

VOCABULARY

1 Read the text and choose the correct word from the box for each gap. There are three words you do not need to use. The first one is done for you.

answers	choice	conscience	default	desire	judgement	knowledge
laudable	opportunity	permutations	plunge	straight	time	wisdom

Buying a new computer

Today's society is full of pitfalls for consumers, one of which is the plethora of goods available; in the developed world, at least, we are spoilt for (0) choice. So, when you have a desperate (1) _____ to buy something new, how do you go about it? Do you try to get the facts (2) _____ about all the different models before you start shopping? Conventional (3) _____ has it that you should – forearmed is forewarned – but it isn't always that easy. When I needed to replace my old computer recently, I started out with the (4) _____ aim of comparing suitable models on the Internet, but that just confused me. So, against my better (5) _____, off I went to a specialist electronics chain, but they just blinded me with all the possible (6) _____ of memory, graphics tablets, sound cards, and so on. Then I turned to my (7) _____ position where most shopping is concerned – the local department store. There, at last, I got a few straight (8) _____, made my choice and took the (9) _____. So it worked out well, apart from the niggling questions to my (10) _____ about how much I could have saved if I'd persevered with the online option.

Marks (out of 10): _____

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word in CAPITAL LETTERS. The first one is done for you.

- 0 Although it isn't usually a serious illness, having the 'flu can be extremely debilitating for a week or two. **DEBILITATE**
- 11 They say that the recent biography of Nelson Mandela really is the _____ one. **DEFINE**
- 12 The shark is a successful animal because it has very few _____ other than humans. **PREY**
- 13 It took ages to drive around the ring road, but it was _____ because of the demonstration in the town. **AVOID**
- 14 The release of more harmful particulates into the air from diesel engines has been an _____ consequence of promoting diesel cars. **INTEND**
- 15 Be careful what you say in front of the kids; they're at really _____ ages. **IMPRESSION**
- 16 Most of the furniture in the restaurant came from a store that was in _____. **LIQUIDATE**
- 17 The food banks are currently providing a lifeline to those people barely earning a _____ wage. **SUBSIST**
- 18 The managing director and board of the factories were prosecuted for releasing _____ into the water supply. **CONTAMINATE**
- 19 You need to have a lot of _____ to work in politics. **RESILIENT**
- 20 The floods have caused _____ damage to countless homes in the region. **REPAIR**

Marks (out of 10): _____

GRAMMAR

3 Complete the text with a suitable word in each gap. Use only one word in each gap. The first one is done for you.

More people today are embracing vegetarianism not only as a healthier way of life (0) than meat-eating but also as (21) _____ wasteful of resources. I'd go along with the latter reason, and while I'd (22) _____ as soon eat a nut roast as roast beef, I do endorse the idea of a balanced diet. We all know that vegetables alone aren't (23) _____ rich in some of the essential nutrients as meat products, and while these may (24) _____ be found in nuts and cheese, many of us would be better (25) _____ eating fish or chicken for health purposes as they are less calorific. It's true that some of the fruit and vegetables that are considered 'superfoods' are (26) _____ easier to find these days, but many argue that they aren't (27) _____ super as to provide all the nutrients we need. As humans we are obviously able to exist on a limited diet, and perhaps we should (28) _____ taken that on board more and dedicated less land and (29) _____ resources to breeding animals for meat, but the more varied our diet, (30) _____ easier it is to take in everything we need for our health.

Marks (out of 10): _____

- 4** Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use between three and eight words and do not change the word given. The first one is done for you.
- 0** The child was able to walk all the way but his mother insisted on carrying him. **could**
The child could have walked all the way but his mother insisted on carrying him.
 - 31** The new office assistant isn't as competent as the woman she has replaced. **than**
The new office assistant _____ the woman she has replaced.
 - 32** It really wasn't necessary to bring any food; we've got plenty here. **have**
You really _____ any food; we've got plenty here.
 - 33** The finalists in this year's *X-Factor* were much more professional than last year's. **nearly**
Last year's *X-Factor* finalists were _____ this year's.
 - 34** It was highly possible that the election results had somehow been falsified. **well**
The election results _____ falsified.
 - 35** We would prefer you to submit all your expense claims by email now. **rather**
We _____ all your expense claims by email now.

