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ΔΟΚΙΜΙΟ ΚΑΤΑΝΟΗΣΗΣ ΓΡΑΠΤΟΥ ΛΟΓΟΥ

ΤΟ ΕΞΕΤΑΣΤΙΚΟ ΔΟΚΙΜΙΟ ΑΠΟΤΕΛΕΙΤΑΙ ΑΠΟ ΕΝΝΕΑ (9) ΣΕΛΙΔΕΣ
ΟΛΕΣ ΟΙ ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΕΙΣ ΝΑ ΓΡΑΦΟΥΝ ΣΤΟ ΤΕΤΡΑΔΙΟ ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΕΩΝ
ΠΡΙΝ ΑΠΟ ΚΑΘΕ ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΗ ΝΑ ΣΗΜΕΙΩΣΕΤΕ ΤΑ ΣΤΟΙΧΕΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΡΩΤΗΣΗΣ

PART II: READING AND USE OF ENGLISH

(60 MARKS)

1. Read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0). (6x1=6 marks)



In recent years, concern about plastic pollution has increased significantly. What was once considered a minor environmental issue is now widely (0) **B** as a global threat.

Large quantities of plastic waste are produced every year, much of which ends (1) ____ in oceans and rivers. This has serious consequences for wildlife, as animals often mistake plastic for food. As a result, many species are now at (2) ____ of extinction. Governments around the world have introduced measures designed to (3) ____ down on the use of single-use plastics. These include taxes on plastic bags and restrictions on certain products.

However, environmental experts argue that legislation alone is not enough to solve the problem. Consumers must also take responsibility for their daily choices. By reducing unnecessary packaging and choosing reusable alternatives, individuals can make a positive (4) ____ on the environment. In the long (5) ____, small changes in behaviour may lead to significant improvements.

Businesses, too, are under pressure to develop more sustainable production methods. Many companies have begun to carry out research into biodegradable materials. Although progress has been made, environmental organisations warn that further action is needed before the damage causes permanent (6) ____ to the environment.

0	A	considered	B	regarded	C	accepted	D	recognised
1	A	up	B	off	C	away	D	out
2	A	threat	B	danger	C	risk	D	harm
3	A	cut	B	break	C	slow	D	bring
4	A	effect	B	impact	C	result	D	change
5	A	term	B	period	C	future	D	run
6	A	effect	B	injury	C	loss	D	harm

2. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0). (6x1=6 marks)

Settling into a New Job

Starting a new job can be 0. **both** exciting and stressful. Many people feel confident before their first day, but reality often turns (1) _____ to be more challenging than expected. New employees are required to learn unfamiliar routines, work with strangers, and adapt quickly (2) _____ new responsibilities.

At the beginning, it is common to make mistakes, especially when trying to impress others. However, most employers understand this and prefer staff (3) _____ are willing to learn instead of pretending to know everything. Asking questions and accepting feedback can make a huge difference.

In some cases, the pressure of a new environment can affect people physically. It is not unusual for employees to feel under the weather in their first few weeks, particularly if they work (4) _____ hours or worry excessively about performance.

Over time, confidence usually grows. Once routines become familiar, employees often find themselves full of beans and motivation. Small successes help build self-belief and reduce anxiety.

Supervisors also play an important role. (5) _____ offering guidance and encouragement, they help staff focus on developing their skills (6) _____ than fearing failure. This supportive approach leads to better results for everyone involved.

3. Read the text below. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in each gap. The first one (0) is given as an example. (6x1=6 marks)

Gaming and Modern Education

In recent years, gamification has gained considerable 0. **EFFECTIVENESS (EFFECTIVE)** in educational settings. Schools are increasingly exploring new 1. _____ (**POSSIBLE**) for integrating digital games into lessons. Some teachers remain 2. _____ (**CERTAIN**) about whether games can truly improve academic performance.



However, studies suggest that gamified activities increase student 3. _____ (**INVOLVE**) and make lessons more interactive. Another key benefit is the immediate 4. _____ (**RESPOND**) students receive on their progress, allowing them to identify weaknesses quickly.

