Directions:

- The Practice Test for English has four sections:
  
  Listening, Use of language, Reading and Writing.

- The Listening section has multiple-choice questions. You will listen to 1 long conversation and a lecture. Listen twice then mark the correct answer.

- The Use of Language part has grammar and vocabulary multiple-choice questions.

- The Reading section has multiple-choice questions and questions that require you to write a short written response.

- The Writing section contains a short writing exercise on one topic and a longer writing exercise, where you select one of two topics to write about.

- You may use these practice questions to prepare for the Secondary School Certificate Test.
Section 1—Listening

Directions: In this part of the test, you will hear a conversation and then answer 5 multiple choice questions based on what you hear.

First you have two minutes to read through questions 1–5 so that you become familiar with them. Now listen to the conversation. You will hear it twice.

1. What is the conversation MAINLY about?
   - A son facing bullying problems in his new school
   - A mom advising on how to adapt to the new school
   - A mom-son arrangements for going to a new school
   - A mom-son discussion about moving to a new school

2. Based on the conversation, why does the mother want her son to change his school?
   - to have more challenge with others
   - to build up better social life
   - to have less homework
   - to get easier tests
Based on the conversation, what is the son MOSTLY concerned about after moving to a new school?

A. having more free time  
B. having more studying time  
C. having a chance to build new social relationships  
D. having a chance to work more in public social service

What can be inferred about the son's feelings towards the taken decision?

A. He is satisfied with his parents’ decision.  
B. He is unhappy with his parents’ decision.  
C. He doesn’t care about changing his school.  
D. He is determined to work hard to get good marks.
What can be concluded about the mother's character when she offers to extend her son's bedtime?

A. She is smart enough to be able to absorb his anger.
B. She is a dominant mom who wants only obedience.
C. She is kind hearted and wants to comply with his needs.
D. She is an irresponsible mom who wants her son to take care of himself.
Directions: In this part of the test, you will hear a lecture and then answer 6 multiple choice questions based on what you hear.

First you have two minutes to read through questions 6–11 so that you become familiar with them. Now listen to the lecture. You will hear it twice.

6. What does Dr. Robinson want to find out through his investigation?
   A. what has caused the disappearance of whale sharks
   B. whether the shore of Qatar is dangerous for whale sharks
   C. the importance of gas companies' platforms for whale sharks
   D. the reason for the aggregation of whale sharks in large numbers

7. What does the way Dr. Robinson pronounce the word "HUGE" reflect?
   A. his suspicion
   B. his hesitation
   C. his confidence
   D. his excitement
8. When was the first picture taken?

A. in 2007
B. in 2008
C. in 2009
D. in 2010

9. According to the lecture, what is the largest number of whale shark aggregation in Qatar?

A. around 100 whale sharks
B. around 150 whale sharks
C. around 160 whale sharks
D. around 180 whale sharks
10 Based on the lecture, which of the following is TRUE about whale sharks?

A  Whale sharks feed on jelly fish.
B  Whale sharks feed on small fish.
C  Whale sharks feed on tuna eggs.
D  Whale sharks feed on sea weeds.

11 Which of the following has NOT been referred to in Dr. Robinson's lecture?

A  the means of identifying whale sharks
B  the distribution and aggregation of whale sharks
C  the reproduction and growth rates of whale sharks
D  the location of whale shark aggregations around the world
Read questions 12 through 15 and choose the correct answer.

Read the following.

A lot of problems ____________ from parents' negligence of their children.

Which of the following verbs fills in the above space?

A rise
B arise
C raise
D arouse
Read the following.

Their success was largely a result of their ____________ organized study plan.

Which of the following BEST fits the gap?

A  brilliant
B  brilliance
C  brilliantly
D  brilliantine

Read the following.

I stopped ____________ some sandwiches on my way to school.

Which of the following BEST completes the sentence?

A  buy
B  to buy
C  buying
D  bought
Read the following.

I decided to work offline ____________ of logging on an anonymous network.

Which of the following BEST completes the sentence?

A  instead

B  in spite

C  because

D  on account
Directions: Read this article. Answer questions 16 through 18.

CALL US 800 10101010

▲ Tired of the same cafeteria food every day?
▲ Tired of the same choice of food every day?
▲ WE ARE THE BEST SOLUTION TO YOUR PROBLEMS.

LET'S PROVIDE YOU WITH THE BEST GOURMET LUNCH

▲ We offer a broad selection of hot & cold fresh Italian dining, our food is at the BEST affordable prices.
▲ Italians are the biggest pasta consumers worldwide.
16. How does the writer capture the reader’s attention?

