

EURO ANGOL

FELSŐFOKÚ NYELVVIZSGA
GYAKORLÓFELADATOK

SZABÓ PÉTER

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a rádió- és televízióadás, valamint a fordítás jogát, az egyes fejezeteket
illetően is.

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WRITING SKILLS PRACTICE

PRACTISING TOPIC SENTENCES

I Read each paragraph and choose the most appropriate topic sentence from options a, b, and c.

- 1 Trail climbing is the easiest. Climbers just walk along trails to the top of a mountain. The trails are not very steep, and the mountains are small. The second type, rock climbing, takes place on steeper slopes and bigger mountains. Climbers generally have to use special equipment such as climbing shoes, ropes, and metal nails called pitons. The third type is ice climbing. Ice climbing takes place only on very high mountains and requires a lot of special equipment. Equipment used in ice climbing includes ice axes and crampons, which are spikes attached to a climber's boots for walking on ice and hard snow. Indeed, the sport of mountain climbing can range from an easy uphill walk to a difficult climb up a frozen waterfall.
 - a) Mountain climbing requires special skills and equipment.
 - b) The sport of mountain climbing is practiced worldwide.
 - c) There are three main types of mountain climbing.

- 2 For example, Kansas City, in the very centre of the United States, is known for its beef, and Kansas City barbecue is everyone's favourite way to enjoy it. In Boston, people love baked beans. In the Southwest, chili, a stew made of meat, beans, tomatoes, and hot peppers, is the regional dish. Wisconsin, a state with many dairy farms, is famous for its cheese. Go to Maryland and Virginia for crab cakes' and to the Northeast for clam chowder' and maple syrup. Indeed, many U.S. cities and regions have a special food for everyone to enjoy.
 - a) There is a variety of food in the United States.
 - b) Food in the United States varies from sweet desserts to spicy stews.
 - c) Different regions of the United States have their own traditional foods.

- 3 Before the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean, water buffalo stampeded in Thailand, and dogs in Sri Lanka refused to go out for their regular walks. An unusual number of pets ran away from their homes in the days before the 1989 San Francisco earthquake. Japanese researchers have analysed fishermen's stories about the abnormal behaviour of fish in the days or hours before earthquakes in that country. These are just a few examples of strange animal behaviour just before earthquakes occur.
 - a) Dogs, elephants, water buffalo, and fish can predict earthquakes.
 - b) Earthquake prediction is an important science.
 - c) Animals may be able to sense earthquakes before they happen.

II Read each paragraph and write an appropriate topic sentence on the line.

First of all, teachers must know their subjects very well. At a minimum, they should take several college courses and pass a written test in every subject that they teach. Also, they should take refresher classes' every few years to keep their knowledge up-to-date. Third, teachers should take education classes in college to learn how to teach. Fourth, they should have spent at least one year practice-teaching. Practice-teaching is teaching real children in a real classroom under the supervision of an experienced teacher. Only after a person has met these requirements should he or she receive a teaching license.

1
Even small towns in the United States have at least one pizzeria and one Chinese restaurant. Every midsize town has at least one taqueria, where you can get a delicious Mexican taco or burrito. French food has always been popular, and hot dogs and hamburgers, German in origin, are found everywhere. More recently, Middle Eastern shish kebab, Japanese sushi, and English fish and chips are increasingly available in the United States.

2
Some people skip breakfast because they think it will help them lose weight. Another reason people give is that they simply don't like breakfast. For others, the reason is cultural. People in some cultures consume only two meals each day instead of three, and breakfast isn't traditionally one of them. The most common reason people give is lack of time. They like to stay in bed until the last minute, and then they have to rush to get to work or to school on time.

3

PRACTISING CONCLUDING SENTENCES**1 Choose the most appropriate concluding sentence from options a, b and c.****Animals in Captivity**

Animals living in modern zoos enjoy several advantages over animals in the wild. The first advantage is that zoo animals are separated from their natural predators. They are protected, so they live without risk of being attacked. Another advantage is that someone feeds them regularly, so they do not have to hunt for food. Also, they do not suffer times when food is hard to find. A third advantage of living in zoos is that veterinarians give animals regular checkups, and sick animals get prompt medical attention.

- a) In conclusion, because all their needs are taken care of, most zoo animals are healthy and contented.
- b) In conclusion, living in a zoo has many advantages for animals, but it also has some disadvantages.
- c) In conclusion, zoos keep animals safe from predators.

