



There are 7 marks available for Part One.

Listen to a conversation, then select the correct answer for questions 1-7 by choosing from A), B) or C).

You will hear the conversation **twice**.

For each sentence or question, place a **black mark** over the correct answer on your answer sheet.

1 What is implied about Horton Park?

- A It's a costly place to live.
- B It has good retail facilities.
- C It's a small neighbourhood.

2 What was Andy's colleague opinion of Wellton?

- A It's vibrant.
- B It's calm.
- C It's shabby.

3 Olga implies her new flat

- A needs some modernisation.
- B has good security.
- C is in a convenient location.

4 Compared to her old flat, the new one is

- A bigger and more modern
- B smaller with better facilities
- C cozier and less expensive.

5 How does Andy describe the day he moved house?

- A Intolerable.
- B Chaotic.
- C Disastrous.

6 How does Olga feel about moving?

- A Uneasy.
- B Untroubled.
- C Rushed

7 Olga

- A is hoping her move goes well.
- B hints that Andy should help her move.
- C wants Andy to message her at the weekend.



There are 7 marks available for Part Two.

Listen to an interview, then select the correct answer for questions 8 - 14 by choosing from A), B) or C).

You will hear the interview **twice**.

For each sentence or question, place a **black mark** over the correct answer on your answer sheet.

8 What makes it difficult to measure solar energy production?

- A Statistics are not always kept in all countries.
- B Records tend to focus on the latest energy projects.
- C Data may not consider minor producers.

9 Which country does NOT belong in the top three generating countries?

- A USA
- B China
- C Germany

10 How does the interviewer react to the mention of the UK?

- A With scepticism.
- B With tactlessness.
- C With frustration.

11 What does Sally say about the UK?

- A It has sufficient sunlight to be a major solar producer.
- B It has a restricted capacity for solar production.
- C Its solar energy production compares well with other countries.

12 What is Sally's attitude towards Australian solar energy production?

- A Intolerant.
- B Judgemental.
- C Irrational.

13 What is one problem of solar power that is mentioned?

- A Lack of space to install the panels.
- B The size of the batteries needed.
- C The high cost of the panels.



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14 What environmental problem is mentioned?

- A Harmful substances used during production of solar energy systems.
- B Waste generated by installing the panels.
- C Dangerous waste products are produced in manufacturing.



There are 10 marks available for Part Three.

Listen to a broadcast, then select the correct answer to questions 15 - 24 by choosing from A), B) or C).

You will hear the broadcast twice.

For each sentence or question, place a **black mark** over the correct answer on your answer sheet.

15 What kind of tasks do space station astronauts have to do?

- A Report on crew activities.
- B Ensure the air is clean.
- C Update computer software.

16 What duties do astronauts undertake outside in space?

- A Secure magnetic equipment.
- B Install updated equipment.
- C Run different types of tests.

17 Who funds some of the research carried out on space stations?

- A Space agencies.
- B Private individuals.
- C Political organisations.

18 What example of research is mentioned?

- A Cultivating plants.
- B Producing water.
- C Testing vaccines.

19 An objective of space research is to

- A improve life on Earth.
- B assist astronauts in their work.
- C better understand the benefits of zero gravity.

20 Members of the space crew

- A have carried out gravitational experiments.
- B are the subject of medical research.
- C are involved in lifelong experiments.



21 A consequence of spending a long period of time in space is

- A muscles start to ache.
- B bone mass decreases.
- C lower back pain occurs.

22 Astronauts exercise by

- A using specially-designed weights.
- B walking or running on a machine.
- C doing sit ups using handles.

23 Irregular blood movement in the body means astronauts

- A may develop heart problems.
- B have less upper body movement.
- C may look bloated.

24 A common phenomenon for astronauts is to

- A suffer from insomnia.
- B experience nausea.
- C have mental health issues.



VTCT Skills

Reading Part One - 8 marks

Read the text below and then select the correct answer to questions 25 - 32 by choosing from A), B) or C).

Fill in the space on your answer sheet with a **black pen only**.

There is only **one correct answer** for each number.

For each sentence or question, place a **black mark** over the correct answer on your answer sheet.

