

Integrated Skills in English II

Time allowed: 2 hours

This exam paper has four tasks. Complete all tasks.

Task 1 – Long reading

Read the following text about modern-day explorers and answer the 15 questions on page 3.

Paragraph 1

In an age when many of us have satellite maps on our phone, and where satellite images of distant places are just a click away, it is easy to question the need for modern-day explorers. Today's technology has made it easier for people to see the world from the comfort of their home. However, there is still unexplored territory, from the deepest oceans to outer space. Also, as places and cultures change, modern-day explorers continue to discover new things about the places that past explorers visited decades or centuries before.

Paragraph 2

Modern-day explorers are keen to point out that many of the famous explorers of the past, such as Livingstone and Columbus, rarely 'discovered' new places. The places they travelled to, although unmapped, were already well known to the people living there. What these explorers did was bring back information and news to their own people, scientific or otherwise, which would then inspire others. Essentially, this is still what defines an explorer today. Of course it is also often about personal challenges, but most explorers are simply curious people wishing to make a difference in the world by informing others.

Paragraph 3

Unlike in the past when exploring was only for the very wealthy, cheaper air travel and the internet have opened the field to a far broader range of people. Essentially, anyone can become an explorer. Of course the life of the explorer is certainly not for everyone; indeed only a small number have what it takes. Poor climates, basic living conditions and extreme physical challenges excite most explorers, but would put most people off. Some explorers compare their profession to an addiction, claiming that the feeling of surviving in difficult conditions is so wonderful that you want to push yourself even further next time.

Paragraph 4

Ask any explorer and they will tell you that preparation is essential. Like any athlete, explorers need to prepare physically for their job, which can mean hours of training for up to a year before the trip. An explorer also needs to do careful and thorough research by reading, studying and talking to people, in order to find a vision, an idea that sets them apart from other explorers. Once an explorer has an idea for a journey, they will often need to convince individuals or companies to sponsor their travels; most explorers need financial support. Consequently, the ability to give a good presentation of their plans is helpful.

Paragraph 5

The extreme circumstances that explorers face provide a good opportunity for developing and testing new inventions and technology. By investing just a small amount of time and money in explorers, companies can use exploration to encourage invention. An example of this is the invention of a special material that reflects light, which is now used worldwide on safety coats, bike gear and running shoes. This was invented through a company working together with an Arctic explorer who needed a way to see the sleds in front of and behind him in the dark. These partnerships help explorers achieve their dreams and also fund research and development that many companies could not otherwise afford.

Questions 1-5

The text on page 2 has five paragraphs (1-5). Choose the best title for each paragraph from A-F below and write the letter (A-F) on the lines below. There is one title you don't need.

1. Paragraph 1 C
2. Paragraph 2 D
3. Paragraph 3 E
4. Paragraph 4 F
5. Paragraph 5 A

- A How does the public benefit?
- B What will the explorers of the future be like?
- C Are explorers a thing of the past?
- D Has the aim of explorers changed much?
- E Is the profession widely accessible?
- F How does an explorer organise an expedition?

Questions 6-10

Choose the five statements from A-H below that are TRUE according to the information given in the text on page 2. Write the letters of the TRUE statements on the lines below (in any order).

6. A
7. B
8. D
9. F
10. H

- A The writer argues there is still a place for explorers in today's world.
- B Explorers of the past often travelled to places already known to man.
- C The principal motivation for most explorers is to challenge themselves.
- D Despite greater opportunities, the profession of explorer is only suitable for a few.
- E Many explorers also have had some kind of career as athletes.
- F An explorer needs to be good at persuading people.
- G A lot of explorers end up becoming inventors.
- H Partnerships with explorers can help pay for developing new products.

Questions 11-15

Complete sentences 11-15 with an exact number, word or phrase (maximum three words) from the text. Write the exact number, word or phrase on the lines below.

11. Regions under water and in space are examples of largely UNEXPLORED TERRITORIES .
12. Explorers in the past hoped to INSPIRE people with their discoveries.
13. Many explorers describe their job as a kind of ADDICTION .
14. Having the skills to deliver a GOOD PRESENTATION is useful for an explorer.
15. Companies can invent and develop products by INVESTING in explorers.

Task 2 – Multi-text reading

In this section there are four short texts for you to read and some questions for you to answer.

Questions 16-20

Read questions 16-20 first and then read texts A, B, C and D below the questions.

As you read each text, decide which text each question refers to. Choose one letter – A, B, C or D – and write it on the lines below. You can use any letter more than once.

Which text

16. encourages writers to keep trying?

D

17. describes two versions of a story?

A

18. offers flexibility when learning to write?

C

19. discusses whether good writers are born or made?

B

20. mentions several types of writing?

C

Text A

How to Write a Novel in Two Months

An eye-catching idea, isn't it? Here's the story behind it. I started my book *Time Between* last January and about five weeks later the first draft was finished. It took another fortnight to tidy it up, then I sent it to a publisher. To my surprise, it was accepted. I signed the contract about eight weeks after starting.

