

practice tests for

RSA

English as a Foreign Language

stage three

Stephen Edmonds Richard Frizell Don Kindler

NELSON

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Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd
Lincoln Way Windmill Road Sunbury-on-Thames Middlesex TW16 7HP
P.O. Box 73146 Nairobi Kenya
P.O. Box 943 95 Church Street Kingston Jamaica

308-312 Lockhart Road Golden Coronation Building 2nd fl. Blk. A Hong Kong
29 Jalan Bangau Singapore 28

Thomas Nelson (Australia) Ltd
19-39 Jeffcott Street West Melbourne Victoria 3003

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TEST 1

PART I

Objective Test

(Thirty minutes)

Read the following passage and the questions below. The passage will help you to answer the questions. Choose the correct answer, a, b, c or d.

The nervous-looking young man hesitated for a few moments outside the jeweller's before summoning up the courage to enter. He was cordially greeted by a young assistant who offered to help him. James felt a rush of blood to his face as he explained he would be bringing in his fiancée to choose an engagement ring later that day. The assistant listened attentively and assured him that the best way to proceed would be to make up a couple of trays of rings which would suit both the young man's pocket and the young lady's tastes. James visibly calmed down. Obviously they were used to this kind of predicament. He wasn't used to buying jewellery and was a little worried about overspending. Getting married was an expensive business but hopefully it would be a once-in-a-lifetime occasion. After some discussion as to a suitable price-range and the variety of styles and materials which his fiancée might like, the sales assistant showed him a couple of dozen rings and offered to set them aside. James approved her choice and, much relieved, left the shop promising to return at five o'clock. When, half an hour later than planned, he finally did return to the shop, accompanied by his fiancée, Laura, the assistant acted as if she had never seen him before. On being asked to show them some engagement rings she first brought out a rather inexpensive selection, giving the couple the opportunity to reject them before showing them the two trays she had prepared. A choice was soon made and the couple went away satisfied. James would certainly come back here when it was time to buy the wedding ring!

1. After . . . James entered the shop.
 - a. to hesitate
 - b. to have hesitated
 - c. to have to hesitate
 - d. having hesitated
2. He . . . have been nervous because he didn't go straight in.
 - a. ought to
 - b. must
 - c. should
 - d. had to
3. The assistant asked him what . . . to help him.
 - a. she could do
 - b. could she do
 - c. can she do
 - d. she can do
4. It seemed James . . . embarrassed by this question.
 - a. has been
 - b. was being
 - c. was
 - d. to be
5. The girl couldn't . . . how red his face was.
 - a. help to notice
 - b. be helping to notice
 - c. be helping noticing
 - d. help noticing
6. Only when he started to explain . . . the reason for this.
 - a. she realized
 - b. did she realize
 - c. she had realized
 - d. had she realized

TEST 1

7. She discovered he ... for only a very short time.
 - a. had been engaged
 - b. has been engaged
 - c. had engaged
 - d. was engaging
8. She listened carefully ... she might discover exactly what he wanted.
 - a. so as that
 - b. in case
 - c. providing
 - d. in order that
9. She was surprised ...
 - a. how simple was his problem.
 - b. how his problem was simple.
 - c. how was his problem simple.
 - d. how simple his problem was.
10. She was extremely understanding, ... helped to calm James down.
 - a. which
 - b. this
 - c. she
 - d. that
11. Had she been older, she ... less sympathetic.
 - a. had been
 - b. might have been
 - c. might be
 - d. would be
12. ... he agreed to her suggestion.
 - a. In the end
 - b. At the end
 - c. By the end
 - d. To the end
13. A further visit to the shop ... for five o'clock.
 - a. was fixed to
 - b. fixed itself
 - c. was fixed on
 - d. was fixed up
14. ... nothing more to discuss, he said goodbye and left the shop.
 - a. There was
 - b. Being
 - c. There being
 - d. As there being
15. He then decided he'd better ... up Laura.
 - a. to ring
 - b. ring
 - c. ringing
 - d. rung
16. She explained that she might be held ...
 - a. up.
 - b. off.
 - c. over.
 - d. on.
17. She had a lot of work which might prevent ... the office on time.
 - a. her from to leave
 - b. her from leaving
 - c. that she left
 - d. her to leave
18. "Don't be there too late or the jeweller's ... by the time we get there," he warned her.
 - a. will have shut
 - b. will shut
 - c. are shutting
 - d. have shut

