



Dhofar University Foundation Program
English Level 2 (FPE 102B)
MOCK Midterm Reading & Writing Exams

Name _____ ID _____ Section _____

Instructions

Turn off your mobile phone.

You may use a pencil to write your essay. For all other sections, use a blue or black pen ONLY.

Read the instructions carefully.



Dhofar University's Academic Integrity Policy (AIP) is intended to foster hard work, honesty, and responsibility. It strictly prohibits all forms of academic misconduct, including cheating and collusion, plagiarism, and impersonation. By signing below, I agree to abide by the AIP.

تهدف سياسة النزاهة الأكاديمية بجامعة ظفار إلى تعزيز العمل الجاد والأمانة والمسؤولية و تحظر تمامًا جميع الأشكال التي تخالف النزاهة الأكاديمية، بما في ذلك الغش والتواطؤ والسرققة الأدبية والإنتحال. بالتوقيع أدناه ، أوافق على الالتزام بسياسة النزاهة الأكاديمية.

Signature _____

Reading		
Passage		10
Vocabulary		10
Total		20

Writing		
Grammar		5
Essay		15
Total		20

Grader _____

Checked by _____

Date _____

Date _____

READING EXAM

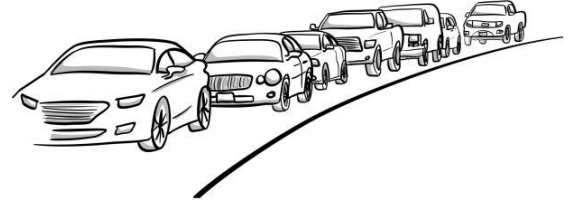
Passage

Grade ____/10

Questions 1-10

Traffic Jams

1 Traffic jams are no fun. They affect people around the world, in first-world countries and developing countries. Pollution, of course, is a problem—but the real issue is lost time. According to a *New York Times* article of April 1, 2020, New Yorkers spend an average of one week per year sitting in traffic jams. While there are alternative methods of transportation (for example, New York’s subway system is fast, cheap, and convenient), many people still drive to work because they want the privacy and comfort of their own car. The question is, how can we reduce traffic without inconveniencing people’s daily life?



2 One way to reduce traffic is congestion pricing. In congestion pricing, you have to pay a toll to drive in certain parts of the city at certain times of day. In theory, if the toll is high—say, \$5 a day—people will use public transport more. In practice, it seems to work. Singapore, London, and Stockholm have all reduced traffic (and pollution) in downtown areas using congestion pricing. This plan, however, makes life economically difficult for the common man.



3 Another way is for businesses to use a system called ‘flextime’, in which people go to and home from work at different, non-peak traffic times. This spreads traffic throughout the day and leads to fewer traffic jams. People who have to travel during rush hour can still carpool (that is, share a vehicle). Businesses can also let more people telecommute, or work from home, to keep cars off the road altogether. But for this plan, you need businesses to buy into the idea, and some of them might not like moving away from the normal 9 o’clock to 5 o’clock schedule.

4 Some urban planners still believe that the best way to reduce traffic jams is to build more roads, especially bypass roads that take cars around or over crowded city streets. But plans like this don’t solve the problem: they don’t reduce the number of cars on the road. As the saying goes, if you give people an inch, they’ll take a mile. More roads simply means more cars.

5 In my opinion, public transport is a better long-term idea. Last year, the American government spent \$7 billion to **upgrade** public transport around the country with the latest technology. That’s good start, but it’s dwarfed by the \$50 billion that was spent on new roads and bridges in the same year. Let’s call on the government to invest more in public transport. That way, we can reduce traffic *and* protect the environment.

The passage has five paragraphs, 1-5. Match the main ideas (a–d) to the body paragraphs (2–5) in the article.

a working with businesses _____

b paying to drive _____

c public problem, public solution _____

d building projects _____

Choose the correct answer.

5 In Paragraph 1, we can infer that the author _____.

- A) has an electric vehicle
- B) is not an environmentalist
- C) doesn't like the subway

7 Who is the intended audience for this article?

- A) university professors
- B) general readers
- C) business executives

6 In Paragraph 5, the word **upgrade** means _____.

- A) research
- B) prevent
- C) improve

8 What is the author's main purpose in writing this article?

- A) present an opinion
- B) advertise a program
- C) provide information

Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR NUMBERS from the passage for each answer.

9 What newspaper does the author quote? _____

10 What is the system in which people go to and home from work at different times? _____

**Vocabulary
Questions 11-20**

Grade ____/10

Complete the paragraph with the words in the box.

threatened separate contributed to species habitat generations

The African bush elephant is one of three different **11** _____ of elephant. They live in herds with up to three **12** _____: a 'grandmother', cows, and babies. Bulls do not live with their herd. When they are ten years old, they move off and live alone or in **13** _____ all-male groups. African bush elephants are endangered. Their survival is **14** _____ by poaching (i.e., illegal hunting) and **15** _____ loss, which have **16** _____ a fall in population from about 19 million in the early 20th century to just 400,000 today.

