HSE Global Scholarship Competition – 2020

English Language DEMO
10th 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 **1-7** the one which fits each gap **(A-E).** There are **two extra** sentences which you do not need to use.

ARE ANIMALS REALLY SMART?

How does a scientist find out to what extent an animal is capable of thinking? What evidence is there that it is able to acquire information about the world and act on it, learning as it goes along?

In 1968 Anna Frost, a recent graduate of Boston University, decided to investigate the thought processes of another creature by talking to it.

A _____. 'I thought if he learnt to communicate, I could ask him questions about how he sees the world.'

Frost bought Jack in a Chicago pet store and she let the store's assistant choose him. **B** _____. Given that Jack's brain was the size of a walnut, most researchers thought Frost's communication study would be futile. 'Some people actually called me crazy for trying this,' she said.

C _____. He could count to six and had learnt the sounds for seven and eight. But the point was not to see if Jack could learn words by heart. Frost wanted to get inside his mind and learn more about a bird's understanding of the world. She couldn't ask him what he was thinking about, but she could ask him about his knowledge of numbers, shapes and colours.

In one demonstration, Frost placed Jack on a wooden perch in the middle of the room. She then held up a green key and a small green cup for him to look at. 'What's the same?' she asked.

Without hesitation, Jack's beak opened: 'Co-lour.'

'What's different?' Frost asked.

‘Shape,’ Jack said. His voice had the sound of a cartoon character. But the words – and what can only be called the thoughts – were entirely his.
D _____. Very few animals share these skills.
But parrots, like humans, live a long time in complex societies. And like humans, these birds must keep track of the dynamics of changing relationships and environments.
‘They need to be able to distinguish colours to know when a fruit is ripe or unripe,’ Frost explained. **E** _____. And it helps to have a concept of numbers if you need to keep track of your flock. For a long-lived bird, you can’t do all of this with instinct; cognition must be involved.’
In the demonstration, Jack then ran through various tests, distinguishing colours, shapes, sizes, and materials (wool versus wood versus metal). He did some simple arithmetic, such as counting the yellow toy blocks among a pile of mixed coloured blocks. And then, as if to offer final proof of the mind inside his bird’s brain, Jack spoke up. ‘Talk clearly!’ he commanded, when one of the younger birds Frost was also teaching mispronounced the word green. ‘Talk clearly!’
Jack knew all the answers himself and was getting bored. ‘He’s moody,’ said Frost, ‘so he interrupts the others, or he gives the wrong answer just to be difficult.’ Frost was certainly learning more about the mind of a parrot, but like the parent of a troublesome teenager, she was learning the hard way.

1. Many of Jack’s cognitive skills, such as his ability to understand the concepts of ‘same’ and ‘different’, are rare in the animal world.
2. With Frost’s patient teaching, Jack learnt how to imitate almost one hundred English words, including the names of food.
3. She wanted to focus not on what pets can do, but on what they feel.
4. In order to do this she would teach a one-year-old American grey parrot named Jack to reproduce the sounds of the English language.
5. She was convinced that parrots are aware of what their owners think and feel.
6. They need to categorise things – what’s edible, what isn’t – and to know the shapes of predators.
7. She didn’t want other scientists to say that she had deliberately chosen an especially smart bird.

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. The web is every spider's preferred method of catching food. _____
2. Female widow spiders sometimes eat the male spider during reproduction. _____
3. A quarter of all spiders produce venom which can kill humans. _____
4. Some spider silk is stronger than steel. _____
5. The exact causes of Arachnophobia are different for different people. _____

SPIDERS

Many people think that spiders are insects but they are mistaken since insects have six legs and three main body parts while spiders belong to a group of animals called 'arachnids' – these are creatures with two body segments, eight legs, no wings or antennae and are not able to chew.

