

English Language Practice Tests

on **Precis Writing, Structure, Usage and
Vocabulary for Certificate**

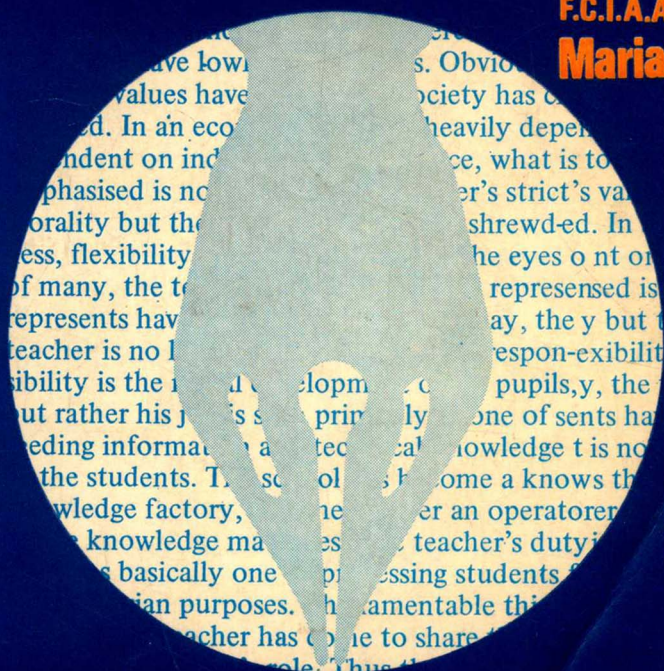
(with answers)

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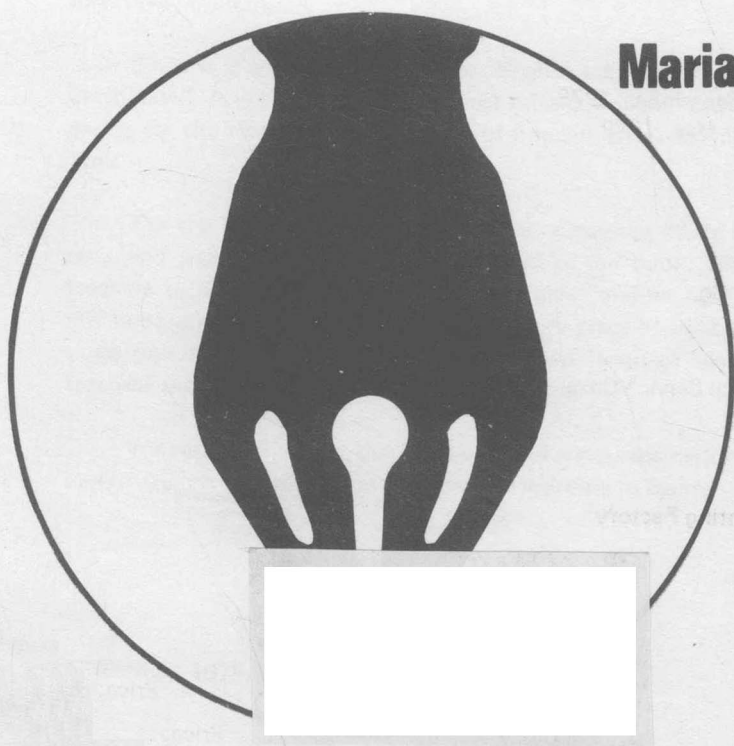


RAINBOW PUBLISHING CO.

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Tel. 5-683734

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First Edition September, 1978

Second Edition May, 1979

Distributed by

Yih Mei Book Co.

Tel. 5-745650

Tin Tin Cultural Service Co.