Marks (Two marks per question. Total marks out of 10): _____

READING

- 5** Read this review of e-readers and for questions 36–45, choose from the sections A–E. You can choose the sections more than once. The first one is done for you.

Which e-reader ...

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 0 offers something free which has to be paid for with most other e-readers? | <u> B </u> |
| 36 is physically different from the other e-readers in a pleasing way? | <u> </u> |
| 37 costs more if the buyer requires continuous access to the Internet? | <u> </u> |
| 38 can be adapted to allow increased storage space? | <u> </u> |
| 39 led the field in a new way of illuminating the text? | <u> </u> |
| 40 accesses books in a way unlike the other e-readers reviewed? | <u> </u> |
| 41 contains a feature which might cause offence to some readers? | <u> </u> |
| 42 encourages sharing of the books, etc. on the device with one other person? | <u> </u> |
| 43 may disappoint some people because of the lack of clarity of its screen? | <u> </u> |
| 44 leads the others when it comes to online social features? | <u> </u> |
| 45 is more like tablets and smartphones in the way that books are accessed? | <u> </u> |

The e-reading experience

Our reviewer, Ken Lawrence, looks at the newest and most popular e-readers.

Although there appears to have been a decline in sales of eBooks and e-readers recently, it's difficult to imagine that these devices aren't here to stay, even if they become principally used as a travel aid. Here, I've looked at five of the recent e-readers to see how far the device has progressed since the first Kindle hit the market in 2007.

A Kindle Paperwhite

One of the most popular e-readers, the Kindle Paperwhite was the first mainstream product to introduce the revolutionary front-lit screen, which singled it out from the competition at the time. Until then, most e-readers had a backlit screen, like tablets and smartphones today, which are difficult to read in sunlight because of the glare they produce. In contrast, front-lit screens are far easier on the eye and readable in any conditions as they produce no glare; the text is also clearer on the white background. In common with most e-readers, the brightness of the screen is adjustable according to the ambient lighting. In all other respects the Paperwhite is a standard e-reader: it has access to the whole Amazon book, magazine and newspaper store; it can store around a thousand books and the battery lasts for around 56 days (assuming 30 minutes a day reading) before it needs recharging, which then takes about four hours. At about £80.00 for the wi-fi version, this is still a very good buy.

B Nook Glowlight

The Nook Glowlight has several features that allow it to rank amongst the best of its kind, not least its rounded edges and rubber coating. Even better is the fact that it comes ad-free as standard, i.e. none of those annoying pop-up commercials when the wi-fi is on; for most e-readers this is relinquished only at an extra charge. In addition, being part of the Barnes and Noble stable means that it gives the user access to millions of books. On the downside the screen resolution isn't quite as high as some of its competitors, although to the non-connoisseur this is unlikely to be a problem, and like most other e-readers it doesn't have the functionality to allow audiobooks to be used. But at a price that is lower than most others on the market, this is an e-reader that needs to be considered.

C Onyx Boox M96

A slightly different offering from the other readers, the Onyx Boox is an open e-reader, i.e. it isn't tied to a particular store or company, and e-reader apps can be downloaded and used with it, just as you can do with any type of mobile device. So you can have access to huge bookstores such as Amazon but also to other, smaller digital booksellers. However, this brings with it an interface that is not intuitive and is difficult to use, especially if several apps have been downloaded. The large screen (9.7 inches in comparison with the more usual 6 inches) also means that the device itself is larger than most and therefore heavier. The 'reading life' is a quarter of some readers at fourteen days. On top of this, the M96 costs almost three times more than many e-readers, not a price in keeping with its features, I feel, in particular for a product that does not have the virtually industry-standard feature of being front-lit.

