

# FCE

## *Reading Sample Tests*

### **PART 1**

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# PART 1

## Comprehension Multiple Choice

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## SAMPLE 1

Choose the answers you think fit best according to the text.

### BRITISH MANAGEMENT

According to an article in *Management Today*, the British manager still stops work for tea. The French managing director of Novotel, the hotel group, tells what happened at his first management meeting when he took over its English operation in 1991:

"The meeting was in the afternoon, and it got to about 3.30 and everyone started looking at their watches. I didn't know what was going on. I turned to my secretary, who was English, and she said that they probably wanted to break for tea. I couldn't understand it. In France we just carry on until we have finished. Now we always break for tea."

I am not sure how many English managers now break for tea. Not that many, I imagine. Twenty years ago it was commonplace. I will never forget a Canadian sales director, pink with fury, telling me at that time how he had been offered tea and biscuits at three in the afternoon in Northampton: "I come three thousand miles, and take three taxis and a damn steam engine into the sticks, and I wanna do business, and this guy gives me a 'nice cup of China tea and a biccyy'. What IS he?" Mind you, this was the same man who in Rome told his Italian agent that the Colosseum would make a nice parking lot.

It is not so much the cup of tea as the pint of bitter that managers from outside Britain find a bar to efficiency. In the article, a German manager tells how when he first took over a job in Britain, he discovered that at lunchtime and especially on Fridays, the majority of his management team left for the pub. He says: "I stopped that right away. Now they are not allowed off the premises. It didn't make me very popular at the time but it is not good for efficiency. There is no way we would do that in Germany. No way."

According to European managers the British are still too concerned with class and status. A German says: "People say that the class system is a hindrance to progress and then two weeks later you overhear them discussing a colleague and saying, 'Well, he is not very well-spoken, is he?'" And another says: "The class gaps translate into big gulfs in the pay league, too. In Germany, I might earn three times more than my secretary. Here it is five times."

Some criticisms are rather like those levelled at Japanese management. For example, talking about status, a Dutch manager says: "A director is God here. They respect him and think that he is right even when he is wrong. It's quite difficult to have an open conversation. People will not say 'I disagree'."

Too great an interest in money is also criticised. A Dutch manager says: "My first impression on coming to Britain was that profit seemed to be the most important thing." And a Frenchman points out the difference between the UK and France: "In France there is no pressure on the bottom line."

The French manager also points out a difference in educational standards: "In France all the secretaries, or personal assistants as we call them, would have degrees. You wouldn't consider recruiting one without a degree. So, that means you can delegate much more to the secretaries in France. In the UK you cannot do that so much."

FCE Reading Sample Tests, Part 1

1. In the middle of the afternoon:

- A. everyone checked their watches.
- B. hinted that it was teatime.
- C. took a break.
- D. noticed it was 3.30.

2. In the past:

- A. managers usually had a teabreak.
- B. offered visitors China tea.
- C. wasted a lot of time drinking tea.
- D. drank a lot of tea.

3. The Canadian:

- A. was impressed by the Englishman's good manners.
- B. had traveled a long way.
- C. liked to do business.
- D. considered his time was being wasted.

4. Why did the Canadian say the Coliseum would make a nice parking lot?

- A. He had nowhere to park.
- B. He was joking.
- C. He was worried about Rome's traffic problems.
- D. He was envious of Italy's glorious past.

5. The German didn't like his managers going to the pub because:

- A. he was against drink.
- B. they got drunk.
- C. it made them inefficient.
- D. he believed playing sports would be better for them.

6. To stop them going to the pub, the managers:

- A. were ordered to stay in the office.
- B. were given free lunches in the office.
- C. played team games in the lunch-hour.
- D. had meetings at lunchtime.

7. In Britain, managers are paid much more than their secretaries because of:

- A. sexism.
- B. education.
- C. class.
- D. elocution.

8. English and Japanese managers are similar in that they:

- A. are tactful.
- B. like tea.
- C. avoid disagreement.
- D. have a superiority complex.

9. In comparison with the British secretary, a French secretary:

- A. is better paid.
- B. has more status.
- C. is better spoken.
- D. can take more responsibility.

