



CANDIDATE – PLEASE NOTE!

PRINT your name on the line below and return this booklet with your answer sheet. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.

TEST CODE **01218010**

FORM TP 02025007

JANUARY 2025

**CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
CARIBBEAN SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE®
EXAMINATION**

ENGLISH A

Paper 01 – General Proficiency

1 hour 30 minutes

23 JANUARY 2025 (a.m.)

READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.

1. This test consists of 60 items. You will have 1 hour and 30 minutes to answer them.
2. In addition to this test booklet, you should have an answer sheet.
3. Do not be concerned that the answer sheet provides spaces for more answers than there are items in this test.
4. Each item in this test has four suggested answers lettered (A), (B), (C), (D). Read each item you are about to answer and decide which choice is best.
5. On your answer sheet, find the number which corresponds to your item and shade the space having the same letter as the answer you have chosen. Look at the sample item below.

Sample Item

Choose the word or set of words that BEST completes each sentence.

Someone who is suffering from influenza needs to be isolated as the disease is

- (A) lasting
- (B) serious
- (C) contagious
- (D) destructive

Sample Answer



The best answer to this item is “contagious”, so (C) has been shaded.

6. If you want to change your answer, erase it completely before you fill in your new choice.
7. When you are told to begin, turn the page and work as quickly and as carefully as you can. If you cannot answer an item, go on to the next one. You may return to that item later.



DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

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Items 1-5

Instructions: Each sentence has either one or two words missing. Choose the word which **BEST** completes the meaning of the sentence. Mark your choice on the answer sheet.

1. If you prepare, you have a good chance of the interviewer that you are the right person for the job.
- (A) carefully prompting
 - (B) hurriedly impressing
 - (C) thoroughly convincing
 - (D) inadequately persuading
2. The journalists were impressed by the of the statesman whose speeches had a profound on all who heard him.
- (A) eloquence effect
 - (B) presence result
 - (C) emotion sensation
 - (D) appearance reaction
3. There are many who would try to your efforts because of their jealousy.
- (A) assist
 - (B) affect
 - (C) thwart
 - (D) encourage
4. Although it is possible to move the house, the cost of moving it makes the project
- (A) popular
 - (B) impractical
 - (C) worthwhile
 - (D) inconsiderate
5. Most persons are usually those who say one thing and practise another.
- (A) sorry for
 - (B) attracted to
 - (C) mistaken about
 - (D) contemptuous of

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Items 6-10

Instructions: Each sentence in this section has ONE word underlined. Choose from the four suggested answers the word which is closest to OPPOSITE in meaning to the underlined word.

6. The views expressed by Mr Jones were inconsistent with those of the committee.
- (A) compatible
(B) challenging
(C) unpredictable
(D) irreconcilable
7. There was a mass immigration of workers from the Caribbean to the United States.
- (A) emigration
(B) deportation
(C) assimilation
(D) discrimination
8. He was eager to share the news with his friends.
- (A) worried
(B) reluctant
(C) displeased
(D) unavailable
9. The president of the students' association never mentioned the treasurer's integrity.
- (A) skill
(B) loyalty
(C) inability
(D) dishonesty
10. Stacy wanted her passport renewal to be expedited but it was not.
- (A) delayed
(B) amended
(C) submitted
(D) accelerated

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Items 11–15

Instructions: Revise each of the following sentences according to the directions that follow it. Do not change the meaning of the original sentence. Look at the options, A to D, for the word or phrase that BEST suits the revised sentence and mark your choice on the answer sheet.

11. The accident caused a lot of traffic on the highway, so we found an alternative route.

Substitute so much for a lot of

- (A) that we
- (B) when we
- (C) because we
- (D) eventually we

12. Given that the teachers had made final arrangements, they were very annoyed when only a few students showed up for the field trip.

Begin the sentence with

Since final arrangements

- (A) was made
- (B) were making
- (C) had been made
- (D) were being made

13. More is experienced in one day of the life of a learned man than an ignorant man experiences in his whole lifetime.

Begin the sentence with

A learned man

- (A) experiences more in one day
- (B) more experienced in one day
- (C) experienced more in one day
- (D) has more experience in one day

14. During my time at school, I was involved in extra-curricular activities.

Begin the sentence with

I was involved in

- (A) on staying
- (B) while I was
- (C) for my stay
- (D) when staying

15. She found, even after she had made several attempts to regulate the sprinkler, that the water was still reaching the furniture on the verandah.