Team-based games also encourage a sense of 5. _____ (**RESPONSIBLE**) as learners must work together to achieve shared goals. Critics argue that competition may create feelings of insecurity among less confident students. Nevertheless, when used 6. _____, (**APPROPRIATE**) digital tools can support both creativity and collaboration in the classroom. Ultimately, the long-term success of gamification depends on careful planning and thoughtful implementation.

4. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given. Here is an example (0). (5x2=10 marks)

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| <p>0. I live in the city centre, so I didn't walk to the park last night.
If I didn't live in the city centre, I <u>would have walked</u> to the park.</p> | <p>WALKED</p> |
| <p>1. Jason is sorry he accepted the internship abroad
Jason _____ the internship abroad.</p> | <p>WISHES</p> |
| <p>2. I thought the exam would be easier.
The exam was _____ expected.</p> | <p>AS</p> |
| <p>3. People say that the company reduced its staff some years ago.
The company _____ its staff some years ago.</p> | <p>SAID</p> |
| <p>4. When students feel happier, they participate more.
The _____ they participate.</p> | <p>THE</p> |
| <p>5. 'Why did you decide to leave your previous job?' the interviewer asked me.
The interviewer asked me _____ leave my previous job.</p> | <p>TO</p> |

5. Choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text. (5x2=10 marks)

Australia's Ban on Social Media for Under-16s



Australia has become the first country in the world to introduce a nationwide ban preventing children under the age of 16 from using major social media platforms. From December 2025, services such as TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube and X are no longer allowed to offer accounts to under-16s, and existing profiles belonging to younger users are being deactivated. The move has attracted international attention, with governments in Europe and elsewhere closely monitoring how effective it proves to be.

The Australian government argues that the ban is necessary to protect young people from online harm. According to officials, many social media platforms are designed to keep users online for as long as possible, often exposing children to damaging content in the process. A government-commissioned study conducted earlier in 2025 found that nearly all children aged between 10 and 15 used social media regularly. Alarming, a large proportion reported seeing violent or misogynistic material, while others said they had encountered content promoting eating disorders or self-harm. Experiences of cyberbullying and inappropriate contact from adults were also widespread.

Rather than placing responsibility on families, the law focuses on the companies that run social media platforms. Children and parents will not face penalties for breaking the rules. Instead, firms that fail to take what the government describes as “**reasonable steps**” to block under-16s could face fines of up to A\$49.5 million. Companies are expected to use a combination of age-checking technologies, such as government-issued identification, facial or voice recognition, and systems that analyse online behaviour to estimate a user’s age. Simply asking users to state their age or relying on parents to confirm it will not be considered sufficient.

Despite these measures, critics have raised doubts about whether the ban will work as intended. Some experts warn that age-verification technologies are far from reliable, particularly when it comes to teenagers. There are concerns that adults could be wrongly prevented from accessing platforms, while determined younger users may still find ways around the system. Several teenagers interviewed by the BBC admitted they planned to set up fake profiles or share accounts with parents to continue using social media.

Others argue that the limited scope of the ban reduces its effectiveness. While many major platforms are covered, online gaming services, dating websites and AI chatbots are excluded, even though some of these have also been linked to harmful experiences for young people. Critics suggest that focusing on education — teaching children how to use social media responsibly — might offer better long-term protection than banning access altogether.

Even government ministers have acknowledged that the policy will not be flawless. Australia’s communications minister has admitted that the introduction of the ban may be “untidy” at first, but insists that large reforms often take time to improve. Supporters of the law believe it sends a strong message to technology companies and may encourage children to spend more time offline. Whether the ban will achieve its goals, however, remains an open question.

Adapted from <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwyp9d3ddqyo>

1. What is suggested about the reaction of governments outside Australia to the ban?

- A. They are facing pressure to introduce similar laws.
- B. They are observing the results before taking action.
- C. They openly disagree with the approach taken by Australia.
- D. They have expressed doubts about whether the ban will be effective.