Spiders can be found on every continent of the planet except Antarctica. They are both hunters and hunted. They capture their prey in a variety of ways, either by spinning a web and waiting for their unsuspecting prey to fall into the trap, or jumping out of a hiding place onto a passing meal. Except for the plant-eating Bagheera kiplingi, these eight-legged invertebrates are serial carnivores: most love to snack on insects while others are tempted by lizards, birds, frogs, fish and the occasional snake. There are spiders that eat other spiders, and some female widow spiders eat their mates, even while they are mating. In turn, spiders are preyed on by lizards, birds, snakes and scorpions as well as some insects such as the mantis and a type of wasp that buries the arachnid alive! Spiders are also eaten by humans; they are a delicacy in some cultures of the South Pacific and a popular street food in South East Asia.

Spider venom is present in most species and serves the purpose of stunning or killing their prey rather than attacking humans. In fact, only 25 of the known spider species produce venom which can actually harm humans, and although spider bites can be painful, they are rarely deadly. Australia's notorious Sydney funnel-web spider has not produced any fatalities since anti-venom was developed in 1981. However, take care not to rub hairy spiders like tarantulas up the wrong way. When they feel in danger, they defend themselves by ejecting a cloud of urticating hairs. These irritating hairs then embed themselves in the skin or eyes of the attacker.

Spiders can produce several different types of silk from their silk glands and nozzles, otherwise known as spinnerets. They range from stickier threads used to weave webs to capture their prey to incredibly strong threads which

can support their own weight. The toughest spider silk is up to six times stronger than human bone, and that made by orb-weaver spiders is on a par with the strength of steel. In fact, some experts suggest that spider silk would be more effective than Kevlar in bulletproof vests. However, harvesting the thread on spider farms is complicated as these territorial creatures prefer their own company and could end up killing each other. Nevertheless, having studied the complex nature of spider silk, scientists have managed to replicate the resilient fibres, which has enormous potential for developing a range of things from synthetic muscle tissue to high-performance sports clothing.

Arachnophobia, or the irrational fear of spiders, is among the most common phobias in the Western world. It is thought to date back thousands of years and might be the result of an instinctive response displayed in early humans. For a long time throughout Europe, spiders were wrongly believed to spread diseases such as the plague. However, out of all the known spider species on the planet, only around 2% are actually harmful to humans. Other cultures such as Native Americans depict them in a more favourable light as they believe spiders are lucky and consider them symbols of wisdom.

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.

KEEP SAFE

The police have announced that **1.** _____ figures in the capital have rocketed yet again. A police **2.** _____ warned that small offences were increasing and warned the public to be on their guard against attacks in the streets, such as **3.** _____**.**

The police did report a crackdown on offenders after they made a number of arrests of gangs of thieves who work on the underground network. This attracted a great deal of **4.** _____ attention and the photographs of the suspects appeared in all major newspapers. The police have also encouraged local storekeepers to install security cameras to reduce the amount of **5.** _____ throughout the city.

Nevertheless, it is the organized gangs that remain public **6.** _____ number one. They have been responsible for graffiti, vandalism, and violent attacks on the major housing estates north of the city. Many elderly people **7.** _____ from intimidation from the gangs and some are afraid even to leave their own homes. The police have **8.** _____ for witnesses who may be able to give evidence against these people. The police commissioner has stated that this situation cannot continue. “We cannot **9.** _____

these hooligans ruin the lives of everyone else in the community," he said yesterday. "But whether we can catch the leaders of the gangs **10.**

1.	**A**. illegal	**B.** suspect	**C.** police	**D.** crime
2.	**A**. announcer	**B.** presenter	**C.** spokesperson	**D.** speaker
3.	**A**. burglary	**B.** mugging	**C.** arson	**D.** forgery
4.	**A**. journalist	**B.** media	**C.** presentation	**D.** report
5.	**A**. blackmailing	**B.** hacking	**C.** shoplifting	**D.** kidnapping
6.	**A**. opponent	**B.** protestor	**C.** enemy	**D.** fear
7.	**A**. afflict	**B.** suffer	**C.** affect	**D.** injure
8.	**A**. demanded	**B.** complained	**C.** applied	**D.** appealed
9.	**A**. permit	**B.** accept	**C.** let	**D.** allow
10.	**A**. requires	**B.** needs	**C.** follows	**D.** depends

_____ on us getting information from the public." She also emphasized the increased threat to the city's essential tourist industry if future conditions do not improve.

