

To the student

This book is for candidates preparing for the University of Cambridge First Certificate in English examination and provides practice in all the written and oral papers.

The examination consists of 5 papers, as follows:

Paper 1: Reading Comprehension (1½ hours)

Section A consists of 40 multiple-choice items in the form of a sentence with a blank to be filled by one of five words or phrases below.

Section B consists of 20 multiple-choice items based on passages of between 250 and 600 words.

Paper 2: Composition (2 hours)

There are five topics from which you choose three. Each composition must be between 120 and 180 words in length.

Paper 3: Use of English (2 hours)

Section A contains exercises which test your control of English usage and grammatical structure.

Section B is a directed writing exercise where you extract information from a text and present it in a coherent form.

Paper 4: Listening Comprehension (approx. 30 minutes)

You answer 5 multiple-choice items on each of three passages.

Paper 5: Interview (approx. 10 minutes)

Section A You look at a photograph for a few minutes, and then you are asked some specific questions on it before leading on to general topics.

Section B You are asked to read part of a dialogue aloud.

Section C You are asked to respond to three situations.

The FCE/CPE Practice Tests Answer Pad, also published by Cambridge University Press, is available for practice in recording answers to papers 1 and 4 in the form required by the examination.

This is the second collection of past papers from the First Certificate in English examination. The first collection in the series, *FCE Practice Tests*, consists of five more examinations for additional practice.

Practice Test 1

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE LOCAL EXAMINATIONS SYNDICATE

First Certificate in English

PAPER 1: READING COMPREHENSION

1½ hours

Answer all questions. Indicate your choice of answer in every case **on the separate answer sheet**. Follow carefully the instructions about how to record your answers.

Section A

In this section you must choose the word or phrase which best completes each sentence. **On your answer sheet**, indicate the letter A, B, C, D or E against the number of each item 1-40 for the word or phrase you choose.

- 1 The water was so clear that it _____ the trees on the river bank.
A shadowed B shaded C imagined D photographed E reflected
- 2 When he beat the carpet, the _____ rose in clouds.
A dust B soil C mud D earth E powder
- 3 The _____ from the forest fire could be seen ten miles away.
A mist B smell C spark D steam E smoke
- 4 The house was so damp that it was _____ to live in.
A sickly B unhealthy C unwell D diseased E infectious
- 5 There are usually at least two _____ of looking at every question.
A means B directions C views D opinions E ways
- 6 He spoke so quickly that I didn't _____ what he said.
A receive B accept C listen D take E catch
- 7 I have such a bad cold that I have lost all _____ of smell.
A degree B sense C strength D skill E scent
- 8 Peter begged his neighbour to _____ him five pounds until the weekend.
A lend B supply C borrow D provide E hire
- 9 The lorry driver was badly _____ when his lorry crashed into a wall.
A pained B hit C hurt D harmed E damaged
- 10 Although John was the eldest in the family, he always let his sister _____ charge of the house.
A take B hold C make D get E be

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- 11 The gardener _____ a bucket with water so that he could plant the vegetables.
A poured B filled C flowed D stuffed E piled
- 12 The children _____ a line, then walked quietly into school.
A prepared B gathered C stood D formed E performed
- 13 She was afraid that unless the train speeded up she would lose her _____ to Scotland.
A ticket B place C seat D carriage E connection
- 14 The policeman _____ everything he had noticed to the inspector.
A reviewed B accounted C reported D informed E said
- 15 These trees cannot be grown in such a cold _____ as ours.
A weather B climate C air D season E space
- 16 Carry this glass of milk into the next room, and be careful not to _____ any on the floor.
A mark B spill C knock D spoil E allow
- 17 On summer _____ many English men work in their gardens when they come home from work.
A eves B evenings C nights D times E periods
- 18 The audience waited until the curtain had risen and then _____ into applause.
A flooded B cheered C started D burst E went
- 19 They were lucky to get two tickets for the evening _____ of *Hamlet*.
A act B performance C show D play E action
- 20 _____ up children properly is mainly their parents' duty.
A growing B rearing C breeding D raising E bringing
- 21 When he makes a _____ by car, he takes his family with him.
A travel B course C passage D voyage E journey
- 22 She cried so much that her face became _____.
A fat B soft C swollen D torn E stretched
- 23 Science has made great _____ during the past 30 years.
A increases B motions C advances D advantages E opportunities
- 24 If you ever have the _____ to go abroad to work, you should take it.
A possibility B offer C luck D chance E event
- 25 Billy's mother sewed his coat buttons on with specially _____ thread.
A stiff B strong C forced D heavy E full
- 26 She _____ the wet clothes on the grass to dry them in the sun.
A settled B opened C served D hung E spread

