

**Alternative Education  
Equivalency Scheme (AEES)**

**YEAR 12  
ENGLISH**

**Practice Test  
Version 01**



## Practice Test Instructions

1. There are 45 questions in this Practice test (and 45 questions in the final test).
2. There are four alternative answers marked A, B, C and D for every question.
3. Every question has only ONE correct answer.
4. Enter your answer selection on the answer sheet provided next to the question number.

Example:

Question 1. The correct spelling of the capital city of Australia is ...

- a. Cannberra.
- b. Canbirra.
- c. Canburau.
- d. Canberra.

The correct answer is Canberra which is printed next to **D**.

Enter 'D' on the Answer Sheet next to 'Question 1' as follows:

Question 1.	D
Question 2.	

5. Make sure you mark your answer against the corresponding question on the answer sheet provided, especially if you skip between questions.
6. Give yourself 30 minutes to complete the Practice Test (as there are 30 minutes in the final test). We suggest setting up a test environment and timing yourself so it's similar to the final test.
7. Do not waste time if you do not know the answer. Move on to the next question and if you have time at the end of the test, go back to the questions you skipped.
8. Work as quickly and accurately as you can.
9. To obtain an accurate result, **a dictionary and other resources or devices should NOT be used** for this Practice test.
10. After you finish the test, use the Answer Key provided to check your answers.
11. The score you achieve on the Practice test is an **indication** only of how you may perform on the final test.
12. The Practice test score cannot be used in place of sitting the final test.
13. The topics listed on the Answer Key can give you an indication of the areas you can improve.

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- Question 1** Which word does **not** have a silent letter?
- A. forensic
  - B. friendship
  - C. freight
  - D. fortnight
- Question 2** Which of the following sentences is grammatically **incorrect**?
- A. It may seem that our efforts at home to conserve the planet are insignificant but our actions are really very effective.
  - B. How much people can say they have watched the sun setting over Antarctica?
  - C. I never dreamed I would travel to Ireland to see where my relatives came from.
  - D. We still remember attending the swimming events at the Sydney Olympic Games.
- Question 3** Three of the following words take the suffix **less** to form the **opposite** meaning. Which is the odd one out?
- A. speech
  - B. health
  - C. mind
  - D. fruit
- Question 4** Three of the following words take the prefix **in** to form the **opposite** meaning. Which is the odd one out?
- A. dependent
  - B. discreet
  - C. modestly
  - D. decent
- Question 5** In which sentence has the underlined word been used **incorrectly**?
- A. The footballer caught the ball and then kicked the winning goal!
  - B. We caught a virus while we were on holidays in Thailand.
  - C. I think the surface of the court makes a difference to the speed of the ball.
  - D. The security guard court them spraying graffiti on the side of the train.

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- Question 6** Which of the following is **not** a sentence?
- A. I agree.
  - B. Can you see?
  - C. How clever!
  - D. Wedding bells.
- Question 7** Which option would be the **best opening sentence** for the paragraph?  
Hank McGregor was born to be an athlete. Combining a lean physique, a disciplined mind and the determination to succeed, he seemed set to excel in whatever sport he chose.
- A. He enjoys playing golf in a social competition for fun.
  - B. So, he makes sure to practice whenever he gets a chance.
  - C. What does it take to be a world champion?
  - D. It helps if you like to get up early.
- Question 8** Which sentence should contain **inverted commas** (“”)?
- A. She assured me that vitamins are a good supplement to your diet to boost energy, vitality and a strong immune system.
  - B. My view is that sport can provide exercise, social opportunities and a sense of belonging.
  - C. At midnight they all yelled Happy New Year, as the crowd laughed and cheered.
  - D. Have you seen the crowds that converge on the Eiffel Tower every day?
- Question 9** Which sentence should come **last** if the following sentences were arranged to form a paragraph?
- A. It was a cloudy night and the moon cast only a faint glow.
  - B. Could it be the mystery ghost of Cape Liberty Hotel?
  - C. It was difficult to see as the darkness seemed to creep from the shadows.
  - D. Suddenly there was a dull thud outside the window.

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**Question 10** Which word **cannot** form the past tense by adding the suffix **ed**?

