



SSST English Language Entrance Exam

- Sample 1

Time allowed: 2 hours

Total points allowed: 80 points

This written exam will be followed by an interview with the English Department faculty (20 points)

GOOD LUCK!

SECTION A - GRAMMAR (40 pts)

PART 1. Make the following sentences **negative** (using 'not'). Write out the whole sentence. [3 pts]

a. Sara will make dinner tomorrow. _____

b. I have painted the room. _____

c. People fought for freedom. _____

PART 2. Write **true answers** in **full** sentences. Use the **correct form** of the **underlined verb**. [3 pts]

a. How old **are** you?

Answer: _____

b. How long have you been **preparing** for this test?

Answer: _____

c. Where did you **learn** English?

Answer: _____

PART 3. Fill in the blanks with the correct word - **much/many/some/any**. Use each word only once. [4 pts]

a. We haven't had _____ rain. There was only a little shower yesterday.

b. There aren't _____ cakes left. They ate them all.

c. I haven't had any breakfast. Give me _____ coffee and I will be fine.

d. I was expecting a large selection of books in the library, but there weren't _____ to choose from – only a few titles.

PART 4. Comparative and superlative adjectives: Correct the **underlined words** in the space provided. [3 pts]

a. That was the badest meal I have ever had! _____

b. She is the most pretty actress in Hollywood. _____

c. He chose the seat the most further from the door. _____

PART 5. Present Continuous or Present Simple: Insert the **correct form** of the **verb** in bold. [4 pts]

a. fly

That plane is _____ very low over the beach!

We often _____ with BH Airlines.

b. go

She _____ to work by car.

They _____ to Mostar for the weekend.

PART 6. Possessive adjectives and pronouns: Circle the correct choices. [6 pts]

a. Is this **your/yours** coat? No, it is **her/hers**.

b. **Whose / Who's** credit card are we going to use on **our/ours** holiday?

c. **Their/their** car is in the garage, while **my/mine** is parked outside the house.

PART 7. Simple past questions.

[3 pts]

On the right is a **statement** in the simple past tense.

On the left, **make the question that the statement answers.** The question must be in the simple past tense and must use the underlined pronoun and verb. Change the verb form and word order where necessary.

- a. _____ the pie? Yes, **my brother ate** the pie.
b. _____ the movie last night? Yes, **we saw** the one at 9 p.m.
c. _____ cars in the 1900s? Yes, **there were** cars in the 1900s.

PART 8. Present Perfect or Simple Past. Circle the letter in front of the correct sentence.

[3 pts]

- a. I can't open the door. I've left my keys in the car this morning.
b. I can't open the door. I left my keys in the car this morning.
c. He's met his wife in 1987.
d. He met his wife in 1987.
e. I've played a lot of tennis when I was younger.
f. I played a lot of tennis when I was younger.

PART 9. Fill in the gaps with **would, should, can, could.** Use each verb once only.

[4 pts]

- a. He thought that the drive _____ take about two hours.
b. I think you _____ study harder if you want to pass the exam.
c. The car cost more than I _____ afford, so I bought a cheaper model.
d. I do not need any help. I _____ do it myself!

PART 10. Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verb in brackets, i.e. one of these: **past tense form, -ing (progressive) form or past participle form.**

[4 pts]

- a. Mandarin is _____ (speak) in China.
b. I was _____ (practice) every day, three times a day.
c. I had been _____ (watch) that programme every week since it started, but I missed the last episode.
d. She _____ (buy) the present at Borders.

PART 11. Prepositions of time and place: Fill in the gaps with the correct preposition. [3pts]

- a. Students _____ university often have little time for sports activities.
b. I am very disappointed _____ your work this semester.
c. We forgave them _____ that mistake.

Section A: Total marks: _____ / 40

SECTION B - READING COMPREHENSION (20 pts)

Read the passage below and answer questions 1 to 15.

Our moods may be affected by the weather. Gloomy weather can cause depression – on the other hand, sunshine appears to raise our spirits. In Britain, for example, the dull weather of winter drastically cuts down the amount of sunlight, which strongly affects some people. They become so depressed and lacking in energy that their work and social life are affected. This condition has been given the name SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder). Sufferers can fight back by exposing themselves to as much as sunlight in the winter as possible, and spending a few hours each day under special, full-spectrum lamps. These provide more ultraviolet light than ordinary fluorescent lights. Some Russian scientists claim that children learn better after being exposed to ultraviolet light.