A. by giving advice about the best food selections
B. by raising problems and solutions
C. by using an expert’s quotation
D. by stating facts and statistics

17. Which phrase below describes the target audience?

A. primary stage students who love sandwiches
B. busy mothers who prepare lunch to their children
C. high school students who are fed up with their cafeteria
D. school workers who want to improve their school cafeteria

18. Which statement is considered to be irrelevant?

A. Our food is at the best affordable prices.
B. We are the best solution to your problems.
C. Italians are the biggest pasta consumers worldwide.
D. We offer a broad selection of hot and cold fresh Italian dining.
Questions 19-21: Read the paragraph below and answer the questions that follow.

I would really appreciate if you could send me any information regarding the types of the different accommodation offered by the university, particularly hosting families.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully,

Khalid Salman

19 What type of letter the above lines can be found in?

A a letter of application  
B a letter of complaint  
C a letter of appreciation  
D a letter of request for information

20 What could be the best opening for this letter?

A I am writing to you to learn about the course fees.  
B I am writing to you to try to decide on my accommodation.  
C I am writing to you to ask for your advice concerning my major.  
D I am writing to you to request information about transportation fees.
Which of the following would be the most suitable greeting for the above letter?

A  Hi,  
B  Hello,  
C  Dear Sir,  
D  dear sir,
Questions 22-24: Read the paragraph below and answer the questions that follow.

1. Is there any alternative to conventional vehicles in order to avoid the pollution they cause? Some people would suggest hybrid vehicles as an answer, but is it indeed the best way to gradually replace conventional vehicles!

2. First of all, what is a hybrid vehicle? A hybrid vehicle is a vehicle which uses two or more kinds of propulsion. Most hybrid vehicles use a conventional gasoline engine as well as an electric motor to provide power to the vehicle. These are usually called hybrid-electric-vehicles, or HEVs. Hybrids use two types of propulsion in order to use gasoline more efficiently than conventional vehicles do.

3. People who suggest hybrid vehicles as an answer explain that they do have many direct benefits for both consumers and environment. Hybrid vehicles have direct benefits on consumers, as they save up to 30% of the fuel used in conventional vehicles. Since hybrid vehicles use less gasoline, the cost of operating them is less than the cost of operating conventional vehicles. Therefore, hybrid vehicles are gaining in popularity. According to a recent study, over the five years it typically takes for a person to pay for a car, a typical hybrid car driver would save over $6,000 in gasoline costs. Almost all the world’s major automakers are planning and producing safe and comfortable hybrid vehicles to meet the demand for these increasingly popular vehicles. In addition to this, hybrid vehicles have a great impact on the atmosphere as they use less gasoline and put fewer emissions into the atmosphere which directly reduce air pollution.
Although hybrid vehicles do represent a marked improvement in environmentally conscious engineering, there still remains one significant potential drawback: battery disposal. Batteries are difficult to dispose of in an environmentally safe manner. To properly dispose off the battery in a hybrid car requires substantial effort. If the battery is not disposed off properly, the bad environmental impact of a hybrid car can be equal, if not greater than, that of a regular gas only car.

Since we still have two types of vehicles to choose from, we should study well their benefits as well as their drawbacks and opt for the best. As for me I think that, as hybrids become more popular, conventional vehicles should be used less, in order to reduce the emissions being put into the air. I believe that hybrid vehicles are an example of an energy-efficient technology that is good for both consumers and the environment.

What is the writer’s point of view about using hybrid vehicles?

A The writer is biased towards the opponents.
B The writer is biased towards the supporters.
C The writer’s opinion is not mentioned in the text.
D The writer advices for using both hybrid vehicles and conventional ones.
Which statement contains a valid objection to the writer’s argument in paragraph 3?

A  Hybrid vehicles are better for the environment.
B  Conventional vehicles are environmentally friendly.
C  Battery disposal is a significant potential drawback for hybrid vehicles.
D  Conventional vehicles use gasoline and put more emissions into the atmosphere.

Read the following sentence from paragraph 3

*Since hybrid vehicles use less gasoline, the cost of operating them is less than the cost of operating conventional vehicles.*

How did the writer support the above claim?

A  by research and studies
B  by an expert quotation
C  by problem and solution
D  by compare and contrast
Questions 25-28: Read the paragraph below and answer the questions that follow.

An Airplane Crash

1. It was a quiet Friday evening on 19 December 1997 when mother returned from a concert at 10:30 pm. As she was about to retire for the night, the telephone rang “bringbringbringbring”, she answered the phone and from her response, we knew something was amiss.

