



Haliç University - Prep School

PROFICIENCY EXAM *FORMAT*

LISTENING (10-20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 While Listening• 1 Note-Taking
READING (15-25%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Main idea• Sentence completion• Multiple Choice• Reference• Guess the meaning (word)
USE OF ENGLISH (VOCABULARY- GRAMMAR) (25-40%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Match• Fill in the blanks• Word Formation• Synonym / Antonym• Fill in the blanks• Cloze Test• Paraphrase• Completion• Paraphrase / Restatement•
WRITING (20%) SPEAKING (OPTIONAL) (15-20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essay : Around 300 words.• Common Writing and Speaking Topics : Education, Communication, Family, Cultures, Languages, Psychology, Art, Crime, Social Media, Business, Environment, Food, Movies, Music, Hobbies, Shopping, Internet, Health, Linguistics, Media, Sports, Travel, Space, Technology.

PROFICIENCY EXAM *SAMPLE*

PART I LISTENING (10 PTS)

A) *Listen to a scientist giving a talk to some students about the Northern Lights.*

Then choose the correct answers to questions 1–5. (1x5= 5 pts)

1 What does the scientist say about pale yellowish-green Northern Lights?

- a They're produced by a mixture of gases.
- b They're the highest lights to appear in the sky.
- c They're the ones most often seen.

2 What does the scientist say about the time he saw the Northern Lights?

- a It was a memorable experience.
- b He could have been in a better location.
- c The event would have been better if he'd shared it with others.

3 The scientist says that the best time to view the Northern Lights is

- a on clear nights in winter.
- b in the north at any time of year.
- c around midnight on summer nights.

4 Which people believed that the Northern Lights were reflections of lights on earth?

- a the Romans
- b the Menominee Indians
- c the native New Zealanders

5 Why does the speaker say scientists are so interested in the Northern Lights?

- a because it could help them make useful predictions
- b because they want to identify the gases in the atmosphere
- c because the lights can help produce energy

B) *Listen again. Decide if statements 1–5 are true or false. (1x5= 5 pts)*

1 The Northern Lights are formed when pieces of material from the Earth enter the Sun's atmosphere. TRUE / FALSE

2 According to the speaker, the Northern Lights appear in the shape of a cloud more than in any other form. TRUE / FALSE

3 The speaker says that the Northern Lights have the same general appearance regardless of which part of the world you are in. TRUE / FALSE

4 In the speaker's opinion, all appearances of the Northern Lights are equally impressive. TRUE / FALSE

5 The speaker feels it is significant that some people today still have cultural beliefs about the Northern Lights. TRUE / FALSE

PART II READING (15 PTS)

Synaesthesia

Ingrid Carey is a twenty--year-old university student who suffers from a rare medical condition called 'synaesthesia'. The condition involves a joining of the senses: one sense produces sensations in another of the senses. So when Carey says she feels colours, she means just that. She can also taste, hear and smell colours. And not only that, for Carey, days and months, letters and numbers and feelings are all linked to colours too.

Colours in Carey's world take on a whole new meaning. They develop properties that distinguish them from each other. Power and strength are represented by red, adaptability by yellow and confusion by orange. She sees chocolate as deep purple and says that it makes her breath turn dark blue, and she's not alone in feeling colour in this way as this is the kind of synaesthesia most frequently experienced by sufferers.

Scientists have long considered synaesthesia to be a product of imaginations that are too active. . **1**_____. Some researchers now believe that it provides valuable clues to how the brain is organized and how and why people think the way they do about things. The cause of synaesthesia, however, remains unknown.

One theory is that new connections that develop and grow within the brain do so in an irregular way.

2_____. Based on this point of view, synaesthesia is like a group of senses, which used to exist on their own, chatting to each other.

According to studies on synaesthesia carried out by Daphne Maurer and Catherine Mondloch at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, all babies may start life with synaesthesia. **3**_____. In other words, they can be changed. Maurer and Mondloch also say that connections between different parts of the brain may become more sophisticated, or indeed completely blocked, as the human or animal develops. In a variation of this theory, babies don't have five clear senses, but rather one sense that includes everything and that responds to what they hear, see or smell, for example. Bruno Laeng, a psychology professor at the University of Tromsø, Norway, believes that Maurer and Mondloch's theory is fascinating but warns that we don't yet have the technology to examine it further.

Many people suffering from synaesthesia are afraid to speak openly about their unusual abilities. **4**_____.

Carey confessed that she felt many people would think she was mad if she told them about her synaesthesia.

One thing that synaesthesia has going for it is that some of the world's most creative people have the condition. In a recent interview, the pop singer Lady Gaga admitted that during her song writing process she sees colours, as well as hearing tunes and song lyrics. Her hit song *Poker Face* is a deep orange colour, apparently. Singers Pharrell Williams and Mary J. Blige are also reported to have synaesthesia. **5**

Famous artists Edgar Degas and Edvard Munch both told stories of their synaesthesia.

Synaesthesia has no known benefits for intelligence and people who have the condition do not stand out from other members of society in any way.

