

English Language Unit  
Preparatory Year Program  
Prince Sattam bin Abdul-Aziz University

## Reading Mock Exam

**\*This is only a mock test. This practice is not the same as the actual exam. \***

Name:									
Student No:									
Section No:									
Group No:									
Instructor's Name:									

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- **Write your name, student number and section number in English.**
- **Answer all the questions.**
- **Speaking is NOT allowed** during the exam. **Do not ask invigilators for help.**
- All electronic devices including mobile phones and smart watches must be switched off during the test time.
- All class material such as textbooks and class notes must be left outside the exam room.
- **Attempts at cheating or copying other student work will result in disqualification** of your exam result.

## SECTION 1

Read the article. Then choose a, b, c or d for the correct answer.

### When Machines Go Wrong

#### Section I

Machines play an increasingly important role in our lives and most of us enjoy the benefits of things being done automatically for us. Yet we all know how frustrating it can be when something stops working. You're finishing a piece of work, for example, and your computer stops responding. Some people get angry with the machine – there have been many reports of people destroying their computers out of frustration. It can certainly end up making us feel stressed when something that is supposed to provide a simple solution to our problems goes wrong. Yet machines can go wrong, and sometimes in a big way.

#### Section II

GPS systems are built around a hugely expensive network of satellites. Billions of dollars are invested to send them into space and their accuracy is a marvel of modern technology. A number of problems can occur, however, from satellites giving out bad data to signals hitting large objects or buildings. Newspapers and the internet frequently report stories of people driving into rivers or lakes because they followed what their GPS told them. Technology is a wonderful thing but we need to use some sense, too. Just what were these people thinking as they drove into the water?

#### Section III

Sometimes it seems that mistakes can be in our favor. In 2011, many newspapers reported that an Australian bank had to close down its network of ATMs after a technical error led to them giving out too much money. The mistake was noticed, but not before many people had taken large amounts of money from the machines. Bank officials and the police warned people that they could face prison if they had obtained money which they were not entitled to. It is not known how many of them returned the money, or if anyone was caught.

#### Section IV

Cases where mistakes like these are actually the fault of the machine are extremely rare. Usually, the problem is when humans interact with the machine – they either program it badly, operate it wrongly, or someone fails to maintain and service it to the required standard. Problems with the electricity supply can happen, too, but a well-designed system should be prepared for that. In fact, with most mechanical breakdowns, the truth is that we've only got ourselves to blame.

1. Machines play an increasingly important role in our lives. The word 'play' in this sentence is a/an \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) verb
  - b) adjective
  - c) noun
  - d) adverb

2. Mechanical problems sometimes cause people to\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) respond to the company that made it
  - b) break their own computers in anger
  - c) look for a solution on their computer
  - d) get into trouble at work
  
3. The question at the end of paragraph 2 suggests that the writer\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) is critical of the design of GPS systems
  - b) questions the intelligence of GPS users
  - c) thinks we should trust machines more
  - d) likes being directed to the countryside
  
4. Which sentence best sums up the writer’s opinion?
  - a) It is generally people, not the machines themselves that make mistakes.
  - b) Most jobs that machines do for us these days are done better by humans.
  - c) The consequences when machines go wrong are nearly always very serious.
  - d) The real problems happen when we think we are smarter than machines.
  
5. What is the purpose of the text?
  - a) To tell a personal story
  - b) To warn the public about something
  - c) To entertain and make people think
  - d) To suggest a new way of doing things

## **SECTION 2                      Vocabulary Skills**

6. What is the suffix in the word ‘technical’?
  - a) –cal
  - b) –al
  - c) –ical
  - d) –l
  
7. My favorite baseball team is the Chicago Cubs. They\_\_\_\_\_ with the New York Mets and San Francisco Giants.
  - a) fail
  - b) compete
  - c) frustrate
  - d) study

8. What is the definite of the word 'actor'?
- a person whose profession is acting on the stage, in films, or on television
  - the answer to a question or problem
  - something that explains why something happens
  - the fact of something being your fault
9. Which word is a noun?
- fail
  - compete
  - explode
  - expert

**SECTION 2** Read the dictionary entry below. Then choose A, B, C, D, or E for the correct answers. There are some extra options.

A. Part of Speech	B. Another form	C. Definition	D. Example sentences	E. Pronunciation
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14                      13

**re•spon•si•bil•i•ty.** /rɪˈspɒnsɪˈbɪlɪti/ noun (pl. re•spon•si•bil•i•ties)

**1** [count, noncount] **responsibility (for sb/sth)** a duty to deal with something so that it is your fault if something goes wrong: *I refuse to take responsibility if anything goes wrong.* ♦ *It is John's responsibility to make sure the orders are sent out on time.*

**2** [noncount] the fact of something being your fault; blame: *A terrorist group claimed responsibility for planting the bomb.*

**10**                      **11**                      **12**

**re•spon•si•ble.** /rɪˈspɒnsɪb(ə)l/ adjective

1. having an obligation to do something, or having control over or care for someone, as part of one's job or role

15. **Responsible** is a/an \_\_\_\_\_.

- verb
- adjective
- noun
- adverb

\*\*\*End of the Exam\*\*\*

# Important Note:

- This is a sample exam only.
- Number of questions in the mid exam are **30 (20 marks)**.
- Number of questions in the final exam are **50 (50 marks)**.
- There will be **only one READING PASSAGE (250-350 words) in the mid exam** and **two READING PASSAGES (250-350 words each) on two different topics in the final exam.**
- The reading passages are not the same given in the book. They are different.