



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION SERVICES, INC.

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# OBJECTIVE ENGLISH ASSESSMENT TEST

*Version – A*

## **General Directions**

The Objective Placement Text has two sections: Reading and Language Use. There are 50 questions. You are allowed 35 minutes to complete the test.

Section I, the Reading section, has several short passages. After you read each passage, choose the correct answer for each question and fill in your choice on your answer sheet. You have 20 minutes to complete this section.

Section II, the Language Use section, has 30 items. Choose the correct completion for each item and fill in your choice on your answer sheet. You have 15 minutes to complete this section.

Mark your answers clearly on your answer sheet. If you want to change an answer, erase your first answer completely. If you want to take notes during the text, write on the paper you were given.

## Section I: Reading

In this section of the Objective Placement Test, you will read some short passages and answer questions about them. Choose the word or words that best complete the sentence. For each item, fill in your answer on the answer sheet. You will have 20 minutes to complete this section.

*Passage 1: What are you doing today?*

**BETTY CHAN:** I usually stay home on Sundays and take it easy—read, clean, the house, do stuff like that. But today I'm at the mall. I'm buying some things for my kids.

1. Betty is \_\_\_\_\_ today.
  - a. shopping
  - b. reading
  - c. cleaning
  - d. resting

*Passage 2: What do you do?*

**TONY PEREZ:** I'm a flight attendant with a major airline. Flying isn't dangerous, but it can be stressful. When I'm up in the air working, I always have something to do. I like it because I meet a lot of interesting people.

2. Tony's job is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. busy
  - b. easy
  - c. relaxing
  - d. boring

Now go on to page 4.

*Passage 3: A vacation postcard*

Dear Sal,

Greetings from France—it's so good to be back here again! We left the kids with their grandparents in Chicago, and we're biking across the French countryside by ourselves. We brought a tent and sleeping bags, so we can camp out if we want to, but we're really enjoying the small hotels we find along the way.

Love,  
Michael and Paula

3. Michael and Paula \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. have been to France before
  - b. took their children with them
  - c. are visiting their grandparents
  - d. prefer to sleep outside

*Passage 4: The "zone"*

You're deeply involved in a task and can ignore everything around you—ringing telephones, your neighbor's TV, even your own hunger—and still do things in record time. This is similar to what athletes call the "zone": the power to concentrate so hard that you can ignore everything else. This ability can bring success in any field, but in athletics it can mean all the difference between winning and losing a game or event.

4. In this reading, the "zone" refers to a person's \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. state of mind
  - b. neighborhood
  - c. physical condition
  - d. intelligence
5. Athletes in the "zone" are more likely to \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. fall
  - b. compete
  - c. win
  - d. relax

Now go on to page 5.

**Passage 5: Henry Ford and the Model-T**

Henry Ford became famous and rich because he found a better, faster way to build cars. This is shown in the history of the Model-T. When the Model-T was first introduced in 1908, it took 14 hours to build and cost \$850. After Ford introduced into his own factory the mass-production techniques that he saw in a meat-packing plant, the time for building a Model-T was reduced less than two hours. As a result, Ford was able to drop the price of the car to \$265. By 1927, he had sold over 15 million Model-Ts.

6. The first Model-T was expensive because it \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. was new
  - b. was very popular
  - c. took a long time to build
  - d. was built in a factory
7. The Model-T became so popular because it was \_\_\_\_\_ than other cars.
- a. newer
  - b. faster
  - c. better
  - d. cheaper

Now go on to page 6.

*Passage 6: It's a big country!*

When it comes to body weight, Americans stand out. Most visitors to the United States, no matter where they go across this vast country, comment on the size of many Americans. In fact, these impressions are backed by numerous statistics. For example, the average 5'4" American weighs 162 pounds or 15 pounds more than the average person of the same height from Western or Central Europe. Another comparison: At 150 pounds, the average 5'4" American woman is 24 pounds heavier than her Japanese counterpart.

Why are Americans so heavy? Some blame the American diet. Certainly it's true that Americans eat more high-fat foods—meat, dairy products, and processed food—and fewer grains and vegetables than people in other countries. But fat isn't the whole story. Lifestyle factors—including the tendency for Americans to drive rather than walk or ride a bicycle to work, to snack throughout the day, and to have so many labor-saving devices in the home—appear to contribute to the problem.

8. According to the article, visitors to the United States often comment on the size of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- population
  - cities
  - country
  - people
9. According to the article, the average Western European weighs \_\_\_\_\_.
- more than an American
  - more than a Central European
  - less than an American
  - less than a Japanese person
10. In comparison with Americans, people in other countries eat more \_\_\_\_\_.
- meat
  - dairy products
  - processed food
  - grains
11. The article implies that Americans would lose weight if they \_\_\_\_\_.
- snacked more often
  - rode bicycles to work
  - stayed at home more
  - ate fewer vegetables

Now go to page 7.

