



**ACE**

**Certificate of Proficiency  
in English  
Placement Test**

**Time allowed: 2 hours**

**QUESTION PAPER**

**DO NOT write on this paper**

**Instructions:**

**Please answer all questions**

**DO NOT USE a dictionary**

**Write all answers on the separate answer sheet**

**Section A – Reading**

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**Part 1**

For questions **1-12** read the two texts below and decide which answer (**A, B, C or D**) best fits each gap. Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

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**JEROME FLYNN – ACTOR TURNED SINGER**

After a variety of jobs, Jerome Flynn became (1) \_\_\_\_\_ successful with fellow actor Robson Green in the TV series *Soldier, Soldier*, and then when they (2) \_\_\_\_\_ up as singers in 1995, they had three number one hits. ‘It was a whirlwind, fantasy time’, says Jerome. ‘We made the records because we quite (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the money, and it paid off. It was a lot of fun, but you can become (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in the pop world. It’s addictive, and once you’re a pop star, people tend to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ you on a pedestal. It was so mad we had to get out while the going was good. Now money doesn’t mean so much, although it (6) \_\_\_\_\_ me to leave my career behind for a while. But Robson wanted to go back to acting and has made quite a success of it. I’d like to work with him again one day.’

**THE SAILING TRIP**

A few days ago, I was (7) \_\_\_\_\_ my new sailing gear ready for my first long trip, around the coast of Britain on the sailing ship *Hirta*. I watched a TV report of some fellow yachtsmen crossing the finishing (8) \_\_\_\_\_ off a place called Ushant to complete a record round-the-world voyage. The sea was rough, the wind looked fierce and, although they were putting a brave (9) \_\_\_\_\_ on it, the winning yachtsmen looked exhausted. What I was seeing on the television screen was not my (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of yachting. I felt smug knowing I had this marvellous opportunity to drift gently round Britain learning to sail, and that I would be steering (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of the horrors of ocean sailing. Casually I looked up Ushant on the map. I went quite cold: Ushant was (12) \_\_\_\_\_ 32 kilometres further south than the starting point for my great journey on the *Hirta*.

- |    |                        |                       |                      |                       |
|----|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1  | <b>A</b> greatly       | <b>B</b> largely      | <b>C</b> hugely      | <b>D</b> grossly      |
| 2  | <b>A</b> joined        | <b>B</b> teamed       | <b>C</b> fixed       | <b>D</b> grouped      |
| 3  | <b>A</b> craved        | <b>B</b> longed       | <b>C</b> yearned     | <b>D</b> fancied      |
| 4  | <b>A</b> laid up       | <b>B</b> seized up    | <b>C</b> taken up    | <b>D</b> caught up    |
| 5  | <b>A</b> lift          | <b>B</b> have         | <b>C</b> put         | <b>D</b> hold         |
| 6  | <b>A</b> enabled       | <b>B</b> empowered    | <b>C</b> entitled    | <b>D</b> effected     |
| 7  | <b>A</b> going through | <b>B</b> setting down | <b>C</b> checking up | <b>D</b> passing over |
| 8  | <b>A</b> mark          | <b>B</b> strip        | <b>C</b> line        | <b>D</b> sign         |
| 9  | <b>A</b> face          | <b>B</b> eye          | <b>C</b> appearance  | <b>D</b> view         |
| 10 | <b>A</b> thought       | <b>B</b> idea         | <b>C</b> notion      | <b>D</b> sense        |
| 11 | <b>A</b> clean         | <b>B</b> straight     | <b>C</b> short       | <b>D</b> clear        |
| 12 | <b>A</b> virtually     | <b>B</b> practically  | <b>C</b> simply      | <b>D</b> barely       |

**Part 2**

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 fits each gap (13-19). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

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 folk do not see is that I sit before the oven practically all day frying all this...

13

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.

14

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.

15

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 licence 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.

16

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 the fraction of an inch, but they could cling to the glass as long as they liked

17

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 encumbrances and counted the cash immediately.

18

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!'

19

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

- 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 again 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 this 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 that 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 its normal sleep?' Rama wondered as he awoke, but it was a signal he could not miss. Whether it was 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 *chappati*.'

**Section B – Use of English**

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**Part 1**

For questions 20-27 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. Here is an example (0).

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Example:

0 Mick will give you lots of excuses for being late but don't believe any of them.

**many**

No \_\_\_\_\_ Mick gives you for being late, don't believe any of them.

