Qatar Secondary School Certificate
English Foundation
Practice Test 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 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. 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.

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

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
Section 2—Use of Language

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

12

Read the following.

After three years in the job she began to get ________ feet.

Which of the following BEST fills in the space above?

A. itchy
B. tickly
C. moving
D. travelling

13

Read the following.

Ann had a house on the beachfront in the past.

Which of the following BEST replaces the above statement?

A. Ann will have a house on the beachfront.
B. Ann would have a house on the beachfront.
C. Ann used to have a house on the beachfront.
D. Ann will get used to have a house on the beachfront.
14 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. comfortingly

15 Read the following.

I ________ probably be home by midnight.

Which of the following BEST fills in the space above?

A. will
B. would
C. am going to
D. was going to

16 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?
17 Read the following.
On the 14th of October I ________ here ten years.
Which of the following BEST fills in the space above?

A. will be working
B. will have worked
C. would be working
D. would have worked

18 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.

19 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
20 Read the following.
I'm totally_________. I don't know what's going on.
Which idiom BEST goes in the blank above?

A. in the dark
B. a wet blanket
C. letting my hair down
D. a cock and a bull story

21 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 told 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.
22  Read the following.

My friend Hamad had arrived last week and left yesterday. I wanted to visit him, but I didn’t know his address.

Which form BEST replaces the situation above?

A. If I knew Hamad’s address, I visited him.
B. If I know Hamad’s address, I can visit him.
C. If I have known Hamad’s address, I will visit him.
D. If I had known Hamad’s address, I would have visited him.

23  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.
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: Read this article. Answer questions 26 and 27.

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.
26  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

27  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 then answer questions 28 through 30

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

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

28 What type of letter is the excerpt MOST LIKELY from?

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

29 Which of the following is the BEST opening for the letter above?

A. I am currently deciding on my accommodation for the upcoming school year.
B. I am writing to express my disappointment with my recent visit to the university.
C. I am pleased to submit my application to the Business Administration programme.
D. I would like to express my appreciation for the helpful seminar offered last week to new students.
Which is the BEST greeting for the letter?

A. Hi, ,
B. Hello,
C. Dear Sir,
D. Good day,
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.

Supporters for online education claim that it becomes is 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.

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.

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.

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.

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!

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.

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

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.

Read the following:

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

Based on the above conclusion, what can be inferred about the writer’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 these articles. Answer questions 34 through 38.

The Mother Wolf

1. One evening, I was passing through the cold wilderness of South Canada. Suddenly, I heard a growl and there before me was a white timber wolf caught in a trap. I tried approaching the wolf but it backed away, furiously straining at the steel jaw trap. On closer observation, I noticed that the wolf was a mother. That could only mean one thing, somewhere in the wilderness were wolf pups anxiously waiting for her.

2. I knew that earning the wolf’s trust was impossible, so I decided to look for the pups. The search seemed fruitless at first but thankfully, it had been snowing and after sometime, I found paw marks in the snow. I followed the trail deeper into the forest and finally came to a small cave. I could not hear anything, but I was sure the pups were inside. It was too much of a risk to enter; the pack might be inside. I decided to imitate the sound of a mother wolf calling out to its young. My attempt was not in vain for soon, five little pups appeared. The pups looked shy but when I extended my hands, they came toward me and started sucking my fingers. Apparently, they were very hungry. Slowly, I picked them up and put them in my bag and headed to where their mother was trapped.

3. The mother wolf was not thrilled to see me. It stood erect and started growling. Immediately, I released the pups and they rushed to their mother, sucking milk. After a while, I walked towards the wolf in the hope of freeing it but every time I moved in its direction, the wolf would growl threateningly. To my surprise, the wolf had actually marked its territory. I could also sense its agitation and I knew it was hungry at the same time. I decided to find some food for it.