1 Most people think democracy is something that only relates to adults and deem the prospect of children voting as too inane to even contemplate. In the early 20th century, many democracies began operating with universal suffrage, ensuring voting rights were no longer withheld from adults on the basis of wealth, gender or race. Yet age thresholds have endured, and children continue to be excluded from democracy, based on their youth and adults' assumptions about what that youth means.

2 A common protest to children voting is that they are too ill-informed to do it properly. Adults are considered capable of understanding what they are voting on, which is allegedly too much to expect of children, whose cognitive abilities are apparently much less developed. Children are unlikely to think for themselves, but rather mimic the views of authority figures such as parents and teachers. There may be some merit in this, but at what point does knowledge or rationality become relevant to voting, and what it is that voters need in order to vote "well" or "responsibly"? Is it the capacity to identify politicians or political parties? Or the ability to analyse politicians' past performances? Is there a necessity for voters to understand the legislative process and the roles of the various branches of government? Though these insights are probably useful, there's no consensus on what's crucial. Since we are not able to define what is required, it is impossible to say adults have the right knowledge (whatever that is) and children don't. In fact, adults don't need to show credentials to vote which indicates that voting is not a privilege of competency, but rather a right of citizenship. Therefore, this right should be for all citizens, including children.

3 Another argument precluding the child vote is that it would lead to policy chaos. If children are not always rational or coherent, but nevertheless allowed to vote, the outcome of elections, and the policy decisions they give rise to, would surely reflect their ill-conceived and incoherent votes. However, this misunderstands the role of elections. Voting is not the same as making law. To vote isn't to decide what happens or even to set the political agenda. This is why representative democracies can function with vast numbers of uninformed and irrational citizens.

4 Voting is considered a serious business and thus some say that the right to vote should correlate with the right to perform other activities of similar weight and consequence, such as smoking, drinking alcohol, getting married or joining the army. All of these have age restrictions. However, these rights are deferred as they are potentially harmful, so they are only conferred on individuals who are likely to be mindful of the risks. Children are denied harmful activities so as not to jeopardise their future and ensure they reach adulthood with as many life opportunities as possible. This rationale holds weight for the right to drink alcohol, perhaps, but it works less well with voting rights, which aren't obviously dangerous and pose no direct threat to children's future wellbeing.



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5 It seems, therefore, that children are suffering an injustice: they are being denied the vote without adequate justification. At the same time, young people are dissatisfied with democracy, in part because they're overlooked in the decision-making process. Unless the place of children in democracy is improved and deepened, political division and democratic distrust will surely worsen.



25 What does the writer imply in the first paragraph?

- A Allowing children to vote is a complex issue.
- B Adult voting rights should be reviewed.
- C Minimum age voting is no longer logical.

26 One objection to the child vote is that children

- A lack the intellectual qualities required.
- B do not have sufficient interest in politics.
- C do not behave responsibly.

27 The writer believes

- A some understanding of politics is required to vote.
- B no particular political aptitude is required for adults to vote.
- C comprehension of politics doesn't mean competent voting.

28 What is the purpose of the third paragraph?

- A To evaluate how voting affects policy.
- B To question the link between voting and law-making.
- C To debunk an argument against children voting

29 What does the writer say about other laws with age restrictions?

- A They have more validity than the age restriction for voting.
- B They should be reviewed and likely changed.
- C They can incite reckless and harmful behaviour.

30 According to the writer how do children feel about politics?

- A They feel disappointed by it.
- B They think the system is unfair.
- C They have no faith in it.

31 The tone of this text is

- A impartial.
- B persuasive.
- C apathetic.

32 The best title for this text is

- A What youngsters want
- B The needs of children
- C Time to make a change



VTCT Skills

Reading Part Two – 8 marks

Read the text below and then select the correct answer to questions 33 - 40 by choosing from A), B) or C).

Fill in the space on your answer sheet with a **black pen only**.

There is only **one correct answer** for each number.

For each sentence or question, place a **black mark** over the correct answer on your answer sheet.

1 Foreign accent syndrome (FAS) is a medical condition in which patients develop speech patterns that are perceived as foreign. It is different from their native voice, but has not been acquired in the new accent's place of origin. A famous case was of a Norwegian who started to speak with what sounded like a German accent. This condition most commonly materialises as a result of head injury, stroke, or some other type of trauma to the brain.