2 On the line at the end of each paragraph, write a suitable concluding sentence.

- a) The college cafeteria is an inexpensive place to eat. For example, you can get a cheeseburger, french fries, and a soda for only \$3.00. A slice of pizza is only \$1.50, and a cup of coffee is only 50¢. There is a daily special for about \$2.50. It includes an entrée, rice or potatoes, and a vegetable. The salad bar is the best deal of all. You get all you can eat for \$2.00.
-

- b) Watching children's programs on television is a good way to learn a foreign language. First, the actors speak slowly and repeat often. Also, the vocabulary is not difficult. Finally, there is always a lot of action, so you know what is happening even if you don't understand the words.
-
- c) Global warming has had a number of negative effects on the environment. Agricultural crops have been damaged; for example, last year's rice production decreased, so many people are suffering from famine. Many African countries, especially, have a much lower yield of agricultural production. Furthermore, the sea levels are rising around the world, which has led to the disappearance of many islands. Global warming can also affect people's health, in particular, extremely hot temperatures can increase the number of people who die on any given day. In hot weather the heart needs to work harder, for example. The weather can also affect the immune system.
-
- d) The development of information technology has meant that many businesses have been able to reduce their running costs. This revolution has helped reduce the need for paper-handling operations and other routine work. Moreover, it has also enabled companies to dismantle their main offices, and thus cut overhead costs, as many employees can now work at home or in satellite offices, using computers and telecommunication devices.
-

PRACTISING VOCABULARY

- 1 Some general adjectives are over-used, such as *nice / good / bad / hard / loud / big*. Using more specific adjectives makes a sentence more interesting. Write some more vivid words next to the adjectives below. Example: It's a very big tree. → It's a gigantic tree.

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| small – | nasty – |
| large – | hot – |
| tired – | loud – |
| clever – | big – |
| hungry – | funny – |
| upset – | |

- 2 Rewrite the sentences, using more academic vocabulary. The first letters of the words to be inserted are given.

- a) Rescuers had (given up) a..... all hope of finding any more survivors.
- b) Some creams we tested failed to give (enough) a..... protection against UV light.
- c) Work will (start) c..... on the new building immediately.
- d) The house (has) c..... two bedrooms, a kitchen, and a living room.
- e) The work of monks was (very important) c..... in spreading Christianity.
- f) Many forms of cancer can be cured if (found) d..... early.
- g) She (showed) d..... no emotion on the witness stand.
- h) They (had) e..... serious problems when two members of the expedition were injured.

- i) The total of 84 million (is more) e..... all other estimates that we have seen.
j) Computer programs can be used to (help) f..... language learning.
k) We have to tackle the (main) f..... cause of the problem.
l) The sisters were (the same) i..... in appearance and character.
m) If progress during this (early) i..... period is (good enough) s.....
....., the student's registration will be accepted.
n) You will need to (get) o..... permission from the principal.
o) Tickets can be (bought) p..... in advance from the box office.
p) It's (more and more) i..... difficult to recruit and (keep) r.....
..... good staff.
q) Michael was the (only) s..... survivor of the crash.
r) His most (important) s..... political achievement was the abolition of
the death penalty.
s) By the mid-1920s, she had become one of Broadway's most (popular) s.....
actresses.
t) Three other specimens were (found) l..... in (later) s..... years.

LINKING SENTENCES

- 1 The words in the box express four different meanings: *contrast/ exception/ comparison/ addition*. Which of these phrases express which meaning?

apart from ■ except for ■ although ■ in comparison with ■ in relation to ■ despite ■ even though ■ in spite of ■ along with ■ besides ■ unless

| CONTRAST | EXCEPTION | COMPARISON | ADDITION |
|----------|-----------|------------|----------|
| | | | |

- 2 Complete these sentences by using the appropriate word or phrase from the list above.

- a) her limited knowledge of language, Michael learnt very quickly.
b) being heartbroken, she felt foolish.
c) George was murdered, three guards.
d) We won't go you really want to.
e) What do you like doing swimming?

- 3 Put the words below into the correct column according to their meaning.

since ■ so ■ owing to ■ in order to ■ so that ■ so as to ■ due to ■ therefore ■ in order that ■ because ■ because of ■ as

| REASON | PURPOSE | RESULT |
|--------|---------|--------|
| | | |

TASK ONE: Paragraph Headings

Questions 1–6

You will read a text about skiving.