4. By then, it was snowing heavily and so, I opened a can of chicken stew which I extended to the wolf. It was hesitant at first but extreme hunger prompted it to gobble the food up. This went on for two days. The wolf was still trapped and I still did not win its confidence. Meanwhile, I played with the pups much to the agitation of their mother.
On the third day, I awoke suddenly because the pups were sniffing at my face. I looked at the mother and saw its tail wag a little. Had I won its trust? I slowly placed my hand on the wolf’s injured leg. The wolf winced but did not attack or threaten me. I inspected the steel jaw trap and realized that only three toes were trapped. Using a fork, I applied pressure on the trap. The trap sprang open and the wolf was free.

Whimpering, the wolf limped about while nursing its swollen toes. I knew my presence was not further needed, so I took my bag and began to set off. Just then, the wolf limped towards me and started licking my fingers. I was shocked. Such an event went against the laws of nature. A few minutes later, the wolf gave a howl and left with her pups. I did not know what that meant, but in the three days spent with the wolf and her pups, I realized that despite the laws of nature, a bridge had been created between our worlds.
How did the narrator find the pups?

A. He followed their trails in the snow.
B. He tricked them with chicken stew.
C. He heard them growling.
D. He called out to them.

Read the following:

"I did not know what that meant, but in the three days spent with the wolf and her pups, I realized that despite the laws of nature, a bridge had been created between our worlds."

What does the above statement imply?

A. The pups did not want to live with their mother.
B. The narrator was fearful of being attacked by the wolf.
C. The narrator felt safe once the wolf had crossed a bridge.
D. The wolf appreciated what the narrator did for her and the pups.
Read the following:

"To my surprise, the wolf had actually marked its territory."

What is the narrator trying to prepare the reader for by mentioning the underlined phrase above?

A. An unexpected act will take place.
B. A new character will appear.
C. A change in the setting.
D. Approaching the climax.

Read the following:

“By the end of the story, the mother wolf had developed an attitude of trust towards the narrator.”

Describe the events that took place throughout the story that led to this conclusion. Provide at least two pieces of evidence from the story.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence 2</td>
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<td>Evidence 3</td>
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<td>Evidence 4</td>
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<td>Evidence 5</td>
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</table>
“I awake suddenly because the pups were sniffing at my face. I looked at the mother and saw its trail wag a little. Had I won its trust? I slowly placed my hand on the wolf’s injured leg. The wolf winced but did not attack or threaten me. I inspected the steel jaw trap and realized that only three toes were trapped.”

Which part of the story does the above extract represent? Justify your answer with a piece of evidence.
Section 3—Writing

Directions: Write your response to question 39 in the space provided. DO NOT WRITE OUTSIDE THE BOXES.

Situation:
You and your family decide to go on a trip to an island in the Pacific Ocean which you have heard about from your friends. From what you have heard about, from their experiences, it sounds like you will have a wonderful time.

Task:
Write an e-mail to a tourist agency requesting more information about travelling to this island. Ask specific questions about the nature of the island and travelling packages.
Directions: Question 40
Choose ONE of the topics below to write about.
You will be scored on:
• how well you plan your essay
• how well you develop your ideas
• how well you organize your ideas
• your grammar, spelling, and punctuation

DO NOT WRITE OUTSIDE THE BOXES.

**Topic 1**

**Situation:**

A spaceship is seen flying over your town and then it lands on your house! You can’t believe your eyes, so you step closer and closer trying to discover what is going on there!

**Task:**

Write a science fiction story telling what happens next.

These questions will help:

Who is on board?

How do you communicate?

What do they look like?

Are they friendly?

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 ending.
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 how important this meal is.
Planning Persuasive Organizer

40. A. Plan your essay here.

Introduction

Main Reason 1
Facts or Examples

Main Reason 2
Facts or Examples

Main Reason 3
Facts or Examples

Conclusion
## Narrative Organizer

### 40. A. Plan your essay here.

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>Ending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How did you feel?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What was the learned lesson?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
40.B. Write your essay here.