2 Speakers with FAS acquire neither a specific foreign accent nor any additional fluency in a foreign language. There has been no verified case where a patient's foreign language skills have improved after a brain injury. They may not perfectly replicate the accent their speech resembles either. However, the changes in their speech tend to remain fairly consistent. People do not typically switch between accents or have an accent only sometimes.

3 Researchers have found that specific parts of the brain were injured in some FAS cases, indicating that particular parts of the brain controls linguistic functions. Damage could result in altered pitch and/or mispronounced syllables, causing speech patterns to be distorted. Vowels are more likely to be affected than consonants. There are also changes in intonation and pitch, such as monotonous intonation. One research study found subtle differences in the way people with FAS stress different words. They still use the same rising and falling intonation as healthy speakers, but they use it more. Also, instead of stressing some words, they stressed all of them. There are also difficulties in using stress to indicate meaning. Even so, people may not recognise a specific accent. Some may think a person with FAS sounds Russian; another, German and this will unconsciously colour their view of that person.

4 Individuals with FAS don't exhibit their accent without any concern, these individuals feel as if they have a speech disorder. One sufferer says "It takes away your whole identity – you lose what was you."

5 That is unsurprising, given the role the voice plays in forging our place in the world. The way we speak is a window onto our inner self. It marks social class, education level and where you come from – so consciously or subconsciously, we use accent to portray who we are.

6 Compounding the issues with identity, these people also have to deal with sometimes derogatory responses from those around them and therefore deserve our sympathy. Accents are an important way for us to form boundaries between different social groups. Accordingly, some FAS sufferers report feeling marginalised and they have even experienced racism and abuse, leading to serious mental health issues. Fortunately, the condition is rare with very few cases reported but nevertheless scientists continue to study the phenomenon in order to assist those who are diagnosed.

33 The first paragraph is

- A a definition of FAS and its origins.
- B an analysis of the effect of FAS.
- C a summary of how FAS affects the brain.

34 What is a feature of foreign accent syndrome?

- A The speaker's ability in the foreign language progresses.
- B The speaker's accent may not wholly match the foreign one.
- C The speaker may not unfailingly speak in the foreign accent.

35 How can speech be affected by foreign accent syndrome?

- A Omission or addition of syllables.
- B Mispronunciation of consonants.
- C Repetitive tone.

36 The tone of the third paragraph is

- A objective.
- B sympathetic.
- C ambiguous.

37 Why is accent considered so important?

- A It represents your unique character.
- B It affects how we think about society.
- C It can influence your decisions.

38 The writer's attitude towards people with FAS is

- A neutral.
- B supportive.
- C prejudiced.

39 What point is made in the final paragraph?

- A FAS may provoke negative behaviour in those who have it.
- B Those with FAS may experience psychological trauma.
- C FAS sufferers often change their social identity.

40 Which paragraph discusses other's perception of those with FAS?

- A Paragraph 2.
- B Paragraph 1.
- C Paragraph 6.



Part Three – 8 marks

Read the text below and then select the correct answer to questions 41 - 48 by choosing from A), B) or C).

Fill in the space on your answer sheet with a **black pen only**.

There is only **one correct answer** for each number.

For each sentence or question, place a **black mark** over the correct answer on your answer sheet.

1 The much-anticipated final novel *The Way Back*, in Jackie Lee's trilogy is finally out. Two years after the second book *Coming Home* was first published, we now have closure on the full story of the Chen family.

2 Without doubt it certainly has some of the redeeming features of the first two novels. We are once again presented with pages of vivid depictions of locations, scenes and events which enable the reader to feel as if they were actually there, experiencing that very moment so carefully captured in time. The ability to paint a picture in words is a rare quality which Lee has. That skill extends to the characters, who are painstakingly crafted in such a way that it's impossible not to identify with them. At times I was actually moved to tears, so convincing and meticulous were the portrayals of the people we have grown to know, adore or despise throughout the narrative. So, in those areas I can say the latest offering will not disappoint.