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- 27 People who live in a small village are bound to see a good _____ of each other.
A sum B quantity C deal D amount E degree
- 28 The child enjoyed _____ up the wooden bricks then knocking them down.
A adding B pushing C piling D forming E increasing
- 29 Lawyers often make higher _____ for their work than they should.
A bills B charges C prices D costs E rents
- 30 Please sign your name here on the _____ line.
A spaced B dotted C pointed D stopped E straightened
- 31 Much to their surprise everything went according to _____.
A arrangement B proposal C agreement D plan E decision
- 32 It was a _____ for the climbers to reach the top of the mountain.
A stretch B struggle C trouble D force E difficulty
- 33 As soon as the children were _____, their mother got them out of bed and into the bathroom.
A woke B awoke C wake D awake E waken
- 34 There is a 20 minute parking _____ here, so we must get back to the car very quickly.
A freedom B limit C allowance D ability E time
- 35 Because of the strong sun Mrs. Williams's new dining-room curtains _____ from dark blue to grey within a year.
A faded B fainted C paled D bleached E grew
- 36 Unfortunately, the garden is now _____ by the new block of flats.
A looked over B overseen C seen over D shown over E overlooked
- 37 This car may not be very new, but it is in good working _____.
A use B repair C conditions D arrangement E order
- 38 Don't go too far into the sea, children, or the waves will _____ you off your feet.
A flow B cut C press D sweep E jump
- 39 This blue door was _____ painted green.
A lastly B before C firstly D originally E presently
- 40 You will get to the church more quickly if you take this _____ across the fields.
A track B passage C method D hedge E journey

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Section B

In this section you will find after each of the passages a number of questions or unfinished statements about the passage, each with four suggested answers or ways of finishing. You must choose the one which you think fits best. **On your answer sheet**, indicate the letter A, B, C or D against the number of each item 41–60 for the answer you choose. Read each passage right through before choosing your answers.

First passage

Jean left Alice Springs on Monday morning with regret, and flew all day in a "Dragonfly" aircraft; and it was a very instructive day for her. The machine did not go directly to Cloncurry, but flew to and fro across the wastes of Central Australia, depositing small bags of mail at cattle stations and picking up cattlemen and travellers to drop them off after a hundred or a hundred and fifty miles. They landed eight or ten times in the course of the day, at places like Ammaroo and Hatches Creek and many other stations; at each place they would get out of the plane and drink a cup of tea and have a talk with the station manager or owner, and get back into the plane and go on their way. By the end of the day Jean Paget knew exactly what a cattle station looked like, and she was beginning to have a very good idea of what went on there.

They got to Cloncurry in the evening, a fairly extensive town on a railway that ran eastward to the sea at Townsville. Here she was in Queensland, and she heard for the first time the slow deliberate speech of the Queenslander that reminded her at once of her friend Joe Harman. She was driven into town in a very old open car and deposited at the Post Office Hotel; she got a bedroom but tea was over, and she had to go down the wide, dusty main street to a cafe for her evening meal. Cloncurry, she found, had none of the clean attractiveness of Alice Springs; it was a town which smelt of cattle, with wide streets through which to drive them down to the stockyard, many hotels, and a few shops. All the houses were of wood with red-painted iron roofs; the hotels had two floors, but very few of the other houses had more than one.