Tel: 5-699486

Printed by

Man Ying Printing Factory

Tel. 217983

Price: HK\$6.50

INTRODUCTION

As from the year 1979 onwards, there is a slight change in the Syllabus B of Paper III in English language in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination. In addition to the traditional test on *Precis Writing*, another two parts are added; one set to test the comprehension based on the passage(s) given and the other to test the control of various aspects of language such as structure, usage and vocabulary.

This book consists of 16 tests and a set of three test papers modelled on specimen papers issued by the Education Department of Hong Kong. The first 12 tests can be used independently as weekly working practice and the last 4 tests, as the part of *Precis Writing* included, can be regarded as monthly tests after the first term. The set of three test papers can be treated as final tests before the examination. Students are advised to finish all parts in the first 12 tests in 25 minutes and in the last 4 tests in one hour and forty-five minutes.

Since it is a sequel to our book "English Language Practice Papers for Certificate", it is considered to be most suitable for those who are now preparing for the Hong Kong Certificate of Education or even higher Examinations.

For the benefit of private candidates, suggested model answers to all tests and papers are collected at the end of the book. We expect some teachers to disagree with certain answers given and we can never say that this book contains no errors. Therefore, every piece of advice, criticism and suggestion from teachers, educationalists and language specialists will be received with deepest appreciation and gratitude.

We can never forget the assistance and encouragement extended to us by our friends and colleagues while we are working in Brunei.

Paul and Maria

September, 1978.

Test 1

- I. Rewrite these sentences. Keep the meaning of the original sentences as far as possible. Use the correct form of the words given in brackets. Make only those changes which are necessary.

Example: She asked me over and over again where I lived. (keep)

Answer: She kept asking me where I lived.

1. The old man's business has been taken over by Peter. (assume)
2. I'm sorry he drinks too much whisky. (afraid)
3. He thought that it was growing lighter. (seem)
4. He was a man of great patience. (prove)
5. The magistrate said the defendant was not guilty. (acquit)
6. Are you sure that you are not simplifying matters too much? (oversimplify)
7. I know of some boys who avoid strangers. (shy)
8. Paul was not in his room and he was not in the garden. (neither)
9. I had to show the policeman my identity card. (demand)
10. Who replaced the player after he had been injured? (substitute)

- II. Rewrite these sentences, beginning with the words given. Keep the meaning of the original sentences as far as possible. Make only those changes which are necessary.

Example: I am quite sure there is nothing wrong with the machine.
That everything _____.

Answer: That everything is right with the machine, I am quite sure.

1. Racial problems may be solved by education.
Education is a means _____.
2. As far as I know, this street takes us to King's College.
To the best of my knowledge _____.
3. The boy was given a good piece of advice by the teacher.
The teacher _____.
4. He appeared to be very active in the field.
His activity _____.
5. The slope was too steep for Peter to climb.
The slope was so _____.

6. A life is a struggle for existence for every man, rich or poor.
A struggle _____.
7. No one knew that George was the man responsible for the murder.
No one knew George _____.
8. Joseph is more stubborn than reasonable.
Joseph is equally _____.
9. If the typhoon continues like this, all the ships will not be able to leave the harbour.
If the typhoon abates _____.
10. Patience and industry are two traits that I notice in his character.
His character _____.

III. At some places in the following passage it is necessary to put a or an or the in the blanks to make correct sentences. At other places the sentence is correct without writing anything in the blanks. Write a, an and the where necessary. Where this is not necessary make a cross against the letter like this X.

There are three children in her family, and Mary is _____ (1) youngest. Her brother and sister have left _____ (2) school and both of them are working for _____ (3) European firm. Mary is still studying. Although she is _____ (4) beautiful girl, her parents do not love her because she has _____ (5) little success in self-discipline. Moreover, she is too conscious of her own beauty. In fact, they are afraid that one day she may become _____ (6) problem girl.

IV. In each question an incomplete sentence is given, with four items underneath, A, B, C and D. When all items are inserted in the right order, they will complete the sentence. For each question, choose the correct order and write the letters in their proper sequence.

