

**UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, JAMAICA
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
THE LANGUAGE, TEACHING AND RESEARCH CENTRE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TEST 2023**

PAPER TWO

Time Allowed: 1:30 mins

SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION

Recommended Time: 1 hr

Instruction: Read the three prompts carefully and answer all questions. For each question, shade in the bubble representing the letter selected.

Prompt 1

Teen Girls are Facing a Mental Health Epidemic. We're Doing Nothing About It

Adapted from: Jean M. Twenge *The New York Times* February 14, 2023

1. **In a just released report, the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) found that nearly one in three high school girls considered suicide in 2020, a 60% increase since May 2011.** More girls also now report feeling so sad and hopeless they could not engage in their normal activities for at least two weeks in the last year. Although it is tempting to blame these concerning numbers on the pandemic, mental health issues among teens have been on the rise since at least 2012. **Teen depression doubled between 2010 and 2019, well before COVID-19 lockdowns.**
2. Is it just that teens became increasingly comfortable admitting to problems? No: Behaviours linked to depression such as self-harm, suicide attempts, and deaths by suicide also increased, specifically among girls. For example, the CDC reported in 2017 that emergency-room admissions for self-harm among 10-14-year old girls tripled between 2009 and 2015.
3. However, when I and other researchers first **sounded the alarm** about the rise in teen depression, we were often dismissed. A National Public Radio piece claimed, against evidence to the contrary, that there was no consistent trend in teen depression rates. **We are now paying the price for this denial.**
4. Some might argue that taking action would not have done any good- isn't depression often caused by **intractable** issues such as poverty, child abuse, and substance use? Yes, but these factors were actually getting better for children and teens over this time, so they cannot be the primary cause of the rise in teen depression. What then was the cause?
5. In 2009, a typical teenage girl would have used social media only occasionally. By 2016, social media use was nearly mandatory- 90% of teen girls used it every day. This is not a good formula for mental health. Social media is not only considerably less fulfilling than seeing friends in person but comes with numerous risks including sexual exploitation, body image issues, and cyberbullying.

6. We cannot go back in time 5 years to prevent the crisis from getting to this point but we can take action. There is now bipartisan support for more regulation of teens' access to social media, which might include raising the age minimum to 16, requiring verification of age, and eliminating algorithms that push harmful content and keep teens on social media apps for longer than is healthy.

Questions

1. According to the CDC report mentioned by the writer, approximately what percentage of High School girls contemplated suicide in 2020?
 - (a) 33%
 - (b) 50%
 - (c) 60%
 - (d) 90%
2. The writer relies **MAINLY** on which of the following types of evidence to make her argument?
 - (a) Testimonial
 - (b) Expert sources
 - (c) Documentary evidence
 - (d) Circumstantial evidence
3. What is **MOST LIKELY** meant by the phrase "*...paying the price for this denial.*" in paragraph 3?
 - (a) They are bearing the cost
 - (b) They are dealing with expenses
 - (c) They are suffering the consequences
 - (d) They are still paying for someone's denial
4. Which of the following is an accurate reflection of the association the writer makes between the pandemic and teen depression?
 - (a) Teen depression fell during the pandemic
 - (b) Teen depression rose during the pandemic
 - (c) The pandemic is a possible cause of teen depression
 - (d) There is no link between the pandemic and teen depression
5. The writer argues that teen depression is **MAINLY** caused by:
 - (a) Cyberbullying
 - (b) The pandemic
 - (c) Excessive social media use
 - (d) Not seeing friends in person

Prompt 2

Examine the flyer and the information below it, then answer the questions which follow.



North Shore Adventures

The picture says it all! North shore vacation rentals offer you nature and adventure in a setting that is like a second home. Our luxurious home trailers are equipped with all modern amenities that will make you feel like you never left home... till you step outside and greet the great outdoors.

Explore our hiking trails, our bird sanctuaries, and yes white sandy beaches! **Live on the wild side and hop on one of our many jet skis** or kayaks available for rental, and take your exploration on the water, or under it with one of our scuba diving instructors.

You name it and North Shore has the adventure you are looking for.

Visit our website at www.northshoreadvent.com for bookings or call us at 555-355-4825. A 50% deposit is required to secure all bookings.

See you soon!

Questions

1. Based on the information contained in the advertisement, what kind of vacation should one **MOST LIKELY** expect to have at North Shore Adventures?
 - (a) A quiet nature filled vacation
 - (b) An active nature-filled vacation
 - (c) A thrill-seeking type vacation
 - (d) A campfire/hunting type vacation

2. Which of the following most accurately describes the type of living accommodations available at North Shore Adventures?
 - (a) Cabins
 - (b) Trailers
 - (c) Luxury rentals
 - (d) A second home

3. Why would riding on a jet ski be considered as living on the “wild side”?
 - (a) It is a potentially dangerous activity.
 - (b) It is a fun activity for the fun loving.
 - (c) It is an activity for those who like speed.
 - (d) It is an activity only the young and wild would do.