She had to spend a day here, because the air service to Normanton and Willstown ran weekly on a Wednesday. She went out after breakfast while the air was still cool and walked in one direction up the huge main street for half a mile till she came to the end of the town, then came back and walked down it a quarter of a mile till she came to the other end. Then she went and had a look at the railway station, and, having seen the airfield, with that she had seen all there was to see in Cloncurry. She looked in at a shop that sold toys and newspapers, but they were sold out of all reading matter except a few books about dressmaking; as the day was starting to warm up she went back to the hotel. She managed to borrow a copy of the Australian Women's Weekly from the manageress of the hotel and took it to her room, and took off most of her clothes and lay down on her bed to sweat it out during the heat of the day. Most of the other citizens of Cloncurry seemed to be doing the same thing.

She felt like moving again shortly before tea and had a shower, and went out to the cafe for an ice. Weighed down by the heavy meal of roast beef and plum pudding that the Queenslanders call "tea" she sat in a folding chair for a little outside in the cool of the evening, and went to bed again at about eight o'clock. She was called before daybreak, and was out at the airfield with the first light.

- 41 When Jean had to leave Alice Springs, she
 - A wished she could have stayed longer.
 - B regretted she had decided to fly.
 - C wasn't looking forward to flying all day.
 - D wished it had not been a Monday morning.
- 42 Jean took the "Dragonfly" because she
 - A was learning to fly.
 - B was delivering the post.
 - C wanted to meet Australian cattlemen.
 - D wanted to connect with another plane.

Practice Test 1

- 43 What did Jean feel she learnt most from during the day?
A The experience of eight or ten landings.
B The big differences between the places visited.
C Talking to people at different places.
D The route the plane took.
- 44 The main purpose of each stop was to
A let the passengers get out for a talk.
B collect passengers.
C let the passengers have cups of tea.
D pick up cattle.
- 45 How did Jean get some idea of Australian cattle stations?
A She learnt about them at first hand.
B She learnt about them from friends.
C She visited them weekly.
D She stayed on one for a week.
- 46 Jean was reminded of Joe Harman by
A someone in Cloncurry.
B something someone said.
C a conversation she overheard.
D the way the local people spoke.
- 47 Jean's main complaint about Cloncurry, in comparison with Alice Springs, was
A the width of the main street.
B the poor service at the hotel.
C the poor-looking buildings.
D the smell of cows.
- 48 When she arrived at the hotel Jean discovered that
A she was too late for a meal there.
B it was also a Post Office.
C she would have to eat out every evening.
D the hotel didn't have a dining room.
- 49 How long was the main street in Cloncurry?
A Half a mile.
B Three quarters of a mile.
C A quarter of a mile.
D A mile and a quarter.
- 50 What did Jean want from the shop?
A Something to read.
B A book about dressmaking.
C Some dress material.
D A present for a child.
- 51 For her evening meal on the second day Jean had
A only an ice-cream.
B a lot of cooked food.
C some cold beer.
D a cooling, but non-alcoholic drink.
- 52 Jean left Cloncurry
A early on Wednesday morning.
B late on Tuesday evening.
C after breakfast on Tuesday.
D before breakfast on Tuesday.

Practice Test 1

Second passage

Sylvia Calvert hated being the centre of any public show; it made her face hot and she always felt she wanted to go away somewhere. But on an occasion like this when she knew everybody, there was no reason to feel shy. So she had made up her mind to enjoy people's attention for once in her life. She had sent Arthur down to his club so that he shouldn't spoil things for her. Not that Sylvia had any strong feelings herself at leaving Palmeira Court Hotel or parting from its guests. She'd left so many other hotels, known too many people in her life to get upset by such things now. Keep your feelings for your own family: that was what she had come more and more to think.

Yet this evening was an occasion; and she hadn't had so many of those in her life. She had put on her best black dress and her long ear-rings and the day before she'd been to the hairdressers. She had thought to sit back and enjoy being the centre of attention for one evening. And now they had chosen old Miss Hutton of all people to give the goodbye speech. And not only did Miss Hutton spit when she spoke so that little drops fell on Sylvia's dress, but she had a bent back. A bent back that came uncomfortably close each time the old girl moved nervously forward into a new sentence of her speech. Sylvia hadn't let other people touch her except to shake hands for years—oh, of course, she'd kissed the children and grandchildren when they were little, but Judy, her youngest grandchild, was already seventeen—yet who knew with people with bent backs whether you could always avoid touch? But there was no sense in getting anxious about it. That was the first rule the doctor had given her—avoid all anxiety, take things easily. So, surprising herself by admiring her own well-rounded white arm as it showed through the sleeve of her black dress, she took a taste of her drink and then leaned back comfortably with her cigarette. And the doctor's orders worked too! For, breathing out slowly, she so put Miss Hutton off the end of her speech with a cloud of tobacco smoke that she had to smile to herself at the old girl's expression. The smile turned to laughter and that, giving rise in turn to low thunder in her stomach, made her by association feel as comfortable and contented as if she had had a rich meal.