Example: (X) She bought birthday.

A for B him C his D a present

Answer: (X) BDAC

1. Few people learn worth learning.
A anything B easily C is D that

BADC

2. I don't see 7. A my help.
A can manage B how C without D you
3. He can jump five feet
A I B so C can D and
4. There was burn the remains of the bodies.
A the rescuers B nothing C but D could do
5. There was one the newspapers this morning that really excited me.
A at B of C news D item

V. *Insert correct prepositions or prepositional phrases:—*

1. A glance ____ (1) this letter will convince you ____ (2) its contents that he is grasping ____ (3) your money. Every one will grieve ____ (4) your loss.
2. He increased ____ (5) wisdom ____ (6) the increase of age, and at last grew ____ (7) the follies of his boyhood and youth. Thus ____ (8) degrees he rose ____ (9) eminence ____ (10) his profession.
3. A young man should be ____ (11) his guard ____ (12) bad company, and beware ____ (13) falling ____ (14) their evil ways.
4. He loitered ____ (15) this place ____ (16) the greater part ____ (17) the day, sometimes leaning ____ (18) the wall, and sometimes strolling ____ (19) the opposite side ____ (20) the street.

VI. *Explain the meaning of the words or phrases italicised:—*

1. *It will go hard with him* if he keeps company with that fellow.
2. People say that Mr. A, the banker, is *on his last legs*.
3. I can make *neither head nor tail* of it.
4. He made great claims for his discovery; but it turned out to be *a mare's nest*.
5. You have *done the handsome thing by him* in accepting his apology and foregoing the claim for damages.

Test 2

- I. Rewrite these sentences. Keep the meaning of the original sentences as far as possible. Use the correct form of the words given in brackets. Make only those changes which are necessary.

Example: They thought it was stupid to spend all their money.
(dare)

Answer: They did not dare to spend all their money.

1. Mr. Roberts himself tackfully straightened out the argument between the two boys. (settle)
2. If you take two from seven you have five. (leave)
3. I shall wait for you at the cinema. (await)
4. Please place the books back in their correct places. (put)
5. One cannot safely accept the views of witnesses. (safety)
6. The operation carried out by Dr. No was a success. (perform)
7. He gave me some biscuits and I gave him some sweets. (exchange)
8. Please don't be late or else I'll have to leave without you. (punctual)
9. An armed soldier would not allow us to enter the camp. (prevent)
10. How did the news affect Aminah? (react)

- II. Rewrite these sentences. Keep the meaning of the original sentences as far as possible. Follow the instructions. Make only those changes which are necessary.

Example: "Let's go out for a walk," he said.
(Begin: he suggested)

Answer: He suggested going out for a walk.

1. The wise will not rely on medicine for keeping their health.
(Rewrite the sentence transforming the Verb from Active to Passive)
2. You are not taller than he is.
(Rewrite the sentence without a negative)
3. He was absolutely ruined by that unlucky business.
(Rewrite the sentence substituting the Adjective Form for 'absolutely')

4. He is careless in everything that he does.
(Rewrite the sentence substituting the Adverb Form for 'careless')
5. Though the ant is small it is as intelligent as the elephant.
(Rewrite the sentence substituting the Noun Form for 'intelligent')
- ✓ 6. They welcomed the good news most joyfully.
(Rewrite the sentence substituting the Verb Form for 'joyfully')
7. He made a success of all his undertakings.
(Rewrite the sentence substituting the Verb Form for 'success')
- ✓ 8. As you are here you may as well see it.
(Convert the sentence into one Simple Sentence)
9. Does he know the consequences if he refuses?
(Convert the sentence into one Simple Sentence)
10. He came to see me.
He wanted to tell me something.
His father was dead.
He had been ill for a long time.
(Combine these sentences into one Complex Sentence)

III. Fill each of the numbered blanks in the following passage with one word:—
For example, the blank at (0) could be filled with any of the following: after, while, when.