19. "All right, but I may . . .," she reminded him.
- be a delay
 - be delayed
 - delay
 - have delayed
20. "Anyway, expect me at the jeweller's by 5.15 . . ."
- at the last.
 - at the latest.
 - at the least.
 - at last.
21. She added that if he had telephoned her before lunch, she . . . the afternoon off.
- took
 - would have taken
 - would take
 - would be taking
22. "I'm sorry. I . . . have phoned you earlier."
- must
 - need to
 - ought to
 - had to
23. At five o'clock the jeweller's assistant was wondering how much longer the young man . . . be.
- will
 - is going to
 - would
 - should
24. He had said he would be back when his fiancée . . . work.
- had finished
 - would finish
 - has finished
 - will have finished
25. While he was waiting James thought how much happier he would be if Laura . . . so hard at present.
- didn't work
 - wouldn't work
 - weren't working
 - isn't working
26. When Laura finally arrived she apologized . . . so late.
- for to come
 - that she was coming
 - for coming
 - to come
27. "If . . . a taxi, it wouldn't have made much difference."
- I took
 - I'd taken
 - I've taken
 - I'd have taken
28. When they went into the shop and asked to look at the engagement rings the girl brought out the cheaper ones, . . . she had arranged with James.
- the which was what
 - what was that
 - which was what
 - that was that
29. "I know this is the first time . . . an engagement ring but I don't really like these," said Laura.
- I'm choosing
 - I've chosen
 - I chose
 - I'll choose
30. "I . . . bother with those if I were you. I'm sure they have better ones," said James.
- couldn't
 - needn't
 - shouldn't
 - oughtn't

TEST 1

31. "If you . . . to see some more expensive ones, I'll bring them out," offered the girl.
 - a. should wish
 - b. wished
 - c. are wishing
 - d. will wish
32. The couple looked at . . . and accepted the salesgirl's offer.
 - a. each other
 - b. each one
 - c. the other
 - d. themselves
33. . . . between them while they waited for the girl to come back.
 - a. A word was hardly said
 - b. A word was said hardly
 - c. Hardly a word was said
 - d. Hardly was said a word
34. Laura glanced at the trays and . . . but exactly what she wanted.
 - a. what should she see
 - b. what she should see
 - c. what should see she
 - d. she should see what
35. The salesgirl asked James how he . . .
 - a. could be paying.
 - b. will be paying.
 - c. would be paying.
 - d. will pay.
36. Fortunately James . . . his cheque book.
 - a. had remembered to bring
 - b. was remembering to bring
 - c. had remembered bringing
 - d. was remembering bringing
37. "Oh James!" said Laura, "You . . . such a beautiful ring."
 - a. needn't have bought
 - b. mustn't have bought
 - c. must buy
 - d. didn't need buying
38. "Why not? You're the most marvellous person I . . ."
 - a. had ever met.
 - b. never have met.
 - c. have ever met.
 - d. was never meeting.
39. It was just as well their visit to the jeweller's . . . in advance.
 - a. had prepared
 - b. was being prepared
 - c. had been prepared
 - d. has been prepared
40. James was very pleased. If he hadn't spoken to the salesgirl beforehand, he might have spent more money than he could really have afforded, . . . ?
 - a. didn't he
 - b. couldn't he
 - c. hadn't he
 - d. mightn't he

PART II

Answer all the questions

(Two-and-a-half hours)

1. Aural Comprehension Test

Answer the following questions which are based on the passage read out to you. You should answer each question in *not more than* one sentence.

- (a) What kind of books normally appear in the best-seller lists?
- (b) How did Edith Holden collect the material for her diary?
- (c) Why would it be impossible to write such a diary now?
- (d) What makes the book so popular with older people?
- (e) How can the book help in the struggle to preserve our ecological environment?

2. Read the following passage and then answer the questions below. You should answer each question in *not more than* one sentence.

Every year millions of us fall victim to the common cold. As the symptoms include coughing and sneezing it is widely assumed that colds are spread through the air to be inhaled by other sufferers, but research has shown that cold viruses can survive for a limited time on a number of surfaces, including human skin. So they can also be passed on through physical contact. The only efficient way to avoid spreading or catching a cold is to isolate yourself completely, though this is hardly practical. Colds are rarely serious as anti-bodies are quickly produced to counter the effects of the cold-producing virus, which may be any one of hundreds. Commercially produced cold cures are legion and provide an important source of revenue for pharmaceutical companies, who would no doubt regret the loss of the common cold. No less numerous are folk remedies, some more bizarre than others. I prefer to try and drown the cold bugs in alcohol. It may do little for the cold but it certainly cheers me up.

- (a) Why is it inexact to describe the common cold only as an infectious sickness?
- (b) What makes colds virtually unavoidable?
- (c) What natural defences do we have against colds?
- (d) In what respect would drug manufacturers regret the disappearance of the common cold?
- (e) What is the author's attitude to cold remedies?

3. Read the following passage and then answer the questions below. You should answer each question in *not more than* one sentence.