- A. declare
- B. spoke
- C. transfer
- D. minimise

**Question 11** In which sentence has the comma been used **incorrectly**?

- A. We enjoy watching sport, talking about sport and also playing, sport.
- B. In some sports, like basketball, it is good to be tall.
- C. His team, the ones wearing the purple vests, won the game.
- D. The Anzac Day clash, which is always played on the public holiday, is an Australian tradition.

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**Test continued on next page**

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**Read the following passage and then answer questions 12 – 21****Extreme Survival Guide**

People often get sick on climbing excursions. On a mountain there's less oxygen, so your body tries to conserve energy by slowing down according to priority functioning. Your immune system begins to slow down. At 6400 metres cuts don't even heal. So if you get cut at that altitude, you just have to deal with it. It's not going to go away until you go down to a lower altitude.

At maximum exposure - a breath every two minutes, a heartbeat every 30 seconds - your higher mental capacities begin to close down. The body starts shutting down system by system, in reverse order of priority - your reproductive system, your digestive system, your immune system. Then the circulation to your hands and feet is severely impaired as the blood flows away from those places to feed the most vital areas: your brain, your heart and your lungs. When those shut down that's the end.

**Question 12** Priority functioning refers to...

- A. what the body would endure to survive.
- B. how advanced the human body is.
- C. bodily operations that are crucial for survival.
- D. the complex nature of the body's systems.

**Question 13** The writer's use of the phrases 'a breath every two minutes, a heartbeat every 30 seconds' is effective because they...

- A. emphasise the physical stress the body endures at high altitude.
- B. reflect a sense of the rising hysteria you would feel in this situation.
- C. reinforce the body's automatic energy conservation mechanisms.
- D. enhance the sensation of breathing that a mountaineer would experience.

**Question 14** The words "When those shut down that's the end" in the passage suggest.....

- A. finality.
- B. inevitability.
- C. futility.
- D. helplessness.

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- Question 15** The short sentences used throughout the passage are effective because they...
- A. create a sense of exaggeration.
  - B. build an attitude of hope.
  - C. evoke a sense of desperation.
  - D. provide the facts concisely.
- Question 16** Which of the following statements reflect the central concern of the passage?
- A. It is essential to understand the process of survival in extreme conditions.
  - B. Mankind cannot survive at a height of 6400 metres above sea level.
  - C. Extremely dangerous hobbies are not wise for the faint-hearted.
  - D. Blood circulation is not essential for wellbeing under extreme conditions.
- Question 17** The purpose of this passage is to...
- A. entertain.
  - B. inform.
  - C. complain.
  - D. frighten.
- Question 18** What lesson does this passage teach us?
- A. That man is subservient to the elements.
  - B. That mankind can control most forces.
  - C. That foolhardy people tempt fate.
  - D. That science is master of our fate.
- Question 19** The tone of the passage is one of...
- A. disillusionment.
  - B. enthusiastic exuberance.
  - C. scientific detachment.
  - D. sentimentality.



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- Question 20** The writer has used dashes in the first sentence of the second paragraph to...
- A. isolate the minimal physical functions required for survival.
  - B. eliminate the use of unnecessary words.
  - C. present this information in a scientific style.
  - D. create a sense of momentum to the experience.

- Question 21** Which statement expresses an opinion?
- A. On a high mountain oxygen supply is diminished.
  - B. At 6400 metres cuts don't even heal.
  - C. Mountaineering is a sport that demands courage and skill.
  - D. When important systems shut down, it often results in death.

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- Question 22** In which sentence should an apostrophe (') be used?
- A. I hope to come back here in a years time.
  - B. No one likes to have their beliefs shattered.
  - C. After the rains, several homes were flooded.
  - D. All the pedestrians were crossing against the lights.

- Question 23** Which word would be the **best** substitute for the underlined word in the following sentence?
- When an election is approaching, a candidate will often try to provoke an opponent.
- A. discourage
  - B. agitate
  - C. diminish
  - D. suspect

- Question 24** In which sentence is the apostrophe used **incorrectly**?
- A. The boy's coats were in his wardrobe.
  - B. They're sure of a victory this weekend.
  - C. All the shop's are closed for the public holiday.
  - D. Why did David's dog have to go to the vet?