Eyestain is a term often used when referring to headaches and general discomfort experienced by people _____ (0) reading or working in a poor light. Although _____ (1) is foolish to abuse our eyes in this way, _____ (2) is little likelihood of ruining them by doing so. According to modern medical theory, it is not possible in normal circumstances for us to cause permanent damage _____ (3) our eyes, since they are particularly adaptable organs. Many doctors point out that it is no more possible _____ (4) us to strain our eyes by reading in a poor light _____ (5) it is for us to damage our ears by listening to a whisper. At the same time, of course, they advise people _____ (6) frequently suffer from headaches after activities such _____ (7) reading and writing to

consult a doctor in case they need glasses.

One of the worst consequences of believing our eyes are being strained _____ (8) the fear of future deterioration in our eyesight. As _____ (9) result, many old people avoid reading books and newspapers. Furthermore, some people with sight in _____ (10) eye think that, by using it as little as possible, they will keep their sight longer.

IV. Put the correct form of the verb in brackets into the blank space in each of these sentences.

1. He enjoys _____ if the weather is warm. (swim)
2. Is John _____ football on Sunday? (play)
3. They have decided _____ to Japan for their holiday this winter. (go)
4. She is very good at _____ her own clothes. (make)
5. It is wrong _____ what is not true. (say)
6. He taught the boys _____ English. (speak)
7. Do you find _____ in Hong Kong expensive? (live)
8. He washed his hands before _____ lunch. (have)
9. I watched them _____ on the bus. (get)
10. He showed the boy how _____ a bicycle. (ride)

V. Insert Correct prepositions or prepositional phrases:—

1. Madagascar is an island _____ (1) the east coast of Africa. The French could not prevail _____ (2) the inhabitants to surrender _____ (3) an effort.
2. We must get rid _____ (4) this difficult business at once. Let us inquire _____ (5) the danger; and be ready _____ (6) the evil day.
3. Your words are strange and quite _____ (7) my comprehension. It is foolish to say what no one can understand, and I thought you were _____ (8) such folly.
4. This leaves no stain _____ (9) his character, and no further prejudice _____ (10) him should be entertained, as he has now cleared himself _____ (11) all the faults imputed _____ (12) him.

VI. Explain the meaning of the words or phrases italicised:—

1. He knows *the ins and outs* of that affair.
2. He is *over head and ears* in love.
3. *Beyond all question* she is a great singer.
4. You want to see him? *Out of the question!*
5. The two friends *agreed to differ* after discussing the question for about an hour.

Test 3

- I. Rewrite these sentences. Keep the meaning of the original sentences as far as possible. Use the correct form of the words given in brackets. Make only those changes which are necessary.

Example: I was never very fond of either of the two sisters. (Use)

Answer: I never used to be very fond of either of the two sisters.

1. He chose to brush my suggestion aside. (ignore)
2. You aren't speaking loudly enough for us to hear you. (too)
3. He forced his victim to kneel before him. (make)
4. The electric cooker is not working very well. (function)
5. The government took away his land. (deprive)
6. We need at least ten people to do the work. (require)
7. I was not included in the journey. (exclude)
8. Who is occupying the room on the right? (rent)
9. I advise you not to go swimming today. (better)
10. The huge painting contained many farm scenes. (depict)

- II. Rewrite these sentences, beginning with the words given. Keep the meaning of the original sentences as far as possible. Make only those changes which are necessary.

Example: It may rain or may not rain at all.

It is _____.

Answer: It is immaterial whether there is rain or not.

1. It is imperative for foreigners to report at the immigration office.
Foreigners _____.
2. We should not spend more than what we get.
We should be prudent _____.
3. The servant was instructed not to continue the work by the master.
The master prohibited _____.
4. The servant is too big a problem to be kept at home.
The servant is so _____.
5. We should not infringe upon others' privacy.
We should respect _____.
6. Success goes to those who dare and act.
Frustration _____.
7. Thomas does not intend to take up teaching as his future career.
Thomas has no _____.
8. It is the costliest jewel in this shop.
There is _____.
9. Time has its value and so should be properly utilised.
Utilization _____.
10. Though there were many genuine problems, there were no complaints.
Despite _____.

