

Paper specifications:

Total marks obtainable for the paper is 100.

Total time allocated is 3 hours.

Task	Marks	Task type & Item format	Timing / length	Focus
SECTION A Question 1	17.5 m	Short answer questions based on reading article of about 800 words	9 questions, 30 minutes	Reading for detail, opinion, gist, deducing meaning, text organization.
SECTION A Question 2	22.5 m	Short answer questions based on reading article of about 800 words	14 questions, 40 minutes	Reading for detail, opinion, gist, deducing meaning, text organization.
SECTION B	10 m	Guided writing task - summary	1 question, 20 minutes	Combination of reading and writing skills.
SECTION C	10 m	Open cloze	10 questions, 10 minutes	Grammar and vocabulary.
SECTION D Question 1	20 m	letter writing	120-150 words, 40 minutes	Expressing opinion, justifying, persuading, comparing, advising, describing and explaining.
SECTION D Question 2	20 m	Choice out of four tasks -	100-150 words, 40 minutes	Expressing opinion, justifying, persuading, comparing, advising, describing and explaining.

Sample paper, Entrance Examination, English Language, November 2011

Answer Key:

SECTION-A: Reading Comprehension

Text 1- Insomnia

1. Inability to sleep/ sleeplessness [1]
2. Lapses in breathing cause a shortage of oxygen AND disrupts sleep [2]
3. Shift work/ partying until late night/ jet lag (any two) [2]
4. Anxiously lying awake worrying about not sleeping. [2]
5. Key words- lack of sleep+ action of cells + fight off infections+ cancer [2]
6. The greater the disruption in sleep patterns, the greater the tendency to overeat. [2]
7. As babies AND toddlers [2]
8. Not smoking/eating fresh fruits and vegetables/ exercising regularly (any two) [2]
9. (any five words) [2.5]
 - a. Dropping off- falling asleep
 - b. Forthcoming- about to happen/ approaching/ upcoming
 - c. Culprits- the things causing the problem
 - d. Conducive- contributing/ encouraging/ favourable/ helping
 - e. Fatigue- exhaustion/ lethargy/ being tired
 - f. Vulnerable- susceptible/prone
 - g. Rejuvenation- the hypothetical reverse of the ageing process/ restoring to a more youthful condition/ becoming young again.

Text 2- Seek a future, not momentary pleasure

1. She recognized the face in the photo as someone she knew and that caught her attention. [2]
2. She expressed innocent amazement that anyone would forgo Christmas presents. [1]
3. It means that she 'felt sorry for' / sympathised with [2]
4. She dressed in a mature fashion. [1]
5. It was when she was eleven. [1]
6. She was unfamiliar with the background of the case and not well versed with parenting theories. [1]

7. No. Her students ‘towered over’ her. [2]
8. They should accept the responsibilities that come with privileges. [2]
9. They should consult a responsible adult. [1]
10. It is difficult for teenagers to resist temptation; giving them rules will help them define right from wrong and aid in their decision-making. [1]
12. They tend to disallow youths from experimenting and merely dictate the rules that they presume would lead to success. [2]
13. It is an example to show us that similar to a child learning how to walk, teenagers in the process of growing will make mistakes and we should not expect them to become adults without first encountering problems. [2]
14. It means that one should think about long-term success and not merely settle for temporary happiness. [2]
15. (any five words) [2.5]
- a) seldom [line 2] - rarely
 - b) frail [line 10] - fragile
 - c) concerned [line 20] - worried
 - d) academic [line 27] - educational
 - e) realise [line 31] - understand
 - f) counsel [line 32] - advise
 - g) fumbled [line 43] - made mistakes
 - h) imposing [line 44] - forcing

SECTION-B: Summarising

Content points (up to 6 marks for content points – ½ marks for each point)

Causes

1. fatigue
2. stress/anxiety/anger/resentment
3. sleep apnoea
4. stimulants (too much food/tea/coffee/cola..)
5. unfavourable bedroom conditions

Effects

6. serious accidents
7. affecting the immune system
8. overeating
9. speeding up ageing

N.B. both causes and effects are required

Language (4 marks)

4 marks	Expression very good, largely in own words, organized with appropriate linking phrases.
3 marks	Expression good, largely in own words, some attempt at organizing and linking ideas.
2 marks	Expression limited, some lifting, some sense of order.
1 mark	Expression weak, lifting without discrimination.
0 marks	Reading and comprehension obscured by multiple errors in language, content is irrelevant

SECTION-C: Use of English

Open cloze

(Total 10 marks)

1. tell	2. the / this	3. there	4. the	5. yet
6. is	7. near / between / beside	8. that	9. to	10. was

SECTION-D: Writing

General Impression Marking Scheme:

18-20	Very positive effect on the target reader, minimal errors, resourceful, controlled and natural use of language, showing good range of vocabulary and structure. Task fully completed, with good use of cohesive, consistently appropriate register. No relevant omissions. N.B. <i>Not necessarily a flawless performance!</i>
15-17	Sufficiently natural, errors only when more complex language attempted. Some evidence of range of vocabulary and structure. Good realization of task, only minor omissions. Attention paid to organization and cohesion, register usually appropriate. Positive effect on the target reader achieved.
11-14	Either (a) task reasonably achieved, accuracy of language satisfactory and adequate range of vocabulary and range of structure or (b) an ambitious attempt at the task, causing a number of non-impeding errors, but a good range of vocabulary and structure demonstrated. There may be minor omissions, but content clearly organized. Would achieve the required effect on the target reader.
8-10	Some attempt at task but lack of expansion and /or notably omission/irrelevancies. Noticeable lifting of language form the input, often inappropriately. Errors sometimes obscure communication and/or language is too elementary for this level. Content not clearly organised. Would have a negative effect on the target reader.
4-7	Serious lack of control and/or frequent basic errors. Narrow range of language. Inadequate attempt at task. Very negative effect on target reader.
0-3	Either(a) Fewer than 50 words (b) Totally illegible work (c) Total irrelevance (often a previously prepared answer to a different question)