



Universidad Veracruzana

Exam Booklet Sample Test

*All answers must be filled in
on the answer sheet to be valid.*

PAPER ONE

Reading and Writing

1
El sello no puede ser
violado hasta que se
le indique.

Do not open until told.



1 h 25 min

INSTRUCTIONS: Read this text about a novel. Choose the sentence (A–H) that best states the main idea of each paragraph (1–5). There are THREE EXTRA sentences.

- A** A new activity led to unexpected consequences and human connections.
- B** The strength of the book is in its descriptions of people and places.
- C** This person's varied and interesting history guided her to this project.
- D** The author seems to value helping other women whenever possible.
- E** This describes an impressive achievement that could be difficult to repeat.
- F** This person represents many different kinds of experiences.
- G** The author traveled in search of unusual stories to inspire the novel.
- H** If you spend time with this person, you'll learn while being entertained.

CAKES IN KIGALI

Paragraph 1

Baking Cakes in Kigali is one of those novels written with such talent that from the first few pages you feel attracted by its powerful and moving descriptions. Gaile Parkin takes us with her on a trip to far away places and introduces us to people of diverse backgrounds whose lives are woven together in a harmonious way. This is Parkin's first book, but the passion and effort she put into it is astonishing and sometimes only happens once in a career. This may well remain her most successful book.

Paragraph 2

Parkin's life was a long journey on the way to writing this book. Born and raised in Zambia, she studied in South Africa and England and spent two years in Rwanda, where *Baking Cakes in Kigali* is set. She did a great deal of volunteer work there for a university, getting involved in educational and health projects which allowed her to counsel young people, teach women about gender equality and write educational materials.

Paragraph 3

During her time in Rwanda, Parkin was told many stories which inspired her to create the characters for *Baking Cakes in Kigali*. The personality and life circumstances of the main character, Angel Tunganaza, combine many of the values, struggles and hopes of African women. She is a hardworking mother who believes in a better future. Having lost her two children in Rwanda and immigrated to the country of Tanzania, she is determined to overcome her hardships and help others improve their lives.

Paragraph 4

Angel is also an example of entrepreneurship. As she and her husband adopted five grandchildren, she makes cakes for much-needed extra income. Her cakes are so extraordinary that her appreciative clients become more than just customers; they tell her their secrets. Angel also manages to benefit from her friendships in other ways, although always with a thought for others. For instance, she convinces a CIA agent's bored wife to teach women how to read.

Paragraph 5

It's difficult not to like Angel; she's strong, honest, intelligent, and sometimes humorous and sarcastic. If you like reading about other cultures, you'll find that through Angel's conversations with her customers, the writer reveals aspects of Tanzanian and Rwandan life in a thoughtful and entertaining way. Even topics such as human rights and the struggles of women are present in the novel, but subtly, in the background. So, get yourself a slice of cake and some tea and prepare to be delighted by this book.

INSTRUCTIONS: Read this text about musicians who have changed their musical style. For each question (6–12), choose the paragraph (A–D) where you can find the information. Each paragraph may be chosen MORE THAN ONCE.

In which paragraph does it state that...

6. someone decided to explore a popular new style?
7. a different musical preference was brought in from outside?
8. professionals develop in the same way other people do?
9. doing something different was necessary in order to stay inspired?
10. the problem for this group was about technique, not talent?
11. an extreme action was taken to try and stop a musical change?
12. someone represented the feelings of a large group of people?

CHANGES IN MUSICAL STYLE

Paragraph A

Are you still listening to the same music you liked as a kid? Most of us aren't, and it's normal for musical tastes to change over a person's lifetime. This happens to musicians just like anyone else, even if it can take their fans by surprise. Bob Dylan, a legendary songwriter, made one of the most controversial changes in modern musical history. Having started as a fan of '50s rock, a rebellious choice at the time in his rural Minnesota hometown, he played at local high school dances. Then at university, he fell in love with folk songs and became famous for writing some of the most powerful lyrics within the genre, to the extent that he was called "the voice of a generation" in the early 1960s. When he dared to go back to his first musical love and plugged in his electric guitar at a folk festival, even loyal fans felt shocked and betrayed.