III. At some places in the following passage it is necessary to put a or an or the in the blanks to make correct sentences. At other places the sentence is correct without writing anything in the blanks. Write a, an, and the where necessary. Where this is not necessary make a cross against the letter like this X.

_____ (1) motor car is _____ (2) form _____ (3) mechanical transport and it is composed of _____ (4) many different working units and parts. To provide _____ (5) energy to make it go, it has _____ (6) engine which in turn needs _____ (7) electric current, petrol and air. _____ (8) engine needs _____ (9) cooling so that it does not become too hot, and _____ (10) oil to lubricate _____ (11) bearing surfaces.

IV. In each question an incomplete sentence is given, with four items underneath, A, B, C and D. When all items are inserted in the right order, they will complete the sentence. For each question, choose the correct order and write the letters in their proper sequence.

Example: (X) She bought birthday.

A for B him C his D a present

Answer: (X) BDAC

1. Is the water to swim in?
A enough B us C for D deep
2. This is not may seem.
A difficult B as C it D as
3. They can take the goods if they
A in B to pay C two monthly instalments. D agree
4. The aims of science this simple experiment.
A well B are C by D summarised
5. "Did you have a good trip?"
"No, the bus driver said"
A I B with C something D disagreed

V. Insert correct prepositions or prepositional phrases:—

1. I have no liking _____ (1) that man; in fact, I have taken a decided dislike _____ (2) him. For all that, I wish to deal fairly _____ (3) him.
2. My relations _____ (4) him are now quite friendly; and there is no ill-feeling left in relation _____ (5) that dispute.
3. Did you beg pardon _____ (6) the teacher? No; I do not like to entreat any one _____ (7) mercy.
4. I cannot agree _____ (8) you in this matter; and therefore I do not agree _____ (9) your proposal.

VI. Explain the meaning of the words or phrases italicised:—

1. I am afraid you two *are at cross-purposes*.
2. The proposal was rejected *with one voice*.
3. The figures which he quoted were shown to be incorrect, and this *took the edge off his argument*.

4. I repaid his insolence *in kind*.
5. He is not the man *to pocket an affront*.

Test 4

- I. Rewrite these sentences. Keep the meaning of the original sentences as far as possible. Use the correct form of the words given in brackets. Make only those changes which are necessary.

Example: For many days all they could see was the sea and the sky.
(nothing but)

Answer: *For many days they could see nothing but the sea and the sky.*

1. He seldom puts much effort into his work. (exert)
2. He ran too slowly to catch the bus. (enough)
3. At Ching Ming Festival Chinese people worship their ancestors. (sacrifice)
4. He failed in the heats of the Talente. (eliminate)
5. He said that Edward was the cause of his injury. (blame)
6. The supervisor went on again his explanation on how to carry out the job properly. (repeat)
7. He was not sure of his own capability. (doubt)
8. It may be cold so I bring my coat. (in case)
9. Yesterday I saw her at the beach quite by chance. (happen)
10. I don't like that kind of joke. (appeal)

- II. Rewrite these sentences. Keep the meaning of the original sentences as far as possible. Follow the instructions. Make only those changes which are necessary.

