

LANGUAGE COMPETENCE TEST
ENGLISH FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

Written examination
(writing skill and reading comprehension)

The use of a printed general language dictionary is allowed. You have 100 minutes for the reading comprehension test and the writing task.

TASK 1

(Total: 20 points)

Choose ONE of the writing tasks (A, or B) and write your opinion using the given prompts in 180-200 words.

A)

Companies buy and sell each other at an extremely rapid pace, and there have been no indications of that pattern slowing down anytime soon. In recent years, there has been a radical increase in technology-focused mergers and acquisitions as companies seek digital transformation. Cross-border deals remain prevalent, reshaping industries globally.

Use the given prompts for your composition:

- *reasons for the increasing number of mergers and acquisitions*
- *effects of multinational companies on the economy*
- *reasons for anti-globalism*

B)

Several e-commerce activities have gained immense popularity in recent years. Amazon, with its vast product-selection and prime membership benefits, remains top-choice for many shoppers. PayPal and Stripe are widely used for secure online payments. These services collectively empower a thriving global e-commerce ecosystem.

Use the given prompts for your composition:

- *impact of the pandemic on e-commerce*
- *benefits of e-commerce for buyers and sellers*
- *possible risks/drawbacks of online shopping*

TASK 2

(Total: 20 points)

Text 1 (Max: 10points)

Read the text carefully. Answer the questions briefly (1- 10 words) on the basis of the text. Full sentences are not required. There is an example (0) for you.

DRIVERLESS BUSES ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA

Seemingly always late - the humble bus struggles to catch hold of the imagination in the way of the power and rhythm of the train. With the latest smart technologies however, gone will be the days of waiting an eternity at stops and blaming overly-relaxed bus drivers for a late arrival to work.

At the start of December, a three-month trial of the self-driving vehicle was completed in south Perth. For the trial, the Intellibus travelled at an average speed of 25kph – perhaps a sensible precaution, given that self-driving vehicles have been involved in a number of high-profile accidents in trials conducted by Google and Uber in recent months.

Dr Peter Harrop, chairman of research company IDTechEx, says buses promise to be the means by which self-driving vehicles filter into everyday life. He believes buses will not just run off green energy but actually power themselves via solar roofs, pointing to the already available energy-independent eight-seater developed by Nanowinn Technologies in China.

In Australia the leaders in cutting-edge bus technology have long been stationed in Melbourne, where Public Transport Victoria has been busily trialling innovations with their SmartBus lines for over a decade. TransDev, the private company that has taken the wheel from PTV for three orbital city and four Doncaster Area Rapid Transit lines, is planning to accelerate development even faster by combining the recognised features of rail with the flexibility and cost advantages of road transport. These lines will have dedicated right-of-way allowing for more predictable bus arrival times and faster travel.

Managing director Harry Wijers expects plenty of community resistance, which he puts down to a public preference for a proposed Doncaster rail link due to the perception that buses would compete with private vehicles for the available road space,” he says. “People should understand that a fully articulated bus has the capacity to take at least 100 cars off the road, while an on-demand transport system provides a perfect service alternative in areas where the demand isn’t high enough to justify the allocation of standard-route bus services.”

The future of the bus promises to be greener, faster and more efficient, but the biggest impact of all will be felt not by passengers but drivers. According to a PwC report: bus, automobile and rail drivers in Australia have an 80% likelihood of seeing their jobs disappear in the next 20 years thanks to driverless vehicle technology.

I.	Answer the questions briefly (1- 10 words) on the basis of the text. Full sentences are <u>not</u> required. There is an example (0) for you.	(10x1) 10 p
0.	<i>What issue will be addressed through the introduction of driverless buses? Waiting too long at bus stops.</i>	
1.	Who do passengers accuse of for arriving late at the office?	
2.	What lesson did Intellibus learn from Google and Uber trials?	
3.	What general trend could driverless buses possibly start?	
4.	How long has the transportation sector been experimenting with state-of-the-art technologies?	
5.	In what ways is road transport better than the rail? (Mention two)	
6.	How will the reliability of bus schedules be ensured?	
7.	Why do people support the rail in Doncaster?	
8.	Besides using green energy, how else do standard-route buses contribute to reducing pollution?	
9.	Where could on-demand buses play a significant role?	
10.	Who are likely to face disadvantages in the near future? Why?	

