

CAE Use of English Practice Test

Try to complete this test in 90 minutes, but don't worry if you need to take longer.

Part One

Read the text carefully and then choose the **best** word to put into each gap from the selection on the right.

The Vacuum Cleaner

Until about 250 years ago, households did not take dirt as **..(1)..** as they do now - it was a fact of life, and that was that. Cleaning often consisted of an annual **..(2)..** called 'spring cleaning' when the furniture was moved aside, and all the linen products in the house were cleaned. Carpets and rugs were taken outside, hung on ropes and had the dust **..(3)..** out of them - an exhausting and messy process.

The industrial revolution brought about a major change - as new **..(4)..** became available to make homes cleaner, a corresponding interest in '**..(5)..** hygiene' appeared in households. This in turn led to the **..(6)..** of further products, one of which was the vacuum cleaner.

..(7).. has it that when one of the first vacuum cleaners was demonstrated, a kindly scientist took the proud inventor **..(8)..**, and offered a bit of advice that was to become **..(9)..** to the future evolution of the product - 'make it suck, not blow'.

The first vacuum cleaners appeared in the 1860s in the United States. They were operated by hand pumps and were almost as **..(10)..** as spring cleaning. It was only when electric motors had become sufficiently **..(11)..** to become portable that vacuum cleaners became common household items. Most of today's major **..(12)..** - including Electrolux and Hoover - were born in the 1920s.

The household **..(13)..** that vacuum cleaners suck up is mostly dead skin cells - humans **..(14)..** millions of cells every day. A much smaller proportion comes from dust and soil carried into the house from **..(15)..**.

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|------------------|----------------|
| 1. a importantly | b crucially |
| c considerably | d seriously |
| 2. a ritual | b result |
| c resolution | d scrub |
| 3. a cleaned | b taken |
| c beaten | d sucked |
| 4. a products | b concepts |
| c ideals | d developments |
| 5. a house | b domestic |
| c homely | d internal |
| 6. a fabrication | b appearing |
| c recreation | d development |
| 7. a Story | b Epic |
| c Legend | d Tale |
| 8. a away | b aside |
| c aback | d along |
| 9. a standard | b crucial |
| c regular | d esteemed |
| 10. a laborious | b hard |
| c nefarious | d straining |
| 11. a scientific | b forward |
| c technological | d advanced |
| 12. a brands | b marks |
| c makes | d trademarks |
| 13. a grit | b rubbish |
| c refuse | d dirt |
| 14. a lose | b outgrow |
| c omit | d shed |
| 15. a external | b outside |
| c beyond | d indoors |

Part Two

Read the text carefully and then decide on the best word to write in each gap. Use **one word** in each gap.

The Atmosphere of (1)

Would you like to (2) an astronaut? To do this, you must travel at least 50 miles (80 kilometres) above the surface of the earth. But even after you have done that you are still (3) earth's atmosphere. Indeed, there are at least 300 miles of air still between you and the true vacuum of space.

Most of what we think of as our atmosphere is actually the troposphere, that part of the atmosphere closest to earth. This is where most of our weather happens, and it is the only part of the atmosphere which has enough oxygen and warmth for humans to survive. (4) part of the atmosphere is about ten miles thick at the equator and slightly half that height at the (5) .

(6) the troposphere is the stratosphere, which you have probably (7) if you have travelled on an international jet liner. But there is another kind of 'jet' at this altitude. Huge rivers of air called 'jet streams' (8) through the stratosphere, and the stratosphere contains the ozone layer which filters harmful ultraviolet rays which could (9) make life on earth extinct. Above the stratosphere is the mesosphere, and above that the ionosphere, which is important for radio communications as signals can be (10) off the ionosphere to different (11) of the world.

Many people think that the atmosphere is mostly oxygen, (12) that is what we breathe. But in (13) oxygen makes up only about 21% of the atmosphere, and carbon dioxide, which we breathe out, makes up less than 1%. Over three quarters of the atmosphere is nitrogen, which was expelled from inside the planet while it was still very volcanically (14) . We have a lot of nitrogen in our bodies, but we do not get it (15) from the atmosphere. Instead we get our nitrogen from plants which we eat.

Part Three

Read the text carefully and check each line for an error. If you find an error, write the error in the box at the end of the line. If there is no error in that line, write nothing in the box.

Plastic - the Wonder Material

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Though plastic is essential on modern civilization, it is a very new | <input type="text"/> |
| 2. material - the inventor Alexander Parkes demonstrated the first plastic | <input type="text"/> |
| 3. at an exhibition in London less than 150 years away. | <input type="text"/> |
| 4. For years later celluloid was invented. Today we think of plastic as | <input type="text"/> |
| 5. environmentally friendless, because it does not decay. But celluloid helped | <input type="text"/> |
| 6. to stop the slaughter of thousands of African elephants whos' tusks were | <input type="text"/> |
| 7. being used to make ivory billiard balls. Later; thin transparent sheets of | <input type="text"/> |
| 8. celluloid have pictures printed onto them, and these reels of celluloid projected | <input type="text"/> |
| 9. movies in the cinemas of the 1930's. | <input type="text"/> |
| 10. In 1913, a Swiss inventor invented cellophane while searching for a material | <input type="text"/> |
| 11. which would resist dirt and water and what could be easily cleaned. He was | <input type="text"/> |
| 12. looking for a superior tablecloth, but instead invented the twentieth centuries | <input type="text"/> |
| 13. favourit packaging material. There was no stopping the plastics revolution. | <input type="text"/> |
| 14. Plastic has replaced the fibres in toothbrushes, and the silk in woman's stockings. | <input type="text"/> |
| 15. Vinyl is used for flooring, and Teflon for kitchenwear. Polythene is the most | <input type="text"/> |
| 16. common plastic - it was used for soft drink bottles, food containers and thousands of other everyday objects. | <input type="text"/> |

Part Four

Read texts A & B, and in each of the gaps write a suitable word. This word should be formed from the word with the same number in the box on the right of the text. The first question has been done for you.

