

**KBU SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
2022-2023 SAMPLE PROFICIENCY EXAM**



LISTENING

PART 1: You will hear people talking in eight different situations. Choose the best option. You can listen to the audio again.

- 1. You hear part of an interview with a sportsman. What does he say about playing for the national team?**
 - a. He doesn't think it will happen soon.
 - b. It isn't his main concern at the moment.
 - c. The possibility of it happening has put him under pressure.
- 2. You hear the introduction to a radio programme. What is the speaker doing?**
 - a. Contrasting weather forecasting in the past and the present.
 - b. Explaining why weather forecasting has become more accurate.
 - c. Joking about how people used to forecast the weather.
- 3. You hear a man talking about reading aloud to children. What opinion does he express?**
 - a. Short stories are better than longer books.
 - b. The choice of book may not be important.
 - c. It's hard to know what will make children laugh.
- 4. You hear someone talking about work. What is his situation?**
 - a. He has just left a job.
 - b. He is thinking of leaving his job.
 - c. He has just started a new job.
- 5. You hear someone talking about his childhood. What does he mention?**
 - a. A habit he regards as strange.
 - b. Regret about some of his behaviour.
 - c. How much he has changed.
- 6. You hear someone talking about something that happened at a party. How did the speaker feel?**
 - a. upset
 - b. amused
 - c. frightened
- 7. You hear part of a talk about blues music. What is the speaker talking about?**
 - a. Why it originated in a certain area.
 - b. How popular it was in the past compared with today.
 - c. Its importance in the history of popular music.
- 8. You hear someone on the radio talking about a website for consumers. What is the speaker's purpose?**
 - a. To encourage consumers to make complaints.
 - b. To inform consumers about a source of information.
 - c. To describe common problems for consumers.

PART 2: You will listen to a radio interview about the problem of truancy. Choose the best option. You can listen to the audio again.

- 9. Dr Greenway implies that some children who play truant ____.**
- a. do so in order to earn money
 - b. behave badly in public
 - c. are never punished
- 10. Some parents take their children on holiday during term time ____.**
- a. because it's peak season
 - b. to spend time together as a family
 - c. to save money
- 11. It is difficult for schools to convince students to attend regularly because ____.**
- a. parents set a bad example for them
 - b. there is no good reason to attend
 - c. some teachers behave irresponsibly
- 12. What is the government's contribution to combating truancy?**
- a. They have been trying for years.
 - b. They are only just beginning to help.
 - c. Their help has arrived too late.
- 13. The government are having talks with travel agents ____.**
- a. to convince them to offer parents cheap holidays
 - b. to make sure that children don't play truant
 - c. to get help from them in combating truancy
- 14. The aim of 'behaviour improvement projects' is ____.**
- a. to teach parents to be more responsible
 - b. to teach students the lessons they have missed
 - c. to teach students to take school more seriously
- 15. What does Dr Greenway say about the law against truancy?**
- a. The law is not strict enough.
 - b. Parents are not prosecuted.
 - c. Many parents face criminal charges.

USE OF ENGLISH

SINGING FOR A MUSICAL LIFE

According to a group called The Voices Foundation, everyone has a singing voice as well as a speaking voice somewhere inside them. This, they say, (I)_____ from an early age because it provides the best, and the cheapest, basis on which to build an understanding of music.

Behind the Foundation's ideas, lies the teaching of the Hungarian composer Zoltan Kodaly. He observed that song can form a key part of the relationship between mother and child almost from birth. This is especially true of more traditional societies, like those of West Africa, (II)_____ some small children are able to sing literally hundreds of songs, all of which (III)_____ by hearth. But many modern children first come to an understanding of music when they learn to play an instrument, and (IV)_____ some teaching of the theory of music is usually a part of this, their relationship with the music on the page is often a mechanical one.