The problem of vandalism in the world's major art galleries is fortunately minor, yet still a cause for concern. While most galleries take elaborate precautions against theft, they seem to be relatively powerless to prevent senseless violence by determined perpetrators armed with knives, bottles of acid or other weapons. Their security precautions in respect of visitors pale beside routine airport anti-hijacking measures - body-searches, metal detectors and x-ray machines.

TEST 1

Where but in museums or galleries are collections of priceless, fragile objects openly displayed? Indeed, many paintings are hung unglazed to provide better viewing. Soon, no doubt, artistically-minded terrorists will be furthering their aims by holding to ransom priceless and irreplaceable works and bludgeoning weak governments into submission. Who would relish the dilemma of whether to release a gaoled terrorist or be indirectly responsible for the destruction of, say, the "Mona Lisa"? Fortunately, it hasn't come to that yet, but museums must tighten up their security.

- (a) Why are art galleries doing little to combat vandalism?
- (b) Why is security at airports so much tighter than at galleries?
- (c) Why are some paintings so vulnerable to attacks by vandals?
- (d) What kind of ultimatum might artistically-minded terrorists present to a government?
- (e) Why might some governments comply with terrorists' demands?

Read the following passage and then answer the questions below. You should answer each question in *not more than* one sentence.

Among items found during excavations at Knossos in Crete were some tablets inscribed with hitherto unknown writing systems, which became known as *Linear A* and *Linear B*. Decipherment was complicated by the fact that the writing was very old, it appeared to relate to no known language, and no bilingual texts had been found.

The problem attracted the attention of a young architect, Michael Ventris, who worked on *Linear B* in his spare time. His amateur status enabled him to bring a fresh approach to the matter. Professional archaeologists had attempted to identify the script with some known language. Ventris looked for a coherent pattern in the symbols of the tablets and was eventually able to detect certain regularities. He then assigned sound values to some of the symbols. To his surprise, the unknown language turned out to be an early form of Greek. Ventris's theories were largely confirmed by subsequent discoveries of more tablets. He died tragically at the age of 34, leaving behind him one of the most remarkable contributions to modern archaeology.

- (a) Why was it particularly difficult to understand the writing on the tablets found at Knossos?
- (b) Why was it possible for Ventris to tackle the problem of deciphering the tablets in a new way?
- (c) How did Ventris's work differ from that of other archaeologists who had studied the tablets?
- (d) In what ways is his achievement particularly remarkable?
- (e) Why have Ventris's theories now been accepted?

You work for a tourist agency and have been instructed to report on a new holiday resort in a foreign country. Using between 180 and 220 words, write a report for your employers giving details of the facilities and prices offered with particular reference to the features which are likely to attract or deter tourists from your country.

Write an article, as if for a newspaper, giving advice to young school-leavers on how they should best set out to choose and find a job. You should use between 180 and 220 words.

TEST 2

PART I

Objective Test

(Thirty minutes)

Read the following passage and the questions below. The passage will help you to answer the questions. Choose the correct answer, a, b, c or d.

Mr Robinson had been thinking about it for a long time. Could he afford it or couldn't he? His wife wanted a new washing machine, though he couldn't see what was wrong with the old one, so she would almost certainly make a fuss about him spending money on "expensive luxuries". He could just hear her saying it. On the other hand, if he waited much longer, prices would go up again and he'd be even less able to afford it. He'd studied the catalogues and brochures and had a fairly clear idea of what he wanted. All right, he'd do it: he'd buy himself a hi-fi outfit!

So the next Saturday morning he walked into his local radio dealer's, firmly pushing any thoughts that he might be making a mistake to the back of his mind.

He was greeted by a smooth-looking gentleman in a smart suit. Mr Robinson explained that he wanted to buy a reasonable hi-fi set - nothing too expensive, but good enough to play records with a fair degree of realism.

The salesman smiled in a superior way and led Mr Robinson to several shelves of gleaming record players and amplifiers. Mr Robinson was astounded when he looked at the price tags; it seemed that he had underestimated by a large margin the cost of all the things he wanted. The salesman launched into a series of highly technical explanations of the merits of various pieces of equipment, none of which Mr Robinson could follow. Mr Robinson hesitantly interrupted him, and asked if there was perhaps something a little cheaper he could look at. The salesman sniffed, made some disparaging remarks about sound quality, and took his customer to an obscure part of the shop where there were a lot of boxes with knobs and switches. The salesman indicated these, implied that they were all much the same, and left Mr Robinson to choose the most impressive looking box.

Mr Robinson parted with £80, looked regretfully at the shelves of shining equipment he couldn't afford, and went home to face his wife.

