**Sample Test – B2 English**

1. **READING**

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| **Part 1** – **Matching**  You are going to read an article about a psychology test carried out on very young children. For questions **1-10**, choose from the sections **(A-D).** You may choose the sections more than once. |

**In which section does the writer mention**

1. How a child’s background can affect behaviour?
2. that the results of Mischel’s long-term research were surprising?
3. Reasons for questioning the results of the original experiment?
4. **C**laims that training young children to resist temptation will have long-term benefits?
5. The proportion of very young children who were able to resist temptation?
6. **A**n everyday example of the need for self-control?
7. **T**hat Mischel may have oversimplified the route to success in life?
8. **T**hat Mischel’s own life experience has inﬂuenced his work?
9. **S**trategies employed by participants during the test procedure?
10. **T**wo major factors which affect everyone’s ability to resist temptation?

**The Marshmallow Test**

*A psychology experiment carried out with a group of pre-school children in California in 1968 led to the development of ideas that are still relevant today.*

**A**

In 1968, Walter Mischel set a challenge for a group of children aged three to five at the nursery school his daughters attended in California. A researcher offered each of them a marshmallow and then left them alone in the room. If they could resist eating the colourful sweet until the researcher returned up to 15 minutes later, they would be given a second sweet. Some children ate the marshmallow straight away, but most would engage in unintentionally comic attempts to resist temptation. They looked all around the room to avoid seeing the sweet, covered their eyes, wiggled around in their seats or sang to themselves. They pulled funny faces, played with their hair, picked up the marshmallow and just pretended to take a bite. They sniffed it, pushed it away from them or covered it up. If two children were doing the experiment together, they engaged in a conversation about how they could work together to reach the goal of doubling their pleasure. About a third of the children, the researchers reported, managed to wait long enough to get the second treat.

**B**

What Mischel, a clinical psychologist, wanted was to understand how children learned to deal with temptation. Over the following years, the group of children remained friends. When Mischel chatted to his daughters about their former classmates, he began to notice an interesting pattern: the children who had exhibited the most restraint in the ‘marshmallow test’ were doing better in life than their peers. He decided to investigate further. For more than 40 years, Mischel followed the lives of the nursery students. His findings were extraordinary. It turns out that being able to resist a treat at the age of five is a strong predictor of success in life: you are more likely to perform well at school and develop self-confidence and less likely to become obese, develop addictions or get divorced.

**C**

Mischel still teaches psychology at Columbia University and has just written The Marshmallow Test, a book summing up half a century of research. When Mischel was young, his family was forced to move from a comfortable life in Austria to the US. They settled in Brooklyn, where they opened a bargain shopping store. Business was never good and Mischel believes that moving from ‘upper middle class to extreme poverty’ shaped his outlook. He is concerned with trying to reduce the impact of deprivation on an individual’s life chances. The conclusion he draws from his marshmallow research is positive: some people may be naturally disciplined, but the ability to resist temptation is a skill that can also be taught. Teach children self-control early and you can improve their prospects.

**D**

However, no single characteristic – such as self-control – can explain success or failure. Some critics have pointed out that Mischel’s original subjects were themselves children of university professors and graduate students – not exactly a representative sample. Other scientists noted

that variations in home environment could account for differences: stable homes and one-child families encourage self-control, whereas in less stable homes and those with many children, if you don’t grab a marshmallow now there won’t be any left in 15 minutes. Mischel answers these critics by noting that studies in a wide variety of schools found similar results. He acknowledges that the environment shapes our ability to resist temptation and observes that genetics plays a role too. But he still believes that the ability to resist temptation can be learnt and encouraged. I asked Mischel whether self-control comes easily to him. ‘Not at all,’ he said. ‘I have great difficulties in waiting. It’s still difficult for me to wait in a queue in the bank.’

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| Points  20 |  |

1. **USE OF ENGLISH**

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| **Part 1 – Word Formation**  For questions **1-9**, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the gap. |

**Advertising in schools**

In certain countries, there has been rapid **(1)…………… (GROW**) in the spending power of teenagers. Realising this, firms are aiming even more of their **(2)…………… (PRODUCE**) at young people, and (**3)…………… (INCREASE**) they are doing this by advertising directly in schools. These companies see children as the **(4)…………… (CONSUME**) of the future, and hope that when they become adults they will maintain their (**5)…………… (LOYAL**) to brands they first started buying in their youth.

As a result, many **(6)…………… (MANUFACTURE**) are keen to supply equipment to schools, sponsor sports activities or provide students with kit that carries their logo. Other firms install machines selling snacks and drinks, and these are often highly (**7)…………… (PROFIT**) for both the companies and the schools.

There is, however, considerable (**8)…………… (AGREE**) about whether this is a good idea. Some claim these firms provide a useful service, but others argue that these machines encourage (**9)…………… (HEALTH**) eating habits at a time when many doctors are concerned about the diet of the young.

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| Points  9 |  |

**VOCABULARY**

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| **Part 1 - Complete the sentences with the phrases in the box.**  cross your mind (that)      have an eye for     is a pain  it broke my heart     lost track of time ~~to break the ice~~  was a piece of cake takes my breath away |

1. On the first day of class we played a game ***to break the ice.***
2. This view of the ocean is so beautiful it ……………………………. .
3. That exam ……………………………., I should get 100%.
4. Sorry I’m late, I was reading a great book and I …………………………….
5. I nearly cried at the end of the film, ……………………………. when the man left.
6. Did it ……………………………. they might be busy tonight?
7. My younger brother ……………………………. sometimes but he’s funny too.
8. You ……………………………. what clothes look good together, are you interested in fashion?