2. Why does the Australian government consider social media platforms a risk for children?

- A. They make it difficult for governments to control online activity.
- B. They encourage children to communicate with strangers.
- C. They fail to provide age-appropriate content for children.
- D. They prioritise keeping users engaged for long periods.

3. What does the government mean by “reasonable steps” (para. 3)?

- A. Trusting users to give accurate age details
- B. Relying on information supplied by parents
- C. Removing content inappropriate to under-16s
- D. Using systems to confirm users’ ages

4. What is the main reason critics believe the ban may not be successful?

- A. Younger users could still manage to get past the new controls.
- B. Not all online platforms are covered by the new law.
- C. It could prevent some adult users from accessing social media.
- D. The government is ignoring the importance of teaching digital responsibility.

5. What is the writer's attitude towards the ban in the final paragraph?

- A. Cautiously optimistic, while recognising possible limitations
- B. Sceptical about the effectiveness of the ban
- C. Balanced, acknowledging both advantages and limitations
- D. Indifferent to the possible consequences of the policy

6. Five sentences have been removed from the following speech. Select the sentence from options A – F that best fits each gap. (There is one extra sentence you do not need to use).

(5x2=10 marks)

The Three C's in Japanese Elementary Schools

In Japanese elementary schools, education is shaped not only by academic learning but also by social and emotional development. Although the international media often presents Japanese schools as highly pressured environments, researchers who have studied them closely describe a rather different reality. They emphasise the importance of three guiding principles: connection, character and content.

Japanese teachers often explain that their first priority is to help children feel emotionally connected to school. One teacher remarked that children attend school mainly because they want to see their friends, rather than because they are eager to study. As a result, teachers invest considerable effort in helping pupils form positive relationships and feel that they belong. **1._____** National education guidelines reinforce this view by stating that students should develop enjoyment of classroom life and a sense of closeness with others at school.

Schools are organised in ways that support these aims. There is no ability grouping, and pupils usually remain with the same classmates and teacher for two years. In addition, a significant number of school days are devoted to activities such as trips, festivals and sports events. Pupils are also given responsibility for classroom organisation through regular meetings and rotating leadership roles.

2._____

Alongside connection, Japanese elementary schools place strong emphasis on character development. Instead of relying heavily on rewards or punishments, teachers encourage pupils to discuss the kind of class they want to be and to reflect on their own behaviour. Class goals often focus on cooperation, effort and responsibility, and pupils are involved in shaping them. **3._____** This process encourages pupils to take greater responsibility for their actions.

To visitors unfamiliar with this system, Japanese classrooms may sometimes appear noisy or disorganised, particularly in the early years. **4._____** Teachers argue, however, that this is part of a longer process of learning self-control. Pupils are given time to reflect on their behaviour and gradually learn to regulate it themselves.

The third “C”, content, is equally important, though it may seem surprising in practice. Compared with many other education systems, the Japanese curriculum covers relatively few topics. Textbooks are concise and concentrate on a small number of key ideas. **5.**_____ Pupils therefore spend longer investigating each topic through discussion, experimentation and reflection, often making links with everyday experiences.

This approach, researchers suggest, leads to deeper understanding. Pupils are encouraged to question results that seem unclear and to repeat experiments until they are satisfied. Teachers, working with a shared and limited curriculum, can focus on improving teaching methods rather than rushing through material.

Taken together, the three C’s help explain the emphasis placed on the development of the whole child in Japanese elementary education.

Adapted from: <https://ascd.org/el/articles/the-basics-in-japan-the-three-cs>

Sentences

- A. This gives pupils the sense that they are active participants rather than passive learners.
- B. This contrasts with curricula that require teachers to cover a wide range of material.
- C. Such impressions may lead observers to misunderstand what is happening.
- D. Teachers believe that strong social connections support both learning and wellbeing.
- E. Pupils regularly review these targets and replace them when they feel they have made progress.
- F. As a result, motivation is expected to come from within the pupil.

7. You are going to read four short stories (A–D) about unusual crimes.

For questions 1–6, choose from the texts A–D. The sections may be chosen more than once.