4. Which resource or activity not stated in the ad can one reasonably assume is also offered at North Shore Adventures?
 - (a) Face painting
 - (b) Go-cart racing
 - (c) Fishing
 - (d) Waterfall climbing

5. How can one secure a spot at North Shore Adventures?
 - (a) By visiting the website
 - (b) By calling the listed number
 - (c) By touring the facility
 - (d) By paying a 50% deposit

Prompt 3

The Case for Agriculture

Adapted from the Gleaner Editorial Published: May 30th 2023 12:33 a.m.

1. Derrick Deslandes, president of the College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE), recently made two significant, if obvious observations about negative trends in food consumption and difficulties in Jamaica’s agriculture. Using his own institution as an example, Dr Deslandes complained that Jamaicans increasingly consume expensive, imported foods, which are not necessarily good for them. He said too, that for the island’s agriculture to be competitive, it needed to employ more modern technology and innovative processes.

2. The island’s training and research institutions must contribute to the latter. Dr Deslandes however, did not offer specifics on what should be expected of the teaching/research institutions or what CASE is doing to help drive the proposed transformation.

SENSIBLE

3. Encouraging Jamaicans to eat more of what the country grows is sensible. Jamaica last year spent around US \$1.2 billion, or around 17% of its overall import bill, buying food from abroad. That figure is expected to rise

4. Yet for decades, experts have claimed that Jamaica could displace between a fifth and a quarter of the value of food imports with domestically produced products. Put another

way: between J\$3.9 billion and J\$4.6 billion of what is now spent to support foreign farmers could be retained in Jamaica for investment in the domestic economy, including in the farm sector that employs nearly 200,000 people.

5. Further, in a country on the cusp of a crisis of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), consuming domestically grown and less heavily processed foods would be good for people's health- and the cost of healthcare. **Nearly one in three Jamaican adults is hypertensive, and another 30% are on their way to becoming so. Thirteen percent are diabetic, while 15% suffer chronic kidney diseases. Indeed, over 70% of deaths in the island are linked to NCDs, the treatment of which is already placing significant pressure on the health budget.**
6. The route to NCDs starts early. An estimated 31% of children and adolescents between ages 5 and 19 are overweight to obese. The figure is 23% for the 13-17 age group. Clearly, getting people to eat healthy, especially if it is domestically produced foods, is not only an economic issue it is also about confronting a national health crisis.

Questions

1. The writer's tone in this extract may **BEST** be described as?
 - (a) curious
 - (b) concerned
 - (c) optimistic
 - (d) encouraging
2. In the first two paragraphs of the passage, the writer's presentation of Dr Deslandes was one of?
 - (a) praise
 - (b) ridicule
 - (c) criticism
 - (d) encouragement
3. What does the writer suggest could be done with money saved from food imports?
 - (a) It could employ more people
 - (b) It could be invested in the local economy
 - (c) It could be used to help the fight against NCD's
 - (d) It could be invested in research institutions to help drive transformation
4. How would you characterize Dr Deslandes' observations on Jamaica's agricultural sector as presented by the writer?
 - (a) Ironic because of his position
 - (b) Irresponsible because of his position
 - (c) Sarcastic because he offers no solutions
 - (d) Shocking because he should know better
5. The writer presents statistics in paragraph five with the intent to:
 - (a) Show the importance of eating healthily
 - (b) Prove that Jamaica is experiencing a food crisis
 - (c) Convince the reader that buying locally grown foods is critical
 - (d) Highlight the impact of an unhealthy diet on individual and collective health

SECTION B GRAMMAR

Time Allowed: 30 mins

Instruction:

Please answer all questions on the red side of the computerized sheet provided. Shade in the space representing the number selected.

A

We start to lose bone gradually as early as age 30, so even if you **1.** experiencing any symptoms of weak bones (like back pain or easily broken bones) at the moment, it is crucial to **2.** bone health. One way to build strong bones is **3.** diet, prioritizing foods and drinks with nutrients scientifically proven to strengthen bones. What should you add to your diet? Doctors recommend we **4.** milk every day for bone health. If you can't tolerate dairy products, dark leafy vegetables are **5.** great for bone health doctors say.

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1. 1.weren't | 2. isn't | 3. aren't | 4. wasn't |
| 2. 1. prioritize | 2. order | 3. classify | 4. screen |
| 3. 1. By | 2. through | 3. with | 4. for |
| 4. 1. devour | 2. gobble | 3. ingest | 4. consume |
| 5. 1. also | 2. additionally | 3. too | 4. in addition |

B

Dubai's millionaires value their time and **6.**..... willing to go to great lengths to **7.**..... traffic congestion. It is not uncommon to see helicopters whizzing through the air, transporting the wealthy from one location to another. This **8.**..... has given rise to charter companies which offer scenic tours and VIP transportation services. While cities like New York or Paris have their share of helicopter traffic, it is nothing compared to Dubai's sky-high 'coptor' population. The **9.**of aircraft flying over the city is just one more example of the **10.**..... and luxury that permeate every aspect of life in Dubai.

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|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 6. 1. were | 2. are | 3. may be | 4. is |
| 7. 1. avoids | 2. avoid | 3. avoiding | 4. avoided |
| 8. 1. course | 2. shift | 3. craze | 4. trend |
| 9. 1. cite | 2. site | 3. sight | 4. sites |
| 10. 1. extravaganse | 2. extravagance | 3. extragavance | 4. extragance |

END OF TEST