In warm countries, hours of work are often arranged so that workers can take a break, a *siesta*, between 1 pm and 4 pm - that is, during the hottest part of the day. It is generally believed that people become angrier in hot weather. There is no doubt that there are more 'crimes against the person' in the summer, when the weather is hotter, and that the crime rate falls in the winter. Also, research in the United States has shown a relationship between temperature and street riots. The frequency of riots rises dramatically as the weather gets warmer, hitting a peak around 27-30°C. But is this effect really due to a mood change caused by the heat? Some scientists argue that trouble starts more often in hot weather merely because there are more people in the street when the weather is good.

Psychologists have also studied how being cold affects performance. Researchers compared divers in icy cold water at 5°C with others in water at 20°C (about swimming pool temperature). The colder water made the divers worse at arithmetic and other mental tasks. But, more importantly, their performance was worse as soon as they were put into the cold water - before their bodies had time to cool down. This suggests that a lower body temperature did not slow down mental functioning directly, but, rather, that the feeling of cold moved the attention of the divers away from their tasks.

Mood apparently does not depend on temperature alone. An American psychologist studied customers in a temperature-controlled restaurant. They gave bigger tips when the sun was shining and smaller tips when it wasn't, even though the temperature in the restaurant was the same. A link between weather and mood can be made on the basis of evidence of a connection between behaviour and the number of daylight hours. Exposure to daylight directly affects the level of a hormone called melatonin, produced in the pineal gland in the brain. The amount of melatonin increases the more time you spend in the daylight. Research shows that melatonin plays an important part in the seasonal behaviour of certain animals. In the laboratory, hamsters put on more weight when the nights are getting longer and their melatonin levels are falling. On the other hand, if they are given injections of melatonin, they will stop eating altogether. People's moods too, have been shown to react to the length of the daylight hours. Sceptics say that longer exposure to sunshine puts people in a better mood because they associate it with the happy feelings of holidays. However, the belief that rain and murky weather make people more unhappy is borne out by a study in Belgium, which showed that a telephone counseling service gets more telephone calls from people with suicidal feelings when it rains.

Electricity also seems to have a mood-altering effect. When there is a thunderstorm approaching, some people complain of the air being 'heavy' and of feeling irritable and on edge. They may be reacting to the fact that the air can become slightly positively charged when large thunderclouds generate intense electrical fields that cause lightning. The positive charge increases the levels of serotonin, a chemical involved in sending signals in the nervous system. High levels of serotonin in certain areas of the nervous system make people more active and, possibly, more aggressive. When certain winds are blowing, such as the Mistral in southern France and the Fohn in southern Germany, people may become angrier - and the number of traffic accidents rises. This is because the concentration of positively charged particles is greater than normal in these winds. In the United Kingdom, 400,000 ionizers are sold every year. These small machines raise the number of negative particles in the air in a room. Many people claim they feel better in negatively charged air.

Questions 1 - 4. Circle the appropriate letter.

1) If you are experiencing SAD, you should:

- A spend more time under fluorescent lights
- B expose yourself to sunlight and full-spectrum lights in the winter
- C spend the winter months in warmer climates

2) Why did the divers perform less well in colder conditions?

- A They were less able to concentrate.
- B Their body temperature fell too quickly.
- C Their mental functions were immediately affected by the cold.

3) In the laboratory, hamsters put on weight

- A because the researchers give them melatonin injections
- B because the days get shorter
- C because their melatonin level decreases

4) In the article, rainy weather causes

- A more humans to feel suicidal
- B people to feel more responsible
- C humans to feel happier

Questions 5 – 10. Based on the information given in the article, connect the sentences on the left with appropriate continuations on the right, and write in the letter of the continuation in the space provided. There is one continuation you do not need.

- 5) It has been established that social tension increases in the United States during ... _____
- 6) More traffic accidents occur when... _____
- 7) Ionizers are used... _____
- 8) People are sometimes more aggressive due to... _____
- 9) Air becomes 'heavy' because of... _____
- 10) Animals behave differently during different seasons due to... _____

- A there are more positive ions in certain winds**
 - B higher serotonin levels**
 - C because of the effect of negative particles on human mood.**
 - D hot weather**
 - E melatonin levels**
 - F colder weather**
 - G positive charge caused by thunderclouds**
- Questions 11 – 15. Answer the questions below. Each question is worth 2 points.**

- 11) According to the article, what is a siesta?

- 12) According to research in the U.S., when do riots occur most often?

- 13) How does the weather affect melatonin levels?

- 14) How do people behave when their serotonin is high?

- 15) What is a way the British decrease the number of positive ions in the air?