PART 1: Comprehension Multiple Choice

Check your answers.

- 1. A
- 2. A
- 3. D
- 4. B
- 5. C
- 6. A
- 7. C
- 8. C
- 9. D

## SAMPLE 2

Choose the answers you think fit best according to the text.

### NOISE

The world ought to be a quieter place. Anti-noise has hit the marketplace. It means, for example, that refrigerators will no longer whine, vacuum cleaners no longer roar, and washing machines no longer rumble. It may even soon be possible to cancel out the low-frequency throb of the teenage stereo blasting its bass through the wall from the flat next door. Already Toshiba has introduced a silent refrigerator. Built into the fridge is a system that silences the hum of the motor by firing anti-noise at it.

What is anti-noise? It is the exact opposite of a particular sound. It peaks when the other sound dips, and dips when the other sound wave peaks. The anti-sound is fired at the unwanted sound through a loudspeaker. The two waves cancel each other out, like ripples meeting each other on a pond. The rest is silence.

There must, however, be a perfect match, otherwise you end up with double the din. Thus anti-noise has had to wait for the microprocessor in order to be effective. The microprocessor can monitor the unwanted sound and respond in milliseconds.

A typical active noise cancellation system has been sold to a railway company in the United States. The company unloads grain from trains by using giant vacuum tubes. These tubes produce as much noise as a jet taking off. After installing the system, the noise was reduced to the level of an air-conditioner's hum. Forty were installed, to the relief of Americans living near railway unloading points.

In the aircraft industry, active noise cancellation is contributing to a revival in propeller-driven passenger aircraft, which passengers disliked because of their noise. The first test flight with an anti-noise system took off in 1989. The system has now move on from research to commercial development, with passengers likely to hear the benefits in a year or two.

In the car industry, conventional mufflers generate back-pressure, which forces the engine to work harder. An active noise canceller removes the need for sound-absorbing chambers, and improves fuel consumption by as much as six per cent. From the point of view of saving fuel, car makers are keen to install the technology.

It won't be long before silent washing machines, fridges and vacuum cleaners are in the High Street shops. Electrolux has signed an agreement to manufacture the technology which should be on the market by 1994.

The trouble is, once you remove one noise, you become more aware of all the others. How will we be able to shut up the sparrows at five in the morning?

FCE Reading Sample Tests, Part 1

1. Which title best suits the passage?

- A. Towards a Quieter World
- B. The Noise-Busters
- C. A Better Life
- D. Anti-Noise

2. Next year, silent devices will be:

- A. sold.
- B. installed.
- C. available.
- D. consumed.

3. On a pop recording, the bass emits a loud low-frequency:

- A. beat.
- B. blast.
- C. boom.
- D. bang.

4. What anti-noise does is:

- A. compensate for noise.
- B. react with noise.
- C. camouflage noise.
- D. neutralise noise.

5. Anti-noise works by being on:

- A. the same wavelength.
- B. a completely different wavelength.
- C. a higher-frequency wavelength.
- D. a diametrically opposed wavelength.

6. What does the microprocessor do?

- A. It checks the sound.
- B. It records the sound.
- C. It responds to sound.
- D. It reacts to low frequencies.

7. After the anti-noise devices were installed, the life of the people living near the railway was:

- A. comforted.
- B. consoled.
- C. enlivened.
- D. eased.

8. Because of anti-noise, propeller-driven aircraft are:

FCE Reading Sample Tests, Part 1

- A. making a come-back.
- B. cropping up.
- C. being renovated.
- D. becoming fashionable.

9. Cars will have anti-noise devices because they:

- A. make the streets quieter.
- B. reduce back-pressure.
- C. improve fuel consumption.
- D. remove the need for sound-absorbing chamber

PART 1: Comprehension Multiple Choice

Check your answers.

- 1. D
- 2. C
- 3. A
- 4. D
- 5. D
- 6. A
- 7. D
- 8. A
- 9. C

## SAMPLE 3

Choose the answers you think fit best according to the text.

### FAT

One day, 43 years old, Walter Hudson walked out of the front door of his home on Long Island for the first time in 17 years. He sat down on a specially made concrete chair and told the reporters and TV cameras assembled there, "This is the best day of my life." A bit unsteady on his feet, having spent the past 28 years in bed, he looked half the man he used to be: that is, he had cut himself back from 600 kilo to just 300.

