

EBAU Practice Examination (Murcia)

SECTION 1: READING COMPREHENSION (3 marks)

1. Read the text below and choose the best option (A, B or C) for items 1 to 4. On your answer sheet, draw a table like the one below and, for each item, copy only the letter that corresponds with your answer (A, B or C). Use CAPITAL LETTERS.

[Score: 4 items x 0.5 marks = 2 marks]

1	2	3	4

A Different Guided Tour

Guided tours are not a new phenomenon. In every major tourist city, you can spot groups of sightseers¹ following a guide, who carries a colourful umbrella or wears an easily visible hat to ensure that no one becomes lost. They see the highlights of the city, all happily taking the same photos and eating at the same restaurants. The only other customers are, like themselves, visitors from overseas, as locals know they can eat better food much more cheaply elsewhere.

Of course, such tours are popular because most people want to see the same iconic sights and take photographs of themselves there. However, a new type of tour company is springing up², since some people want to discover hidden secrets rather than famous landmarks³. These new tours are often run by locals who talk about why they consider the city to be their home.

Here are two examples of the kinds of tours on offer. Most people who visit Iceland want to see the geysers, black sand beaches and waterfalls. As an alternative, one company is offering tours of the capital Reykjavik which focus on the economic crash in 2008 that led to all three of the country's main banks going bankrupt. It is a fascinating tour, not only for those with an interest in finance, but for anyone who wants to find out about the country and its people. The tour is free for children, but probably not very interesting for them.

In Prague, where the main square and Charles Bridge can become almost impassable in the summer owing to the large numbers of visitors, you can book a tour of some of the city's less visited spots, all of which are led by people who have, at one time or another, been homeless. As they guide their small groups around the city, they tell their own stories as well as point out interesting places unknown to most visitors.

While such tours are popular, they do not attract sufficient numbers of tourists to transform the areas they visit into overcrowded tourist sights. Instead, the visitors blend⁴ into the neighbourhoods they visit and perhaps receive a better and more realistic understanding of the city they are visiting.

¹ **Sightseer:** A person who is visiting interesting or famous places as a tourist.

² **Springing up:** Suddenly developing or appearing.

³ **Landmarks:** A building or place that is easily recognised and can help you identify where you are.

⁴ **Blend:** To behave in a way that does not attract any attention.

1.1 What does the writer NOT say about guided tours?

- A. They can be found all over the world.
- B. They have been around for some time.
- C. It's easy for tourists to get lost on them.

- 1.2 Why are new types of tours springing up?
 A. Traditional guided tours are becoming less popular.
 B. Some people prefer to stay away from the main tourist sights.
 C. Famous tourist sights are becoming too crowded for tour groups.
- 1.3 Which of these is NOT mentioned as an advantage of alternative tours?
 A. You have a chance to meet people who actually live in the city.
 B. You visit places that most tourists have never heard of.
 C. They include a visit into people's homes to see how they live.
- 1.4 In the final paragraph, the writer ...
 A. wonders why the tours aren't more popular.
 B. says that going on a tour can change people in some way.
 C. worries about the tours' effects on the areas they visit.

2. Complete each sentence with information from the text but using your own words (about 10 to 15 words of your own per sentence). DO NOT COPY LITERALLY from the text nor from items 1.1 to 1.4. Write the two sentences on your answer sheet.

[Score: 2 items x 0.5 marks = 1 marks]

- 2.1 The reason why tour guides carry or wear something bright is because ...
 2.2 The geysers, black sand beaches and waterfalls in Iceland ...

SECTION II: OVERALL LANGUAGE ABILITY (USE OF ENGLISH) (30 marks)

3. Complete the text choosing the best option (A, B or C) for each gap (1-15). On your answer sheet, draw a table like the one below and, for each item, copy only the letter that corresponds with your answer (A, B or C). Use CAPITAL LETTERS.

[Score: 15 items x 0.1 mark = 1.5 marks]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

Anyone who started learning a foreign language at school, knows how difficult and confusing it can be. But what about children (1) _____ in bilingual families, such as where one parent speaks Spanish and (2) _____ speaks English? When a child says: "Mommy, *quiero* a cookie!" is it because it is too difficult for a young child to learn (3) _____ languages at the same time?

Well, research shows this is not the case. (4) _____, early childhood is the best time to learn a second language. But just how early should that be?

It seems to be before we are even born! Language learning depends (5) _____ how we process sounds. All of the world's languages combined contain 800 unique sounds, 40 or so for (6) _____ language. At birth, a baby's brain can (7) _____ the difference among all 800 sounds! This means infants can learn any language they're exposed to. Babies gradually figure out (8) _____ sounds they hear the most and become specialised in the sounds of their native language, (9) _____ the ability to understand all the others.

What about those babies who hear two languages? Researchers studied brain activity of babies from English only and English-Spanish homes. Their findings show that babies' brains can become successfully tuned to the sounds of more than one language (10) _____ they hear them on a regular basis.

However, parents in bilingual families also have their concerns, such as children using both languages together in one sentence. They worry that their children don't know enough words in each language. The reason, as it (11) _____ out, is that bilingual adults around them mix languages up, too.

All in all, studies claim that the need to constantly shift your attention between two languages can actually benefit your brain development. One advantage is that bilingual adults and children are able to switch between tasks and solve problems more easily. (12) _____, it is easier for bilinguals to understand how languages work, so they can learn another language more (13) _____.

In conclusion, growing up with two languages is not only possible, (14) _____ can also make you smarter. What if you did not have a (15) _____ to start when you were a baby? Don't worry, you still have plenty of time to catch up!

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1) A) raising | B) getting older | C) growing up | 9) A) lose | B) losing | C) to lose |
| 2) A) different | B) another | C) two | 10) A) if | B) that | C) whether |
| 3) A) different | B) unusual | C) difficult | 11) A) seems | B) finds | C) turns |
| 4) A) In fact | B) However | C) For example | 12) A) Moreover | B) Nevertheless | C) Too |
| 5) A) of | B) on | C) at | 13) A) quicker | B) quick | C) quickly |
| 6) A) every | B) one | C) each | 14) A) and | B) but | C) so |
| 7) A) tell | B) say | C) speak | 15) A) check | B) change | C) chance |
| 8) A) which | B) that | C) what | | | |

4. Finish each sentence so that it keeps the meaning of the sentence printed before it and includes a clear change of linguistic structure. COPY THE COMPLETE SENTENCES (including the beginnings already given to you) onto your answer sheet. [Score: 3 items x 0.5 marks = 1.5 marks]

- 4.1 You can spot the guides in all major cities.
The guides
- 4.2 Children are unlikely to enjoy the experience.
It is unlikely that
- 4.3 It is the tourists themselves, not the places they walk through, who are transformed.
Tourists are transformed by

SECTION III: WRITING (40 marks)

5. Argumentative writing. *The main topic of your school magazine is "Our city is becoming crowded with tourists: Good or Bad?"*

WRITE AN ESSAY between 150-175 words which includes two to four different arguments why a city should encourage or discourage the growth of tourism. Write the text on your answer sheet. [Score: 4 marks x 1 item = 4 marks]