**Passage 7: Small talk isn't so "small"**

Small talk may not be about serious issues; nevertheless, researchers into the subject have concluded that it's important. That's because small talk keeps us connected to one another and can lead to bigger things, such as a job or a new friendship. Yet people who find themselves alone with another person often don't know what to say. Here are a few tips to help you start a conversation, and to keep the conversational ball rolling:

- **Start with the obvious.** If you have something in common with another person (your job, hobbies, a person you both know, etc.), begin with that. If you don't know the person, it's always acceptable to bring up a neutral topic such as the weather or a recent news event. It isn't necessary to be clever—all that's required is to show interest in the other person and to be willing to talk.
- **Compliment where appropriate.** If the other person has done something you like or is wearing something attractive, it's always appropriate to compliment. But avoid talking about the specifics of a person's physical appearance (people can't usually change how they look) and keep your compliments short and to the point ("What a great tie!" or "You look great tonight!") and continue with another topic.
- **Talk about yourself—then return to your partner.** It's perfectly OK to talk about your own interests for a while, but keep your conversation from becoming a monolog. It's only polite, for example, that after talking about your own children, you turn the conversation back to your partner by asking about his or her children.

12. According to the article, the main function of small talk is to \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. show our own importance
  - b. get valuable information
  - c. relate to other people
  - d. talk about major issues
13. "Start with the obvious" means that you should talk about things that you \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. have in common
  - b. enjoy doing
  - c. want to understand
  - d. know everything about
14. You need to be careful when complimenting someone because most people \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. don't like compliments
  - b. can't change how they look
  - c. don't dress very well
  - d. haven't done anything interesting
15. You should avoid monologs because other people \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. have no interest in what you say
  - b. already know a lot about you
  - c. like to talk about themselves, too
  - d. prefer to discuss neutral subjects

Now go to page 8.

*Passage 8: Headaches*

Everyone has experienced headaches, but only recently have medical researchers begun to learn more specifically about the causes and possible treatments for different types of headache pain.

The most common type of headache is the simple tension headache. Tension headaches are usually mild and short-lasting and can result from various factors, such as stress caused by worry or noise. Tension headaches are caused by a tightening of the neck or back muscles, which slows the flow of blood and, therefore, oxygen to the brain. It is the lack of oxygen that causes the pain. Most headaches can be relieved by taking a mild analgesic such as aspirin. Analgesics expand the blood vessels and restore the normal flow of blood and oxygen to the brain.

A more serious type of headache is the migraine. Migraine headaches are often extremely painful and can last for hours or days. Like tension headaches, they can be the result of different factors, including stress, hormonal changes, and allergies. Unlike tension headaches, however, they are caused by an abnormal expansion or swelling (rather than a contraction) of the blood vessels within the head. Medicines that shrink swollen blood vessels can be used to treat migraine headaches.

A tiny minority of headaches can be linked to severe physical problems such as head injury or brain tumors. For these types of headaches, there are medicines to treat the symptoms, but there is no cure unless the underlying problem is removed.

16. This article discusses the \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. tiny minority of people who have headaches
  - b. history of medical research into headaches
  - c. causes and remedies for headaches
  - d. physical problems caused by headaches
17. A tension headache can result when \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. the neck and back muscles relax
  - b. people get injured in an accident
  - c. the flow of blood is restricted
  - d. too much oxygen goes to the brain
18. Migraine headaches \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. are the most common kind of headaches
  - b. usually last only a few minutes
  - c. can cause extreme pain
  - d. have one main cause
19. Medicines for migraine headaches \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. relax the head and neck
  - b. generally relieve tension
  - c. increase the flow of blood
  - d. cause blood vessels to contract

20. Headaches caused by serious physical problems \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. can't be treated
- b. don't cause much pain
- c. have no symptoms
- d. are not very common

Now go on to page 10 and begin the Language Use section.

## Section II: Language Use

In this section, you will answer questions about the use of English. Choose the word or words that best complete the sentence. For each item, fill in your answers on the answer sheet. You will have 15 minutes to complete this section.

21. \_\_\_\_\_ several good restaurants in our neighborhood.
- a. There
  - b. They're
  - c. There are
  - d. Their
22. The gas station is \_\_\_\_\_ Main Street.
- a. on
  - b. at
  - c. next
  - d. close
23. "I can't swim very well."  
"I can't \_\_\_\_\_."
- a. too
  - b. either
  - c. so
  - d. neither
24. I enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ out two or three times a week.
- a. to eat
  - b. eating
  - c. eat
  - d. I eat
25. These days, \_\_\_\_\_ women keep working after they get married.
- a. most
  - b. most of
  - c. almost
  - d. the most
26. My new job is very \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. excitement
  - b. excited
  - c. exciting
  - d. excite

Now go on to page 11.