<p>The only way to 0 <input type="text" value="fitness"/> is through exercise. Spending your life as a 'couch potato' is almost the 1 <input type="text"/> thing that you can do. I'm not saying that you need to become 2 <input type="text"/> about keeping yourself fit and spend long miserable hours 3 <input type="text"/> jogging for miles in the rain every day. But it is essential that you do a minimum of 4 <input type="text"/> exercise. Have a 5 <input type="text"/> with your doctor, and then exercise 6 <input type="text"/> according to his 7 <input type="text"/>.</p>	<p>0. fit</p> <p>1. health</p> <p>2. fanatic</p> <p>3. happy</p> <p>4. day</p> <p>5. discuss</p> <p>6. system</p> <p>7. instruct</p>
<p>8. <input type="text"/> you know someone who is 9. <input type="text"/> of spiders. The problem is so common that 10. <input type="text"/> even have a word for it - arachnophobia. No one is sure what it is that inspires this 11. <input type="text"/> terror. Some people believe it is the legs, the numerous eyes, or even their scuttling form of movement. Perhaps it is a 12. <input type="text"/> of all these things. Many people spray spiders with 13. <input type="text"/> as soon as they see them, despite the fact that spiders are useful in keeping down 14. <input type="text"/> of other insect pests in the house. Mind you, for some people anything is 15. <input type="text"/> to spiders!</p>	<p>8. Doubt</p> <p>9. terror</p> <p>10. psychology</p> <p>11. rational</p> <p>12. combine</p> <p>13. insect</p> <p>14. infest</p> <p>15. prefer</p>

Part Five

Read what Joey's class teacher has to say about him in texts **A** & **B**, and in each of the gaps in the teacher's informal note to a colleague (text A) write one or two suitable words. You should find the word from your reading of the report in text B, but these words **are not** in text B.

A.

Hi Kate;

I'm doing the school 1. for Joey Falconer, and I'm not sure what I should say. He is a lively and intelligent child, but he can be a nuisance in class. He should get much 2. grades for his work than he does. It's not that he's 3. - he just does not pay 4. to the teacher. With the 5. he likes such as history and science he is an 6. student, but his French teacher says that he is a real horror. It's not just that he doesn't listen, he also 7. the other students. The thing 8. that Joey was very ill last year, and he 9. a lot of classes. His parents have hired a private tutor to help him 10. , and Joey prefers learning with his tutor to lessons at the school. Now he seems to think school hours are just for socializing with his friends. Overall 11. , I don't want to be too 12. on him. He's such a nice kid that even his French teacher 13. him, and he has been doing well on the 14. .

B.

Joseph Falconer, aged 11.

Joey is a very likeable child who has a lot of friends in the school. He has made up a lot of the ground which he lost due to his absence last year, and is making excellent progress, particularly in History and Science. However, in subjects which do not interest him, Joey is not working as hard as he should and as a result his marks are lower than expected.

Joey needs to understand that a school is a learning environment, not just for himself but also for the other children in his class. For instance his French teacher says that his behaviour in class leaves a great deal to be desired and he stops other children from concentrating.

Despite this problem, Joey has made excellent progress and he is popular with both staff and students at the school.

Answers

Part One

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. d | 9. b |
| 2. a | 10. a |
| 3. c | 11. d |
| 4. a | 12. a |
| 5. b | 13. d |
| 6. d | 14. d |
| 7. c | 15. b |
| 8. b | |

Part Two

Remember: your answer might be different but still correct. If you are not sure, check with a teacher.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Earth | 9. otherwise/rapidly/quickly |
| 2. become | 10. bounced |
| 3. within/in | 11. parts |
| 4. This | 12. since/because/and |
| 5. poles | 13. fact/reality |
| 6. Above/After | 14. active |
| 7. visited/crossed/passed | 15. directly |
| 8. flow/travel/pass/run | |

Part Three

The 1st column shows the **error** which you should have written down, and the 2nd gives the correct version.

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. on | to/for | 9. 1930's | 1930s |
| 2. - | no error | 10. - | no error |
| 3. away | ago | 11. what | which |
| 4. For | Four | 12. centuries | century's |
| 5. friendless | unfriendly | 13. favourite | favourite |
| 6. whos' | whose | 14. woman's | women's |
| 7. Later; | Later, | 15. kitchenwear | kitchenware |
| 8. have | had | 16. was | is |

Part Four

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. unhealthiest | 8. Doubtless/Undoubtedly |
| 2. fanatical | 9. terrified |
| 3. unhappily | 10. psychologists |
| 4. daily | 11. irrational |
| 5. discussion | 12. combination |
| 6. systematically | 13. insecticide |
| 7. instructions | 14. infestations |
| | 15. preferable |

Part Five

If you have a different answer it might still be right - check with your teacher.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. report | 8. is |
| 2. higher/better | 9. missed/skipped |
| 3. lazy | 10. catch up/study/learn |
| 4. attention | 11. though/however |
| 5. subjects/areas | 12. hard/strict |
| 6. ideal/excellent | 13. likes |
| 7. distracts/bothers | 14. whole |