- 53 Sylvia felt at ease because
A it was a private show.
B she was going somewhere.
C it was a special occasion.
D she was not among strangers.
- 54 Sylvia made Arthur go to his club so that
A she wouldn't have to share people's attention with him.
B he could enjoy himself without her.
C he wouldn't get more upset than she did.
D he wouldn't do anything to make her enjoy herself less.
- 55 Sylvia thought that one should show emotion only in connection with
A one's relatives.
B one's friends.
C leaving familiar places.
D saying goodbye to guests.
- 56 The black dress she wore was put on
A specially for the occasion.
B to attract people's attention.
C to go to the hairdresser's.
D as for so many such occasions.
- 57 According to Sylvia, Miss Hutton
A couldn't stand up.
B was too old to speak.
C always spat at her.
D couldn't speak without spitting.

Practice Test 1

- 58 Sylvia leaned back
A to avoid being touched.
B to stop her arms showing.
C as she began to relax.
D as she hadn't finished her drink.
- 59 What disturbed Miss Hutton's speech?
A Sylvia's laughter.
B Sylvia's smoking.
C The noise of Sylvia's stomach.
D The sight of food.
- 60 The doctor had told Sylvia that she must
A avoid eating too much.
B breathe out slowly.
C avoid getting anxious about touching people.
D try not to let anything upset her.

PAPER 2: COMPOSITION

2 hours

Write **three only** of the following composition exercises. Your answers must follow exactly the instructions given, and must be of between 120 and 180 words each.

1. A family celebration (a wedding, an anniversary, a home-coming etc.) is soon to take place. Write a letter inviting a member of your family to stay at your home for this, giving some details of what is planned. You should make the beginning and ending as for an ordinary letter, but the address is not to be counted in the number of words.

2. Your teacher is not satisfied that you are working hard enough to pass your examination. You disagree. Write in dialogue form, giving only the name of each speaker followed by the words spoken.

3. You and some friends find yourselves at sea in an open boat. Describe the event which led to this situation, the conditions in the boat and your rescue.

4. "The old-fashioned ways are best." Do you agree?

5. You have been asked to organise a tour by motor-coach through several countries lasting two weeks. Write a detailed list, to be handed to the members of the party, of the proposed route, timing, requirements for the journey and any other information you think the travellers will require.

PAPER 3: USE OF ENGLISH

2 hours

Answer all the questions.

SECTION A

1. Fill each of the numbered blanks in the following passage. Use only **one** word in each space.

Florence* as a little girl was rather solemn. She was very fond _____ (1) playing with her dolls and her _____ (2) game was pretending that they _____ (3) sick and she was nursing them _____ (4) to health. She _____ (5) to accompany her mother _____ (6) visits to sick people in the little town of Romsey near _____ (7) she lived, taking food and medicines. _____ (8) day, Florence was out riding her pony _____ (9) a friend of the family. _____ (10) they rode across the common they saw an old shepherd by the roadside, with his sheepdog, Cap, beside him. The old shepherd was very attached _____ (11) his dog, and was very upset because _____ (12) leg was broken and it looked as _____ (13) poor Cap would have to be destroyed. Florence jumped down from her pony _____ (14) examined the dog's broken leg. She bandaged it firmly and _____ (15) was not long _____ (16) the dog was running about again as well _____ (17) ever. The shepherd was very grateful _____ (18) Florence and when she became a famous nurse he told everyone that her first _____ (19) had _____ (20) his sheepdog, Cap.