- Question 25** Which word is **incorrectly** spelt?
- A. witticism
  - B. silhouette
  - C. medieval
  - D. subtley
- Question 26** In which sentence does the apostrophe (') indicate possession?
- A. Who's not going on the school trip to the Great Barrier Reef?
  - B. It's not too late to reply to the invitation to the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party.
  - C. If I had to choose my favourite meal, it would be my mother's lamb roast.
  - D. As an exchange student, you're going to have so many new experiences.
- Question 27** In which sentence has the underlined word been used **incorrectly**?
- A. The children's presence made the occasion so festive.
  - B. At Christmas it is a Christian tradition to receive presents.
  - C. The presence of a third person can change the dynamics of a conversation.
  - D. You must speak in a soft voice in the presents of the Queen.
- Question 28** Which of the following sentences is a rhetorical question? (i.e. a question that conveys a point rather than expects an answer).
- A. Have you seen the Egyptian exhibition yet?
  - B. Is there any hope for the future?
  - C. What would be your ideal holiday destination?
  - D. Do you remember much from your childhood?
- Question 29** Nelson Mandela said "After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb." What is the **best** explanation of his statement?
- A. Nelson Mandela enjoys nature walks.
  - B. Nelson Mandela believes that we should have high expectations for ourselves.
  - C. He sees life as an ongoing series of challenges and accomplishments.
  - D. He expects life to be difficult, unfair and constant hard work.

**Question 30** Where would you **most likely** hear the following statement?

“I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge how far we’ve come since that first day not long ago.”

- A. Listening to a judge speaking in court.
- B. Listening to a commentator at a sporting event.
- C. Listening to a speech at an opening ceremony.
- D. Listening to a talk-back radio program.

**Question 31** Which of the following words **best** describes the tone of the speaker?

“I saw an unknown man approach the young man in blue jeans, take his wallet out of his back pocket then calmly leave through the exit that opens onto the highway.”

- A. Precisely reporting the details of the incident.
- B. Angrily accusing the perpetrator.
- C. Humorously recalling the sequence of events.
- D. Imaginatively creating an interesting story.

**Question 32** Which of the following phrases can be **left out** without changing the meaning of the sentence?

I want to thank each and every one of you for coming today.

- A. to thank
- B. and every one
- C. of you for
- D. coming today

**Question 33** The use of the word **ancestral** in the following sentence is an example of...

“I would like to acknowledge the ancestral custodians of the land upon which we stand today.”

- A. a conjunction
- B. a noun
- C. an adjective
- D. a verb

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**Question 34** Which of the following words **best** describes the tone of the speaker?

“I will not clean the house. It is menial work.”

- A. derogatory
- B. insinuating
- C. compassionate
- D. humorous

**Question 35** In which of the following words has the suffix been used **incorrectly**?

- A. compliment
- B. alignment
- C. forgiveness
- D. impediment

**Question 36** Select the **correctly** spelt word.

- A. obviously
- B. obviussly
- C. oviously
- D. obviously

**Question 37** In which of the following words has the prefix been used **incorrectly**?

- A. prehistoric
- B. imdiscriminate
- C. unimaginate
- D. disproportionate

**Question 38** Which group of words **best** describes **strenuous**?

- A. demanding and vigorous
- B. strong and powerful
- C. motivated and animated
- D. rigorous and uncompromising

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**Question 39** Which of the following sentences has the same meaning as the underlined one?

The newsreader reported that “the strength of the Australian dollar makes overseas travel a favourable option.”

- A. Due to the strength of the dollar, overseas travel would become a favourable option.
- B. Due to the strength of the dollar, overseas travel has become a favourable option.
- C. Due to the strength of the dollar, overseas travel could become a favourable option.
- D. Due to the strength of the dollar, overseas travel will become a favourable option.

**Question 40** Which of the following sentences contains a simile?

- A. The shimmering, golden sand felt warm and soft beneath their toes.
- B. Although they came here every year, it never failed to take their breath away.
- C. Their voices gently rose and fell like the rolling waves on the water.
- D. Laughing, they ran to the water in great anticipation of the moment the cold water would hit their skin.

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**Test continued on next page**

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**Read the following passage and then answer questions 41 – 45**

**Citizens Making News**

A mobile phone today is almost invariably equipped with a camera, so now most people are relying on mobiles to take impromptu photographs, rather than using their digital cameras. Mobile phones are now relatively cheap and, as we often comment disparagingly, they are ubiquitous.

