

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 1

Charity

A lot of people in our world have little or no money at all. Many of them are homeless and can't enjoy what most of us take for **Q1**_____. They need our help and there are a lot of charity organizations to help poor people. Because of charities many homeless people have shelters, hungry children have been fed, a lot of diseases have already been **Q2**_____ and many animals are safe.

Around the world there are a lot of children who suffer from different diseases, running **Q3**_____ time and hope. The biggest charity project in Russia is 'Contribution to the Future' whose goal is to help any child in need. Its programmes help poor, homeless and disabled children.

There are a lot of people in the world who have chosen charity as their main mission in life. One of the most famous missionaries was Mother Teresa. She lived the hard life of the poor alongside them; she knew how it felt sleeping on hard floors and living on dirty streets. And because she was experiencing **Q4** _____ what the people she was helping were going through, she so effectively knew how to give. Besides meeting people's basic physical needs by giving them food and medicine, she met people's emotional needs as well.

A lot of rich people also feel the necessity to help the poor. For example, Bill Gates is a famous billionaire, but he is also a noted philanthropist who donated the proceeds of his successful books to **Q5**_____ educational organizations. He has also given millions to initiatives in global health and learning, hoping to **Q6**_____ more and more people to have access to **Q7**_____ facilities in these areas. A good example is the opening of 'The School of the Future' in Philadelphia, sponsored by his company 'Microsoft'.

The spirit of philanthropy is not about what or how much you give but rather about the feeling that you are helping others in need.

- Q1. A) common B) granted C) usual D) life
- Q2. A) recovered B) healed C) cared D) cured
- Q3. A) with B) out C) of D) out of
- Q4. A) firsthand B) firstrate C) firsttime D) firstever
- Q5. A) unprofit B) unprofitable C) nonprofit D) non-profitable
- Q6. A) unable B) enable C) let D) make
- Q7. A) visible B) vigorous C) vivid D) vital

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 2

The Archipelago

In the remote southern seas there is a cluster of islands. Each island is inhabited by a different race of people. Although physically they look alike, you can tell them **Q1**_____ by their styles of dress and their distinctive dialects. Each island has its own unique form of architecture. The only similarity between them is that each race builds in a manner that is **Q2**_____ odds with the environment. On rocky hillsides there are wooden huts and in wooded valleys you can see towns of brick. Arid uplands are irrigated and planted with leafy gardens, whereas, on fertile plains, the parks are paved with stone. **Q3**_____ their differences, the islanders coexist peacefully. There is rivalry over certain fishing waters but it rarely **Q4**_____ to more than a few heated exchanges.

At the centre of the archipelago, perhaps in the most favoured spot of all, lies an island that has been deserted for many generations. It looks very different from the rest: darker, taller, silent. There is no obvious reason **Q5**_____ its abandonment as it has good soil and plenty of freshwater.

Long ago, it was inhabited by farmers and fishermen much like everywhere else in the archipelago, but everything changed when they started building the first wall. As soon as it was finished a second circle of battlements began to rise from the centre, slightly narrower than the one before, so that from faraway the island **Q6**_____ an enormous wedding cake.

Nobody can explain why the wall was started but there are many theories as to why it was never finished. Some say that so many had perished during its construction, that no one dared halt the work and thereby admit that it had all been in vain. Others claim that the builders simply **Q7**_____ out of materials. But one thing is certain, the predicted threat never arrived and the people at the centre of the archipelago had, quite simply, bricked themselves in.

- Q1. A) out B) off C) apart D) aside
- Q2. A) over B) at C) against D) on
- Q3. A) Despite B) In spite C) Besides D) Although
- Q4. A) raises B) attains C) amounts D) achieves
- Q5. A) with B) to C) of D) for
- Q6. A) recollected B) reminded C) resembled D) remembered
- Q7. A) went B) ran C) grew D) came

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 3

Globalization and Communication Growth

The 21st century has **Q1**_____ in a new era in man's ongoing quest for a better life and a better world. For the first time in history, we can now claim to live in 'One World.' Globalization has removed many of the gaps that have existed between and among nations. While the physical divide is still present, the **Q2**_____ of the Information Highway on how we communicate and live in the present day is simply staggering. Rapid improvements in information technology have allowed us to exchange information and communicate almost everywhere, anywhere, and anytime.

Globalization, as a general term, is best understood as the spread of ideas about the environment, democracy, human rights, and less complicated issues like fashion and fads. Global exchange is now taking place as the market of ideas, culture, and beliefs expand through the use of technology. The nature of business and how it is done has also improved by **Q3**_____ and bounds because of globalization.

An example of the remarkable effects of globalization is the invention of the tele phone and the television. Television has enabled young people and adults to have the ability to share cultural and ethnic experiences with others. Telephones have also greatly improved communication. Gone are the weeks and even months of waiting for a letter. Anybody can talk to anyone who has another phone **Q4**_____ of distance or location on the planet. With the aid of satellites, 3rd generation phones allow us to make a phone call, send a video, or even receive an email. These **Q5**_____ in communication have revolutionized business, commerce, and even the personal lives and relationships of millions of people.

Because of the electronic media, vast amounts of important information can reach any parts of the globe in **Q6**_____ time. Business establishments, whether big or small, are using the Internet in many ways to build or expand their company's growth. With the ever improving technology come new markets, high **Q7**_____ for products, and also greater competition. Making investments in information and communication technology is now a must for any business enterprise.

- Q1. A) started B) began C) ushered D) launched
- Q2. A) cause B) impact C) consequences D) result
- Q3. A) bonds B) gaps C) jumps D) leaps
- Q4. A) regardless B) despite C) notwithstanding D) because
- Q5. A) breakbeats B) breakdowns C) breakouts D) breakthroughs
- Q6. A) any B) no C) none of D) some
- Q7. A) access B) claim C) demand D) rise

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 4

Machu Picchu

In a way, it's wonderful that Machu Picchu can nowadays be visited on a day **Q1**_____ from Cuzco. Everyone probably should have a chance to see this remarkable place.