1. Mr Robinson was undecided . . . to do.
 - a. how
 - b. what
 - c. which
 - d. that
2. He . . . thinking about buying a hi-fi set ever since he had seen a friend's.
 - a. has been
 - b. was
 - c. had been
 - d. was been
3. He wondered whether the cost was too . . . for him.
 - a. much
 - b. many
 - c. great
 - d. high
4. He knew his wife . . . the idea.
 - a. would disapprove of
 - b. will disapprove in
 - c. might disapprove with
 - d. should disapprove at

TEST 2

5. She ... spend the money on a washing machine.
 - a. had rather
 - b. would rather
 - c. would better
 - d. had better
6. Mr Robinson thought they ... to buy a new washing machine.
 - a. needn't
 - b. didn't need
 - c. needn't have
 - d. wouldn't need
7. He expected her ... a fuss.
 - a. making
 - b. to make
 - c. make
 - d. made
8. If she ... so mean about money it would have been easier to persuade her.
 - a. wasn't
 - b. were
 - c. had been
 - d. hadn't been
9. Mr Robinson knew that prices always ...
 - a. raised.
 - b. raise.
 - c. rose.
 - d. risen.
10. When hi-fi equipment went up in price again, it would be out of his ...
 - a. grasp.
 - b. reach.
 - c. view.
 - d. sight.
11. Mr Robinson had gone ... a lot of catalogues and brochures very carefully.
 - a. round
 - b. into
 - c. through
 - d. over
12. Finally he ... a decision.
 - a. made
 - b. did
 - c. came
 - d. had
13. Mr Robinson went to a shop ... sold radios.
 - a. where
 - b. which
 - c. who
 - d. it
14. He still wasn't sure he ... the right thing.
 - a. had done
 - b. was doing
 - c. would do
 - d. was done
15. ... he to have talked to his wife first?
 - a. Should
 - b. Must
 - c. Ought
 - d. Could
16. The salesman was glad ... a new customer.
 - a. for seeing
 - b. at seeing
 - c. he saw
 - d. to see

TEST 2

17. Mr Robinson struck him . . . quite wealthy.
 - a. to be
 - b. as being
 - c. being
 - d. with being

18. There's no telling from appearances, . . . there?
 - a. are
 - b. does
 - c. has
 - d. is

19. The salesman is in . . . a shock.
 - a. to
 - b. for
 - c. with
 - d. on

20. The salesman . . . a smart suit.
 - a. dressed
 - b. put on
 - c. wore
 - d. carried

21. Mr Robinson explained . . .
 - a. the salesman what he wanted.
 - b. what he wanted for the salesman.
 - c. what he wanted to the salesman.
 - d. for the salesman what he wanted.

22. He really wanted a . . . hi-fi set.
 - a. moderate
 - b. medium
 - c. modest
 - d. middle

23. Mr Robinson already has a big . . . of records.
 - a. gathering
 - b. quantity
 - c. collection
 - d. number

24. He wanted to hear them . . . as possible.
 - a. as real
 - b. so real
 - c. as realistic
 - d. as realistically

25. The salesman seemed . . .
 - a. amusing.
 - b. smiling.
 - c. enjoyed.
 - d. amused.

26. He got a lot of customers . . . Mr Robinson.
 - a. like
 - b. as
 - c. similar
 - d. same

27. The salesman had a nice . . . in sales talk.
 - a. way
 - b. line
 - c. manner
 - d. fashion

28. He thought he could talk Mr Robinson . . . buying some expensive equipment.
 - a. to
 - b. about
 - c. into
 - d. on

29. Mr Robinson hadn't realized that record players and amplifiers . . . so expensive.
- were
 - to be
 - were being
 - cost
30. Who . . . equipment just for playing records could cost so much?
- could think
 - would have thought
 - had thought
 - thinks
31. To afford the nice shiny equipment Mr Robinson would have to . . . money from the bank.
- loan
 - lend
 - borrow
 - ask
32. The salesman tried to . . . Mr Robinson with science.
- confuse
 - deafen
 - mislead
 - blind
33. "Would you mind . . . something cheaper?" asked Mr Robinson.
- showing to me
 - my looking at
 - demonstrating me
 - I look at
34. The salesman was put . . . by Mr Robinson's question.
- back
 - out
 - off
 - on
35. Mr Robinson . . . in his estimation.
- sunk
 - dropped
 - fell
 - sank
36. He said it didn't matter which cheaper one Mr Robinson bought, because no-one could . . . the difference between them.
- say
 - know
 - tell
 - realize
37. . . . at the price list, he'd have known what to expect.
- Had Mr Robinson looked
 - If Mr Robinson looked
 - If Mr Robinson would have looked
 - Had Mr Robinson been looking
38. Of course, he . . . his equipment by mail order.
- might buy
 - could have bought
 - could buy
 - may have bought
39. He regretted . . . the expensive hi-fi outfits.
- not to afford
 - not affording
 - not being able to afford
 - he cannot afford
40. He wondered . . .
- what will be his wife's reaction.
 - what would his wife's reaction be.
 - how would be his wife's reaction.
 - what his wife's reaction would be.