For decades, cameras have enabled ordinary citizens to become instant journalists and we recall the vivid on-the-spot images taken by amateurs of the assassination of J.F. Kennedy or, more recently, the graphic shots inside the prison fortress of Abu Ghraib.

Such public ‘witnessing’ is set to increase as today, people everywhere carry the means of newsgathering and transmission of data through mobile phone video footage. The results can be seen on TV news almost immediately.

One noteworthy example of citizen journalism was coverage of the London bombings in July 2005 when over 3000 video clips and emails with pictures were sent to media outlets. Authorities hoped that some of this coverage would help reveal the perpetrators.

Similarly, pictures of the tsunami in 2004, showing skyscraper waves bringing appalling devastation, were filmed by amateurs. Indeed, it could be argued that these ‘amateurs’ were responsible for the marvellous philanthropic response and the subsequent money that overflowed into relief coffers.

Politically, it is claimed that modern China is less able to control protestors because citizens are sending picture coverage overseas. The humble mobile phone is thus playing its part in promulgating democracy! Meanwhile, in the USA, a courageous student provided a chilling video of the shootings at Virginia Tech.

News outlets expect that in the future, the public will become even more involved in the making of the news. Already the ABC is inviting listeners to participate by gathering news and pictures for its news services.

**Question 41** Why is it implied that people ‘disparage’ the use of mobile phones?

- A. They have too many complex features.
- B. They ring anytime and everywhere.
- C. They take up too much of our time.
- D. They are taking the jobs of professionals.



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**Question 42** Cameras 'have turned ordinary citizens into journalists'. Why is this especially true today?

- A. Today, many people own digital cameras.
- B. Kennedy's assassination set a precedent.
- C. Mobile phones can share images in real time.
- D. TV news often stars 'ordinary' citizens.

**Question 43** Why was the public's coverage of the London bombings so important?

- A. They provided copious images for the investigation.
- B. They helped bring the bombers to trial.
- C. They showed that terrorism happens anywhere.
- D. They showed the actual backpack used.

**Question 44** In what way did amateurs inspire a 'philanthropic response' to the tsunami?

- A. by donating the proceeds of their video sales
- B. by appearing on video and asking for financial help
- C. by taking graphic images of death and destruction
- D. by giving physical aid and comfort to victims

**Question 45** Select the word that is **closest** in meaning to the word **promulgating**.

- A. perpetuating
- B. promoting
- C. persuading
- D. promising

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**End of Test**

## Year 12 English Practice Test: Answer Key

Question #	Answer	Mapping
1	A	Spelling – silent letter
2	B	Grammar
3	B	Spelling – suffix
4	C	Spelling – prefix
5	D	Spelling – homophone
6	D	Grammar – sentence construction
7	C	Written Text – conventions
8	C	Punctuation (inverted commas)
9	B	Written Text – demonstrate understanding
10	B	Tense
11	A	Punctuation (comma)
12	C	Written Text – demonstrate understanding
13	A	Written Text – demonstrate understanding
14	A	Written Text – register
15	D	Written Text – conventions
16	A	Written Text – demonstrate understanding
17	B	Written Text – purpose & audience
18	A	Written Text – demonstrate understanding
19	C	Written Text – register
20	A	Written Text – conventions
21	C	Written Text – demonstrate understanding
22	A	Punctuation (apostrophe)
23	B	Vocab – synonym
24	C	Punctuation (apostrophe)
25	D	Spelling
26	C	Punctuation (apostrophe)
27	D	Spelling – homophone



<b>Question #</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Mapping</b>
28	B	Rhetorical question
29	C	Spoken Text – demonstrate understanding
30	C	Spoken Text – purpose & audience
31	A	Spoken Text – register
32	B	Tautology
33	C	sentence structure – adjective
34	A	Spoken Text – register
35	C	Spelling – suffix
36	D	Spelling
37	B	Spelling – prefix
38	A	Vocab – word chains
39	B	Tense
40	C	Grammar – simile
41	B	Written Text – demonstrate understanding
42	C	Written Text – demonstrate understanding
43	A	Written Text – demonstrate understanding
44	C	Written Text – demonstrate understanding
45	B	Vocab – synonym



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