Like many travellers, I hoped to get a taste of Machu Picchu's 'lost in the clouds' atmosphere by approaching the ruins on foot **Q2**_____ the Inca trail. I joined the obligatory tour group in Cuzco, then spent the next four days surrounded by others making the classic pilgrimage. Along the way, we crossed several breathtaking Andean passes, treading on original Inca paving stones, and passing several other fine ruins.

Our last **Q3**_____ stop was at an exquisitely beautiful site called Huinay Huayna, where dozens of impossibly steep terraces cascade into a deep green gorge backed by a high waterfall. My newfound travelling companions included five Argentines who **Q4**_____ my interest in exploring Huinay Huayna by moonlight.

The only problem was a slight difference in styles. Mine was more along the lines of silent and meditative contemplation; theirs involved a ritualistic circle chant, led by the charismatic lone male in the group whom I thereafter nicknamed the Warlock. Absenting myself from the circle that night, I made a mental note to **Q5**_____ my distance from them the next day at Machu Picchu.

Before dawn the following morning we climbed to the mountaintop Gateway of the Sun, hoping for the classic panoramic view of Machu Picchu before the tour buses arrived. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate. With dozens of other disappointed trekkers, I shivered on the hilltop in chilly fog for two hours, waiting for a sunrise that never came, then trudged down the hill to Machu Picchu itself. As I **Q6**_____, the clouds started lifting, revealing the place to be every bit as spectacular as I could have hoped. By day's end, my tour group had dispersed, apparently preferring a hot bath. I, however, felt I was just **Q7**_____ the surface. Moreover, students are given tests from a test bank. The test is made up when they log into the test website. These are the same for students taking distant classes at school or at special courses.

- Q1. A) travel B) voyage C) journey D) trip
- Q2. A) with B) via C) across D) over
- Q3. A) overall B) overhead C) overnight D) overday
- Q4. A) captured B) shared C) kept D) held
- Q5. A) keep B) hold C) take D) use
- Q6. A) descended B) ascended C) attended D) pretended
- Q7. A) reaching B) touching C) scratching D) patching

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 5

The Changing World of Computers

Computers are rapidly changing the way we do things. For a technology that is still relatively new, their **Q1** _____ on the business and consumer sector has been incomprehensible. As if it was not sufficient to own one computer, many people nowadays have a few of them. We think we need a desktop computer, a laptop computer, and a bunch of little computers in our phones and music players, even **Q2** _____ they actually do the same thing. Now that everybody has their desktops and laptops, and we are all able to **Q3** _____ the Internet anytime we want to, our world has turned into a virtual playground. We can now connect with our foreign neighbours in a matter of seconds, **Q4** _____ of how far away they are from us. It's as if we no longer have borders in this highly digital world of ours.

Desktops have always been a great option, but the problem with them is that they are not mobile. They have all the **Q5** _____ of other computers, but it can be annoying at times to have to sit in the same spot while working. For businesses and personal offices, desktop computers are still the favoured option because of their power. But when people have to be connected while travelling, the need for laptops really becomes apparent. The main advantage of laptops is the ability to communicate with people no **Q6** _____ where you are. Our society has been converted into one that has to have all the latest gadgets. Some people even **Q7** _____ down on others if they still have last year's model of some gadget. Those people will always be behind the curve just because of how fast technology is advancing now.

- Q1. A) affect B) role C) impact D) value
- Q2. A) though B) now C) so D) as
- Q3. A) register B) log C) connect D) access
- Q4. A) regardless B) regarding C) in spite D) despite
- Q5. A) qualities B) skills C) capabilities D) traits
- Q6. A) trouble B) matter C) doubt D) problem
- Q7. A) turn B) fall C) come D) look

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 6

All Alone

A sickly grey invaded the evening sky and infused with the dusky blue from the after noon's thunderstorm. In the musky air there seemed to be a sweet scent lingering, along with the choking smell of cigarette smoke. Fireflies dangled in the air like puppets, their colour almost drowned out from the rain. Their amber hue seemed to be the only source of light.

Charlotte dragged her feet across the leaves on the ground while swallowing the dreary landscape she had just walked a mile to. She inhaled. Heavy air filled her lungs and caused her to splutter in the dark. Silence crept in, and it haunted her. There was nowhere to **Q1**_____ help. Where were the others? She **Q2**_____ every ledge, every forest entry, every sharp rock. She acknowledged that the scene was just perfect for another practical joke. How surprising that they'd abandoned her here. They **Q3**_____ on her not just because she was the biggest loser in school; skinny, asthmatic, antisocial, afraid of everything, but mostly because she was liable to fall **Q4**_____ the same tricks over and over again.

Panicking, Charlotte's hands trembled as her eyes jolted back and **Q5**_____ across the horizon. How fitting it was that she should be afraid of the dark. Maybe she should never have agreed to go. She was **Q6**_____ to answer 'Yes'. Why were the popular ones asking her to hang out? Why wasn't it the science geeks or the library nerds? She was told there was a first for everything, but she'd always be a loner.

Her eyes fixed on a moving figure, too dark to know if it was human, and too scared to know it as anything else. She looked around, and realised she had been standing under a jagged ledge, threatening to engulf her in a sea of knifeedged rocks. In the dark she could've sworn it was a giant claw. She turned around and planned an escape **Q7**_____.

- Q1. A) ask B) look C) search D) seek
- Q2. A) looked B) scanned C) skimmed D) stared
- Q3. A) joked B) laughed C) picked D) teased
- Q4. A) for B) on C) over D) with
- Q5. A) ahead B) forth C) forward D) onward
- Q6. A) cautious B) doubtful C) opposed D) reluctant
- Q7. A) route B) road C) way D) course

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 7

Benefits of Healthy Food

There are some benefits of consuming healthy and nutritious food. The main advantage of eating healthily is that you can make your immune system strong and **Q1**_____ of viral, bacterial and other health related issues like heart or blood pressure problems. Stronger immune system is the most basic requirement of any human body for efficient performance.

Besides, eating the right kind of food at the right time will definitely **Q2**_____ you from getting obese. Obesity leads to other diseases, too. So if you are not obese yet, then it's better to start taking care of your own body by eating healthy and nutritious food. This will ensure that your body weight is maintained according to your height and you will not have to look **Q3**_____ weight loss diet plans or fitness centers.