D Kobo Glo


The Kobo Glo is a good all-rounder, with high screen resolution resulting in sharp text on a front-lit page. It shares the basic features of an e-reader with all the others reviewed here and is ahead of the game where networking is concerned as it connects to the user's Facebook and Twitter accounts, allowing you to share what you're reading and your impressions of it with your friends. In other respects, the Glo falls behind the other e-readers: it doesn't have access to major online bookstores like Kindle and Nook do, so the selection isn't as good. Perhaps even more disappointing is that the battery lasts only about thirty days before it needs recharging, approximately half of the Paperwhite and Glowlight. It does, however, have the facility of expanding the memory card to allow storage of a greater number of books.

E Kindle Voyage

Amazon's latest offering in the e-reader department, the Kindle Voyage has taken e-readers to another level. Not only does it have the front-lit clarity of the Paperwhite, in high definition, the screen lighting dims and brightens automatically in response to the general level of light. It has an automatic display of definitions of difficult words, though this feature can be switched off by the reader who might find it distracting, or even insulting. Perhaps the most radical innovation is the addition on this device of allowing a member of the family to download its content onto another device, at no extra cost. Well, I may say no extra cost, but set against the features of this device is the hefty price tag, almost as much as the Onyx Boox M96, and even heftier should you desire 3G connectivity or to have those annoying ads switched off.

Marks (out of 10): _____

LISTENING

- 6**  **58** You will hear five different extracts of people talking about food. For questions 46–55, choose the answer (A–C) which fits best according to what you hear.

Extract 1

- 0** What is the woman talking about?
A a synthetic foodstuff ☐
B something natural found in food ☒
C fattening foods ☐
- 46** What is the woman trying to do?
A give information about gluten and its possible effects ☐
B persuade her audience to give up eating gluten ☐
C promote alternatives to gluten in the diet ☐
- 47** The woman's opinion of gluten-free diets is that they
A are useful for someone following a weight-loss regime. ☐
B are difficult to follow because of the scarcity of products. ☐
C have no use unless there's a medical reason for them. ☐

Extract 2

- 48** What did the man and his wife think about the restaurant in general?
A They thought the food wasn't particularly good. ☐
B They would have enjoyed it more if it were cheaper. ☐
C It was very different from what they expected. ☐
- 49** What did the man think of the dessert that his wife ordered?
A He thought it tasted fantastic. ☐
B He thought it looked unexceptional. ☐
C He couldn't form a full opinion of it. ☐

Extract 3

- 50** What is the man trying to do?
A persuade his neighbour about something ☐
B find something to do after work ☐
C start a new venture with a neighbour ☐
- 51** What appears to be his main reason for his suggestion?
A to get fitter ☐
B to save money ☐
C to help his neighbour ☐

Extract 4

- 52** What is the man's reaction to the introduction of imperfect vegetables at the supermarket?
A He finds the idea really interesting. ☐
B He's against the idea of eating them. ☐
C He thinks it's a good way of saving money. ☐
- 53** What is the man's relationship to the woman?
A her husband ☐
B her brother ☐
C her son ☐

Extract 5

- 54** Who is the speaker aiming his recipe at?
A people who are experienced cooks ☐
B people who can't cook very well ☐
C people training to cook professionally ☐
- 55** Where is the speaker?
A a TV studio ☐
B a cookery school ☐
C in his kitchen at home ☐

Marks (out of 10): _____

SPEAKING

7 Work in pairs to read the two steps and carry out the instructions.

Step 1

Look at the two photos below, showing street food in two very different countries. Discuss what kind of food you think is being sold in each situation and which one you would prefer to use.



Step 2

Now discuss the following questions about the food situation in the two countries shown.

- What kind of problems regarding food might there be in the two countries? (e.g. not enough food, quality, too much food)
- What kind of problems will the world face regarding food over the next twenty years?
- What solutions might be needed to solve any problems you have highlighted?

Marks (out of 10): _____

WRITING

8 Look at the notes below about whether friendships are better if the people involved are similar in character or different. Write an essay of 250–300 words summarizing and evaluating the ideas in the notes, and adding other ideas of your own. Remember to include a short introduction and conclusion.

<u>Same ...</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• likely to get on better as understand each other's motivations• less likely to argue• if values are the same, more likely to respect each other	<u>... or different?</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• different opinions lead to more discussion• fosters tolerance and understanding of others• differences may mean individuals can develop more
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Marks (out of 10): _____