Although few Americans aspire to Walter's size, 34 million of them are heavier than they ought to be. So, a few years ago, when Walter fell out of bed and was stuck on the floor until the fire brigade came to help him up, there was some general sympathy with his predicament. Walter explained: "As long as I lay in bed, my size never bothered me. It never even dawned upon me that I couldn't do what I wanted to until the day I fell and couldn't get up. That was the complete turn-around that made me want to change my life." The publicity which resulted changed his life. More than one thousand people contacted him. He set up a hotline to his home, and now spends a lot of time talking to fellow-sufferers. A true American, he has marketed his own brand of powdered food formula called "Bio-Nutrition".

In the case of the severely obese, drastic answers may be necessary. In America, obesity is seen as an illness, a disease, and treated accordingly. In extreme cases, surgery could be recommended. Surgery was first used in America during the 50s with an operation to short-circuit the small bowel in order to prevent the absorption of fats. Weight was lost but some of the side-effects of the operation turned out to be fatal. In 1981, in Iowa, the first gastroplasty operation was performed. The stomach was stitched across, horizontally, so that only half of it could be used. The latest development, an alternative to surgery, is to have a balloon put in the stomach. There are 20,000 people in America walking around with balloons in their stomachs. The balloon is made of specially prepared rubber, is inflated in the stomach and left there for three months. The big danger is deflation and blockage of the bowels. Otherwise, it's like having permanently just eaten a ham sandwich.

All her life, Barbara Quelch had weighed 140 kilo. She was successful, the director of an advertising agency and the mother of four children. She had made several attempts to lose weight, even going to the lengths of having her jaws wired. She explained: "It was very antisocial and over nine months I cut my weight down by half. However, when my jaws were unwired, I soon returned to my usual weight. I didn't suffer as much as other fat people. I had a full and happy life. But I got out of breath very quickly, and was tired and irritable a lot of the time. Then I had the gastroplasty operation. I lost weight within days. I could only take fluids for the first two months after the operation, and in the following five months I lost three kilo a week. I still can't eat certain foods, such as meat and potatoes. Most of my meals wouldn't fill a saucer. I am often sick after meals, but I don't regret a thing. I have always wanted to wear modern clothes and now I can go to a shop and choose what I want instead of having to take something because it fits. I am more assertive now. I used to be quieter and didn't want to do anything in case it drew attention to my figure. Now I say what I like. I

don't care what people think any more. It's not a miracle. The stomach can stretch again, usually after three years, so it is important to eat small amounts of food, often. If this fails there is nothing else. It is a last resort."

1. Which do you think is the most appropriate title? Problems of
  - A. Diet
  - B. Obesity
  - C. Health
  - D. Fat
  
2. Walter Hudson
  - A. was slim at last.
  - B. sat in a wheelchair.
  - C. seemed depressed.
  - D. wasn't able to walk properly.
  
3. After Walter fell out of bed,
  - A. people felt sorry for him.
  - B. the police were called.
  - C. the neighbors helped him up.
  - D. he decided life was better in bed.
  
4. His life changed because
  - A. he had a telephone installed.
  - B. he went into business.
  - C. people wrote to him.
  - D. he received a lot of publicity.
  
5. Surgery was first used to help people lose weight by
  - A. removing the small bowel.
  - B. reducing the size of the stomach.
  - C. inflating balloons.
  - D. sending food direct to the large bowel.
  
6. People with a balloon in their stomach
  - A. have to be careful not to eat too much.
  - B. must see their doctor monthly.
  - C. can only eat one sandwich.
  - D. have to be careful to avoid punctures.
  
7. According to Barbara Quelch, the big problem with having your jaws wired together is that
  - A. you can't speak to people.
  - B. you can't eat.

FCE Reading Sample Tests, Part 1

- C. you don't lose weight.
- D. it takes too long.

8. After she had had her gastroplasty operation, Barbara

- A. could eat anything she wanted.
- B. felt ill a lot of the time.
- C. took up wearing fashionable clothes.
- D. was much more self-confident.