Paragraph B

Today it's difficult to imagine the strong reactions that were provoked by Dylan's defiant use of electric guitar; one story claims that another folk singer at the festival tried to cut the electrical cables with an axe. Now, it's far more common for groups to experiment and maintain their fans. Radiohead is a band that started in rock and roll but has changed over the years. Unlike Dylan, who has stayed with rock since his move away from folk, Radiohead's style has paradoxically been one of consistent change. After their first successful rock albums, their songwriter, Thom Yorke, was simply tired of the band's style, and it's clear they needed to reinvent their sound in order to continue. Since then, the band has incorporated a range of instruments not usually associated with rock, including strings and a glockenspiel, and experimented with styles from electronica to modern R&B and orchestral pop.

Paragraph C

There are other groups, like Café Tacvba or the Pointer Sisters, whose styles are also so varied that it's difficult to define them by one genre, and yet they succeed in all or most of them. Then there are musicians whose change in style led directly to their initial success. For example, most people don't know that Billy Joel began his musical career in rock and metal music, of all things. Joel grew up hearing 1950s early rock and was forced to learn the piano by his mother. Everything changed for him after seeing The Beatles on TV, and he later dropped out of high school to become a musician. As metal bands like Led Zeppelin were becoming important in the late 1960s music scene, Joel and a friend formed their own band, called Attila. Apparently, they weren't so much bad as overwhelmingly loud, to the point where Joel claims that audiences would run out of the clubs where they played. Joel went back to the piano and began creating his own signature sound based on musical styles from his childhood and became globally famous within a few years.

Paragraph D

Sometimes artists move from one style to another not because of personal taste but because of circumstance. For example, Fleetwood Mac began as a chart-topping blues rock band in the UK, but they were not able to maintain that success as the members of their band kept shifting over time and the group was at the point of falling apart. The instability continued until they hired two singers and songwriters whose influences were firmly based in pop music—and who led Fleetwood Mac to phenomenal success around the world. After four hit albums, the members of the band again began changing, though they've never returned to their blues origins.

PART THREE

NUMBERS 13–20

INSTRUCTIONS: Read this text about fashion. For numbers 13–20, choose the correct letter (A, B or C).

FAST FASHION

LINE

- 1 For most of history, the average person wore homemade clothing and didn't have much of it.
- 2 What we think of as fashion began after industrialization in the late nineteenth century. By the twentieth century, even factory workers were wearing the clothes they helped to make. Cheaper, easily available clothing became a way to disguise poverty and present at least a superficial equality. With the advent of advertising in the 1920s and a growing celebrity culture, people were exposed to the latest styles of the rich and famous, a version of which they could now buy themselves.

Until around two decades ago, fashion designers released new styles twice a year. But then came fast fashion: the production of new designs at an accelerated rate, with "seasons" unrelated to winter or spring and styles unconnected to well-known designers. Some fast fashion brands release up to twenty-four new collections every year. This has created a throw-away attitude to clothing, and the previous season is perceived as unfashionable and replaceable. Rather than taking care of higher-quality clothes, consumers are buying cheap new products and throwing clothes away; it is believed that every second, one garbage truck full of clothes is burned or thrown out.

The disastrous results of this waste are hard to grasp. Every year, 39,000 tons of clothing are dumped in Chile's Atacama desert; "hills" of this clothing are burnt or left buried, resulting in toxic smoke and land contamination. Dumped clothes attract disease-carrying insects and pests like rats to the local area. The chemicals in clothing disintegrate over hundreds of years, releasing toxins into our water which make their way to the ocean. In total, fast fashion production is responsible for up to ten percent of our carbon emissions.

When it comes to the human costs of fast fashion, the news doesn't get better. Millions of factory workers around the world are exploited for financial gain, producing piece after piece

of cheap clothing. Factories are located in places where labor laws are ignored, and the lack of unions result in unsafe workplaces full of dust and chemicals, while work hours extend late
26 into the night and are compensated with very low pay. Workers live hand to mouth, with barely enough money to take care of themselves, and are unable to make their objections heard.

We're paying a high price for cheap clothes. What can be done to make the industry more sustainable? Changes must be made at every stage, from creation to advertising to use and disposal. The good news is that several changes are not very expensive. For example, "no impact" clothing dyes don't contain toxic chemicals and require less water, and recycled fibers or fibers made of bamboo or pineapple are friendlier to the environment. Some small companies are already following these and other practices, but they are voluntary. If we want broad, systemic change, we must have trade regulations—better laws that protect both workers and consumers from fast fashion.

