

**Qatar Secondary School Certificate**  
**English Foundation**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Practice Test 2015 - 2016**

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وزارة التعليم و التعليم العالي  
الإختبار التجريبي للشهادة الثانوية  
لدولة قطر  
اللغة الانجليزية المستوى التأسيسي  
الفصل الدراسي الثاني  
2016 - 2015

**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 a 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 the following:

- A short writing exercise , where you select one of two topics to write about
- 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.

# **S**ection 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. a son facing bullying problems in his new school
- B. a mom advising on how to adapt to the new school
- C. a mom- son arrangements for going to a new school
- D. 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?**

- A. to have more challenge with others
- B. to build up better social life
- C. to have less homework
- D. to get easier tests

**3**

**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

**4**

**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.

**5**

**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. the reason behind 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 did the idea of the project start?**

- A. in 2010 when the Ministry of Environment in Qatar assigned the project to Dr. Robinson
- B. in 2007 by a photograph accidentally taken that shows whale shark aggregation
- C. in 2010 after Dr. Robinson saw a photograph of Al Shaheen field
- D. in 2007 by an engineer working in Maersk oil

**9**

**Based on the lecture, which of the following is NOT true about whale sharks?**

- A. Whale sharks feed on tuna eggs.
- B. Whale sharks lay eggs on shore.
- C. Whale shark is considered to be the largest fish.
- D. Whale shark is expected to be in Qatar for very long time.

**10**

**Which of the following would MOST LIKELY be a good place for whale sharks?**

- A. around the platforms in May and October
- B. on shores of the Arabian Gulf
- C. very deep in the cold water
- D. in hot tropical areas

**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

## **S**ection 2—Use of Language

**Directions:** In this part of the test you will answer grammar and vocabulary questions.

**12**

Read the following.

Is it really your car or are you pulling my \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Which of the following BEST fills in the space above?

- A. leg
- B. neck
- C. tooth
- D. mouth

**13**

Read the following.

Now you can watch the latest films in the \_\_\_\_\_ of your own room.

Which of the following BEST fills in the space above?

- A. comfy
- B. comfort
- C. comfortable
- D. comfortably



**14**

**Read the following.**

**Most of us take \_\_\_\_\_ our mother, with her plump face and brown eyes.**

**Which of the following BEST fills in the space above?**

- A. after
- B. over
- C. for
- D. on

**15**

**Which of the following is the correct passive question?**

- A. Who was this letter written by?
- B. Who was this letter written?
- C. Who this letter written by?
- D. Who wrote this letter?

**16**

**Read the following.**

**The number of cars which \_\_\_\_\_ every year has risen considerably.**

**Which of the following BEST fills in the space above?**

- A. is stolen
- B. are stolen
- C. had been stolen
- D. has been stolen

17

Read the following.

There is a complete prohibition of hunting whales in the red sea.

Which of the following BEST replaces the above sentence?

- A. You needn't hunt whales in the red sea.
- B. You must not hunt whales in the red sea.
- C. You might not hunt whales in the red sea.
- D. You don't have to hunt whales in the red sea.

18

Read the following.

This sector has always been traditionally \_\_\_\_\_ by men.

Which of the following BEST fills in the space above?

- A. dominate
- B. dominates
- C. dominated
- D. dominating

19

Read the following.

And if you miss the bus, well, it's not a matter of life and death.

Which of the following BEST explains the above underlined idiom?

- A. too risky
- B. too tricky
- C. very tough
- D. very serious

**20**

**Read the following.**

**Mona said to me, "I went to the university yesterday."**

**What is the correct reported form of the above statement?**

- A. Mona told me that I go to the university yesterday.
- B. Mona said to that me she went to the university yesterday.
- C. Mona told me she had gone to the university the day before.
- D. Mona said to me that I went to the university the day before.

**21**

**Read the following.**

**The child did not eat the healthy food cooked by his mother.**

**What is the correct passive form for the above sentence?**

- A. The healthy food was cooked by the child.
- B. The healthy food was not eaten by the child.
- C. The healthy food is not eaten by his mother.
- D. The healthy food is not cooked by his mother.

**22**

**Read the following.**

**My mother said to us, " Make your beds before leaving to school."**

**What is the correct reported form of the above statement?**

- A. My mother invited us to make our beds before leaving to school.
- B. My mother begged us to make our beds before leaving to school.
- C. My mother ordered us to make our beds before leaving to school.
- D. My mother asked us if we can make our beds before leaving to school.

Read the following.

**Our teacher said to us, “ Have you finished your projects.”**

**What is the correct reported form of the above statement?**

- A. Our teacher asked us if we finished our projects.
- B. Our teacher asked us if we had finished our projects.
- C. Our teacher asked us when we had finished our projects.
- D. Our teacher said to us when the projects will be finished.

