

**UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, JAMAICA
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS DIVISION
PROFICIENCY TEST IN ENGLISH
SAMPLE PAPER**

PAPER TWO

Time Allowed: 30 mins

SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION

Recommended Time: 30 mins

Instruction: Read the two passages carefully and answer all questions. For each question, **shade** in the bubble representing the letter selected.

Passage 1

**“Teenage obesity rates could be linked to body's 'energy saving mode’”
www.theguardian.com September 8, 2016**

1. Teenagers can pile on excess weight more easily because the body goes into “energy saving mode” during adolescence, research suggests. The 12-year study found that 15-year-olds use 400 to 500 fewer calories while at rest each day than when they were 10 years old - a drop in resting metabolism of around a quarter.
2. Obesity rates are already known to rise significantly in early adolescence, but this had typically been put down to children losing interest in sport or adopting unhealthy eating habits as they gain greater access to junk food. The latest work suggests an alternative explanation - that the body suddenly starts burning calories more slowly at puberty, making it easier for a person to rapidly bulk up if they eat slightly more than their body needs. Prof Terry Wilkin, who led the work at the University of Exeter, said: “This makes teenagers very vulnerable to weight increase.”
3. The study focused on *resting energy expenditure* - the calories that we use up to keep the body ticking over (maintaining body temperature, thinking, breathing and so on). This makes up about 75% of our total energy expenditure, with the rest being used up by actually moving around and exerting ourselves.
4. Between the ages of five and 10, this *involuntary spend* was seen to rise with body size, as might be expected. But the scientists were surprised to see a sudden drop in calorie expenditure during puberty, from the age of 10 onwards. By the age of 15, children were using up around 500 fewer calories each day while at rest - the equivalent to a McDonalds Big Mac or an hour-long exercise class. The trend appeared to reverse by the age of 16 when metabolism was seen to start to increase again.
5. The study, published on Wednesday in the International Journal of Obesity, relied on data gathered from nearly 350 school children based in Plymouth, UK who were assessed every six months. Burning calories uses up a fixed amount of oxygen. So the scientists were able to measure resting energy use by placing the children in a sealed canopy, which Wilkin describes as similar to a “Buzz Lightyear hood”, where their oxygen consumption was measured over a period of time.
6. Wilkin believes the drop in metabolism during puberty makes sense from an evolutionary perspective, as food has tended to be scarce for most of human history. If fewer calories are required for the body’s basic functions, energy can be re-directed towards growing. This suggests that while teenagers still need to eat more during puberty, because they’re getting taller and developing so quickly, they don’t need as many extra calories as you might expect. Having a *lower baseline energy use* would also make teenagers prone putting on weight much more quickly than a younger child (or possibly adult) would do.

Questions

1. What is the main idea expressed in the first paragraph?
 - a. The body's energy saving mode may result in teenage obesity.
 - b. 'Resting metabolism' does not apply to teenagers/children under 15.
 - c. Calorie intake increases after age 10.
 - d. Teenagers use more energy when at rest than older people.
2. Before the latest findings, what had scientists considered as being the major cause for weight gain during the teenage years?
 - a. Studying late at nights and not resting rest for long periods.
 - b. Dependence on ineffective physical exercises to control size increase.
 - c. Eating the wrong foods and not being involved in exercise.
 - d. Resting and keeping indoors more than they did as young children.
3. According to paragraph 2, what do researchers suggest 'makes teens vulnerable to weight increase?'
 - a. They are eating more junk food than the body needs.
 - b. The rate at which the body burns calories slows down.
 - c. They lose interest in sports.
 - d. The body is using up very few calories so adds bulk easily.
4. *Resting energy expenditure* as used in paragraph 3 can be best explained as:
 - a. energy used for physical activities
 - b. energy used to keep the body going
 - c. energy used for thinking
 - d. energy used while the body is at rest
5. Based on information given in the early paragraphs, what would adolescents have to do to stave off obesity?
 - a. They would have to avoid eating at McDonalds.
 - b. They would have to virtually starve themselves.
 - c. They would have to monitor their caloric intake.
 - d. They would have to consume no more than 500 calories per day.