In the meantime, it's worthwhile to look for brands that are doing the right thing. Even so, much of what happens in the production of clothes is hidden from the customer. You might find clothing made of bamboo with an earth-friendly dye, but no information about the workers. Companies often make false claims about their labor practices, as seen in the case of social media stars who were tricked into touring a fake factory. And where did that zipper or button come from? It's almost impossible for a purchaser to know everything about the clothes they buy.

There's another way to help out. Many of us were never taught how to properly care for our
44 clothing or to choose high-quality goods. Due to this, we have the opportunity to make changes just by learning more. To begin, choose good clothes you like and find out how to take care of them and repair them instead of throwing them away. Washing clothes better—in cold water and only when they're actually dirty—will help to preserve their life and conserve resources. If you do get rid of your clothes, bring them to a local used clothing store. Finally, remember that fast fashion trends only exist to get us to buy more stuff. We're free to ignore them.

13. The main idea of paragraph 1 is _____.

- A people began finding inspiration for their style from celebrities
- B fashion developed out of technological and cultural changes
- C people in the modern world have more clothing than ever

14. According to the author, fast fashion _____.

- A is attractive because taking care of clothes requires effort
- B means that famous designers no longer have a role to play
- C is responsible for people's new approach toward clothes

15. The author mentions all the following effects of clothing waste except _____.
A short-term consequences
B potential sources of illness
C damage to animal welfare
16. The phrase “workers live hand to mouth” in line 26 tells us _____.
A that workers are afraid to talk about unfair conditions
B it’s hardly possible for workers to meet their basic needs
C that bosses don’t listen when workers make complaints
17. We can assume from paragraph 5 that the author believes _____.
A most companies will never change unless they’re forced to
B it’s not worth it for companies to make only a few changes
C clothes should only be made from fast-growing plants
18. A summary of paragraph 6 could be that consumers _____.
A don’t have sufficient information but can make better choices
B don’t care enough to do the necessary research on clothes
C can’t be responsible for all the problems with fast fashion
19. The word “this” in line 44 refers to _____.
A our ability to learn about clothing
B usually buying low-quality items
C a lack of knowledge about clothes
20. An alternative title for this text could be _____.
A It’s past time to give up on fashion
B Are we hurting the planet with style?
C The clothing industry’s little secret

INSTRUCTIONS: Read this article about an unusual Japanese product. For numbers 21–30, choose the correct word (A, B or C) to complete the sentence.

THE LUCKIEST CAT

Have you ever seen a small plastic cat with one lifted paw? You have probably come **(21)**_____ it at some point, whether in a shop, restaurant, jewelry store, or even in a movie scene. This cat is the Maneki-neko: a Japanese word that means a beckoning or an inviting cat.

Usually made of pottery or plastic, they **(22)**_____ a real Japanese breed of cat. As its arm **(23)**_____ up and down, the Maneki-neko may seem to be greeting everyone who approaches. But instead, the cat is actually **(24)**_____ good things toward the place where it is. The color of the cat determines which kind of luck it attracts. For example, a gold cat is meant to bring wealth, which is why it is often seen near the entrance of a shop. Other colors bring success in love (pink), education (blue), family (green), or happiness (white).

A **(25)**_____ of these cats in Japanese art has been found as far back as 1852, in the Edo period. Researchers are still **(26)**_____ on why the Maneki-neko first appeared, but there are many tales about its origin. One story tells of a traveler trapped in a terrible storm who sought **(27)**_____ under a tree. When he saw a cat that seemed to be waving him into an old temple, he moved away just as lightning **(28)**_____ the tree. Afterwards, with deep gratitude and **(29)**_____ for the little cat, the traveler had the temple repaired in its name.

While Maneki-neko are especially popular in Asia, these lucky cats are now purchased by people all over the world hoping for good **(30)**_____.