6_____. Reported benefits of having synaesthesia do include having a better memory due to the links with colours, and being good at learning languages, possibly because of the memory-related benefits. Some people, however, find that having synaesthesia interrupts their thought processes considerably.

1) **Match 1–5 with the missing sentences A–F There is one sentence that you don't need. (2x6= 12 pts)**

- A Based on this theory, the brains of humans and animals at birth are undeveloped but highly adaptable.
- B But most people who have the condition feel positively about it.
- C The study of synaesthesia is, therefore, very important for scientists.
- D This, in turn, destroys the usual barriers between the senses.
- E And the condition does not appear to be limited to musicians.
- F Recently, however, they have come to the acceptance that it has a real medical basis.
- G This is mainly because they worry about people's reactions.

2) **Read the article again. Decide if the sentences are true or false. If there is no information about this, choose 'not given'. (1x3= 3 pts)**

1) Ingrid Carey developed synaesthesia when she started her university studies.

TRUE / FALSE / NOT GIVEN

2 Carey's synaesthesia allows her to hear colours.

TRUE / FALSE / NOT GIVEN

3 Researchers Maurer and Mondloch plan to do more research on synaesthesia.

TRUE / FALSE / NOT GIVEN

PART III USE OF ENGLISH (GRAMMAR) (60 PTS)

A. **Put the verbs in brackets in their correct tenses or verb forms. (2 x 10 pts)**

1. The seals at the zoo _____ **(feed)** twice a day.
2. He suggested _____ **(have)** the party in the garden.
3. I can't get used to _____ **(live)** in a village.
4. He _____ **(not allow)** us to go out in the boat yesterday as a strong wind _____ **(blow)**.
5. By the time we arrive in the city in the afternoon, we _____ **(drive)** 500 km.
6. Don't call me at 7 p.m. as I _____ **(have)** dinner with my boyfriend then.
7. Sara _____ **(work)** there long when she was promoted.
8. Where _____ **(this photo/ take)**? You look wonderful.
9. They _____ **(know)** each other for a year before they got married.

B. Choose the correct answer. (1 x 5 pts)

1 There's no point in_____it. Several people saw you take the money.

- a. admitting b. denying c. claiming d. mentioning

2 I tend to flick through the channels when the__come on. It's always the same old ads anyway.

- a. current affairs b. match highlights c. commercial breaks d. celebrity chefs

3 It's completely_____that women earn less than men for doing the same job. We need to change this situation!

- a. irresponsible b. irrelevant c. unmanageable d. unacceptable

4 The government's new environmental___aims to educate the public about threats to wildlife.

- a. survey b. agreement c. campaign d. message

5 We'll know how serious the situation is after a detailed_____of the figures.

- a. plot b. analysis c. tip d. investigation

C. Complete the email with the correct tense of the verbs from the box. There are three verbs that you don't need. (1 x 10 pts)

blame for	had	distinguish between	dropped out of	get on settling
enough of	invest in	make up	have set aside	down zoning out
stand up for	thinking ahead	wander back		

Hi Sennur,

Sorry I haven't been in touch for ages. I've been really busy with work and various things. Do you remember I told you about that accountancy course I was doing? It was mainly so that I could **1** _____ at work and hopefully get promoted. I'm afraid it was too much for me in the end; I **2** _____ getting home late and then having to do assignments. I was tired and not concentrating in class. I used to find myself **3** _____ when the teacher was explaining things. Anyway, I **4** _____ the course last week, so I'll have a bit more free time to meet up. I can't **5** _____ the course _____ taking up my time now. Also, I'm planning to buy one of those new apartments near the river soon. It's not that I'm thinking of **6** _____ or getting married any time soon. It's just that I think it's a good time to **7** _____ a house as prices aren't bad, so I **8** _____ some money to put down a deposit on a property. **9** _____ to next month, do you fancy coming to stay one weekend? We can do some sightseeing and just **10** _____ to my place when we feel like it and have some dinner. Let me know what you think.

Ilkem

D.

Choose the best option a–d to complete the text. (1 x 10 pts)

If you're like me, you may well have needed to ⁰ *get someone to explain* certain technology to you at some point. Recently, much **1** _____ about the speed with which technology changes, and the impact that **2** _____ by people as a result. Take the smartphone as an example. It seems that just as we've become used to **3** _____ latest model, a new and improved one is waiting to take its place. This can leave many of us **4** _____ that we're missing out on something if we don't have it. And indeed **5** _____ of us rush out to the shops, it seems, **6** _____ time a new model appears, simply because we are not willing **7** _____. But we should ask ourselves if a phone that's only a year old really doesn't have **8** _____ features to keep us happy?

A lot ⁹ _____ about consumer behaviour from this current trend. For one thing, it tells us that people are happy to stop ¹⁰ _____ older models and just replace them with something new, whereas older generations kept something until it eventually broke and died!