The real story is less interesting though. I'd already been working on a TV play, which had taken four years of hard work. Few people can afford to devote all their time to writing, and I had to fit it in around other commitments like teaching. I know the normal advice is to write something every day, but it's not always possible.

So when I decided to make it into a novel, the plot and main characters were already in place, and a lot of the dialogue ready. The fact that it was accepted by the first publisher I sent it to was just luck really. Even bestselling authors have files full of rejection letters. So if anyone really wants to know how to write a novel in a few months, I'd say, being realistic, that it can't be done.

Text B

Award-winning novelist Ian Gorrie sparked controversy last week when he claimed creative writing courses were an expensive waste of time.

We asked for your comments.

Joseph652: Gorrie has a point when he says great writing is something that can't be learnt, but doesn't he teach on one of these courses himself? What does he say to his students, and how does he justify continuing to earn his salary?

Penman: If you can learn to play an instrument, why can't you learn how to write? It's just learning techniques.

Desree9: I agree. It won't make you into Shakespeare or Cervantes, but there are plenty of good, successful writers who benefited from these kinds of courses.

Joseph652: True, but I still think Gorrie's right that you need some talent for writing before you can get anything out of a course. My original point was about Gorrie and his double standards, not his views.

Text C

Study creative writing at your own pace

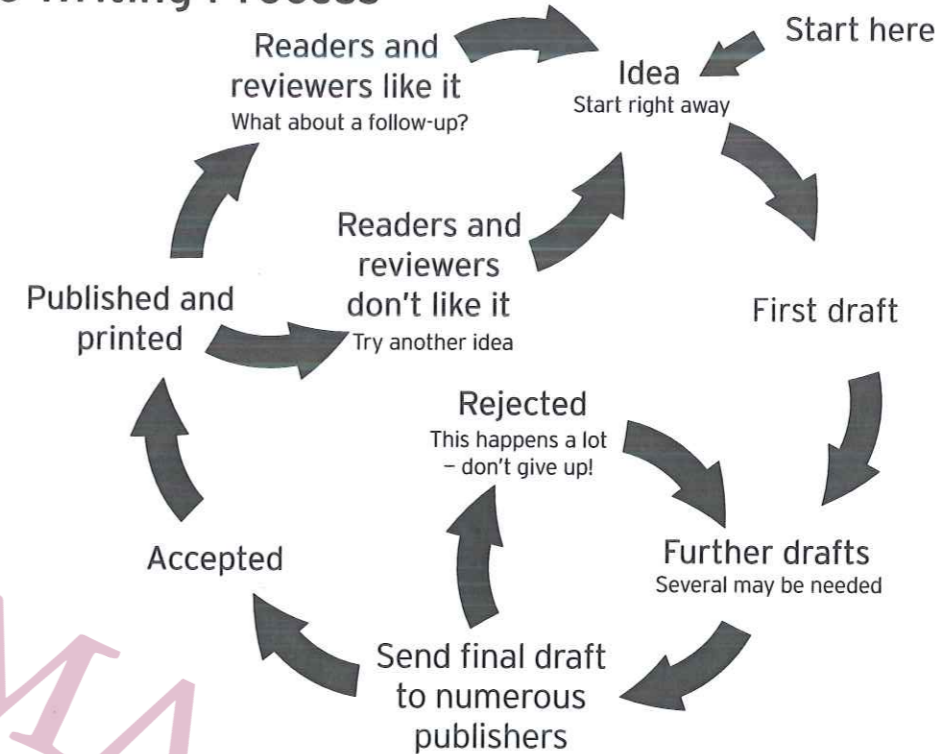
Not everyone has time to devote themselves to a full-time creative writing course. Our home-study course could be the perfect solution. Become one of the thousands who learnt the secrets of success in writing by studying from home. On average, courses involve 100 hours of study and can last up to a year, although if you complete the course

early, even better. You'll have full access to one of our qualified tutors, who will be available to answer any queries by email at your convenience.

Whether it's novels, short stories or scripts, you'll learn techniques to grab readers from the start and make sure they keep turning the pages.

Text D

The Writing Process



Questions 21-25

Choose the five statements from A-H below that are TRUE according to the information given in the texts above. Write the letters of the TRUE statements on the lines below (in any order).

- 21. A
- 22. C
- 23. D
- 24. F
- 25. H

- A 'How to Write a Novel in Two Months' is a misleading title.
- B *Time Between* was always intended to be a novel.
- C Even successful writers rarely have their books accepted immediately.
- D Ian Gorrie is a professional author and a tutor.
- E Joseph652 disagrees with Ian Gorrie's opinion of creative writing courses.
- F Desree9 believes creative writing courses can be useful.
- G Some students take more than a year to finish the home-study creative writing course.
- H The diagram suggests writers should keep improving their book and sending it to different publishers.