What is more, eating healthy and nutritious food will make your entire day full of energy. You will feel energetic and fresh and will be able to work for more time, which will indirectly increase your performance at school or in the office. However, in today's advanced world you may not have enough time to follow a routine and you may **Q4**_____ up eating food at irregular time. And **Q5**_____ to this you may not get time to prepare yourself a healthy meal and eat at the right time.

As your work gets harder and tougher, your body needs healthy and nutritious food. No one else except you can **Q6**_____ sure that your body is getting healthy food. Last but not **Q7**_____ we would like to mention is to do a regular workout. With healthy and nutritious food, it is essential that you do regular workout so that your weight is maintained and you are active and fit.

- Q1. A) eliminate B) do away C) cut out D) get rid
- Q2. A) prevent B) avoid C) hold D) warn
- Q3. A) at B) to C) for D) on
- Q4. A) take B) carry C) bring D) end
- Q5. A) thank B) due C) so D) because
- Q6. A) keep B) take C) make D) for
- Q7. A) least B) worst C) best D) most

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 8

Luck

About forty years ago I was an instructor in the military academy at Woolwich. I was present in one of the sections when young Scoresby **Q1**_____ his preliminary examination. I was touched to the quick with pity because the rest of the class answered up brightly and handsomely while he didn't know *anything*, so to speak. All the compassion in me was aroused in his behalf. I understood that when he came to be examined again, he would be flung over, so it would be simply a harmless act of **Q2**_____ to ease his fall as much as I could.

I took him aside, and found that he knew a little of Caesar's history; and as he didn't know anything else, I went to work and drilled him like a galley slave on a certain line of stock questions concerning Caesar which I knew would be used. You won't believe me but he went through with flying **Q3**_____ on examination day! He went through on that purely superficial 'cram,' and got compliments too, while others, who knew a thousand times more than he, got plucked. **Q4**_____ some strangely lucky accident, he was asked no question outside of the narrow limits of his drill. It was stupefying. Now of course the thing that would **Q5**_____ him and kill him at last was mathematics. I **Q6**_____ to make his death as easy as I could. So I drilled him and crammed him just on the line of questions which the examiners would be most likely to use, and then launched him on his fate. Well, try to **Q7**_____ of the result: to my consternation, he took the first prize! And with it he got a perfect ovation in the way of compliments.

Q1. A) undertook B) underscored C) understood D) underwent

Q2. A) charity B) cruelty C) loyalty D) bravery

Q3. A) marks B) grades C) colours D) banners

Q4. A) Under B) In C) With D) By

Q5. A) find B) expose C) denounce D) injure

Q6. A) suggested B) settled C) solved D) resolved

Q7. A) conceive B) imagine C) predict D) foretell

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 9

Side by Side

Melissa dropped into a chair in front of her manager's cherry veneer desk. 'I don't know how people with kids can do this job,' the 25-year-old radio advertising sales rep said. Her boss, Laurie Thompson, had heard such self-doubt before. Her six salespeople at Connoisseur Media in Erie often popped into her office to give vent to their **Q1**_____ about a tough day of coldcalling. Laurie nodded. She didn't have children, **Q2**_____ herself instead **to** a sales career, running marathons, cycling, sailing and spending time with her husband. 'I don't think I'll ever have kids, though that would really disappoint my parents,' Melissa said. 'Why? Because you're **Q3**_____ only child?' Laurie asked. Melissa said her parents would be disappointed because they **Q4**_____ for grandkids. Then she added, almost as an afterthought, 'I was adopted.' From the time she was tiny, Melissa knew that she was adopted. Her new parents were always open with their daughter about where she came from. Along the way, Melissa grew **Q5**_____ to questions from people who had learnt she was adopted. So she wasn't at all **Q6**_____ about answering her boss that afternoon. 'Have you ever had a desire to meet your real parents?' Laurie asked. 'Not really,' Melissa said. 'It's not that I don't want to. It's just that I haven't got around to it. And I don't feel like I'm missing anything. My parents are wonderful.' Melissa laughed and was about to leave when Laurie asked her another question. 'When were you born?' 'April 14, 1981.' Then, feeling she'd taken **Q7**_____ enough of her boss's time, Melissa said goodbye and headed home. Some people can drink several cups of coffee with few side effects.

- Q1. A) happiness B) joy C) frustrations D) tears
- Q2. A) preparing B) concentrating C) involving D) devoting
- Q3. A) — B) the C) a D) an
- Q4. A) wanted B) needed C) desired D) longed
- Q5. A) accustomed B) annoyed C) anxious D) ashamed
- Q6. A) conscious B) hesitant C) interested D) reluctant
- Q7. A) in B) over C) on D) up

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 10

Thanksgiving Day

We **Q1**_____ Thanksgiving for granted as a day to watch football, spend time with our families, or eat, but 150 years ago, it wasn't even a national holiday. For the settlers, that meal was at first thought of as a onetime thing. They had no idea this event would become the **Q2**_____ of the Thanksgiving customs we now share throughout the United States and Canada. However, that first celebration didn't **Q3**_____ our modern traditions much. The meat served was likely goose or duck. And there was probably a bit of fish there, too. There were no potatoes, no pie, no stuffing, and no cranberries. Nowadays Thanksgiving dinner is a meal custommade for overeating. So it helps to **Q4**_____ attention and to have some thoughtful strategies to avoid that uncomfortable feeling of being stuffed. Thanksgiving is one of the few holidays where most of my family all get together to celebrate. In the first week of November the family decides whose house we will have Thanksgiving dinner at. It usually ends **Q5**_____ being my sisters' house because it is the biggest, and most convenient. We **Q6**_____ up a table for the children and the adults can choose to eat at a different table, or in the living room with the game on. During the day, while turkey is being cooked, the adults watch a football game, or just hang out and chat. The children are free to go outside if the weather is good, or play inside with their toys. We usually arrange the food in a buffet style. The children are served first and when they are all set at their table, the adults dig in. While we are eating, there is a lot of talking, and catching up. Then we start to clean up and make up some plates to each take home, and look **Q7**_____ to Christmas.