2. Hanging up the telephone, she dashed for the door, shouting, “There’s a plane crash! One of my colleagues may be on it! I’m going back to the office. Don’t wait up for me!”

3. It was so worrying message! It turned out that the colleague was indeed on that ill-fated flight returning from Jakarta to Singapore. She was initially due back in Singapore on Wednesday, 17 December, but a series of meetings with clients had delayed her return to Friday instead.

4. The airplane, SilkAir MI 185, had taken off from the Jakarta airport at 3.30 pm. However, shortly after take-off, the plane radioed the Jakarta air-control tower that it would be heading back to land at the airport due to some areas of concern regarding the plane. The air-control tower directed the plane to the nearest airport at Palembang. Unfortunately, it never made it to the airport. It crashed, taking all one hundred and four people on board to their watery graves.

5. Salvage efforts were soon undertaken by the Singapore Navy and the Indonesian authorities. They managed to search the plane’s wreckage and some body parts, but no complete body was ever recovered. The two black boxes that were designed to record dialogues between the pilot and the co-pilot, and the exchange between the pilots and the air-control tower were recovered from the sea, but no message could be retrieved from them.

6. Singapore Airlines and SilkAir flew families of the deceased to and from Singapore to Palembang in the initial days of the rescue and salvage work at the site of the crash. However, it was a heartrending scene portrayed time and again on local television of family members weeping over the inevitable outcome that they would never be able to see their loved ones again.
7 A last rite, performed by the various religious leaders of the various faiths, was organized by the Singapore government at the Indoor Stadium. Thousands turned up to pay their respects to the one hundred and four victims of the plane crash. It was a time of national grieving for the mother’s colleagues banded together to lend emotional support to the latter’s family. There was only so much anyone could do for the families and loved ones at the dead. The last rite provided some consolation for those left behind as the dead could now rest in peace.

25 What best describes the tone of the story?

A Gloomy  B mocking  C optimism  D Enthusiasm

26 Read the following from paragraph 1:

As she was about to retire for the night, the telephone rang “bringg-brinng-brinng-brinng”, she answered the phone and from her response, we knew something was amiss.

Which figure of speech describes the underlined words?

A Metaphor  B Personification  C Onomatopoeia  D Cause and effect
27 Did the rescue team find any complete body from the wrecked plane?
Justify your answer by providing a piece of evidence from the story.

28 Imagine that you are the mother, and then rewrite the first two paragraphs using the first person perspective. Make any necessary grammatical and content changes.
Directions:
Write your response to question 29 in the space provided.

Situation:
You planned to invite your friends to watch a new movie with you, so you bought the DVD and prepared everything to have fun watching the movie with them. But when you all gathered, you opened the DVD box and were shocked to find it empty.

Task:
Write a letter of complaint to the dealer, stating your problem and asking for a convenient compensation.

Do not write outside the box.
Directions:
Choose ONE of the topics below to write about.
You will be scored on:
• How well you develop your ideas.
• How well you organize your ideas.
• Your grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
Plan your essay on page 22 or 23, and then write the essay on pages 24.

**Topic 1**

**Situation:**
The storm passed, and the gloomy clouds that covered the land for so long cleared away. From rifts between clouds, sun beams shone, and yesterday's storm seemed like a lie to me.

**Task:**
Use the above situation to write a story.
Make your story as interesting as you can for your reader. Create characters and describe the setting. Make your plot move along to a climax and an appropriate conclusion.

How was your day before and after?
How did you feel?
What major incident happened during the storm?
How did you deal with it?
The lesson learned from this experience?
**Topic 2**

**Situation:**
Are exams the only system to evaluate students or they can be replaced by other forms of testing performance?

**Task:**
Write an **argumentative** essay discussing this question, showing the pros and cons of regular testing system. These points will help you:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams measure the variation in abilities</td>
<td>Exams encourage surface learning only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The possibility to test large numbers of students at the same time.</td>
<td>A strong reason for stress at home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams provide certificates which are needed for any official use</td>
<td>If missed for any reason, one has to wait for long time for the next one.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do not write outside the box.
Argumentative Organizer

introduction

Pros

Cons

conclusion
# Narrative Organizer

**Tell me what is it about:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Characters:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tell me what happened/How it happened:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body Paragraphs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Event</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tell me how it ended:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conclusion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How did you feel?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What was the learned lesson?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Check your grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Be sure to write your answer inside the box.

Continue on the next page.