been for many years and in my opinion the modern art world is full of second-rate junk which most of us, if we were being totally honest, would agree a 4-year-old child could do. The idea that a slept-in bed such as that 'produced' by Tracy Emin or many of the pieces by Damien Hirst and his ilk are works of art is hard to justify as is the huge price tag that accompanies their work. I find it particularly galling when extremely talented people out there who have spent years honing their skills and learning the craft of drawing or painting are completely ignored. What's more, one of the dangers of this kind of 'art' is that it serves to alienate the mass of the population from the visual arts. The man in the street viewing one of these pieces is left thinking the world of modern art has no value; worse still, that he lacks the intellectual ability to understand the meaning of the piece when in fact there is little to interpret. Thankfully, one or two great artists make it through, but I'm afraid many are lost amongst the deluge of dross the art-world deems 'art'. For me, the first measure of the worth of an artist must be the degree of skill exhibited in the work or at the very least a pedigree of fine art preceding any more abstract pieces produced by the artist such as was the case with Picasso.

## Robert

The idea that modern art is some kind of mass deception and that all modern artists are talentless fraudsters just doesn't hold water. And I'm not talking here about the painters who for centuries have made a living out of copying works of art and selling them on as originals. I'm talking about abstract art and the idea that the great art collectors such as the Saatchis or Rockefellas and the great museums of art around the world, would somehow allow themselves to be duped into paying a fortune for an abstract painting or sculpture. Are these artists really tricking these people into paying huge sums of money for something worthless? Of course not. Though some of these works may not appear to the layman as having any artistic merit, neither did the great impressionists or the more abstract works of Picasso or Rothko when they were first exhibited. In the same way that great poetry can speak to us in a way that prose never can, abstract art can engage with the audience in more subtle and effective ways than is the case with art of a more realistic nature. So, they may get their fingers burnt now and again but I don't think the Saatchis will be cursing the day they spent huge sums on works of abstract art. Quite the opposite in fact and in the process of making a canny investment they have helped further raise the profile of some of our great modern artists.

## Janet

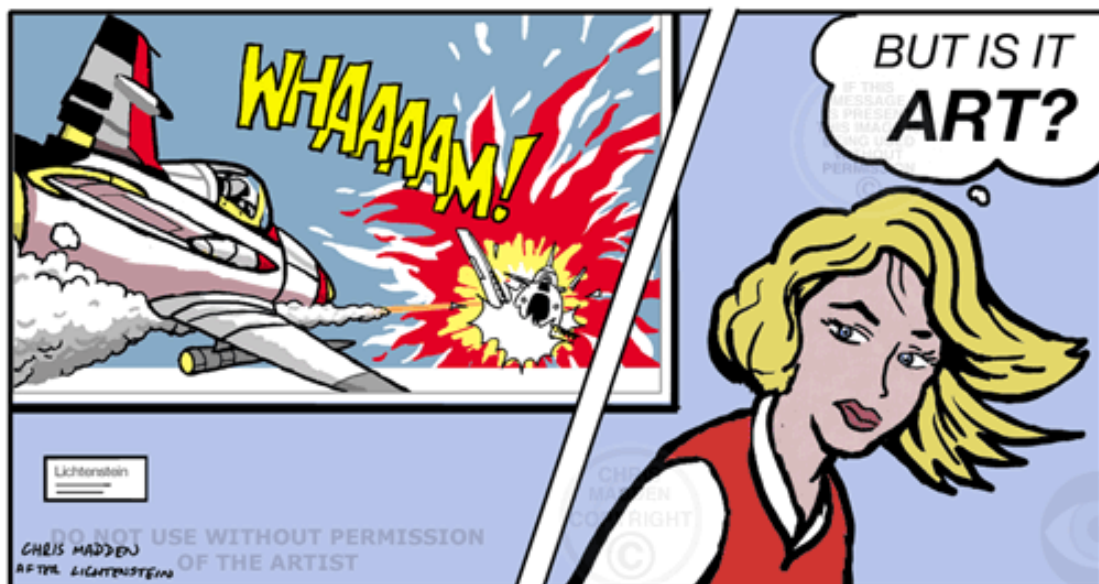
Here we go again: the media are once more up in arms about the latest 'is it art' shock-horror editorials following the latest Turner Prize shortlisting. When will they learn? For decades art in many forms has moved away from realism and towards abstraction. Ever since the invention and popularisation of photography, art has had to reinvent itself. Patrons who wanted a perfect representation of themselves no longer needed to turn to the artist. Artists started to struggle with the challenge of catching the essence of the thing depicted rather than simply its external appearance. Abstract artists try to convey a pure idea, not the exact replica of the subject concerned. It's true that some works of art are so obscure that you may need to read up on the theory behind the creation, which is usually helpfully supplied in art galleries. But this isn't always necessary. Take Guernica by Picasso. To get a full understanding of this painting it could be argued the audience needs to appreciate the historical context, the bombing of the Basque city during the Spanish Civil War. It would also probably help to have a good understanding of the techniques of abstraction that Picasso had used to create the effect. However, I think most people viewing this masterpiece would be struck by the horror it depicts even without this background knowledge. And I would argue it is the effect of this abstraction that adds to the impact on us compared to a realistic portrayal of such a scene.