- Q1. A) take B) know C) make D) judge
- Q2. A) tombstone B) headstone C) cornerstone D) flagstone
- Q3. A) recall B) resemble C) remind D) remember
- Q4. A) give B) hold C) pay D) turn
- Q5. A) at B) off C) out D) up
- Q6. A) arrange B) do C) lay D) set
- Q7. A) at B) for C) forward D) up

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 11

The Guest

‘The landscape seen from our windows is certainly charming,’ said Annabel; ‘those cherry orchards and green meadows, and the river winding along the valley. However, nothing ever happens here. Rather dreadful, isn’t it?’ ‘On the **Q1** _____,’ said Matilda, ‘I find it soothing and restful; but then, you see, I’ve lived in countries where things do happen, especially when you’re not ready for them happening all at once.’ ‘That, of course, makes a **Q2** _____,’ said Annabel. ‘I’ll never forget,’ said Matilda, ‘the occasion when the Bishop of Bequar **Q3** _____ us an unexpected visit.’ ‘I thought that out there you were always prepared for emergency guests turning **Q4** _____,’ said Annabel. ‘I was quite prepared for half a dozen Bishops,’ said Matilda, ‘but it was rather disconcerting to find out that this particular one was a distant cousin of mine, belonging to a branch of the family that had quarrelled bitterly and offensively with our branch about a Crown Derby dessert service. To make **Q5** _____ worse, my husband was away, talking sense to a village community that fancied one of their leading men was a weretiger.’ ‘A what tiger?’ ‘A weretiger; you’ve heard of werewolves, haven’t you, a mixture of wolf and human being and demon? Well, in those parts they have were tigers, or think they have, and I must say that in this case they had every ground for thinking so. However, as we gave **Q6** _____ witchcraft prosecutions about three hundred years ago, we don’t like to have other people keeping on our discarded practices.’ ‘I hope you weren’t unkind to the Bishop,’ said Annabel. ‘Well, of course he was my guest, so I had to be outwardly polite to him, but he was tactless enough to rake up the incidents of the old quarrel, and from that moment we were scarcely on speaking **Q7** _____ . The group goes into a school and gives a live _____ of a short classical piece and then this is followed by an explanation of how the instruments work.

- Q1. A) contrast B) contrary C) inside D) opposite
- Q2. A) statement B) splash C) move D) difference
- Q3. A) paid B) sent C) made D) gave
- Q4. A) to B) over C) up D) in
- Q5. A) issues B) matters C) problems D) situation
- Q6. A) in B) up C) away D) out
- Q7. A) conditions B) relationships C) relations D) terms

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 12

What a Trick!

Lisa and I have been friends since the third grade. We both loved to ride our bikes and loved spending the holidays, weekends, and summers together. One summer, we settled **Q1** _____ cleaning up her room. As soon as we started, Lisa's mom called her for some help. Vacuuming was my favorite part of cleaning, so I decided to clean up every spot. When I bent over to suck up the dust under the dresser, I found a book with the word DIARY on it. The book was bright pink and looked more like old scraps of paper than a diary. Usually I would not snoop in private belongings, but when I picked it up from underneath the dresser I saw that the pages were messed up and I decided to put them back together. While doing so, I saw my name in a passage that really **Q2** _____ my attention: 'It made me cry when Papa told me we're moving to Sri Lanka. He told me not to tell Nadine because it might break her heart. Well, I will just enjoy the last summer I have now.' Friends help me realize my good qualities. Even though I felt **Q3** _____ over the situation, I decided not to spoil our friendship. At that point, I **Q4** _____ a vow to give Lisa the best summer I could. The next day, Lisa had complete control. I **Q5** _____ her do things I even hated doing. We went to the boring museum. We watched her stupid brother, Line, do his band show. Finally, Lisa became **Q6** _____ of what I was doing. 'Why are you doing all this? It's not my birthday or anything.' 'Lisa, I know you're moving to Sri Lanka. I've read your diary,' I confessed. 'Are you talking about this?' Lisa held up the same pink notepad I saw the previous day and started to laugh. 'This notebook isn't my diary. It was a novel I started on. I was making a story about you and me.' I felt relieved but confused and I couldn't **Q7** _____ but ask, 'What about the title? It does say 'DIARY' on it?' 'I put that there so no one would read it until I finished. Do you really think I would move to Sri Lanka and not tell you? Ha, that's a laugh!' Lisa exploded with unstoppable laughter.

- Q1. A) on B) down C) up D) for
- Q2. A) paid B) held C) kept D) caught
- Q3. A) distracted B) distraught C) distort D) distrust
- Q4. A) broke B) did C) made D) said
- Q5. A) allowed B) got C) let D) made
- Q6. A) surprised B) interested C) keen D) aware
- Q7. A) stand B) help C) wait D) feel

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 13

The Phoenix Legend

This magical, mythical bird has long been a part of legends, dating **Q1**_____ to ancient civilizations. In today's culture, the phoenix's legend is still going **Q2**_____, with a major city in the United States named after the resurrecting beast and popular books and movies, including the phenomenally successful 'Harry Potter' series encompassing the bird into characters and plots. Since the story has come **Q3**_____ to us through the oral tradition, there is no single version of it. It varies from teller to teller — each adding something of their own and changing tiny aspects of it. **Q4**_____, the main facts of the legend of the Phoenix remain intact, even though the myth has been adulterated. According to the legend, the Phoenix is a supernatural creature that has an incredibly long **Q5**_____, stretching to at least a thousand years. It cannot fall sick or get injured at any point in its lifetime. However, some believe that it does get affected by disease or drought, which leads it to prematurely enter the next phase of its life. Once that time is over, the bird builds its own funeral pyre. The traditional story goes that the phoenix ignites himself, burns to ash, and then rises again from the ashes to live another thousand years. This triumph over adversity has caused the bird to become the **Q6**_____ or symbol of many groups and organizations. Once the bird is born from ashes, the cycle begins anew. Another version of the story is that before the fire consumes the bird, it lays an egg, which hatches a new phoenix. This phoenix will live to be a thousand years old before having an **Q7**_____ in the same method. There is no way of ascertaining which version of the story is true, but all of them express the same theme: the triumph over adversity.