Begin the sentence with

Having made

- (A) she found that
- (B) and finding that
- (C) she had found that
- (D) she was finding that

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Items 16–20

Instructions: Some of the following sentences are unacceptable because of inappropriate grammar, idiom or vocabulary. Some sentences are acceptable as they stand. No sentence contains more than one inappropriate element.

Select the ONE underlined part that is inappropriate and choose the corresponding letter, A, B, C. If the sentence is acceptable as it stands, choose D.

16. The nurses were given seperate quarters because the main building did not have enough rooms for them. (A) (B) (C) No Error (D)
17. It is my pleasure to give you some information concerning proper nutrition. (A) (B) (C) No Error (D)
18. When the museum purchased his paintings, the patrons posted many complements. (A) (B) (C) No error (D)
19. His intelligence rather than his hieght was the deciding factor when considering him for the job. (A) (B) (C) No Error (D)
20. He thought it best to sacrifice the match and submit to the ridicule of the team for his friend's sake. (A) (B) (C) No error (D)

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Items 21–25

Instructions: Each sentence in this section has ONE word underlined. Choose from the four suggested answers the word which is NEAREST IN MEANING to the underlined word.

21. It was impossible to rectify the error made by the computer since inaccurate information had been fed to it.
- (A) alter
(B) erase
(C) correct
(D) determine
22. The flowers grow profusely in the garden.
- (A) wildly
(B) healthily
(C) abundantly
(D) colourfully
23. The news story revealed the squalor of the old city.
- (A) position
(B) strength
(C) ambiance
(D) destitution
24. During the rainstorm yesterday the wind blew incessantly across the island.
- (A) noisily
(B) furiously
(C) constantly
(D) occasionally
25. For the first time in a decade the company disclosed a deficit in its account.
- (A) profit
(B) defect
(C) balance
(D) shortfall

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Items 26–30

Instructions: Read the following poem carefully and then answer Items 26–30 on the basis of what is stated or implied.

Look at the World

I look at the world
From awakening eyes in a black face—
And this is what I see:
This fenced-off narrow space
5 Assigned to me.

I look then at the silly walls
Through dark eyes in a dark face—
And this is what I know:
That all these walls oppression builds
10 Will have to go!

I look at my own body
With eyes no longer blind—
And I see that my own hands can make
The world that's in my mind.
15 Then let us hurry, comrades,
The road to find.

Langston Hughes, "I look at the world"
Retrieved from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/52005/i-look-at-the-world>.

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26. The speaker in the poem is MOST likely
- (A) an artist
 - (B) someone who was once blind
 - (C) an ex-slave fighting for freedom
 - (D) a black person sharing the experience of being black
27. In the first stanza, the speaker BEST describes
- (A) a man who has just woken up from a nap
 - (B) a person who likes to travel the world
 - (C) someone who is realizing their world is restricted
 - (D) an individual who feels uncomfortable in tight spaces
28. In stanza 2, the speaker decides that the walls of oppression are
- (A) a mental battle
 - (B) to be torn down
 - (C) too silly for any attention
 - (D) unstable and will crumble
29. The lines "This fenced-off narrow space" (line 4) and "walls oppression build" (line 9) help to develop the meaning of the poem as they
- (A) show the effects and consequences of oppression
 - (B) indicate the speaker's intention to fight against oppression
 - (C) reveal how oppression limits people's opportunities in life
 - (D) highlight how walls are used to keep people out and provide security
30. What is the overall message of the poem?
- (A) To break down walls is not as easy as building them.
 - (B) For imagination to become reality, a lot of time is needed.
 - (C) People have the power to work together to create a better world.
 - (D) Change must take place from within the individual first and then as a society.

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Items 31–38

Instructions: Read the following extract carefully and then answer Items 31–38 on the basis of what is stated or implied.

Kino and Juana came to the place where the brush houses stopped and the city of stone and plaster began, the city of harsh outer walls and inner cool gardens where a little water played and the bougainvillaea crusted the walls with purple and brick-red and white. They heard from the secret gardens the singing of caged birds and heard the splash of cooling water on hot flagstones.