- Match each paragraph to the correct heading.
- Place a ✕ in the appropriate box on your Answer Sheet.
- The first one has been done for you.
- There are two extra paragraph headings that you DO NOT need.

Paragraph Headings

- A IT'S OK TO SKIVE ONCE IN A WHILE
- B *HAVE YOU COME UP WITH SOME CREATIVE WAYS OF SLACKING OFF?*
- C DEVELOPING NEW TRICKS
- D THE UNKNOWING ACCOMPLICE
- E LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW SICK LEAVE SYSTEM
- F PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR SKIVING AT WORK
- G A DEFINITION OF SKIVING
- H BUSY TIMES AND DEAD SPOTS
- I SKIVING THROUGH THE AGES

How to Skive

Example: B

Why not offer to spearhead the company's social media programme? Every time someone sees you on Facebook or Twitter, you can rightly point out that it's part of your work. Or perhaps lock yourself in the toilet and enjoy your newspaper or Sudoku? If people question the length of your visits, you should be upfront and graphic about your dodgy tummy. No-one ever makes up an embarrassing ailment, so no-one will guess that you're lying.

1

Skiving is a skill. The good skiver, like the competent motorist, attracts no attention. There is only the quiet personal satisfaction that comes from a job not well done. Skiving can be divided into two distinct parts; skiving off work and skiving at work. It is in relation to authority figures, primarily schoolteachers and employers, that skiving is most commonly practised by the British people. It is the compulsory nature of the activity being avoided (work, school) that provides the environment in which skiving can flourish.

2

The concept can be traced back to Homer and his skiver Thersites, who managed to bunk off the Trojan wars. Modern skiving has its roots in national service, when a generation of soldiers learned the skiving skills they were to take into British industry with such spectacular results in the 1960s and 1970s. Off-work skiving is largely concerned with exploiting the sick leave system. Here the groundwork done at school — where the skiver will have learned that the best illnesses to claim are those that (a) sound serious and (b) are impossible to disprove — is refined and sharpened.

3

Remember, a doctor's note is no longer adequate protection against interrogation. In the 1970s, the limit on days off without a doctor's note moved from two to three; by the end of that

decade, only on the fourth day did the skiver need to produce a sick note. The self-certification system, introduced in the early 1980s, looked at first sight like a skiver's charter. An employee could be absent for up to eight weeks on the basis of his or her own signature. Fresh territory for the skiver had been opened up.

4

It was not to be. Self-certification busted the absolute authority of the doctor's note and allowed personnel officers to start questioning the skiver's 'illness'. Friendly 'bad back' doctors were no longer enough to ensure trouble-free skiving, and a more creative approach was called for. Intimidation provided the key, frightening the employer off any idea of questioning the 'illness'. To this end, the skiver, during any brief periods on duty, would casually mention an array of medical advisers — specialists, physiotherapists, masseurs — working on various ailments. He or she would also arrange 'appointments' with them during work time, thus exploiting new skiving opportunities.

5

There's a certain type of person who always has tissues and cough syrup. He or she is overly sympathetic, sweet and gullible. These naïve and gentle folk can be used ruthlessly. Accept their offer of pain killers (it's always good if you look slightly spacey) and use their sympathy and natural inclination to gossip to spread the fact that you are 'unwell' around your workplace. You'll only need to blow your nose before people begin imploring you to go home and take it easy.

6

In-work skiving is the bread-and-butter of the skiver's life. First, ensure a tool of your trade is permanently tucked under your arm. Second, walk briskly and purposefully wherever you go. Third, leave a jacket permanently slung over the back of your seat. With luck, no one will ever ask you to do anything. And what more could the true skiver ask?

TASK TWO: Discursive Writing

- Choose only ONE of the following questions – 1, 2 or 3.
- Write ca. 200 words.
- DO NOT answer more than ONE question.
- Write your answer to this question on the Answer Sheet.

1 What role will robots play in our future? Write **an article** for your college magazine. Make sure you are presenting your case clearly. Remember you are writing for the readers of a magazine.

2 An article in the local newspaper argued that congestion charges will ease traffic chaos in the city centre. You feel strongly about this issue and decide to write **a letter to the editor**. Remember that letters to the editor are published in the newspaper and that you are writing for an audience.

3 *Violent video games and television shows make people more violent in real life.* To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Write **an essay**. Explain your points for and against and provide a conclusion at the end. Make sure you state your arguments in a logical way.