

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH OLYMPIAD

2018-2019

English Language DEMO

11th GRADE

The test consists of 2 parts: Reading and Grammar and Vocabulary.

Duration – 60 minutes

Part 1. READING

Task 1. Read the text carefully. Choose from the sentences **1-8** the one which fits each gap (A-E). There are **three extra** sentences which you do not need to use.

THE TOWER

John Spark starts at the bottom when he joins a Spanish team making competitive human pyramids.

A large man jams his foot in my ear and jumps on to my shoulders. He is quickly followed by another only slightly smaller gentleman who grabs my belt and shimmies up me like a pole. Another follows. My face contorts with pain as the fourth tier mounts on to my back and I begin to sway dangerously.

A _____.

‘Castelling’ (making human castles) is a family sport in Catalonia. Groups normally consist of everyone from tiny children, through awkward adolescents and wiry women, to well-built men at the bottom. **B** _____ I had also heard that being overweight and unfit would not count against me. Sure enough, when I turned up for my first training session, I could sense that, for the first time in years, my ever-expanding physique was being appreciatively looked at.

Castelling began almost 200 years ago near Tarragona, just south of Barcelona. Out of nowhere, it seems that people suddenly began forming themselves into human towers. Since then the sport, if you can call it that, has become an expression of Catalan identity, with groups competing to build ever higher and more elegant structures.

C _____ Once or twice it has managed a six-tier tower. The top teams regularly manage eight or nine. It was my intention to add a little British beef to the group to help them reach the next level in time for the competitions to be held tomorrow in Barcelona on the National Day of Catalonia.

At first I had thought that I might like to go on top to bask in the glory, but the club's president soon put me straight. He indicated a spindly little girl who looked as though she had been raised entirely on broccoli, and not much of it at that. It is she who has pride of place on top of the pyramid.

D _____ For my first try-out I was given the role of *segones mans* (second hands), which meant that I supported the wrists of the man who supported the buttocks of the first rank of the pyramid.

Once I had assumed my position, people began to scramble up me and on to the tower without warning. **E** _____ Still, my hard work must have been appreciated because I was quickly promoted to be *primeres mans* and support the bottoms of the first level of the pyramid that we were making under the watchful eye of the artistic director.

My performance in the 'hands' section had obviously been satisfactory because at the third training session I was called forward and given the very great honour of the President's Belt. It was a clear gesture that me and my bulk had been accepted. Finally, I had made it to the bottom of the pile.

Being a pillar in a castell is much like being a bass player in a band. You know that everyone in the crowd is cheering for the singer or the lead guitarist, no matter how important the rhythm section. When we take the stage tomorrow, no one in the crowd will know who I am, or even be able to see me down at the bottom. All their cheering will be for the little girl on top.

- 1** The best I could hope for was to be at the bottom, but even that honour has to be earned.
- 2** So I knew that everyone at the training session that night would have cheered with good-natured delight if I had done that.
- 3** But that memorable night in Figueres, despite the incredible strain, I held steady and the applause was all for me.
- 4** I had been attracted to castelling because I had been told that it requires almost no skill or coordination.
- 5** Within seconds I had assisted in the formation of a three-tier tower without really noticing what was happening.
- 6** It is not easy being the bottom man of a human pyramid.
- 7** Each casteller is wound into a large strip of material worn around the waist to support the back and to help the other castellers grip when they climb.
- 8** The group I had joined in Figueres, near the French border, is very much a second division outfit.

A	B	C	D	E

Task 2. Read the text and decide whether the following statements (1-5) agree with the information given in the text. Mark them:

T (True) if the statement agrees with the text

F (False) if the statement does not agree with the text

NG (Not Given) if there is no information about this in the text

1. Archaeologists learn not only from the solid things and materials that do not vanish completely but also use soft objects. _____
2. It is only owing to the fact that archaeology exists we know the roots and history of us all. _____
3. ‘Lindow Man’ may have been someone of high status, as his body shows little evidence of rough work. _____
4. The nature of his demise was violent, perhaps even ritualistic. _____
5. Lindow Man now resides at the British Museum, although it occasionally travels to other venues. _____

ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology, like many academic words, comes from Greek and means, more or less, ‘the study of old things’. So, it is really a part of the study of history. However, most historians use paper evidence, such as letters, documents, paintings and photographs, but archaeologists learn from the objects left behind by the humans of long ago. Normally, these are the hard materials that don’t decompose or disappear very quickly – things like human bones and skeletons, objects made from stone and metal, and ceramics.

Of course, for much of human history, there are no written documents at all. Who were the first humans, and where did they come from? This is a job for the archaeologists, who have found and dated the bones and objects left behind. From this evidence, they believe that humans first appeared in Africa and began moving to other parts of the world about 80,000 years ago. The movement of our ancestors across the planet has been mapped from their remains – humans went to Australia about 70,000 years ago, but have been in South America for just 15,000 years. The evidence of archaeology has helped to show the shared origin and history of us all.

In 1984, two men made an amazing discovery while working in a bog called Lindow Moss, near Manchester in the north of England. A bog is a very wet area of earth, with a lot of plants growing in it. It can be like a very big and very thick vegetable soup – walk in the wrong place and you can sink and disappear forever.

The men were cutting the peat when one of them saw something sticking out – a human foot! Naturally, the men called the police, who then found the rest of the body. Was it a case of murder? Possibly – but it was a death nearly two thousand years old. Why was this man so well preserved? It was because he was in a very watery environment, safe from the bacteria that need oxygen to live. Also, the water in the bog was very acidic. The acid preserved the man's skin in the way that animal skin is preserved for leather coats and shoes.