(6x2=12 marks)

A. In Florida, a bizarre incident occurred late one evening at a fast-food restaurant. A man arrived at the drive-through, placed his order and then, rather than paying, passed a live alligator through the service window. Although staff initially assumed the situation was a prank, police later explained that the risk involved had been considerable. The animal was protected by state law and handling it without permission was an offence. Officers also pointed out that the confined space increased the likelihood of injury. While no one was harmed, those present later admitted that they had not immediately recognised how serious the situation could have become.

B. Police were called to a residential street after reports of a man attempting to walk a large snake in a public area. Neighbours expressed concern when the animal became unsettled and blocked the pavement. When officers arrived, they established that the snake was being kept without the appropriate permission. The man claimed he believed he was acting responsibly and had no intention of causing alarm. However, police explained that the presence of the animal had created a risk for passers-by. Although the situation appeared unusual rather than aggressive, officers stressed that a lack of awareness of legal responsibilities had contributed directly to the incident.

C. Police officers in Florida were sent to a house after receiving a silent 911 call from the address. At first, the call appeared to be a mistake, as dispatchers could not hear anyone speaking. However, when deputies checked the property, they found two people inside the home. During questioning, the woman later admitted that she had made the call because she believed officers might help them move belongings and even provide transport to the airport. They had planned to spend the weekend in New York. Police stated that the pair were not the residents and were suspected of burglary. Officers noted afterwards that contacting emergency services had inevitably drawn attention to the situation and increased the likelihood of arrest.

D. Police, after searching thoroughly for a woman who had breached the conditions of her probation, were preparing to leave her home when they heard a noise coming from inside a sofa. On closer inspection, they discovered the woman hiding inside, apparently hoping to avoid detection. Officers later stated that she was found by chance rather than as a result of systematic searching. The woman was arrested immediately, and her attempt to conceal herself resulted in further charges. Police commented that while unusual behaviour was common in their work, this incident demonstrated particularly poor judgement.

	In which story (A-D)	Story
1.	the individual did not realise their behaviour was unlawful?	
2.	the potential seriousness of the situation was not recognised at first?	
3.	someone's behaviour created inconvenience in a public space?	
4.	someone wrongly expected help from the authorities?	
5.	the tight area could have made the situation more hazardous?	
6.	a decision worsened the individual's position?	

PART III: WRITING

(40 MARKS)

You must answer **BOTH** writing tasks 8 and 9.

8. Write 140-180 words on the following topic in an appropriate style: (1x20=20 marks)

- In your English class, you have been talking about **streaming services** such as Netflix.

Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay discussing the **advantages and disadvantages** and giving your **opinion**.

Write an essay using **all** the notes and give reasons for your point of view.

- Convenience
- Impact on social life
- (your own idea)

9. Write an answer to ONE OF THE FOUR questions in this part.

**Put the question number 9A, 9B, 9C, OR 9D next to your answer in your answer booklet.
Write your answer in 140-180 words in an appropriate style. (1x20=20 marks)**

9A. You see this announcement on your school's website.

Articles wanted!

Young People and Crime

What types of crime are common among young people in your area? What are the reasons that young people commit these crimes?

Write an article answering these questions.

The best articles will be posted on our website next week.

Write your article.

9B. You see this announcement in your school's English-language magazine.

Reviews wanted

Fitness Apps

Have you ever used a fitness or health app? Please tell us about it!

What features does the app offer? How effective is it for improving health or motivation?
Who is this app suitable for? Would you recommend this app to other people?

The best reviews will be published in your school's magazine next month.

Write your review.

9C. In your English class you have been talking about future careers. Now, you should write an essay about it.

University is the best route to a successful career.

Do you agree?

Write about:

- Job opportunities
- Alternative training routes
- (your own idea)

Write your essay.

9D.

You have noticed some relationship problems between students in your class.
Write an email to your school counsellor:

- explaining the situation
- asking for advice
- suggesting activities to improve class relationships.

Write your email in an appropriate formal style.

Good Luck!