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|--------------|---|----------|---|-------------|
| 21. | A | along | B | across | C | by |
| 22. | A | represent | B | show | C | demonstrate |
| 23. | A | raises | B | swings | C | turns |
| 24. | A | carrying | B | catching | C | drawing |
| 25. | A | report | B | trace | C | record |
| 26. | A | unclear | B | unsure | C | uncertain |
| 27. | A | security | B | shelter | C | assistance |
| 28. | A | smashed | B | crashed | C | struck |
| 29. | A | appreciation | B | thanks | C | honor |
| 30. | A | fortune | B | chances | C | news |

INSTRUCTIONS: Read this text about a Mexican city. For numbers 31–42, transform the given word on the right into a related word that correctly fills the gap. WRITE the new word on your answer sheet. The transformed word must be spelled correctly.

EXAMPLE

... there's a small city ... people (0) rarely hear about.

GIVEN WORD

0. RARE

CHETUMAL, THE SOUTHERN DIAMOND

At the southern end of Mexico there's a small city called Chetumal that people (0) rarely hear about. Known to locals as "the diamond of the south," the capital of Quintana Roo has long suffered from a (31)____: many people assume that Cancún is the capital. Of course, Cancún is heavily promoted to tourists and (32)____, Chetumal often disappears alongside its famous sister.

This, however, can provide several advantages. Chetumal can feel more relaxed and be more (33)____, while having many of the same types of attractions. In or near the city you'll find the (34)____ Mahahual Beach, cenotes, ruins, and wildlife sanctuaries. And (35)____ types can enjoy snorkeling or scuba diving. The excellent food has Caribbean and Mayan influences, and the seafood restaurants in the (36)____ town of Calderitas are highly recommended.

Despite some similarities, it would not be (37)____ to expect the smaller Chetumal to be much like Cancún. It has its own particular charm. One (38)____ experience unique to Chetumal is its boardwalk, where you can take a long, romantic walk by the bay. But the best way to enjoy Chetumal is through its people, whose (39)____ is remarkable. They show a (40)____ to care for visitors by providing a glass of water, a plate of food, or a fun conversation.

While this jewel of a city has been mostly ignored by international tourists, it is becoming (41)____ popular. The city is trying to make tourism more (42)____ and seems to be succeeding—so visit soon, while it is still relatively undiscovered.

0. RARE

31. UNDERSTAND

32. CONSEQUENCE

33. ACCESS

34. PEACE

35. ADVENTURE

36. NEAR

37. REAL

38. MEMORY

39. WARM

40. WILLING

41. INCREASE

42. PROFIT

INSTRUCTIONS: Read this email and think of the correct words to complete the text. For numbers 43–57, WRITE ONE word in the correct space on your answer sheet. The new words must be spelled correctly.

EXAMPLE

Here's the latest news **(0)**_____ our plans . . .

CORRECT ANSWER

on

New Message					_ ↗ ×	
To	Jim	Carol	Pat	Jenny	Phil	Cc Bcc
Subject special work project						
<p>Hi everyone,</p> <p>Here's the latest news (0) <u>on</u> our plans for Gina. Some of you expressed concern about whether or not she'll enjoy a surprise party, but I've spoken with her sister and she said definitely yes!</p> <p>We already discussed having the party in the conference room, but they're (43)_____ it repainted, so we need another plan. We could do this at someone's house, but the problem is figuring (44)_____ how to get her there. The plan will be (45)_____ good if she won't come with us. Let's do it at Manny's Italian Restaurant, (46)_____ I think is the best in town.</p> <p>Marty, invite Gina to the restaurant to discuss a work project with you on Friday. Say it's urgent. You're her boss, (47)_____ all! It (48)_____ be helpful if you went with her in the same car to be sure. But it (49)_____ to be easy to convince her to go, since she loves that place.</p> <p>About a half hour later, we'll start arriving (50)_____ at a time, pretending that it's all just a coincidence. Say hello and sit somewhere else. Then, (51)_____ arrives last will yell "Happy birthday! and we'll all join in. The waiters said their back room can be (52)_____ our disposal for a private party. I still haven't made the cake, since I've had more than (53)_____ to do this week, but it's fine. I'll drop it off on time. It'll cost me so (54)_____ that we don't need to add it to our budget.</p> <p>We'd do well to set up a group text (55)_____ the meantime. Email has worked so (56)_____ but we'll need it on the day.</p> <p>OK, let me know if this sounds good and remember to keep this just (57)_____ us. Take care,</p> <p>Ruth</p>						
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 5px 15px; border-radius: 5px;">Send</div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> A 📎 ⋮ </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> </div> </div>						



Universidad Veracruzana

PAPER TWO

Listening Comprehension

Do not open until told.



length of the recording

2
El sello no puede ser
violado hasta que se
le indique.

INSTRUCTIONS: You will hear six short recordings. For numbers 1–6, fill in the correct letter (A, B or C) on your answer sheet.