The belief of the Voices Foundation is that a natural feeling for rhythm, harmony and musical structure, the very qualities we appreciate in the greatest musicians, can only be achieved through the exploration of music with the voice from the start. The foundation has, (V)_____, set itself the task of developing a singing-centred musical education programme that could benefit junior pupils all over the world.

16. (I)

a. should encourage

c. should have encouraged

b. should be encouraged

d. should have been encouraged

17. (II)

a. where

b. which

c. that

d. –

18. (III)

a. have learnt

b. were learnt

c. have been learnt

d. learnt

19. (IV)

a. whether

b. despite

c. although

d. when

20. (V)

a. however

b. nevertheless

c. also

d. therefore

RATS

The rat is more dangerous than to man than the rattlesnake, lion, or tiger. The rat lives in old barns and buildings, under houses or porches, and sometimes in basements. It carries and spreads (I)_____ diseases as typhus, tularemia, rabies, ratbite fever, and bubonic plague. Rats are undesirable for other reasons. They are very destructive. They have been known to gnaw lead pipes, wood, soap, fabrics, book covers, and valuable papers. They also eat just about every food (II)_____ by human beings. They kill young chickens and even cats.

There are now over a hundred million of these pests in the US, and they (III)_____ faster than they are being killed. If it were not for their enemies, the descendants of one pair of rats (IV)_____ number 350.000.000 in three years. When a country in Texas set out to exterminate rats, 153.720 tails were turned in during a six-weeks period. Perhaps your class will lead a drive against (V)_____ trapping or poisoning them with something that will not harm other animals.

21. (I)
a. like b. such c. so d. as
22. (II)
a. making b. made c. being made d. make
23. (III)
a. are multiplied b. will multiply c. are multiplying d. multiplied
24. (IV)
a. would have b. must c. would d. should
25. (V)
a. by b. with c. for d. without

The flat refusal to get help is absolutely typical of most troubled men. They are (I)_____ of telling their troubles to a marriage counsellor, psychologist or family doctor. A man will consult a mechanic about his car or get advice from a neighbour about his lawn; but when it comes to the things at the absolute centre of his existence, like his mental and emotional health, four times out of five, he will (II)_____ to seek expert help. As a result, uncountable millions of men are (III)_____ unhappily with jobs they don't like; living in cold, (IV)_____ marriages; losing contact with their children- in short, (V)_____ with situations that they often could change with professional aid.

26. (I)
a. eager b. fond c. envious d. scared
27. (II)
a. admit b. refuse c. belong d. adjust
28. (III)
a. competing b. arguing c. coping d. agreeing
29. (IV)
a. subsequent b. companionate c. distant d. splendid
30. (V)
a. trying on b. looking after c. showing off d. putting up

HOLIDAY COMPLAINTS

There are too many people in Britain today who are ready to complain rather than enjoy their holidays and who (I)_____ the word about how easy it is to get money back from the travel industry which appears to have become paralysed with fear over bad publicity.

I recently heard a middle-aged woman protesting (II)_____ that she had had to pay for the loan of a golf cart during an all-inclusive golfing holiday in Jamaica and (III)_____ back all the money she spent on the cart together with more for the 'distress' she had been caused. A friend of mine recently overheard a group of young lads deciding, before they even boarded the aircraft, what they were going to complain about to get a(n) (IV)_____ on the cost of their holiday and which high-value item would be 'lost' during the trip.

Last month a Manchester man led a 'mutiny' of 200 passengers on a cruise ship because, he said, the bingo prize was not big enough. This week I heard the details of a honeymoon couple who were sent a big bouquet of flowers by the tour operator and then complained that it was too big and (V)_____ them from moving freely about their hotel room. These types, who we have all met in airport lounges, just make the rest of us suffer, when they lie and fool tour operators into handing cash back.

31. (I)

a. give

b. spread

c. pass

d. tell

32. (II)

a. bitterly

b. unconsciously

c. anxiously

d. briefly

33. (III)

a. identified

b. consumed

c. demanded

d. remarked

34. (IV)

a. fund

b. account

c. refund

d. donation

35. (V)

a. adopted

b. struggled

c. avoided

d. prevented

READING

PART 1: You are going to read a magazine article about being liked. Answer questions 36-43 according to the text. Choose the best answer.