## Section 3—Reading

Directions: For questions 24 through 29, select the correct word to fill in the blank.

### Healthy Habits

Most comprehensive weight-loss programs work. The problem doesn't lie with the programs, the problem <sup>24</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in the fact that those programs require such major changes to our daily activities and lifestyles. It's impossible to make every change overnight. So when you miss a workout or screw up a meal, it starts to feel like you're failing completely. And soon our comprehensive program is in tatters and we think, "If I can't do it all, there's no <sup>25</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ doing any of it." So we quit.

Here's a better approach. Don't immediately go all in. Don't waste your time adopting the latest trendy diet or the current fitness fashion. <sup>26</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, just start with making a few simple changes to your day. You'll lose a little weight, feel a little better, and then find it a lot <sup>27</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ than before to incorporate a few more healthy habits into your routine. Building over time will help you create a new lifestyle, <sup>28</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a relatively painless way <sup>29</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ you will be able to stick with.

24

lie

lies

lied

lying

25

sense

mind

brain

thought

26

Despite

However

Instead

In contrast

**27**

easy

easier

easily

easiest

**28**

in

on

over

under

**29**

who

where

that

this

Directions: Read this article. Answer questions 30 and 31.

**CALL US 800 10101010**



♠ Are you a student who is tired of the same school cafeteria food every day?

♠ **WE ARE THE BEST SOLUTION TO YOUR PROBLEM.**

**LET US PROVIDE YOU WITH THE BEST GOURMET LUNCH**

♠ **We offer a broad selection of hot & cold fresh Italian options, our food is at the BEST affordable prices.**

**30**

**Which persuasive technique is used in the advertisement?**

- A. narrating anecdotes
- B. citing facts and statistics
- C. using an expert's quotation
- D. suggesting a solution to a problem

**31**

**Who is the MOST LIKELY target audience of this advertisement?**

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



**Directions: Read the following essay then answer questions 32 through 35**

- 1 Online education is very popular among students with jobs and families. While some online courses use Skype conferences with instructors, most allow students to complete coursework on their own schedules.
- 2 Supporters of online education claim that it has become essential for many reasons. Firstly, one can take an online course anywhere if only he has a computer and an internet connection. This is very important for individuals living in remote or rural areas who can't relocate and don't want to commute hours to school. But it's also useful for parents who need to be able to study at home with young children.
- 3 Secondly, if one finds himself struggling to keep up with difficult or fast-paced courses, he can take online programmes as they allow him to either finish his coursework entirely at his own pace, or give him additional time above and beyond the average school term.
- 4 Thirdly, tuition for online courses is often a little bit lower than traditional classroom courses because the overhead cost is lower for the teaching institution. Online students may also save money on activity fees and similar costs paid by on-campus students. Tuition is not the only saving but there are also many 'hidden' savings associated with studying online. Most students save money on gas, parking or bus passes when they don't commute. Many students are also able to keep housing and food costs down when they're not tied to the location of a school or the schedule of a traditional student. Finally, many online courses give students access to e-textbooks or other digital materials that may cost less than traditional textbooks.
- 5 On the other hand, opponents of online education believe that it is important not to overlook significant drawbacks of this non-traditional approach. For example, it offers a limited instructor interaction. Although some online programmes give the opportunity to use instant messenger or Skype to chat in real-time with professors, these conversations have to be scheduled and are usually far and few between, compared to the daily face to face interactions one has in a traditional classroom. However, for students who prefer large, anonymous lecture courses anyway, then this may not matter much. But students who prefer smaller conferences and like to ask a lot of questions, may find themselves struggling without these opportunities. And there is one final drawback to not having frequent interactions with professors: Students miss out on developing mentorship relationships that can result in invaluable guidance and recommendation letters down the road.

6 However, students are not only missing instructor interaction but also colleague interaction. Online courses deprive learners of basic social interaction and limit opportunities to make new friends - or find future business partners!

7 Another major drawback is the technology used in these courses. While some online programmes keep their technology specifications simple such as a word processing programme or a PDF reader, others require students to navigate complex virtual learning environments such as Blackboard or Moodle. For savvy computer users, this is no problem. But for people who struggle to keep up the digital age, this can present a significant frustration and impediment to completing coursework.

8 Since online learning is still controversial, one should weigh both sides carefully, and then decides his own preference.

**32**

**Read the following extract from paragraph 5:**

**"Although some online programmes give the opportunity to use instant messenger or Skype to chat in real-time with professors, these conversations have to be scheduled and are usually far and few between, compared to the daily face to face interactions one has in a traditional classroom."**

**Which of the following can be understood from the above extract?**

- A. The online programmes are more organized.
- B. The online learning conversations are infrequent.
- C. The online programmes are less convenient for professors.
- D. The online learning conversations are randomly conducted.