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. Read the text below. For questions **1-10**, use the word given in capitals in brackets to form a word that fits in the gap and fill in these gaps.

A MASTERPIECE

In 2003 the Dutch artist Vermeer was the subject of the film *Girl with a Pearl Earring* which showed a fictional **1. _____ (RELATION)** between the painter and his maid. Since then, Vermeer's work has become more and more popular for his **2. _____ (STAND)** ability to capture light and colour. However, Vermeer died in 1675 when he was only 43, and he left only 35 paintings behind. The fact that he painted so little has led to **3. _____ (FAMOUS)** cases of **4. _____ (FRAUD)** making counterfeit versions of his works. These have been sold for huge prices, and only afterwards a **5. _____ (BREAK)** was made that they were fakes.

The cost of a new discovery means it is now **6. _____ (LIKELY)** that all of the real 35 pictures will ever appear together in one place. Because of this, a new museum in Vermeer's home town has **7. _____ (RECENT)** opened, which aims to show all of the artist's works – in the form of reproductions. The Vermeer Centre (Vermeer Centrum) in the artist's home city of Delft has produced a **8. _____ (BREATH)** re-creation of Vermeer's world, including projections of all of his works on the walls.

Also, in the building there are models of the houses where Vermeer worked and the equipment that he used. There is also information on the **9. _____ (HISTORY)** background to his work and a 3D animation which provides an explanation of the **10. _____ (COMPOSE)** process used by Vermeer in creating his small number of masterpieces.

Task 5. For questions **1-10,** 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. Miranda has always had great respect for her grandfather.
   LOOKED
   Miranda has always _____ her grandfather.
2. John arrives home late so that he doesn't have to go shopping.
   GETS
   John _____ shopping by arriving home late.
3. A friend of mine happened to find a valuable old painting in a junk shop.
   CAME

A friend of mine _____ a valuable old painting in a junk shop.

4. 'Have you ever considered a complete change of career?' he asked me.
   IF
   He wanted to know _____ a complete change of career.
5. The developers were faced with serious problems when they tried to build the supermarket near the lake.
   CAME
   The developers _____ serious problems when they tried to build the supermarket near the lake.
6. I didn’t mean to wake the baby when I rang your bell.
   ACCIDENT
   I _____ when I rang your bell.
7. Those eggs will be rotten by now.
   OFF
   Those eggs _____ by now.
8. We should report this, shouldn't we?
   BETTER
   We'd _____ we?
9. People think Maurice owns a large villa in the south of Italy.
   THOUGHT
   Maurice _____ a large villa in the south of Italy.
   My computer's ancient – how I'd like a new one!
10. **ONLY**
    My computer's ancient – _____ a new one.

ANSWER KEY

TASK 1 *(15 points)*

A	B	C	D	E
4	7	2	1	6

TASK 2 *(15 points)*

1. F
2. T

3. F
4. F
5. NG

TASK 3 *(20 points)*

1. (D) crime
2. (C) spokesperson
3. (B) mugging
4. (B) media
5. (C) shoplifting
6. (C) enemy
7. (B) suffer
8. (D) appealed
9. (C) let
10. (D) depends

TASK 4 *(20 points)*

1. relationship
2. outstanding
3. infamous
4. fraudsters
5. breakthrough
6. unlikely
7. recently
8. breathtaking
9. historical
10. composite

TASK 5 *(30 points)*

1. looked up to
2. gets out of going
3. came across
4. if I had ever considered
5. came up against
6. woke the baby by accident
7. will have gone off
8. better report this, hadn't
9. is thought to own
10. if only I had