Love Me Do!

I've just got to talk about this problem I'm having with my postman. It all began a year ago, after the birth of his first child. Not wanting to appear rude, I asked him about the baby. The next week, not wanting him to think I had asked out of mere politeness the week before, I asked all about the baby again. Now I can't break the habit. I freeze whenever I see him coming. The words 'How's the baby?' come out on their own. It's annoying. It holds me up. It holds him up. So why can't I stop it?

The answer, of course, is that I want him to like me. Come to think of it, I want everyone to like me. This was made clear to me the other day. I found myself in the bank, replying 'Oh, as it comes' when the cashier asked how I'd like the money. Even as she was handing me the £20 note, I realised I'd have no small change with which to buy my newspaper. But, not wanting her to dislike me (she'd already written '1 x £20' on the back of my cheque), said nothing.

In order to get the £20 note down to a decent, paper-buying size, I went into the grocers. Not wanting to buy things I didn't actually need (I do have some pride, you know), I bought some large cans of beans and a frozen chicken for dinner that night. That got the price up to a respectable £5.12, which I duly paid. I then bought my paper at the station with my hard-gained £5 note.

With my sister, it wasn't the postman who was the problem, but the caretaker of her block of flats: 'All he ever does is moan and complain; he talks at me rather than to me, never listens to a word I say, and yet for some reason, I'm always really nice to him. I'm worried in case I have a domestic crisis one day, and he won't lift a finger to help.

I have a friend called Stephen, who is a prisoner of the call-waiting device he has had installed on his phone. 'I get this beeping sound to tell me there's another call on the line, but I can never bring myself to interrupt the person I'm talking to. So I end up not concentrating on what the first person's saying, while at the same time annoying the person who's trying to get through.'

What about at work? Richard Lawton, a management trainer, warns: 'Those managers who are actually liked by most of their staff are always those to whom being liked is not the primary goal. The qualities that make managers popular are being honest with staff, treating them as human beings, and observing common courtesies like saying hello in the morning.' To illustrate the point, Richard cites the story of the company chairman who desperately wanted to be liked and who, after making one of his managers redundant, said with moist eyes that he was so, so sorry the man was leaving. To which the embittered employee replied: 'If you were sorry, I wouldn't be leaving.' The lesson is, therefore, that if you try too hard to be liked, people won't like you.

The experts say it all starts in childhood. 'If children feel they can only get love from their parents by being good,' says Zelda West-Meads, a marriage guidance consultant, 'they develop low self-confidence and become compulsive givers.' But is there anything wrong in being a giver, the world not being exactly short of takers? Anne Cousins believes there is. 'There is a point at which giving becomes unhealthy,' she says. 'It comes when you do things for others but feels bad about it.'

I am now trying hard to say to people 'I feel uncomfortable about saying this, but ...', and tell myself 'Refusal of a request does not mean rejection of a person' and I find I can say almost anything to almost anyone.

36. Why does the writer ask the postman about his baby?

- a. He is interested in the baby.
- b. He wants to create a good impression
- c. The postman is always polite to him.
- d. The postman enjoys a chat.

37. The writer went into the grocer's so that _____.

- a. he had some food for dinner that night
- b. he could buy a newspaper there
- c. he could ask for £20 in change
- d. he could buy something to get some change

38. What do we find out about the writer's sister and the caretaker?

- a. She doesn't want to risk offending him.
- b. She doesn't pay attention to him.
- c. He refuses to help her.
- d. He asks her for advice.

39. How does Stephen feel about his call-waiting equipment?

- a. He gets annoyed when it interrupts him.
- b. He is unable to use it effectively.
- c. He finds it a relief from long conversations.
- d. He doesn't think it works properly.