**33**

**Which of the following statements would the author MOST LIKELY agree with?**

- A. Everything is online, so why not education.
- B. Online education provides hidden benefits for students.
- C. The benefits and drawbacks of online education are still up for debate.
- D. Students who are interested in technology should all take online courses.

**34**

**Based on the essay, which of the following is considered to be one of the CONS of online education?**

- A. Students spend unhealthy amounts of time online.
- B. It is not possible to assess students learning online.
- C. Online study resorts in health consequences such as neck pain.
- D. One does not have any social interaction with instructors or colleagues.

**35**

**Read the following:**

**"Since online learning is still controversial, one should weigh both sides carefully, and then decides his own preference."**

**Based on the above conclusion, what can be inferred about the author's point of view?**

- A. He is biased towards the supporters.
- B. He is biased towards the opponents.
- C. He is neither for nor against online education.
- D. He encourages imposing restrictions for online courses.

**Directions:** Read the following essay then answer questions 36 through 40

1 Are there any alternatives to conventional vehicles in order to avoid the pollution they  
cause? Some people would suggest hybrid vehicles as an answer, and indeed this may be the  
best way to gradually replace conventional vehicles!

2 First of all, what is a hybrid vehicle? A hybrid vehicle is a car 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.

4 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.

5 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 of  
the battery in a hybrid car requires substantial effort. If the battery is not disposed of properly,

the bad environmental impact of a hybrid car can be equal, if not greater than, that of a regular gas only car.

6

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.

**36. What is the author's point of view about using hybrid vehicles?**

- A. The author is biased towards the opponents.
- B. The author is biased towards the supporters.
- C. The author's opinion is not mentioned in the text.
- D. The author is for using both hybrid vehicles and conventional ones.

**37. Which statement contains a valid OBJECTION to the author's argument in paragraph 3?**

- A. Hybrid vehicles are better for the environment.
- B. The purchase cost of a hybrid vehicle is higher than a gas only car.
- C. Battery disposal is a significant potential drawback for hybrid vehicles.
- D. Conventional vehicles use gasoline and put more emissions into the atmosphere.

**38. 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.**

**Which persuasive technique is used in the above sentence?**

- A.** an expert quote
- B.** a rhetorical question
- C.** problem and solution
- D.** compare and contrast

**39. Write an additional argument to discourage using hybrid cars, and then support it by a persuasive technique of your own.**


40. Look at the following table:

Sales of Cars

Type of Car	2009	2010	2011
Hybrid Cars	10%	20%	30%
Conventional Cars	90%	80%	70%

Which opinion about hybrid cars would the above table support? Use the information in the table to explain your answer.


## **S**ection 4 —Writing

**Directions:** : Choose ONE of the topics below to write about.

**DO NOT WRITE OUTSIDE THE BOXES.**

### **Topic 1**

#### **Situation:**

You invite your friends over to watch a new movie with you. You buy the DVD and prepare everything to have fun and relaxing evening. However, when you open the DVD box you are shocked to find that it is empty.

#### **Task:**

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

### **Topic 2**

#### **Situation:**

You are a fresh graduate from the Faculty of Education, English department. You are looking for a part time job as an assistant teacher.

#### **Task:**

Write **an email** to a secondary school **applying** for the post.

In your email:

- Introduce yourself
- Explain what type of work you are looking for
- Mention your experience and skills





**Directions: Choose ONE of the topics below to write about.**

### **Topic 1**

**Situation:**

“The selfie fad has even reached outer space: in December, Japanese astronaut Aki Hoshide took what might be the greatest selfie of all time.”  
*published in the Times magazine.*



**Task:**

Write **an argumentative essay** showing the pros and cons of the 'selfie' as a growing practice among young people.

### **Topic 2**

**Situation:**

Although most studies show that breakfast is the most important meal in the day, many younger people skip this meal because they believe it is not necessary.

**Task:**

Write **a persuasive essay** to convince the people who are not in favor of eating breakfast of how important this meal is.

## Argumentative Organizer (Topic 1)

Plan your essay here.

<p>Topic:</p> <p>Introduction:</p>
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<p>Arguments for</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>
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<p>Examples/ justifications</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>
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<p>Arguments against</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>
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<p>Examples/ justifications</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>
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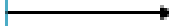
<p>Conclusion:</p>
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## Persuasive Organizer (Topic 2)

Opinion:

View point 1

Examples / justifications



View point 2

Examples / justifications



View point 3

Examples / justifications



Conclusion

Write your essay here.