Text 2 (Max. 10 points)

Read the text and write the letter of the most suitable expression (A-M) in the boxes on the answer sheet. There are two extra letters that you do not need. There is an example (0) for you.

FREE MONEY MIGHT BE THE BEST WAY TO END POVERTY

A few years ago a small experiment involving 13 homeless men took off in London. Some of them ___(0)___ for more than 40 years. The presence of these street veterans___(1)___ . Police, legal services, health care: each cost taxpayers thousands of pounds every year.

That spring, a local charity decided___(2)___ — sometimes called rough sleepers — the beneficiaries of an innovative social experiment. The 13 were given a drastic bailout, financed by taxpayers. Each of them received 3,000 pounds in cash, with no strings attached. The men were free ___(3)___ it on.

“I didn’t have enormous expectations at all,” an aid worker___(4)___ . Yet the homeless men’s desires turned out___(5)___ . A phone, a passport, a dictionary — each participant had ideas about what would be best for him. None of the men wasted his money on alcohol, drugs or gambling. A year later, 11 of the 13 had roofs over their heads. They enrolled in classes, learned how to cook, ___(6)___ and made plans for the future. After decades of authorities’ fruitless pushing, pulling, fines and persecution, 11 rough sleepers moved off the streets.

The cost? About 50,000 pounds, including the wages of the aid workers. In addition to giving 11 individuals another shot at life, the project ___(7)___ of multiples. Even The Economist concluded: “The most efficient way to spend money on the homeless might be to give it to them.”

What if this pilot program has broader implications? We like to think that free money makes people lazy. Except that it doesn’t. In recent years, numerous studies of development aid ___(8)___ between free money and reductions in crime, inequality, malnutrition, infant mortality, teenage pregnancy rates and truancy. It is also correlated___(9)___, and higher economic growth. From Brazil to India and from Mexico to South Africa, free-money programs have flourished in the past decade. More than 110 million families in at least 45 countries benefit from them.

It is time to apply these lessons to rich but increasingly unequal societies. A world ___(10)___ still needs consumers. Middle-class purchasing power has been maintained through loans, loans and more loans. The old reflex that you have to work for your money has turned into a license for inequality in our society.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION

ANSWER KEY

Reading comprehension

Text 1 (Max. 10 points)

I.	Answer the questions briefly (1- 10 words) on the basis of the text. Full sentences are <u>not</u> required.	(10x1) 10 p
1.	Bus drivers.	
2.	that the buses should be slow /cautious because of past accidents	
3.	They will make driverless vehicles an everyday experience. / they will filter into everyday life.	
4.	Over a decade/more than 10 years.	
5.	It is flexible and cheaper.	
6.	They fear buses will squeeze private cars out of roads. / They fear that there won't be enough space for cars/buses will compete with cars for road space.	
7.	They can take at least 100 cars off the road.	
8.	Where there is low demand for standard bus lines.	
9-	Buses will have right-of-way.	
10.	80% of drivers are likely to lose jobs	

Text 2 (Max 10 points)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
E	G	M	J	L	C	B	A	I	F

ORAL EXAMINATION
(speaking skill and listening skill)
12-14 minutes

You have 10 minutes to prepare for the discussion of the presentation question (Task 2).
Use only the blank paper for making notes.

(Maximum points: 40)

TASK 1

You will take part in an interview with the examiner. (You will discuss your choice of profession, your future professional plans, career prospects, etc.)

Interview questions:
(The questions given are examples only.)

- 1. Why did you choose this course and how well do you think the university prepares its students for their future careers?*
- 2. In which country abroad would you be best able to realise your professional plans and why?*
- 3. What are the main challenges you see for yourself in your professional career?*
- 4. How do you feel about the role and importance of compulsory internship programmes?*
- 5. How do you see/imagine yourself in 10-15 years in your profession?*

TASK 2

Discuss ONE of the two presentation questions with the examiner.

- A)** What kind of problems does the production of waste cause and what can be done against it?
- B)** What are the advantages and disadvantages of teleworking/working from home for both the employees and the employers?