40. Managers are more likely to be popular if they _____.

- a. help staff with their problems
- b. make sure the staff do not lose their jobs
- c. encourage staff to be polite to each other
- d. do not make too much effort to be liked

41. When is it wrong to be 'a giver'?

- a. when it makes you ill
- b. when it does not give you pleasure
- c. when you make other people unhappy
- d. when you are unable to take from others

42. What do we learn from this article?

- a. If you tell the truth, it will not make people like you less.
- b. If you take time to talk to people, they will like you better.
- c. You should avoid unpleasant situations where possible.
- d. You shouldn't refuse other people's requests for help.

43. Why was this article written?

- a. to analyse the kinds of conversations people have
- b. to persuade people to be more polite to each other
- c. to encourage people to have more self-confidence
- d. to suggest ways of dealing with difficult people

PART 2: You are going to read a text about memory. One sentence has been removed from some paragraphs. Choose the most suitable sentence from the list (A-H) for each part (1-7). There is one extra sentence that you do not need to use.

Use it or lose it: Keeping the Brain Young

You hear the same complaint all the time as people get older: "My memory is terrible." Is it all in the mind, or do real changes take place in the brain with age to justify such complaints? The depressing answer is that the brain's cells, the neurons, die and decline in efficiency with age.

Professor Arthur Shimamura, of the University of California at Berkeley, says there are three main ways in which mental function changes. The first is mental speed, for example how quickly you can react to fast-moving incidents on the road. **(1) _____**. The near-inevitable slowing with age also partly explains why soccer players are seen as old in their thirties, while golf professionals are at their peak at that age. This type of mental slowing results from a reduction in the efficiency with which the brain's neurons work.

The fact that adults find it harder to learn musical instruments than children points to a second type of mental loss with age — a reduction in learning capacity. **(2) _____**. This means that, as we get older, we take longer to learn a new language, are slower to master new routines and technologies at work, and we have to rely more on diaries and other mental aids.

"Working memory" is the third brain system which is vulnerable to the effects of ageing. Working memory is the brain's "blackboard", where we juggle from moment to moment the things we have to keep in mind when solving problems, planning tasks and generally organising our day-to-day life. **(3) _____** so, no matter in what age you are, for instance, you may continually lose your glasses, or find yourself walking into a room of your house only to find that you cannot remember what you came for.

Such forgetfulness tends to increase as we age and occurs because our plans and intentions, which are written on the mental blackboard, are easily wiped out by stray thoughts and other distractions. **(4) _____**. The frontal lobes of the brain -located behind the forehead and above the eyes- are where the working memory system is located. Like the temporal lobes, which handle new learning, the frontal lobes are more vulnerable to the ageing process than other parts of the brain.

(5) _____. Although neurons reduce in number with age, the remaining neurons send out new and longer connecting fibres (dendrites) to maintain connections and allow us to function reasonably well with only relatively small drops in ability.

This and other evidence suggest that the principle "use it or lose it" might apply to the ageing brain. Professor Shimamura studied a group of university professors who were still intellectually active, and compared their performance on neuropsychological tests with that of others of their age group, as well as with younger people. **(6) _____**.

Such findings lead to the intriguing possibility of "mental fitness training" to accompany jogging and workouts for the health conscious. Research in Stockholm by Professor Lars Backman and his colleagues has shown that older people can be trained to use their memory better, with the effects of this training lasting several years.

Just as people go bald or grey at different rates, so the same is true for their mental faculties. **(7) _____**. If Professor Shimamura is right, then the degree to which people use and stretch their mental faculties may also have a role to play.