**Which person gives each of these opinions about modern art?**

14. Some practices have been going on for hundreds of years.
15. Some people may not have the knowledge to understand a work of art fully.
16. Certain aesthetic qualities can be invisible until brought to our attention by the artist.
17. Picasso is an example of an artist who proved his craftsmanship.
18. Appreciation of the work itself is not always the artist's aim.
19. The purpose of Art has undergone change.
20. People don't always appreciate the works of great artists initially.
21. Abstract art is generally overpriced.
22. Abstract art isn't always a good investment.
23. We can be touched by a work of art without knowing the context.



# Key

## Reading and Use of English

### Use of English

#### Part 1: Multiple Choice Lexical Cloze

For every correct answer 1 point is given (total 8 points)

1. **c. beamed**
2. **b. conclusive**
3. **d. mounting**
4. **a. sediments**
5. **c. skip**
6. **b. in**
7. **b. provided**
8. **d. truly**

#### Part 2: Open Cloze

For every correct answer 1 point is given (total 8 points)

9. **others**
10. **despite**
11. **not**
12. **After**
13. **regardless / irrespective**
14. **so**
15. **itself**
16. **in**

#### Part 3: Word Formation

For every correct answer 1 point is given (total 8 points)

17. **EXTRAORDINARY**
18. **MERCIFULLY**
19. **UPBRINGING**
20. **ENABLED**
21. **ACHIEVEMENTS**
22. **RELATIONSHIPS**
23. **ELUSIVE**
24. **INCURABLE**

## Part 4: Key Word Transformation

For every correct answer, two marks are given (Total 12 marks)

25. **came to || light when / came to || light after / came to || light once**
26. **went || according to plan**
27. **cut their || picnic short / cut short || their picnic**
28. **Planning is crucial || for the success / crucial || to / Plans are**
29. **is suspected || of having stolen / stealing**
30. **(of) listening to Marion || leaves me (feeling)**

<b>Use of English</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>/36</b>
-----------------------	--------------	------------

## Reading

### Part 5: Multiple Choice - Sportswriting

For every correct answer, two marks are given (Total 12 marks)

1. **B**
2. **A**
3. **A**
4. **D**
5. **C**
6. **D**

### Part 6: Gap Filling – The Indian Caterer

For every correct answer, two marks are given (Total 14 marks)

7. **G**
8. **C**
9. **D**
10. **H**
11. **B**
12. **E**
13. **F**



## Part 7: Multiple Matching – Is it Art?

For every correct answer, one mark is given (Total 10 marks)

- 14. **C**     **Robert**
- 15. **D**     **Janet**
- 16. **A**     **Corinne**
- 17. **B**     **Michael**
- 18. **A**     **Corinne**
- 19. **D**     **Janet**
- 20. **C**     **Robert**
- 21. **B**     **Michael**
- 22. **C**     **Robert**
- 23. **D**     **Janet**

<b>Reading</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>/36</b>
----------------	--------------	------------

<b>Total</b>	<b>/72</b>
--------------	------------

### Assessment

Points Scored	Level	Recommendation
50 - 72	C2	Ready for the CPE-Diploma Exam
30 - 49	C1	Ready for the CPE-Diploma Course
1 - 24	B2	Ready for any B2 course



The End