Example: 'Let's go out for a walk,' he said.
(Begin: He suggested)

Answer: *He suggested going out for a walk.*

1. I felt the wasp stinging me on the arm.
(Rewrite the sentence transforming 'stinging' from Active to Passive)
2. No one but a coward would flee from his duty.
(Rewrite the sentence without a negative)
3. He has more *influence* with Mr. Ros than with the Principal.
(Rewrite the sentence substituting the Adjective Form for 'influence')
4. His eloquence that morning was *unusual*.
(Rewrite the sentence substituting the Adverb Form for 'unusual')
5. He said he regretted that he had *acted* so hastily.
(Rewrite the sentence substituting the Noun Form for 'regretted' and 'acted')
6. He rejected all our *proposals*.
(Rewrite the sentence substituting the Verb Form for 'proposals')
7. These mangoes have a sweet *smell* but a sour *taste*.
(Rewrite the sentence substituting the Verb Form for 'smell' and 'taste')
8. You never come here but steal something.
(Convert the sentence into one Simple Sentence)
9. The boy ran as fast as he could.
(Convert the sentence into one Simple Sentence)
10. He played exceedingly well in the match.
His team won in consequence.
The match was played yesterday.
(Combine these sentences into one Complex Sentence)

III. Fill each of the numbered blanks in the following passage with one word. For example, the blank at (0) could be filled with the word 'means'.

As a result of the increasing emphasis on higher education, there is now an urgent need for more libraries. It is essential too, that resources in existing libraries be improved and that readers have an

efficient and accurate _____ (0) of access to these resources. Books and papers on science and research are now being published at _____ (1) a rate that _____ (2) libraries can keep pace with the vast output of new material.

One tool that will help libraries around the world to share their resources is the microfiche, invented in the nineteenth century but little used until recently. The microfiche is a small, transparent sheet of film, _____ (3) which texts and illustrations, considerably reduced in size, are photographically reproduced. One fiche may contain up _____ (4) seventy pages of a book. Microfiche has a _____ (5) of advantages over the widely used microfilm; while microfilm is very convenient for long documents, such _____ (6) entire volumes of newspapers or magazines, _____ (7) is ideal for books, reports and articles.

Although the preparation of microfiche is more expensive than microfilm, additional copies of microfiche are much easier to reproduce, _____ (8) when several thousand copies are required.

The flat, flexible microfiche is far _____ (9) suitable for posting and storage _____ (10) the bulkier reels of microfilm.

IV. Put the Present Tense of one of these verbs into each of the blank spaces.

smell, want, enjoy, remember, like, think, wish, hope, forget, know

Maria _____ (1) cooking. She also _____ (2) talking to herself while she is cooking. She is doing that now. 'What time is it? Oh, that's all right. I _____ (3) John said he would be late tonight but I _____ (4) the time he said he would be home. I _____ (5) he won't be too late. I _____ (6) I had written it down. Oh, I _____ (7) now, it was half past seven. M-m, that _____ (8) good. I _____ (9) it's nearly ready. I _____ (10) he isn't late. I (not) _____ (11) everything to be too well cooked.

V. Insert correct prepositions or prepositional phrases:—

1. I blush _____ (1) my own fault more than I blush _____ (2) your reputation.
2. Rhetoric might be compared _____ (3) poetry.
3. I am _____ (4) need _____ (5) good advice; but there is no need _____ (6) your reproaches.
4. There would be no use _____ (7) my purchasing that article; for I have no use _____ (8) it.

VI. Explain the meaning of the words or phrases italicised:—

1. I am *out of pocket* by the transaction.
2. He is a man of *well-balanced* opinions.
3. He *was carried off his feet* when he was declared to have won the first prize.
4. That house is *put on the market*.
5. He is *serving his time* in a bank.

Test 5

- I. Rewrite these sentences. Keep the meaning of the original sentences as far as possible. Use the correct form of the words given in brackets. Make only those changes which are necessary.

Example: I am willing to go if you really want to. (mind)

Answer: I don't mind going if you really want to.

1. All the machines have broken down. (function)
2. The boy was looking after the shop while his father was away. (mind)
3. As soon as the sun rose they set out. (No sooner)
4. Are you sure that you can carry out the job well? (handle)
5. This machine can produce a hundred boxes a minute. (capable)