1)

- a will be written
- b has been written
- c had been written
- d will have been written

2)

- a could have been felt
- b will be felt

- c is felt
- d should be felt

3)

- a a
- b an
- c the
- d -

4)

- a feeling
- b to feel

- c feel
- d is feeling

5)

- a much
- b many
- c both
- d all

6)

- a either b neither
- c some d each

7)

- a waiting b wait
- c not waiting d to wait

8)

- a enough
- b too many
- c all
- d lots of

9)

- a will be learned
- b had been learned
- c can be learned
- d might have been learned

10)

- a to use
- b using
- c use
- d having used

E. Rewrite the sentences using the information given in brackets. (1 x 15 pts)

1. It's impossible that she heard us talking. (MODAL)

2. Sue forgot to pay the bill, so she has no electricity now. (IF)

3. I don't know your phone number. That's why I couldn't call you. (IF)

4. "No, I didn't reveal your secret" she said. (DENY)

5. "OK. I will help you with the project." my friend said. (PROMISE)

6. You are looking for the keys. They are in the drawer. (RELATIVE CLAUSE)

7. It started to snow in the morning. It's still going on. (SINCE)

8. I will find out what is going on and I will let you know. (AS SOON AS)

9. Mr. Robinson was arrested. His finger prints were on the gun. (RELATIVE CLAUSE)

10. I regret not attending the seminar. (WISH)

11. He woke up late and missed the bus. (PARTICIPLE)

12. He was ashamed of what he had said. He left the room immediately. (PARTICIPLE)

13. Because of the heavy snow last night, the motorway is closed today. (DUE)

14. Although the music was loud, we had a great evening. (SPITE)

15. There's no point asking Luke to help us as he's really busy. (WASTE)

PART IV WRITING (20 pts.)

Choose ONE of the following and write an essay around 300 words.

OPTION A : Being rich to being famous (Compare-Contrast Essay)

OPTION B : What effect(s) does (do) social media have on teen relationships ? (Cause-Effect Essay)

OPTION C : University degree: Is it necessary for success? (Argumentative Essay)

ANSWER KEY

PART I LISTENING

A) 1 c 2 a 3 a 4 c 5 a

B) 1 FALSE 2 FALSE 3 TRUE 4 FALSE 5 TRUE

PART II READING

1) 1 F 2 D 3 A 4 G 5 E 6 B

2) 1 NOT GIVEN 2 TRUE 3 NOT GIVEN 4 FALSE

PART III USE OF ENGLISH (GRAMMAR)

- A)
1. are fed
 2. having
 3. living
 4. wasn't allowed/ was blowing
 5. will have driven

6. will be having
7. had worked/ had been working
8. was this photo taken
9. had known

B) 1.B 2. C 3. D 4. C 5. B

C)

1. get on
2. had enough of
3. zoning out
4. dropped out of
5. blame (the course) for
6. settling down
7. invest in
8. have set aside
9. thinking ahead
10. wander back

D) 1.B 2. C 3. C 4. A 5. B 6. D 7. D 8. A 9. C 10. B

E)

1. She can't have heard us talking.
2. If she hadn't forgotten to pay the bill, she would have electricity now.
/ If she had paid the bill, she would have electricity now.
3. If I knew your phone number, I could have called you.
4. She denied revealing my secret.
5. My friend promised to help me with my project.
6. You are looking for the keys which are in the drawer.,
7. It has been snowing since (this) morning.
8. I will let you know as soon as I find out what is going on.
9. Mr. Robinson whose fingerprints were on the gun was arrested.
10. I wish I had attended the seminar.
11. Having woken up/ Waking up late, he missed the bus.
12. Having been ashamed of / ashamed of what he had said he left the room immediately.
13. Due to the heavy snow last night, the motorway is closed today.
14. In spite of loud music, we had a great evening. In spite of the fact that the music was loud, we had a great evening.
15. It's a waste of time to ask/asking Luke to help us, as he is really busy.

PART IV WRITING

ESSAY WRITING - ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

	1	2	3	4	5	Score
Content (Relevancy)	No relevancy to the topic.	Insufficient research on the task and the content is somewhat irrelevant.	Insufficient research on the task yet the content is still relevant.	Sufficient research on the task leads to mostly relevant content.	Detailed research on the task leads to relevant content.	-----
Organization (Essay Format, Word Count)	No attempt to organize the writing.	Major problems with organization and / or is incomplete.	Generally organized yet not thoroughly developed.	Adequately organized and developed with minor problems.	Maturely organized and developed - sufficient main points and supporting details.	-----
Grammar (Major Grammar Mistakes)	Fails to use target grammar structures.	Numerous errors in the target grammar structures.	Target grammar structures used yet with considerable errors.	Target grammar structures used mostly accurately.	Target grammar structures used with high degree of accuracy.	-----
Vocabulary (Target Vocabulary)	Fails to use the target vocabulary items	Very limited target vocabulary items used and mostly inappropriately.	Limited number of target vocabulary items used.	Target vocabulary items used mostly appropriately.	Target vocabulary items used frequently and accurately.	-----
Student writes nothing or fails to answer the question.	0 (Zero)					----- / 20