*Florence Nightingale (1820–1910) famous for her campaigns to improve hospital conditions.

Practice Test 1

2. Finish each of the following sentences in such a way that it means exactly the same as the sentence printed before it.

Example: I haven't enjoyed myself so much for years.

Answer: It's years since I enjoyed myself so much.

1. "Why didn't I think of that before?" he wondered.

He wondered

2. Shakespeare wrote the play "As You Like It".

"As You Like It" is

3. I paid a lot of money for that shirt.

That shirt

4. We can leave everything behind except the umbrella.

The only thing

5. George wants to sell the business and no-one can stop him.

No-one can prevent

6. A new lightweight suit is being made for me.

I am

7. "Can't you find a sharper knife?"

"Is this"

8. I came to England a month ago.

I've been

9. A boy of ten cannot possibly lift such a heavy suitcase.

It is impossible

10. He's too young to get married.

He isn't

Practice Test 1

3. Each of the following sentences is about cooking or applying heat in connection with meals. Fill each blank with a suitable word.

1. Food which has been _____ up again can be dangerous.
2. The plates should be _____ before placing them on the table.
3. It will be _____ unless you take it out of the oven at once.
4. This fish is best _____ in a deep pan of oil.
5. If the cake is _____ too fast it will be hard outside but soft in the middle.

4. Fill each blank with the correct word or phrase made from **DIE**.

1. The old man _____ last week after a long illness.
2. The news of _____ made all Helen's friends sad.
3. Mary's mother is a widow; her father _____ for three years.
4. In the morning, the nurse saw that the old lady _____
and by that night _____.
5. Thousands of people _____ every day from this disease, yet it can be cured.

Practice Test 1

5. Make all the changes and additions necessary to produce, from the following eight sets of words and phrases, eight sentences which together make a complete letter. Note carefully from the example what kind of alterations need to be made, especially to the words underlined. Write each sentence in the space provided.

Example: I / wonder / why you / not / reply / last letter

Answer: *I was wondering why you had not replied to my last letter.*

Dear Sirs,

I / just receive / parcel / contain / Leather coat / I order / you / three weeks ago.

1.

On / open / parcel / I be / extremely disappointed / contents.

2.

The coat / not look like / one / photograph / advertisement / The Daily News.

3.

It be / shorter and / not swing / way / show / photograph.

4.

Also, I order / Large Size, / advertisement state / this correspond / Sizes 40 and 42.

5.

The coat / receive / least one size small / all my other coats / Size 40.

6.

First time / buy / anything / mail order / and it be / last / so disappointed.

7.

Therefore, I / return / coat / ask you / refund / cheque / £70 / send / with / order.

8.

Yours faithfully,
Anne Jones

Practice Test 1

SECTION B

6. Using the information given in the following conversation, continue the paragraphs in the spaces provided. Use no more than 100 words for each paragraph.

Margaret: Is it really true that you are thinking of sending John to a boarding school next year?

Ann: Not thinking of it; we've decided. We made up our minds some time ago that this would be the best thing for him when he was eleven.

Margaret: Are you quite sure? Aren't you afraid he's going to miss you and be dreadfully lonely?

Anne: That's a legend. He may feel a little lonely the first few weeks, but he's going to find it such good fun living in a crowd of boys all his own age that he'll soon settle down. It will be the best preparation for life that he could have.

Margaret: Well, I don't think that living in a completely artificial atmosphere—all boys, all the same age—is a preparation for real life. I would think that a child who lives at home and sees the everyday problems of the family as a whole is much better prepared for life. He understands different kinds of people better, and the way they feel.

Anne: Good heavens, no. If John knows that we are there beside him every day to help every time something goes wrong, he'll never learn to stand on his own feet. At boarding school he'll have nobody to run to all the time and he'll have to become independent. He'll learn what it really means to be free and to count on nobody but himself.

Margaret: Well, I don't know. I've heard so many stories from people who went to boarding school, and they all seemed to remember being lonely and lost and as to what they said about the punishments, the old-fashioned attitudes of the teachers, the cold rooms and the dreadful food

Anne: Rubbish! In most day-schools you hear stories about horrible school dinners. I'm sure a boarding school child has a much better picture of home as he is away from the daily problems. Home for him is always there during the holidays, unchanged and welcoming, where he can relax and enjoy himself. If he was at day-school he would have to come back every evening, very often after a tiring journey, and, as often as not, he would be scolded by his parents for not doing his homework or for arriving home too late.