- Q1. A) from B) back C) away D) through
- Q2. A) healthy B) strong C) alive D) fine
- Q3. A) back B) round C) forward D) down
- Q4. A) As a result B) Therefore C) Nonetheless D) Regardless
- Q5. A) lifespan B) lifespın C) lifescan D) lifespam
- Q6. A) pendant B) anthem C) mascot D) amulet
- Q7. A) ancestor B) offspring C) predecessor D) offcut

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 14

Leisure Activities in Japan

The use of leisure time has become an ever greater focus of attention in Japan, as a result of higher **Q1**_____, expanding leisure time and a growing interest in nature. This trend is reflected in the increasing popularity of sports and recreational activities. Examples of recently developed leisure activities include boating, yachting and marine sports on Lake Inawashiro and off the Pacific Coast, paragliding and family auto camping in the mountains of the Aizu region. Japanese **Q2**_____ nature, combined with extensive leisure facilities, attracts sports and leisure-minded people all year round. There are three national parks in Kyushu providing excellent opportunities for sports and leisure activities. A number of golf **Q3**_____ take full advantage of extensive land areas and superb natural settings. Each year this region sees a rise **Q4**_____ the number of ski resorts, featuring resort hotels and other facilities. And, as one of the most attractive hot spring areas in Japan, Kyushu **Q5**_____ a large number of visitors from around the country. Kyushu is upgrading and enlarging its high quality resort facilities to meet the demand **Q6**_____ increased leisure opportunities, while at the same time giving full consideration to nature preservation. It is hoped that this rapid development can be **Q7**_____ in the future.

- Q1. A) perks B) incomes C) outcomes D) taxes
- Q2. A) enormous B) abandoned C) redundant D) abundant
- Q3. A) courts B) courses C) pitches D) fields
- Q4. A) at B) of C) in D) between
- Q5. A) collects B) drags C) draws D) picks
- Q6. A) for B) in C) of D) on
- Q7. A) abstained B) obtained C) contained D) maintained

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 15

How Does Wind Power Really Work?

Wind power is going to be essential to our planet in the near future. But do you really know how wind power works? It looks easy but there are several components involved **Q1** _____ generating wind power. This type of power can not only save us a good **Q2** _____ of money on our utility bills, but it will also play an important role in saving our planet. For many of us, wind just looks invisible and does not actually have any properties but in **Q3** _____, air is a fluid that contains particles constructed of gas. We can turn these gas particles into power because as the wind gusts, kinetic energy is created, which then can be harnessed and changed over into power. Having access to wind is very essential for this operation to work but another indispensable ingredient is the blades that are used. Their design is very **Q4** _____ to the effectiveness of the turbine. The other important component is simply the size of the blade. The bigger the blade is, the more energy is seized and more power can be created for us in the form of electricity. Much also depends **Q5** _____ where you live to figure out the right blade size. In regions with low wind levels, small blades work better because more wind is required to push the larger turbine blades. In an area that is very windy, it is much better to use large blades in **Q6** _____ to use all of the wind available. This gives you the fundamental principles of how electricity is produced from the wind. Today is a fantastic time to do as much **Q7** _____ as you can about wind power so you will be able to make educated decisions in the future.

- Q1. A) at B) in C) by D) from
- Q2. A) deal B) quantity C) number D) lot
- Q3. A) real terms B) real life C) reality D) realism
- Q4. A) valuable B) significant C) precious D) critical
- Q5. A) by B) on C) from D) about
- Q6. A) effect B) favour C) attempt D) order
- Q7. A) discovery B) investigation C) research D) search

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 16

The Benefits of Modern Technology

Modern technology has brought about enormous improvements in communications and yet many people are still very worried **Q1** _____ using the latest computer technology. I am often surprised to meet people who still don't know what the 'e' in email stands for and they are too **Q2** _____ to ask. They assume you have to be skilled **Q3** _____ computers to send a message via email but in fact it is the simplest thing in the world. It is also cheaper to send an email message than to send an ordinary letter or a 'snail' message which also takes much longer. An email message is only **Q4** _____ more expensive than a local telephone call to send; on top of the call itself you also have to pay a fee to your 'server'. If you send a letter by **Q5** _____ mail it will take a couple of days to get there whereas an email will not take longer than a few seconds. Once you become **Q6** _____ to using the system you will be amazed at how much more **Q7** _____ it is than other means of communication. Of course, before you have access to email, you will need a fairly powerful computer, which can be quite expensive.

- Q1. A) about B) for C) at D) with as
- Q2. A) embarrassing B) embarrassed C) exhausting D) exhausted
- Q3. A) into B) about C) to D) in
- Q4. A) little B) slightly C) less D) least
- Q5. A) second-hand B) low-paid C) part-time D) first-class
- Q6. A) capable B) accustomed C) clever D) good
- Q7. A) confident B) certain C) efficient D) skillful

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 17

Trees Are a Threat

The mountain town of Canton is surrounded by thick underbrush and pine trees. Because of six years of drought, these plants are a major fire hazard. Thousands of trees and tons of underbrush are going to be removed over the next five years **Q1**_____ a minimum cost of \$3 million. The brush will be removed first and only then the trees will be toppled and removed. A cleared nonflammable area will then safely surround the town. A recent fire burned 4,000 acres and destroyed 11 homes in nearby Hamilton. The fire was raging toward Canton, but a sudden rainstorm **Q2**_____ it out. Residents know that they won't get lucky twice, so they are looking **Q3**_____ to this massive clearing operation, because it will help their town survive a future inferno. 'But there are two problems,' said one resident. 'All the extra trucks are going to make traffic pretty bad. Once the area is cleared, we have to make **Q4**_____ dirt bikers don't try to make the cleared area their personal playground.' Ninety percent of the cutting and clearing will be paid with federal funds. Unfortunately, if the trees are on private **Q5**_____, they must be paid for by the residents themselves. Prices can range as high as \$1,000 to cut and remove one tree. Officials say that residents can apply **Q6**_____ state and federal loans if necessary. 'Well, what good does that do me?' asked Thelma, a 65yearold widow. 'I'm living on social security and I've got four trees. The government's not going to loan me money as they know there's no way I can pay it **Q7**_____. So what am I supposed to do? These planners with all their big ideas ought to think of the poor people.'