Passage 2

“Lagos” Extract from “Africa’s First City”
By Robert Draper, National Geographic, 2015

1. When he was 15 years old, David Adeoti worked in an Internet café in blue-collar Satellite Town, where it was almost possible to see the gleaming towers of Lagos Island less than ten miles to the east.
2. Satellite Town was a step up for Adeoti. His birthplace was off to the north in Orile, a wretched village of flooded streets and collapsing buildings. Technology had provided his way out. The Internet café in Satellite Town was run as a side business by a banker, who saw that the boy had a natural facility for computers—even the shop's ancient desktops, which operated at **lurching** speeds. The banker paid Adeoti a little more than \$200 a month to run the place. Adeoti spent his money on courses at a technical institute, determined that the Internet café would not be the end of the line for him.

3. One day in 2010 the shop’s customers looked up from the computers to see who had just walked in the door with the mannered British accent. His name was Jason Njoku, a bespectacled 30-year-old Londoner who had relocated to his ancestral homeland of Nigeria. Njoku asked Adeoti if he could scan some documents. While Adeoti operated the scanner, the genteel visitor mentioned that he was trying to find investors for a new business venture and asked the Internet café manager if he enjoyed his job.
4. They exchanged cell phone numbers. A few months later Adeoti inquired about a job and was invited to Njoku’s apartment. Adeoti walked inside to find six young men wedged behind desks with computer cables snaked around their feet as they typed. This, Njoku informed Adeoti, was his new business: an indigenous version of Netflix that would stream movies to Nigerian computers and bring Nigerian DVDs to the world. Njoku needed someone like Adeoti to convert “Nollywood” DVDs into a YouTube format. As was evident by the cramped environs, the project was perilously low on money. Adeoti signed on anyway, thinking, It’s going to sell itself.
5. When I met David Adeoti in spring 2014, he was 24 and wearing an elegant knit shirt and designer jeans while sitting behind a Mac laptop in the sleek three-story office that now houses iROKOTv in Lagos. Njoku’s company has about 80 employees, with additional offices in Johannesburg, London, and New York City. Adeoti makes twice the salary he made as the manager at the Internet café. But all this exposure to money and movies had whetted his appetite for more of both. “I plan on starting my own business—something in the film industry,” he told me.

Questions

1. Indicate the option which **best** captures what the first two paragraphs suggest about the Satellite town
 - a. It is comparable to the town of Lagos
 - b. Underage boys can easily find employment there
 - c. Technology is a normal part of life there
 - d. It is inhabited by mainly working class people
2. ‘**lurching**’ as used in paragraph 2 most likely means:
 - a. jumping
 - b. unsteady
 - c. rapid
 - d. halting
3. Based on the description of Jason Njoku that is given in paragraph 3, he appears to be:
 - a. patriotic
 - b. self-serving
 - c. humorous
 - d. arrogant
4. Which of the following options explains the writer’s use of the colon, (:), in paragraph 4(line 4)?
 - a. It divides a long sentence
 - b. It indicates a pause shorter than a full stop
 - c. It introduces a clause after a sentence
 - d. It separates a statement from an explanation

5. With specific reference to paragraph 4, what conclusion can be drawn about Njoku's business?
- a. It seems doomed to fail
 - b. It is not very profitable
 - c. It has unlimited potential
 - d. The business concept is unoriginal

END OF SECTION A

SECTION B: GRAMMAR

Time Allowed: 30 minutes

Instruction:

Please answer all questions on the red side of the computerized sheet provided. Shade in the space representing the number selected.

Global warming is the term used to describe a gradual increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and **1.** oceans- a change that is believed to be permanently changing the Earth's climate. There is great debate **2.** many people, and sometimes in the news, on whether global warming is real (some call it a hoax). **3.**But climate scientists looking at the data and facts **4.** the planet is warming. While many view the effects of global warming to be more substantial and more rapidly occurring than others do, the scientific consensus on climatic changes related to global warming is that the average temperature of the Earth **5.** between 0.4 and 0.8 °C over the past 100 years.

From Global Warming: News, Facts, Causes & Effects from Live Science

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|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. 1. its | 2. it's | 3. its' | 4. i'ts |
| 2. 1. between | 2. around | 3. among | 4. with |
| 3. 1. and | 2. nevertheless | 3. therefore | 4. But |
| 4. 1. agree | 2. have agreed | 3. agree | 4. agreeing |
| 5. 1. rise | 2. has risen | 3. rose | 4. rised |

PLEASE NOTE THAT WHILE THIS SAMPLE CONTAINS ONE CLOZE TEST, FOR THE ACTUAL TEST YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE TWO CLOZE EXERCISES.