3 In my experience I have so often found that in other historical sagas the background is presented in such a way that it can bore. Excessive political detail or factual information which feels irrelevant and detracts from the story sometimes abounds. Yet Lee is able to redress the balance, contextualising in a manner that engrosses the reader rather than making them endure.

4 Much has been written by literary critics on the hidden themes in Lee's novels and this trilogy is no exception. While the cycle of nature is evident in the first two novels, there is more emphasis placed on rebirth in *The Way Back* which seems to go hand in hand with a message of serenity that leaves you with a sense of fulfillment.

5 I had presumed that, not unlike the first two novels in the trilogy, there would be a stimulating plot. Whilst that was delivered to some degree, the twists and turns and sheer number of characters involved was often superfluous in my opinion. It was taxing to keep up to say the least. I found myself incessantly leafing back to check on names and facts. This is probably one of the pitfalls of producing an epic which is far longer than the two which came before it. It undeniably distracted from the flow and for me that aspect was a bit of a letdown. It cannot be denied however, that it was still difficult to put it down, even if it was not quite as spectacular in some respects as what has gone before.



41 What does the critic imply about the new novel?

- A Readers have been waiting for it to be published.
- B It has taken a long time to materialise.
- C Questions about events may remain unanswered.

42 What attribute about the novel writer does the critic praise?

- A Her ability to entertain the reader.
- B Her aptitude for description.
- C Her imaginative and creative talent.

43 According to the critic, the portrayal of the characters left them feeling

- A indifferent
- B emotional
- C deprived

44 What is the purpose of the third paragraph?

- A To criticise how historical novels are written.
- B To justify the inclusion of historical detail.
- C To examine how *The Way Back* treats history.

45 The critic says the book makes you feel

- A satisfied and contented.
- B like you've been reborn.
- C calm and peaceful.

46 What did the critic disapprove of regarding the plot?

- A The way the characters developed.
- B They found it too complicated.
- C It was too long and repetitive.

47 What does the word "superfluous" in the final paragraph mean?

- A excessive
- B elusive
- C insignificant

48 The critic says that *The Way Back*

- A is quite disappointing overall.
- B is difficult to seriously criticise.
- C is less enjoyable than the others in the series.

WRITING – 30 MARKS

There are 15 marks available for Part One and 15 marks available for Part Two.

Part One – 15 marks

Choose **ONE** of the following tasks between A, B, C and D.

Write a **formal** response in the correct format for the type of text. Please pay attention to the required word count for your text.

For your chosen ONE option, you must write between **250 and 300 words**.

Write clearly and use a black pen only.

Option A - You have read an online article about the negative environmental impact of the tourism industry. You decide to write an article for a travel website about this topic.

Include in your article:

- What negative environmental impact tourism has had in your country
- How these issues could be resolved
- Whether the advantages of tourism outweigh the disadvantages
- How possible environmentally-friendly tourism really is

Option B - You recently downloaded a new app onto your phone. You have been asked to provide a review of the app.

Include in your review:

- The purpose of the app
- The strengths and weaknesses of the app
- Recommendations for improvements
- How it compares with other similar apps

Option C - You watched a news programme about government plans to increase spending on crime prevention. You decide to write an article for your local newspaper about this topic.

Include in your article:

- Whether crime prevention is a worthwhile use of government spending
- How money could be spent to reduce/prevent crime
- What factors have an impact on the level of crime
- The prevalence of crime in your area



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Option D - You attend a local college. The principal wants to attract more students to the college and has asked students for their ideas. You decide to submit a proposal with your suggestions.

Include in your proposal:

- The benefits of offering online courses
- How easy it would be to implement these courses
- A way to attract students to attend in the college in person
- How increasing the number of students would benefit the college



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Part Two – 15 marks

Write an **informal** response in the correct format for the type of text. Please pay attention to the required word count for your text.

You must write between **250 and 300 words**.

Write clearly and use a black pen only.

Your friend has recently started a new job. They have contacted you to say they don't like the job and they want to leave and study full time. Write an email to your friend sympathising with their situation and advising them what to do.

Include in your email:

- Typical problems people may experience in a new job
- How these problems can be overcome
- The pros and cons of full-time study
- What you believe to be the best option for your friend