- Q1. A) for B) by C) at D) with
- Q2. A) took B) set C) put D) let
- Q3. A) up B) forward C) through D) over
- Q4. A) sure B) after C) believe D) way
- Q5. A) possession B) belongings C) ownership D) property
- Q6. A) on B) at C) to D) for
- Q7. A) back B) out C) in D) down

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 18

Squirrel

It was when Squirrel Nutkin appeared at the October Board meeting that Mr. Ramsay began to **Q1**_____ his reputation for eccentricity. And that's putting it **Q2**_____. To be fair, there were people who said at the time that there was nothing wrong in wearing a glove puppet to a Board meeting. However, there were more who disagreed, and several who thought that Mr. Ramsay was off his chump. The matter was hotly disputed in the company's offices, on the shop floor, in the canteen. It happened during Mr. Giles's monthly overlong summary of the company's financial position. Two factors were making the prospects for Ramsay & Co look bleak. The first of these factors spoke for itself. There were simply fewer items of hosiery being sold. Whether this was due to the long hot summer combined with the undoubted increase **Q3**_____ the uptake of feminine trousers, or it was a sign of continued recession was not for him to say. Ramsay & Co simply had to **Q4**_____ the facts, whether they liked them or not, and accept what the market was telling them. Reality didn't always turn **Q5**_____ the way people wanted it to. The second factor, however, was where they could do something about. Ramsay & Co's costs were inordinately high compared to those of its competitors, who had been cutting back on staff over the last five years, reducing their workforce to one fifth of its previous level. It was high **Q6**_____ that Ramsay & Co got itself into a similar position. None of the Board members was surprised at what Mr. Giles had to say. He had, after all, said it all before, many times, over the past several months. Mr. Ramsay had, until now, always stubbornly resisted him. This time, though, what happened was different from all the previous occasions. Mr. Ramsay had never before produced a glove puppet from underneath the table. He had never had a squirrel sitting on his left hand during a presentation. The only two pairs of eyes in the room focused on Mr. Giles during his summation of the company's position were those of Mr. Ramsay and the squirrel, both of whom were shaking their heads very slightly. The other Board members were sitting shocked with their mouths wide open and were **Q7**_____ at the puppet.

- Q1. A) acquire B) enquire C) inquire D) require
- Q2. A) mild B) milder C) mildest D) mildly
- Q3. A) at B) in C) of D) to
- Q4. A) comment B) cope C) deal D) face
- Q5. A) in B) on C) out D) up
- Q6. A) price B) moment C) time D) way
- Q7. A) watching B) staring C) seeing D) observing

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 19

Dolphin Cove

The day is hot and humid; uncomfortable, so we move to sit in a shaded area. Waiting for the coach to pick us **Q1**_____, I read my book but unfortunately I feel unwell. Hoping that it will pass before we arrive **Q2**_____ dolphin cove I read to take my mind elsewhere. Rebecca sits next to her Dad on the journey. A young couple sit close by and chat to us along the way. I notice how much the boy reminds me **of** my nephew, just an older version of him. Having got off the coach, we **Q3**_____ off towards the beach and Rebecca enjoys a paddle in the sea. A while later it is time for me to join my group at the edge of the cove. Rebecca is reluctant to let me go, becoming miserable and wanting to go home. She is upset at the **Q4**_____ of having to wait. As for me, I can't wait to get into the water. Swimming over to the far side, refreshing cool water washes over me. Two dolphins appear in the cove weaving through the water. We form a line and they come up in front of us balancing on their tails, fins flapping. It's amazing being so close. I am overwhelmed, smiling and laughing at the performance they are displaying for us. Now it's my **Q5**_____ to swim. I latch my hands on to their fins feeling their strength as they pull me with force through the water, **Q6**_____ on a great ride with intensity. To experience this was something I only dreamt of and never in my wildest dreams did I think it would become a fantastic opportunity. I feel so honoured to be with these magnificent creatures in the sea. We are all asked if we would like to participate in the next encounter of being lifted by our feet out of the water. Definitely, I'll give that a **Q7**_____! A phenomenal privilege: an hour of my life which I will never forget.

- Q1. A) on B) out C) over D) up
- Q2. A) in B) to C) at D) on
- Q3. A) take B) carry C) head D) turn
- Q4. A) prospect B) prospectus C) prospective D) perspective
- Q5. A) queue B) turn C) try D) trial
- Q6. A) encountering B) entertaining C) embracing D) embarking
- Q7. A) do B) go C) make D) turn

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 20

Waiting for Dad

Jake was walking home from school. It was a sunny autumn day. He'd usually stamp on the **Q1**_____ of leaves on the footpath to hear them crunch under his shoes. But today he ignored them. He was busy planning his project. He was used to being home alone. That was because, three years ago, his dad had decided to go back to university, which meant his mum had had to go back to working **Q2**_____. She did a lot of evening shifts because the money was better. Jake walked up the stairs onto the veranda and stuck his hand in his pocket for the key but it wasn't there! Frantically, he tried the front door, knowing it would be locked, then turned around and hurried back up the footpath to see if he could find his key. He walked up the road for two blocks, **Q3**_____ the pavement. It was no **Q4**_____ looking for it; he could have dropped it anywhere. He turned around and went home. He checked his watch. It was four o'clock and his dad would be back by seven. Jake supposed he could read the book he'd borrowed **Q5**_____ the school library for his project. The book was really good with wonderful photos of soldiers. An hour later he finished the book and felt like having a **Q6**_____ but it didn't feel right to sleep with nothing over you. So he covered his chest with the foot mat and the book was his pillow. When he woke up, the Miller sisters were standing over him, staring. 'Why are you lying on the veranda with a foot mat over you?' said Adele. 'It's **Q7**_____ of your business', Jake thought.