<b>0</b>	<b>matter how many excuses</b>
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20 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.

21 I had no problems at all during my trip to France.

**plan**

Everything \_\_\_\_\_ during my trip to France.

22 The heavy downpour brought their picnic to an abrupt end.

**cut**

They had to \_\_\_\_\_ because of the heavy downpour.

23 The reforms will not succeed unless they are carefully planned.

**crucial**

Careful \_\_\_\_\_ of the reforms.

24 They think that Helen's brother stole the money.

**suspected**

Helen's brother \_\_\_\_\_ the money.

25 I feel completely exhausted when I've listened to Marion for half-an-hour.

**leaves**

Half-an-hour \_\_\_\_\_ completely exhausted.

26 Karen's schoolwork definitely seems to be improving this term.

**signs**

Karen's schoolwork \_\_\_\_\_ this term.

27 The old railway station is now a museum.

**turned**

The old railway station \_\_\_\_\_ a museum.

**Part 2**

For questions 28-37 read the text below. Use the word given in **capital**s 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 at the beginning (0). Write your answers on the **separate answer sheet**.

Example:

<b>0</b>	<b>influential</b>
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### 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 (28) \_\_\_\_\_ talent was already clearly evident as a young man,

(29) \_\_\_\_\_ surviving a somewhat unconventional (30) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (31) \_\_\_\_\_ him to concentrate on becoming a successful composer.

Whatever his awe-inspiring musical (32) \_\_\_\_\_, however, his personal life was something of a disaster. His day-to-day (33) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (34) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (35) \_\_\_\_\_ that his increasing deafness was (36) \_\_\_\_\_. From that moment on, his music displayed a (37) \_\_\_\_\_ change in style, becoming both heavier in tone and larger in scale.

**INFLUENCE**

**ORDINARY**

**MERCY**

**BRING**

**ABLE**

**ACHIEVE**

**RELATE**

**ELUDE**

**REALISE**

**CURE**

**STRIKE**

**Section C – Writing**

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*You must answer this question. Write your answer in 300-350 words in an appropriate style on the answer sheet.*

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- 1 You have read the extract below as part of a newspaper article on the loss of national and cultural identity. Readers were asked to send in their opinions. You decide to write a letter responding to the points raised and expressing your own views.

‘We are losing our national and cultural identities. Because of the recent advances in technology and the easy availability and speed of air travel, different countries are communicating more often and are therefore becoming more and more alike. The same shopping malls and fast food outlets can be found almost everywhere. So can the same types of office blocks, motorways, TV programmes and even lifestyles. How can we maintain the traditions that make each nation unique?’

Write your **letter**. Do not write any postal addresses.



Certificate of Proficiency in English  
Placement Test - Answer Sheet

Time allowed: 2 hours

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred Campus: \_\_\_\_\_ Course Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Have you taken a Cambridge exam before? Yes No  
If so, which exam \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
when \_\_\_\_\_

Write all your answers on this answer sheet  
Please DO NOT USE dictionaries

OFFICE USE ONLY Current Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reading \_\_\_\_\_/26 Use of English \_\_\_\_\_/26 Writing \_\_\_\_\_/20  
Total \_\_\_\_\_%  
Speaking \_\_\_\_\_  
 Accepted  Rejected  Waiting List

**Section A - Reading**

**Part 1** (1 mark each)

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>A</b>												
<b>B</b>												
<b>C</b>												
<b>D</b>												

\_\_\_\_\_/12

**Part 2** (2 marks each)

<b>13</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>15</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>17</b>		<b>18</b>		<b>19</b>	
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\_\_\_\_\_/14

**Total Score:** \_\_\_\_\_ /26

**Section B – Use of English**

**Part 1** (2 marks each)

<b>0</b>	<b>Matter how many excuses</b>
<b>20</b>	
<b>21</b>	
<b>22</b>	
<b>23</b>	
<b>24</b>	
<b>25</b>	
<b>26</b>	
<b>27</b>	

\_\_\_\_\_/16

**Part 2** (1 mark each)

<b>0</b>	<b>influential</b>	<b>33</b>	
<b>28</b>		<b>34</b>	
<b>29</b>		<b>35</b>	
<b>30</b>		<b>36</b>	
<b>31</b>		<b>37</b>	
<b>32</b>			

\_\_\_\_\_/10

**Total Score:** \_\_\_\_\_ /26