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| Points 7 |  |

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| **Part 2 – Choose the Correct Option** |

A: What are you reading?

B: A book called Am I Normal Yet? It deals with some very (1) ***complex issues*** / major rules / moving novels, such as mental health and feminism, but it’s funny too. You should read it.

A: I don’t know. I’m not that **(2)** keen about / keen in / keen on books about everyday stuff. I prefer science fiction. But, I was rather disappointed **(3)** with / at / for the last book I read. Despite a great **(4)** opening chapter / stunning illustration / moving novel, it turned out to have a very **(5)** minor character / predictable plot / stunning illustration. Perhaps it’s time for a change.

B: I’ve nearly finished this and it’s **(6)** so good a book / too good a book / such a good book that you should give it a go.

A: OK, I will. By the way, BTS have **(7)** toured the world / released a track / gone solo. Have you heard it?

B: Yes! It’s brilliant.

A: I love it. We need to **(8)** go for / figure out / join in how we can get tickets to their next concert!

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| Points  7 |  |

**Grammar**

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| **Part 1 - Multiple-choice**  Choose the correct answer. |

1. Many accidents in the home could be … if householders gave more thought to safety.

a) avoided b) excluded c) protected

2. The sole child from the plane was nervous because he … before.

a) hasn’t flown b) didn’t fly c) hadn’t flown

3. There’s a bus … ten minutes.

a) each b) every c) most

4. Why were you so unfriendly … her?

a) of b) for c) to

5.The story was really boring. It was … I’ve ever read.

a) the more boring story b) the most boring story c) most boring story

6. The plane … down at Budapest on its way to China.

a) visited b) touched c) landed

7. Smoking is a bad habit. Many people find difficult to … it.

a) break b) beat c) cough

8.It is a good idea to be … dressed when we go for an interview.

a) smartly b) clearly c) finely

9. What time … on television?

a) is news b) is the news c) are the news

10. The traffic lights … to red.

a) shone b) turned c) exchanged

11. The nurse … a rare disease.

a) caught b) took c) infected

1. I phoned him to make an early … at the hairdresser’s.

a) order b) date c) appointment

1. It’s late It’s time … home.

a) going b) to go c) going

1. The pandemic began in China and from there it … to Europe.

a) carried b) spread c) spilled

15. I had to pay for the damage … the other car.

a) of b) on c) to

16.Brian … in Italy for three years. Now he lives in Spain.

a) has lived b) living c) had been living

17.We burst into loud … .

a) laughter b) amusement c) smiles

18.This old hospital is going to be … soon.

a) pulled down b) run down c) laid out

19. I’m thinking … a house.

a) to buy b) of to buy c) of buying

20. I can’t swim as well as … .

a) he is b) him c) he can

21.The show was long, but there were two … .

a) tests b) intervals c) gaps

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| Points 42 |  |

1. **Writing**

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| Write an essay using all the notes and give reasons for your point of view (between 150 and 180 words).  **Every country in the world has problems with pollution and damage to the environment.**  **Do you think these problems can be solved?**  **Write about:**  1. transport  2. rivers and seas  3. ………………………… (your own idea) |

**………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..**

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| Points  **15** |  |

**Answer Key**

1. **Reading**

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| Part 1 |
| 1 D |
| 2 B |
| 3 D |
| 4 C |
| 5 A |
| 6 D |
| 7 D |
| 8 C |
| 9A |
| 10 D |

1. **Use of English**

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| Part 1 |
| 1 growth |
| 2 products |
| 3 increasingly |
| 4 consumers |
| 5 loyalty |
| 6 manufacturers |
| 7 profitable |
| 8 disagreement |
| 9 unhealthy |

1. **Vocabulary**

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| --- | --- |
| Part 1 | Part 2 |
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| 2 takes my breath away | 2 keen on |
| 3 was a piece of cake | 3 with |
| 4 lost track of time | 4 opening chapter |
| 5 it broke my heart | 5 predictable plot |
| 6 cross your mind (that) | 6 such a good book |
| 7 is a pain | 7 released a new track |
| 8 have an eye for | 8 figure out |

1. Grammar

1 a 2 c 3 b 4 c 5 b 6 b 7 a 8 a 9 b 10 b 11 a

12 c 13 b 14 b 15 c 16 a 17 a 18 a 19 c 20 b 21 b

1. **Writing**

Essay writing tips:

An essay can be organised in different ways, but it is useful to **write one idea in one paragraph** and add a short **introduction** and **conclusion**.

1. Plan your essay before you write.
2. Make sure you know how to comment on all the points that are asked.
3. Invent information if you don't have any ideas.
4. Divide the essay into paragraphs – put one answer in one paragraph.
5. Use advanced vocabulary when you can and formal language.

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| **Introduction**  Present the essay topic in your own words. |
| **1st body paragraph**  Comment on the first point |
| **2nd body paragraph**  Comment on the second point |
| **3rd body paragraph**  Comment on the third point (your idea) |
| **Conclusion**  Give final opinion |

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