- Q1. A) piles B) bundles C) sacks D) flocks
- Q2. A) longtime B) halftime C) fulltime D) peakttime
- Q3. A) staring B) skimming C) scanning D) looking
- Q4. A) point B) use C) reason D) aim
- Q5. A) of B) at C) from D) in
- Q6. A) nap B) dream C) relax D) snack
- Q7. A) nothing B) not C) neither D) none

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 21

Qualities of a Good Leader

How often have you heard the comment, 'He or she is a born leader'? Whether in fact a person is born a leader or develops skills and abilities to become a leader is open for debate. There are some clear characteristics that are found in good leaders. First of all, a good leader has an exemplary character. It is of **Q1** _____ importance that a leader is trustworthy to lead others. A leader needs to be trusted and be known to live their life with honesty and integrity. A good leader 'walks the talk' and in doing so earns the right to have responsibility for others. True authority is born from respect **Q2** _____ the good character and trustworthiness of the person who leads. A good leader is **Q3** _____ about their work and also about their role as leader. People will respond more openly to a person of passion and dedication. Leaders need to be able to be a source of inspiration, and be a motivator towards the required action or cause. A good leader is **Q4** _____ to excellence. Second **Q5** _____ does not lead to success. The good leader not only maintains high standards, but also is proactive in raising the bar in order to achieve excellence in all areas. Good leaders are tolerant of ambiguity and remain calm, composed and steadfast to the main purpose. Storms, emotions, and crises come and go and a good leader takes these as part of the journey and keeps a **Q6** _____ head. These personal characteristics are foundational to good leadership and naturally put people in a position where they're looked **Q7** _____ as leaders. A good leader whether they naturally possess these qualities or not, will be diligent to consistently develop and strengthen them in their leadership role.

- Q1. A) upright B) upturn C) utter D) utmost
- Q2. A) for B) to C) of D) by
- Q3. A) enthusiastic B) devoted C) fond D) keen
- Q4. A) conscious B) committed C) delighted D) respected
- Q5. A) hand B) head C) class D) best
- Q6. A) fresh B) cold C) cool D) chilly
- Q7. A) after B) over C) up D) up to

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 22

Learn How to Sing

Everyone needs to be able to sing. It's fine if you naturally have perfect **Q1**_____, but if not, the embarrassment ruins birthdays and other events. People who can sing take this musical ability **Q2**_____ granted. If you can't sing, people make fun of you, until the teasing just isn't amusing any longer. Luckily online courses make it possible to improve your singing voice over the Internet! With the help of technology, these classes are as good as having a real live singing teacher right in your living room. Singing lessons at home are **Q3**_____ because you can fit them around your life. They are taken at any time in the privacy of your own home, and if you are very embarrassed, you can do them when nobody else is about to hear. Moreover, vocal lessons you take in your own home allow you to succeed rapidly. You get your singing education at your own **Q4**_____ and it's up to you to decide how fast you will go. This means the course is fully customized for you. No matter how bad your voice is singing courses can help you, although if you do not have the talent, they will not **Q5**_____ you into the next pop star. Most singing courses start off with the simplest of exercises, and as you progress, give you more advanced instructions to help improve your singing skills. Soon you'll find yourself singing the most complicated melodies, and this will **Q6**_____ up your confidence! Perhaps you would like to sing in a public forum onstage? Does learning about different singing styles and harmonies sound interesting to you? Whatever singing category you are interested **Q7**_____, online courses can assist you with your singing goals.

- Q1. A) vocal B) pitch C) hearing D) ear
- Q2. A) like B) as C) for D) by
- Q3. A) convenient B) comfortable C) suitable D) appropriate
- Q4. A) time B) risk C) rate D) pace
- Q5. A) lead B) take C) turn D) put
- Q6. A) raise B) build C) increase D) restore
- Q7. A) by B) with C) in D) at

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 23

The Model Millionaire

Unless one is wealthy there is no **Q1**_____ in being a charming fellow. Romance is the privilege of the rich, not the profession of the unemployed. The poor should be practical and prosaic. It is better to have a permanent **Q2**_____ than to be fascinating. These are the great truths of modern life which Hughie Erskine never realised. Poor Hughie! Intellectually, we must **Q3**_____, he was not of much importance. He never said a brilliant thing in his life. But then he was wonderfully good-looking, with his crisp brown hair, his clear-cut profile, and his grey eyes. He was as popular with men as he was with women, and he had every accomplishment except that of **Q4**_____ his living. His father had bequeathed him his cavalry sword, and a *History of the Peninsular War* in fifteen volumes. Hughie hung the first over his looking-glass, put the second on a shelf between Ruff's Guide and Bailey's *Magazine*, and lived on two hundred a year that an old aunt allowed him. He had tried everything. He had gone to the Stock Exchange for six months; but what was a butterfly to do among bulls and bears? He had been a tea-merchant for a little longer. Then he had tried **Q5**_____ dry sherry. That did not answer either. Ultimately he became nothing, a delightful, ineffectual young man with a perfect profile and no profession. To make matters worse, he was in love. The girl he loved was Laura Merton, the daughter of a retired Colonel who had lost his **Q6**_____ and his digestion in India, and had never found either of them again. Laura adored him, and he was ready to kiss her shoestrings. They were the loveliest couple in London, and had not a penny between them. The Colonel was very **Q7**_____ of Hughie, but would not hear of any engagement. 'Come to me, my boy, when you have got ten thousand pounds of your own, and we will see about it,' he used to say; and Hughie looked very glum on those days, and had to go to Laura for consolation.