1. You will hear a woman talking about studying abroad.
Why does she have mixed feelings about going?
A She may have underestimated the difficulties.
B She knows she doesn't speak the language well.
C She's having doubts about leaving her family.
2. Listen to friends planning a demonstration.
What do they still need to do before it begins?
A create the signs to bring with them
B get approval for the demonstration
C finish doing publicity for the event
3. Listen to this announcement on an airplane.
What does the pilot say?
A There's nothing you can do if you miss your flight.
B Some of the passengers may not have problems.
C You'll get your money back if you have travel problems.
4. Listen to this couple talking about a restaurant.
Which opinion do they share?
A Approval of how the bill is presented
B Enthusiasm about having extra food
C Appreciation for the food at the Sandbar
5. Listen to a tour guide at a garden.
Why is this garden different from others?
A The garden is meant to teach visitors.
B The purpose of this garden is unique.
C It is the oldest garden in the region.
6. Listen to a mother and son talking about his plans.
What does he think about moving out of his parents' house?
A He is mostly concerned to avoid upsetting his mother.
B He's grateful for his parents' support but doesn't need it.
C He knows he can overcome the challenges of living alone.

PART TWO

NUMBERS 7–12

INSTRUCTIONS: Now you will hear six people speaking about the same topic. For numbers 7–12, match each speaker with the correct summary, and fill in the correct letter (A–H) on your answer sheet. There are two extra summaries.

Speakers

- 7. Speaker 1
- 8. Speaker 2
- 9. Speaker 3
- 10. Speaker 4
- 11. Speaker 5
- 12. Speaker 6

Summaries

- A** Seeing the world will have to wait.
- B** Making the practical choice is always safe.
- C** I'm not rushing to figure out my future.
- D** Family considerations lead to an exciting change.
- E** I don't care if others find my plan difficult or boring.
- F** Continuing on the same path is fine with me.
- G** Any job is all right just after graduation.
- H** I've been preparing my next step for years.

PART THREE

NUMBERS 13–18

INSTRUCTIONS: You will now hear a longer conversation. For numbers 13–18, fill in the correct letter (A, B or C) on your answer sheet.

13. What is Trinity's attitude about winning?

- A** grateful that she was able to get this far
- B** sure that this is only one step forward
- C** she thinks it is only what she deserves

14. Why did she get started in this sport?

- A** Someone asked her to participate.
- B** She was looking for a challenge.
- C** She was already a good swimmer.

15. What did Trinity do when she had difficulty in the water?

- A** gave herself time to calm down
- B** stopped caring about the race
- C** considered giving up sports

16. What was the most important reason Trinity improved?

- A** She started winning a few races.
- B** She learned to deal with her stress.
- C** She made contact with other athletes.

17. Which change did Trinity make first?

- A** hiring someone to help her train
- B** deciding to become a full-time athlete
- C** changing part of her workout routine

18. According to Trinity, how should athletes respond to criticism?

- A** keep going and work harder
- B** talk to friends about it
- C** use it in order to improve

INSTRUCTIONS: Now you will hear one person speaking. Complete each gap with a word, phrase, or number from the words you hear. For numbers 19–25, write NO MORE THAN THREE words or a number in the correct space on your answer sheet. There is an example.

EXAMPLE

0. One particular diet requires people to eat what they think our _____ ate.

CORRECT ANSWER

ancestors

Be Careful of Food Trends

0. One particular diet requires people to eat what they think our ancestors ate.
19. According to the speaker, people in the past didn't eat much _____.
20. If there is no _____, a diet can be called a "fad."
21. Some fad diets are made popular because a _____ tried them.
22. One fad diet of warm milk was accompanied by _____.
23. Because these diets are _____, they almost always fail.
24. People may try these diets because they want to _____ themselves.
25. To eat well, people should stay away from _____ food choices.