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in the box.

environmental
construction
provide
rush hour
destination
survive

17 Public transport is located close to popular _____.

18 Our street is very noisy these days because of the _____ of a new train station nearby.

19 People can live for about three weeks without food, but they can't _____ for more than a few days without water.

20 The company _____ all employees with a laptop and a smartphone.

WRITING EXAM

Grammar
Questions 1-5

Grade ____/5

Join the pairs of sentences using the words in brackets ().

1 Pollution can be reduced by planting more trees. It can be reduced by using electric cars. (or)

2 The first candidate had strong qualifications. The second candidate lacked necessary experience. (whereas)

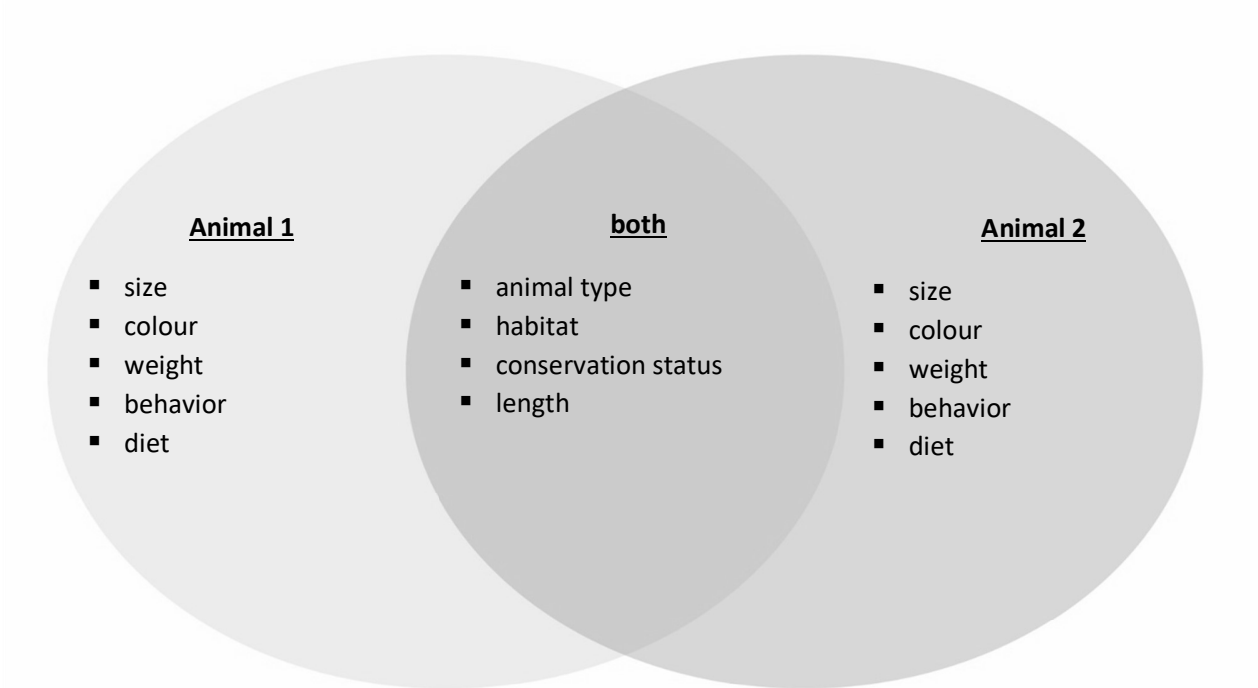
3 The bus wasn't running on time today. The subway wasn't running on time today. (Neither)

4 She couldn't attend the meeting. She was feeling unwell. (because)

5 The government stop implementing strict laws. Traffic congestion will be solved. (If...not)

Choose ONE of the writing topics.

Topic 1:



○ Read the introduction and conclusion to the essay. Use the information in the Venn diagram to compare and contrast the two animals. Complete the essay by writing two body paragraphs about the two species. Write 150 words.

Write notes about your topic.

Similarities	Differences	
	Animal 1	Animal 2

Topic 2:

○ Read the introduction and conclusion to the essay. Use your notes from the table below to write about the advantages and disadvantages of two solutions to the problem. Write 150 words.

Write notes about your topic.

problem	goal
<i>Problem</i>	<i>Goal</i>

Body 1	
Solution	Advantages
	Disadvantages

Body 2	
Solution	Advantages
	Disadvantages