44. (I)

- a. The parts of the brain known as the temporal lobes control new learning and are particularly vulnerable to the effects of aging
- b. Stress and preoccupation can also cause such absent-mindedness, in addition to age-related changes in the brain
- c. Why this should be the case for memory and other mental functions is not yet clear, but physical factors play a part
- d. Drivers in their late teens react quickly but tend to drive too fast, while the over sixties are more cautious but react more slowly
- e. The news, however, is not all unpleasant
- f. Absent-mindedness occurs at all ages because of imperfections in the working system
- g. Research on animals provides even stronger evidence of the effects of stimulation on the brain structure
- h. He found that on several tests of memory, the mentally active professors in their sixties and early seventies were superior to their contemporaries and as good as the younger people

45. (II)

- a. The parts of the brain known as the temporal lobes control new learning and are particularly vulnerable to the effects of aging
- b. Stress and preoccupation can also cause such absent-mindedness, in addition to age-related changes in the brain
- c. Why this should be the case for memory and other mental functions is not yet clear, but physical factors play a part
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46. (III)

- a. The parts of the brain known as the temporal lobes control new learning and are particularly vulnerable to the effects of aging
- b. Stress and preoccupation can also cause such absent-mindedness, in addition to age-related changes in the brain
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47. (IV)

- a. The parts of the brain known as the temporal lobes control new learning and are particularly vulnerable to the effects of aging
- b. Stress and preoccupation can also cause such absent-mindedness, in addition to age-related changes in the brain
- c. Why this should be the case for memory and other mental functions is not yet clear, but physical factors play a part
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48. (V)

- a. The parts of the brain known as the temporal lobes control new learning and are particularly vulnerable to the effects of aging
- b. Stress and preoccupation can also cause such absent-mindedness, in addition to age-related changes in the brain
- c. Why this should be the case for memory and other mental functions is not yet clear, but physical factors play a part
- d. Drivers in their late teens react quickly but tend to drive too fast, while the over sixties are more cautious but react more slowly
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49. (VI)

- a. The parts of the brain known as the temporal lobes control new learning and are particularly vulnerable to the effects of aging
- b. Stress and preoccupation can also cause such absent-mindedness, in addition to age-related changes in the brain
- c. Why this should be the case for memory and other mental functions is not yet clear, but physical factors play a part
- d. Drivers in their late teens react quickly but tend to drive too fast, while the over sixties are more cautious but react more slowly
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- g. Research on animals provides even stronger evidence of the effects of stimulation on the brain structure
- h. He found that on several tests of memory, the mentally active professors in their sixties and early seventies were superior to their contemporaries and as good as the younger people

50. (VII)

- a. The parts of the brain known as the temporal lobes control new learning and are particularly vulnerable to the effects of aging
- b. Stress and preoccupation can also cause such absent-mindedness, in addition to age-related changes in the brain
- c. Why this should be the case for memory and other mental functions is not yet clear, but physical factors play a part
- d. Drivers in their late teens react quickly but tend to drive too fast, while the over sixties are more cautious but react more slowly
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Answer key

Listening

Part 1:

1. B 2. A 3. B 4. A 5. A 6. B 7. C 8. B

Part 2:

9. b 10. C 11. A 12. B 13. C 14. C 15. B

Use of English

16. B 17. A 18. C 19. C 20. D 21. B 22. B 23. C 24. C 25. A 26. D 27. B 28. C 29. C 30. D 31. B 32. A 33. C 34. C 35. D

Reading

Part 1:

36. B 37. D 38. A 39. B 40. D 41. B 42. A 43. C

Part 2:

44. D 45. A 46. F 47. B 48. E 49. H 50. C

WRITING

You are going to write **an opinion essay** about the topic below for a youth magazine.

“Social media tools are the sources of misinformation.”

*What is your opinion on this issue?

*Please do not forget to provide details, reasons, and specific examples relevant to your thesis statement.

*Your essay needs to include a well-organized introductory, body paragraph(s) and a concluding paragraph.

*Use at least 200 words.

SPEAKING

Part 1: You are going to answer the questions the interlocuter addresses.

How much do you spend on the Internet? What do you usually use it for?

What are the most useful websites/applications you use as a young person? Can you describe them?

Part 2: You are given a topic and expected to comment on it by expressing your opinions with relevant examples and details.

The use of the Internet contributes to young people's study skills.