How did he die? Understandably, archaeologists and other scientists wanted to know more about the person that they called, 'Lindow Man'. His hands and fingernails suggested that he hadn't done heavy manual work in his life – he could have been a rich man or a priest. They found that he hadn't died by accident. The forensic examination revealed that he had been hit on the head three times and his throat was cut with a knife. Then a rope was tightened around his neck. As if that wasn't enough, he was then thrown into the bog. The archaeologists believe that he was sacrificed to three different Celtic gods, called Taranis, Esus and Teutates. Each god required a different form of death.

But an archaeologist called Anne Ross has suggested that Lindow Man was a special case of sacrifice. Why would an important man be sacrificed to three gods? Perhaps it was in response to the Roman invasion of Britain, which started in the year AD 43, close to the time that Lindow Man died. He might have been killed to gain the help of the gods against the Romans. It didn't work. The Romans stayed in Britain for four hundred years and Lindow Man stayed in his bog for two thousand. If you visit London, you can go and see Lindow Man at the British Museum, where he is spending some time in the company of more famous mummies from Egypt.

Part 2. GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY

Task 3. Read the text below and decide which answer **A**, **B**, **C**, or **D** best fits each gap. Choose the correct answer from the options provided. Complete the table below with the corresponding letters.

OUR PLANET WITHOUT WATER?

Water is the world's most precious resource. People can survive for 1. _____ a long time without food but can only live a few days without water. It is very important then, for people to 2. _____ better care of our rivers, lakes and streams.

The problem is that populations keep 3. _____ whereas the amount of fresh water available stays the same. For example, 4. _____ 1950, water use has tripled and experts say that by the year 2030 two thirds of the world's population will suffer from water 5. _____.

Another problem is 6. _____ our water is safe to drink. Many of our rivers and lakes are 7. _____ with chemicals and industrial waste from factories. In fact, in the year 1995, 20% of the people in the world did not have 8. _____ to safe water. Luckily however, there are steps that we could take. First of all, we 9. _____ try not to waste water at home. For example, turning the tap off when you brush your teeth, fixing leaky pipes and taking showers instead of baths are solutions that can help. What is more, factories must stop dumping their waste and take measures to 10. _____ their waste use, by recycling it.

Undoubtedly, everyone needs clean water for a healthy life.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. A such | B some | C quite | D during |
| 2. A make | B have | C take | D do |
| 3. A rising | B growing | C developing | D progressing |
| 4. A before | B since | C for | D in |
| 5. A shortages | B losses | C failures | D deficits |
| 6. A also | B whether | C unless | D how |
| 7. A filthy | B infected | C stained | D polluted |
| 8. A way | B access | C approach | D availability |
| 9. A should | B do | C have | D would |
| 10. A slow down | B reduce | C lessen | D lower |

Question	Your answer	Your answer	Your answer	Your answer
	A	B	C	D
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Task 4. For questions 1-10, think of 1 word which best fits each gap and fill in the gaps.

VEGETABLES

Researchers in Milan have found out a way of listening to sounds from plants normally inaudible to the human ear. The basic technique 1. _____ developed in the Netherlands but the German equipment is more sensitive. When a leaf or stem is sliced, the plant signals pain or dismay 2. _____ releasing the

gas ethylene over its entire surface. The gas molecules are collected in a bell jar and bombarded with laser beams, 3. _____ makes them vibrate. The resultant sound waves are amplified in a resonance tube, 4. _____ detected with a sensitive microphone. The longer a plant is subjected to stress, the louder the signal.

One surprising result came from an apparently healthy cucumber that was virtually shouting 5. _____ agony. 6. _____ closer study showed it 7. _____ developed mildew, a harmful fungus, though the symptoms were not apparent. Listening to plants in this 8. _____ could be of great benefit to farmers as an early-warning system to detect pests and disease, and as an aid to efficient storing and transporting. Apples, for instance, give 9. _____ high levels of ethylene, increasing with ripeness. Invisible differences of ripeness can be detected acoustically, enabling fruit to be separated into batches in order to prolong 10. _____ freshness.

Task 5. For questions 1-5, complete the second sentence so it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. **Do not change the word given.** You must use between **two** and **five** words, including the word given.

1. It's a fairly long time since I last watched this programme.

QUITE

I haven't watched this programme _____ time.

2. I'm sorry, could you wait for a moment, please?

MIND

I'm sorry, _____ for a moment, please?

3. The food she eats affects her health badly.

EFFECT

The food she eats _____ her health.

4. The only thing I did at the weekend was housework.

APART

I did _____ housework at the weekend.

5. He didn't buy a present for her, he gave her some money.

INSTEAD

He gave her some money _____ present.

6. A temporary manager is running the shop at the moment.

RUN

The shop _____ a temporary manager at the moment.

7. If you keep trying, you'll improve.

GIVE

If you _____, you'll get better.

8. Because of what you advised me, I did the right thing.

ADVICE

Thanks _____ me, I did the right thing.

9. In my opinion, they're the best band in the world.

CONCERNED

They're the best band in the world, as _____.

10. My brother earns half of what I earn.

TWICE

I earn _____ my brother.

ANSWER KEY

TASK 1

A	B	C	D	E
5	7	2	8	4

TASK 2

1. NG
2. F
3. T
4. T
5. F

TASK 3

1. (C) quite
2. (C) take
3. (B) growing
4. (B) since
5. (A) shortages
6. (B) whether
7. (D) polluted
8. (B) access
9. (A) should
10. (B) reduce

TASK 4

1. was
2. by
3. which

4. and/then
5. in/with
6. A
7. had
8. way
9. off
10. its

TASK 5

1. for quite a long
2. would/do you mind waiting
3. has a bad effect on
4. nothing apart from
5. instead of buying her a
6. is being run by
7. don't/do not give up
8. to the advice you gave
9. far as I'm/I am concerned
10. twice as much (money) as