Margaret: That seems to me to be the argument of a parent who does not want to face up to his responsibilities. As far as I can see, the only real reasons for sending a child to boarding school are laziness and snobbery.

Anne: Well, I will admit that I don't like the idea of John mixing with some of the children I see on the bus going to school. But just wait until your children are a little older and see if you don't change your mind.

Margaret: Well, for the moment, I can't imagine anything that would make me send them away from home and what they know—it seems no better to me than sending them to prison.

Practice Test 1

Anne thinks that children should go to boarding school

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Margaret thinks a day-school is better

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LISTENING COMPREHENSION TEST (PAPER 4)

Instructions for this test are on the answer sheet. You will hear three passages, each of them twice over, and you will be given time to choose your answers to the five questions, on each passage.

REMEMBER TO MARK YOUR CHOICE OF ANSWER ON THE ANSWER SHEET

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| <p>1 Why was it likely that Strickland had told no one where he was going?
A He was not sure of his new address
B He did not want anyone to know where to find him
C He was not planning to move very far from the hotel
D He intended to return to the hotel later</p> <p>2 The writer concluded that Strickland had not moved far because
A the area was convenient for the bakers
B he had to finish a painting of his
C his work would keep him in the area
D he was still using the same café</p> <p>3 Why did he associate Strickland with bakers?
A He had said he would draw one of the bakers
B He had a regular order for bread at one bakery
C A baker had helped him obtain an order for a painting
D A baker supplied the café which he used</p> | <p>4 What did Garrick want to do?
A Try to run into Strickland
B Search the streets in the district
C Call at houses in the district
D Wait for Strickland to visit the café</p> <p>5 What did they learn about Strickland from the caretaker?
A That he was ill
B That he had been away
C That no one had seen him
D That he lived on the top floor</p> |
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| <p>6 In her own view Heidi spoke English
A like an English schoolgirl
B well except for the occasional word
C as well as she needed to
D with a strong American accent</p> <p>7 When they first met, Heidi was determined to show her teacher
A how generous she could be
B that she had a servant
C what sort of lessons she intended to have
D how well she could speak and understand English</p> <p>8 According to the teacher, rich people
A do not trust people who are not rich themselves
B often do not understand the value of money
C are extremely difficult to get to know
D can be cheated to a great extent</p> | <p>9 How did Heidi try to use the fact that her teacher was English?
A To arouse the envy of her friends at school
B To give her an excuse for not studying English at school
C To persuade her parents that the teacher was excellent
D To explain her improvement in spoken English</p> <p>10 What does the passage say about the telephone calls?
A They occurred at important moments in his lessons
B They provided entertainment for the family
C They occurred three or four times every lesson
D They provided a welcome break in the lesson</p> |
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REMEMBER TO MARK YOUR CHOICE OF ANSWER ON THE ANSWER SHEET

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- 11 What was Constable Rider doing on this very cold evening?
A Looking for anything out of the ordinary
B Looking for something that had been lost
C Being careful not to disturb people
D Being careless in carrying out his duties
- 12 When he heard the rustling sound, he
A thought that it was probably not caused by a dog
B knew that he had disturbed a cat
C knew not to take any notice of such a noise
D realised that he had turned a corner
- 13 As he then heard no more sounds, Rider decided
A that he had been mistaken, and walked on
B that he might as well have a cigarette
C to flash his lamp on a window near the corner
D not to show that he had noticed anything
- 14 Why did Constable Rider not go right back to the house on the corner?
A He had seen a man hiding there
B He didn't want to use his torch
C It would show that he had noticed something
D There was still no sound from the garden
- 15 When he shone his torch on the keyhole, he
A heard a different kind of sound
B thought the door might be open
C didn't hear the gate opening
D was pretending to check the door
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REMEMBER TO MARK YOUR CHOICE OF ANSWER ON THE ANSWER SHEET