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PART 1: Comprehension Multiple Choice

Check your answers:

- 1. B
- 2. D
- 3. A
- 4. D
- 5. D
- 6. D
- 7. A
- 8. D

## Sample 4

Choose the answers you think fit best according to the text.

### OZONE

In 1928, Thomas Midgley, a scientist and engineer in America, found a way to use chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) as a refrigerant. They proved to be a valuable compound, stable, non-poisonous, non-corrosive, non-flammable.

Their low thermal conductivity made them ideal for coolants in refrigerators and air-conditioners. In the Second World War, CFCs were widely used as cleaning solvents and in plastic foam for food and drink containers, and the insulation of buildings.

These are the products which, doubling in output every ten years, have contributed to the destruction of the ozone layer, the thin veil in the stratosphere which protects animals and plants from disease and, possibly, extinction.

Other man-made chemicals, apart from CFCs, are eating ozone molecules. Among them are halon gases used in fire extinguishers, aerosols, and refrigerators, and two compounds widely used as solvents: methyl chloroform and carbon tetrachloride. Their combined reaction on the ozone layer is devastating, allowing ultraviolet rays from the sun, known as UV-Bs, to bombard the earth.

UV-Bs cause skin cancer. Medical journals in Australia say two-thirds of the population alive today will develop some form of skin cancer. More than 250,000 of the continent's 16 million inhabitants will develop the deadliest of all, malignant melanoma.

UV-Bs can damage the immune system and leave you open to infectious diseases. They damage your eyes, burning the cornea, injuring the retina and generating cataracts. In southern Chile, blindness has begun to strike humans, sheep, rabbits and horses. The radiation kills off the plankton on which larger sea creatures depend, and in southern Chile a 12 per cent reduction in plankton has been measured.

The scientists who know about the ozone layer are worried. They give three reasons for their pessimism:

1. ozone depletion is now general over the globe, and occurring twice as fast as had been predicted: according to reports, in the first two months of this year, parts of the ozone layer shrank by 20 per cent, and levels of chlorine, the ozone-eating chemical, were 70 times higher than normal;
2. Depletion is now being caused by the CFCs released in the mid-1970s, and so the chemicals being released now will endanger our children;
3. No one knows what the cumulative effects of the depletion of the ozone layer will be, but they do know that things from now on are going to change very quickly indeed.

FCE Reading Sample Tests, Part 1

1. Which title would best suit the passage?
  - A. CFCs: from Coolers to Cancers
  - B. The Ozone Layer
  - C. UV-B and Skin Cancer
  - D. Worries about the Ozone Layer
  
2. As CFCs are non-corrosive, they don't
  - A. poison food.
  - B. cause explosions.
  - C. eat metals.
  - D. damage plastics.
  
3. CFCs were used in drink containers because they
  - A. are easily moulded.
  - B. are light-weight
  - C. don't conduct heat.
  - D. are stable compounds.
  
4. How rapidly was the use of CFCs increasing?
  - A. Doubling every decade.
  - B. Doubling every year.
  - C. Twice as much each year.
  - D. Ten per cent every year.
  
5. A solvent is used in
  - A. cooking.
  - B. lubricating.
  - C. cleaning.
  - D. sterilizing.
  
6. "Bombard" is a word normally used with reference to
  - A. artillery fire.
  - B. heavyweight boxing.
  - C. solar radiation.
  - D. laser technology.
  
7. The opposite of "malignant" is
  - A. neutral.
  - B. benevolent.
  - C. healthy.
  - D. salubrious.
  
8. According to the text, in southern Chile, as a result of UV-B

FCE Reading Sample Tests, Part 1

- A. fish stocks are falling.
- B. fish are going blind.
- C. fish are subject to disease.
- D. fish food has been depleted.

9. Our children are in danger because

- A. CFCs take time to attack the ozone layer.
- B. CFCs are used more than ever.
- C. CFCs are cumulative.
- D. chlorine levels are rising.

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PART 1: Comprehension Multiple Choice

Check your answers.

- 1. A
- 2. C
- 3. C
- 4. A
- 5. C
- 6. A
- 7. B
- 8. D
- 9. A