

Concours OCTA

1^e promotion

Anglais



EXERCICE 1 : /10

*For each question you will see an incomplete sentence. Four words or phrases, marked **A-D** are given beneath each sentence. You are to choose the one word or phrase that best completes the sentence.*

- 1- Property taxes _____ about 40 percent of the overall tax revenue the state collects.
 - A. account for
 - B. make
 - C. are at least
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- 2- The company expects to see _____ breakeven and a 15 cent a share loss in the second quarter.
 - A. more than
 - B. approximately
 - C. more or less
 - D. somewhere between

- 3- The new service was expected to be a success; _____ very few customers upgraded their accounts
 - A. yet
 - B. just
 - C. although
 - D. moreover

- 4- _____ the end of year results were published, the managers got their bonuses.
 - A. When
 - B. While
 - C. If
 - D. Because

- 5- The flight arrives _____ Tokyo in three hours.
 - A. in
 - B. at
 - C. on
 - D. into

- 6- While the stock _____ the staff worked in the evenings.
 - A. was checked
 - B. check
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- 7- The software developers _____ investigated the latest problem.
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- 8- Commercial builders downplayed _____ a bust in the superheated housing market.
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 - D. report
- 12- We notice that payment for your electricity bill is overdue. Please note that _____ payment is not received within 7 days, your power will be cut off.
- A. until
 - B. unless
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- 13- I'd like to apologize for the noise on level 2 which is due to maintenance work _____ carried out on the premises.
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There are four underlined sections in the text. Select the one which is **wrong**.

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- A. should
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- 16- The technology, developed in coal-rich Germany in the 1920s, involves partly burning coal to turn it into a gas, then using a catalyst, usually a metal, make it a liquid.
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- A. Are
 - B. Do
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- A. she
- B. they
- C. who
- D. what

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- A. much
- B. several
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EXERCICE 2 : /10

You are going to read some reading passages, each with 2-5 questions. For each question, choose the answer which you think fits best according to the text.

Dear Helen,

I would like to congratulate you on organising such an excellent and informative workshop. I know a lot of people learnt a great deal from it. Can you pass on my thanks to Doctor Friedman for his fascinating talk on Staff Motivation? I realise how lucky we were that he was able to find the time for us. The feedback from the staff was very positive. Let's hope we actually see an improvement in staff motivation as a result!

By the way, I'm missing my list of addresses of the delegates who attended. Did I happen to leave it in your office? It's just that I haven't seen it since our meeting on Friday.

Thanks again for a great day,

Anne

- 21- What is the main objective of the message?
- A. to inform
 - B. to accuse
 - C. to make a request
 - D. to praise
- 22- What can be implied about the workshop?
- A. All the delegates were staff from the same office.
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 - D. Anne knows him better than Helen does.
- 24- What has happened to the address list?
- A. Anne has lost it.
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A new ruling which came into effect last week requires some homeowners to purchase new smoke alarms. The ordinance states that there should be a fire alarm installed in every bedroom of the house, and these alarms must comply with certain safety standards. Some local residents are displeased at these new regulations. Gwen Ellis of McKinley says that to meet with the new regulations, she has to buy five new alarms to replace the ones she installed just six months ago. With fire alarms costing up to \$20 apiece, this is an unwelcome ruling for many people. Fortunately, the McKinley Fire Department is offering grants for homeowners and will provide and install new fire alarms free of charge. If you have small children or are older than 65 years of age, you may be eligible for these. The McKinley Fire Department has 5,000 smoke alarms to give away. To inquire about obtaining a free alarm, or to find out whether you qualify, call 692-569-0372.

25- Which of the following is true about the new rule?

- A. Every house should have five fire alarms.
- B. All fire alarms must be of a certain quality.
- C. All fire alarms need to first be approved by the Fire Department.
- D. All fire alarms must be less than six months old.

26- How much do five fire alarms cost?

- A. \$20
- B. \$100
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- A. an elderly couple
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28- What does the number 5,000 refer to?

- A. the number of people who are eligible for free smoke alarms
- B. the number of smoke alarms which need to be replaced in the town of McKinley
- C. the number of smoke alarms which have already been installed by the Fire Department
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29- Why did Gwen Ellis have to buy new smoke alarms?

- A. her old alarms stopped working
- B. she now has a young family
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Do you feel stressed? Chances are, you do. Levels of stress in our society are increasing more and more these days, and this is true for both workers and students. There are a number of ways you can relieve stress, but there are also several ways in which you can avoid stress in the first place, and this article will focus on these. Here are four things you should avoid like the plague if you want to develop a more peaceful lifestyle.

What's the first thing you do when you get home after a stressful day at work or college? Many of us collapse on the couch and reach for the TV remote. Don't do it! Not only does the TV fill your living room with the stressful lives of on-screen characters, think about commercials. The aim of advertising is to make people feel that their lives are inadequate and unfulfilled. They often bring out negative emotions in viewers.

And while we are on the subject of television, have you noticed how much of the news we watch is bad news? Research states that over 90% of the news we watch, read or hear on the radio is bad news. In order to sell stories, the media bombard us with negative story after negative story. What is more, the stories which are reported are often ones which you have no control over, and this leads to a sense of powerlessness. Why not buy a local paper instead? The news is often far more optimistic, and you may be inspired to take action in a way that can have a positive effect on your own neighbourhood.