27. After finishing college, I hope \_\_\_\_\_ married.
- get
  - that get
  - getting
  - to get
28. Mt. Everest is \_\_\_\_\_ mountain in the world
- the high
  - high as
  - higher than
  - the highest
29. Bob's never been bungee jumping, \_\_\_\_\_ he?
- is
  - has
  - does
  - was
30. I've run out of money. I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ more.
- am saving
  - have saved
  - had saved
  - will save
31. Could you tell me where \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- is the post office
  - the post office is
  - is it the post office
  - it is the post office
32. If I had known about the accident, I \_\_\_\_\_ it to the police.
- reported
  - would have reported
  - was reporting
  - have been reporting
33. Yolanda \_\_\_\_\_ part time for several years now.
- has been working
  - is working
  - works
  - was working

Now go to page 12.

34. The Taj Mahal is really worth \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. to see it
  - b. seeing
  - c. you see it
  - d. see
35. If I went to live in a foreign country, \_\_\_\_\_ my friends.
- a. I'd miss
  - b. I'm missing
  - c. I missed
  - d. I miss
36. Would you mind \_\_\_\_\_ the window?
- a. open
  - b. opening
  - c. to open
  - d. I open
37. I was interested \_\_\_\_\_ the violin.
- a. to study
  - b. study
  - c. in studying
  - d. studies
38. Before a film is finished, it needs \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. they edit it
  - b. to edit
  - c. to be edited
  - d. being edited
39. By 2020, scientists \_\_\_\_\_ a cure for cancer.
- a. had found
  - b. will have found
  - c. are finding
  - d. have been finding
40. "What happened to Kate?"  
"She must \_\_\_\_\_ about our appointment."
- a. forget
  - b. be forgetting
  - c. forgot
  - d. have forgotten

Now go to page 13.

41. We're not used \_\_\_\_\_ our own meals.
- a. cook
  - b. to cook
  - c. cooking
  - d. to cooking
42. Chicago, \_\_\_\_\_ is nicknamed the Windy City, is the largest city in Illinois.
- a. it
  - b. which
  - c. what
  - d. that
43. \_\_\_\_\_ John, I like to cook.
- a. Unless
  - b. Except
  - c. Instead
  - d. Unlike
44. Before \_\_\_\_\_ breakfast, I usually take a shower.
- a. eat
  - b. to eat
  - c. eating
  - d. that eat
45. I'm taking a class \_\_\_\_\_ learn more about my computer.
- a. so that
  - b. in order
  - c. in order to
  - d. that
46. For me, mathematics is \_\_\_\_\_ difficult than biology.
- a. more
  - b. the more
  - c. most
  - d. the most
47. I would rather \_\_\_\_\_ evening classes.
- a. don't take
  - b. not take
  - c. no taking
  - d. not taking

Now go to page 14.

48. I feel sick. I shouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ so much.
- a. to eat
  - b. eaten
  - c. have eaten
  - d. eating
49. Jim's boss demanded that he \_\_\_\_\_ to work earlier.
- a. has come
  - b. coming
  - c. is come
  - d. come
50. The earlier children learn to read, \_\_\_\_\_ for their education.
- a. good
  - b. the good
  - c. the better
  - d. the best

**END OF TEST**

# ANSWER SHEET

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Total Points \_\_\_\_\_

Rating \_\_\_\_\_

## Section I: Reading

Example: a    b    c    **d**

- |     |   |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|---|
| 1.  | a | b | c | d | 11. | a | b | c | d |
| 2.  | a | b | c | d | 12. | a | b | c | d |
| 3.  | a | b | c | d | 13. | a | b | c | d |
| 4.  | a | b | c | d | 14. | a | b | c | d |
| 5.  | a | b | c | d | 15. | a | b | c | d |
| 6.  | a | b | c | d | 16. | a | b | c | d |
| 7.  | a | b | c | d | 17. | a | b | c | d |
| 8.  | a | b | c | d | 18. | a | b | c | d |
| 9.  | a | b | c | d | 19. | a | b | c | d |
| 10. | a | b | c | d | 20. | a | b | c | d |

## Section II: Language Use

- |     |   |   |   |   |     |   |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|---|
| 21. | a | b | c | d | 36. | a | b | c | d |
| 22. | a | b | c | d | 37. | a | b | c | d |
| 23. | a | b | c | d | 38. | a | b | c | d |
| 24. | a | b | c | d | 39. | a | b | c | d |
| 25. | a | b | c | d | 40. | a | b | c | d |
| 26. | a | b | c | d | 41. | a | b | c | d |
| 27. | a | b | c | d | 42. | a | b | c | d |
| 28. | a | b | c | d | 43. | a | b | c | d |
| 29. | a | b | c | d | 44. | a | b | c | d |
| 30. | a | b | c | d | 45. | a | b | c | d |
| 31. | a | b | c | d | 46. | a | b | c | d |
| 32. | a | b | c | d | 47. | a | b | c | d |
| 33. | a | b | c | d | 48. | a | b | c | d |
| 34. | a | b | c | d | 49. | a | b | c | d |
| 35. | a | b | c | d | 50. | a | b | c | d |