- Q1 A) aim B) use C) idea D) good
- Q2. A) income B) outcome C) payment D) benefit
- Q3. A) adopt B) admit C) adjust D) admire
- Q4. A) doing B) scratching C) earning D) getting
- Q5. A) selling B) sell C) to sell D) sold
- Q6. A) temp B) tempera C) temperament D) temper
- Q7. A) keen B) enthusiastic C) fond D) satisfied

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 24

From Failure to Success

Failure is something that we all face in our lives. I've sure had my **Q1**_____. I remember that by the mid-1990s, I had worked myself all the way from a sales person to Marketing Director of a thriving company only to discover that I really did not like that position. So I did something radical. I decided **Q2**_____ that very secure job and start my own advertising based business. It was an original idea in an industry I was very familiar with — a business magazine mailed to local business owners around my community. A great idea plus my hard work ethic would work, I was sure. Both my wife and I put everything we had, financially and emotionally, into this idea. It was very exciting to see how fast we acquired our first (and last) 30 clients! Within a couple of months we had a real magazine! Clients were getting fantastic results. There was only one small problem. Although clients were **Q3**_____ about the return they were getting, some still had financial problems and couldn't continue on a regular **Q4**_____. The bottom line was that we eventually **Q5**_____ out of money. Then, on top of having to close down the magazine, we even had to sell our car just to pay postage for the last mailing! I was devastated...my dream had died. I remember how depressed I was. I had no job, no money, and worst of all — a seriously damaged sense of confidence. Maybe, that's where you are now. It took another two months for me to hit the real bottom when I had to sell our earthquake preparedness kit to buy some food...we were that **Q6**_____. But I didn't give up hope to find employment. A week later, totally out of the **Q7**_____, I received a call from a stranger offering me the best job I'd ever had. An old friend who I hadn't talked with for years referred me to him. It was nothing short of a miracle, It was eerie.

- Q1. A) part B) share C) number D) quantity
- Q2. A) to hire B) to retire C) to quit D) to stop
- Q3. A) interested B) keen C) worried D) excited
- Q4. A) basis B) base C) system D) routine
- Q5. A) expired B) went C) ran D) ended
- Q6. A) break B) broke C) broken up D) broken-down
- Q7. A) way B) sudden C) frame D) blue

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE – TEST 25

Bill, Bingo and Bram

Bill Smith had a **Q1**_____ with dogs, a kind of power over them. They would sit in awe of him, would listen to him and would slink away sheepishly if they had growled near him. It was a skill I had cause to be thankful for once or twice. The odd thing was that Bram, the last dog Bill owned, had died in 1925 — fifty years distant. Bill was a retired, **Q2**_____ bachelor. He lived alone in the small terraced house next door but two from us. **Q3**_____ a number of occasions, I visited Bill's house, and it seemed that it hadn't really changed much from the 50s. There were hints that some articles had been undisturbed apart **Q4**_____ the occasional silverfish or visiting woodlouse, since the 1930s. He had a picture of a dog in the small converted kitchen which housed his huge solid pillowed chair, newspapers protruding from beneath its seat cushion. It was among one or two other small photos, which **Q5**_____ closer examination were photos of seventeen year old Bill. Almost forgotten amid the clutter of pipe cleaners, matches, spills, bits of wire, tea coupons and old Yale keys was a very small dark photo of a black mongrel dog, lying in a backyard. A white stripe down its nose and in between its ears was one of the few ways it was distinguishable from the background gloom. This was Bram, Bill told me, his dog. Through the years, my family had a total of four dogs. We actually had no photo graphs whatever of the first two. Dogs had only played walkon parts in my family. As far as I was **Q6**_____, the all defining object in a house was a television. There was one in Bill's house. It stood like a lonely, redundant sentinel in a dank corner of his empty living room and seemed cold and unused. When I asked Bill what he watched, he answered that the set didn't work, it needed a new plug, and he hadn't **Q7**_____ to get it fixed. And what's more, he didn't miss it. To me this was unimaginable — how could a person have a TV and not use it?

- Q1. A) way B) control C) method D) skill
- Q2. A) long-lasting B) long-term C) long-life D) lifelong
- Q3. A) On B) At C) With D) For
- Q4. A) for B) with C) from D) of
- Q5. A) in B) on C) at D) by
- Q6. A) regarded B) concerned C) told D) asked
- Q7. A) suggested B) succeeded C) bothered D) minded

LEXICAL & GRAMMAR COMPETENCE

ANSWER KEYS

TEST 1	TEST 2	TEST 3	TEST 4	TEST 5
1. B	1. C	1. C	1. D	1. C
2. D	2. B	2. B	2. B	2. A
3. D	3. A	3. D	3. C	3. D
4. A	4. C	4. A	4. B	4. A
5. C	5. D	5. D	5. A	5. C
6. B	6. C	6. B	6. A	6. B
7. D	7. B	7. C	7. C	7. D
TEST 6	TEST 7	TEST 8	TEST 9	TEST 10
1. D	1. D	1. D	1. C	1. A
2. B	2. A	2. A	2. D	2. C
3. C	3. C	3. C	3. D	3. B
4. A	4. D	4. D	4. D	4. C
5. B	5. B	5. B	5. A	5. D
6. D	6. C	6. D	6. B	6. D
7. A	7. A	7. A	7. D	7. C
TEST 11	TEST 12	TEST 13	TEST 14	TEST 15
1. B	1. A	1. B	1. B	1. B
2. D	2. D	2. B	2. D	2. A
3. A	3. B	3. D	3. B	3. C
4. C	4. C	4. C	4. C	4. D
5. B	5. C	5. A	5. C	5. B
6. B	6. D	6. C	6. A	6. D
7. D	7. B	7. B	7. D	7. C
TEST 16	TEST 17	TEST 18	TEST 19	TEST 20
1. A	1. C	1. A	1. D	1. A
2. B	2. C	2. D	2. C	2. C
3. D	3. B	3. B	3. C	3. C
4. B	4. A	4. D	4. A	4. B
5. D	5. D	5. C	5. B	5. C
6. B	6. D	6. C	6. D	6. A
7. C	7. A	7. B	7. B	7. D
TEST 21	TEST 22	TEST 23	TEST 24	TEST 25
1. D	1. B	1. B	1. B	1. A
2. A	2. C	2. A	2. C	2. D
3. A	3. A	3. B	3. D	3. A
4. B	4. D	4. C	4. A	4. C
5. D	5. C	5. A	5. C	5. B
6. C	6. B	6. D	6. B	6. B
7. D	7. C	7. C	7. D	7. C