Avoiding television may also help you avoid another sort of stress – arguments. How often do you and your family row about what to watch on the television? Arguments will never help you feel better, and no-one ever wins an argument. When you feel that an argument is brewing, go for a walk or find a quiet place where you calm down, or you will only prolong the tension.

The last thing to avoid is caffeine. Anything which contains caffeine, and that includes coffee, tea, chocolate and even a nice soothing cup of cocoa, is a stimulant, and is more likely to keep you tense than relax you. Sugary drinks are also going to keep you buzzing. Have a cup of herbal tea and eat foods which are natural rather than processed.

30- What is the text about?

- A. Ways to relieve stress
- B. How to prevent stress
- C. Reasons why stress levels are increasing
- D. The consequences of a stressful lifestyle

31- Why does the writer consider commercials stressful?

- A. They often depict characters in stressful situations
- B. They make people worry about money
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32- Why, according to the writer, do news stories often depress us?

- A. The stories highlight problems in the local neighbourhood
- B. The stories address problems that the reader cannot control
- C. The stories describe people who are powerless
- D. The stories force readers to take action

33- What does the writer suggest you do if you feel angry with someone?

- A. Have a big argument
- B. Have some quiet time alone
- C. Turn the television on
- D. Brew a cup of tea

34- Which drink does the writer recommend when you feel stressed?

- A. herbal tea
- B. cocoa
- C. a sugary drink
- D. coffee

We are delighted to offer for sale this dry cleaning company which was established 13 years ago. It has been in the hands of the current owner for the last 7 years, who now intends to relocate. It is located on a busy high street and is part of a parade of shops.

The business provides a dry cleaning service, alterations, shoe repairs and a free collection and delivery service. The positive attributes of the business are :

- ✓ Loyal clientele
- ✓ Fully equipped premises
- ✓ Turnover of \$105,600 pa
- ✓ An easily run operation
- ✓ Loyal, trained staff
- ✓ Low rent, rates and overheads
- ✓ A niche operation with little competition
- ✓ Good local reputation

The concern currently employs 1 full time employee who has a good understanding of the business. Until now, she has not had a management role, as the owner has had full involvement in the day to day running of the business. However, she is very capable of managing. If required, the owner would be able to provide extensive training to the new owners during the handover period. The owner would also be happy for prospective buyers to observe the business at work prior to making an offer. The business is located in an affluent area with good pedestrian flow and is well-known. Consequently, marketing and promotion has not been deemed necessary in the past few years. There are 15 years remaining on the lease. This is renewable or negotiable for longer term if required. The rent is \$30,000 pa, and rates are \$4,200.

35- What is the purpose of this article?

- A. to advertise a service
- B. to give business advice
- C. to sell a business
- D. to offer a job

36- Which of the following is NOT a benefit of this business?

- A. There is a good customer base
- B. There are no similar businesses locally
- C. The business is located in a rich area
- D. The business has a six-figure annual profit

37- According to the text, the current owner...

- A. is moving to another area.
- B. never managed the business.
- C. is planning to retire.
- D. is female.

38- What has the owner promised to do before handing the business over?

- A. extend the lease
- B. promote the business locally
- C. instruct the new owners
- D. hire a new manager

Read the two emails and answer the questions.

Dear Barbara,

Regarding the marquee that you would like to hire from our community group, I spoke with our committee last night and this is no problem. We could hire you one of our marquees at a cost of \$100 from now until the week after the arts festival if you'd like. The only conditions are that a) your company ensures that the marquee is covered on your insurance for the period of the hire and b) that it is returned to us in the same condition by 15th May.

If you do decide to go ahead, you can collect it from the community hall on a Monday or Thursday between 1800 and 1900.

You may be interested to know that we are planning to sell one of our marquees. We currently have two (one slightly smaller than the other). We are undecided yet which one we would want to sell (the smaller one is newer and therefore in better condition). If you did end up buying one, we'd knock the \$100 hire fee off the final cost.

Let me know if you've any questions – you can call me if you would like to discuss this further.

Thanks

David



Dear David,

Many thanks for your email regarding the marquee. We'd like to go ahead and borrow it please. I will send one of my colleagues over on Monday evening to collect it, if that's all right with you. He has a van, which I dare say will make transportation easier.

You mentioned you have two marquees. Could you confirm whether you will be lending us the large one or the smaller one? We require enough space to accommodate 30 guests, so although the smaller one is in better condition, the larger one may suit our needs better. Could you send me information about their dimensions.

Regarding the sale of your marquees, I will speak to our events committee, but I don't think it is likely that we will want to buy, as we only hold events like this on a very occasional basis.

Thanks for your help,

Barbara

39- Why does Barbara need a marquee?

- A. for a committee meeting
- B. for a community group project
- C. for an arts festival
- D. for overnight accommodation

40- What is Barbara likely to do next?

- A. buy a marquee
- B. arrange a collection time
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Correction

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- G. **instruct the new owners**
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