5 The procession crossed the blinding plaza and passed in front of the church. It had grown now, and in the outskirts the hurrying newcomers were being softly informed how the baby had been stung by a scorpion, how the father and mother were taking it to the doctor.

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10 And the newcomers, particularly the beggars from the front of the church who were great experts in financial analysis, looked quickly at Juana's old blue skirt, saw the tears in her shawl, appraised the green ribbon on her braids, read the age of Kino's blanket and the thousand washings of his clothes, and set them down as poverty people and went along to see what kind of drama might develop. The four beggars in front of the church knew everything in the town. They were students of the expressions of young women as they went in to confession, and they saw them as they came out and read the nature of the sin. They knew every little scandal and some very big
15 crimes. They slept at their posts in the shadow of the church so that no one crept in for consolation without their knowledge. And they knew the doctor. They knew his ignorance, his cruelty, his avarice, his appetites, his sins. They knew his clumsy abortions and the little brown pennies he gave sparingly for alms.

20 They had seen his corpses go into the church. And, since early Mass was over and business was slow, they followed the procession, these endless searchers after perfect knowledge of their fellowmen, to see what the fat, lazy doctor would do about an indigent baby with a scorpion bite.

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25 The scurrying procession came at last to the big gate in the wall of the doctor's house. They could hear the splashing of the water and the singing of caged birds and the sweep of the long brooms on the flagstones. And they could smell the frying of good bacon from the doctor's house.

Kino hesitated a moment. This doctor was not of his people. This doctor was of a race which for nearly four hundred years had beaten and starved and robbed and despised Kino's race, and frightened it too, so that the indigent came humbly to the door. And as always when he came near to one of this race, Kino felt weak and afraid and angry at the same time. Rage and terror
30 went together. He could kill the doctor more easily than he could talk to him, for all of the doctor's race spoke to all of Kino's race as though they were simple animals. And as Kino raised his right hand to the iron ring knocker in the gate, rage swelled in him, and the pounding music of the enemy beat in his ears, and his lips drew tight against his teeth but with his left hand he reached to take off his hat. The iron ring pounded against the gate. Kino took off his hat and stood waiting.
35 Coyotito moaned a little in Juana's arms, and she spoke softly to him. The procession crowded close, the better to see and hear.

*John Steinbeck, The Pearl,
Penguin Books, 1973, pp. 9–10.*



31. The writer uses “secret” (line 4) to describe the gardens because
- (A) they were hidden from view
 - (B) the occupants whispered there
 - (C) many people did not know of them
 - (D) many treasures were concealed there
32. The word “procession” (line 5) indicates that the crowd was
- (A) going to a funeral
 - (B) moving about aimlessly
 - (C) walking together like a mob
 - (D) moving in a long orderly group
33. Which of the following statements is NOT true about the beggars?
- (A) They knew about human nature.
 - (B) They were inquisitive about people.
 - (C) They had a good relationship with the doctor.
 - (D) They knew everything that went on around them.
34. In the extract, the expression “great experts in financial analysis” (lines 8–9) means that the beggars
- (A) were able to add their alms quickly
 - (B) had many years of experience in begging
 - (C) could analyse the financial state of the country
 - (D) could immediately determine the rich from the poor
35. The description in paragraph 2 (lines 8–18) conveys to the reader the impression of
- (A) fear and hatred
 - (B) happiness and love
 - (C) harshness and poverty
 - (D) comfort and prosperity
36. According to the extract, “Kino hesitated a moment” (line 26) because he
- (A) had to calm his anger and hatred
 - (B) was afraid to approach the doctor
 - (C) wondered whether he had enough money
 - (D) wanted to kill the doctor with his bare hands
37. In the extract, the sentence “This doctor was not of his people” (line 26) suggests that the doctor
- (A) did not respect Kino’s people
 - (B) did not understand Kino’s people
 - (C) was not born in the city as Kino was
 - (D) came from a background that was different from Kino’s
38. Which of the following is NOT illustrated in the extract?
- (A) The kindness of the beggars
 - (B) The curiosity of the city people
 - (C) The suffering of Juana and Kino
 - (D) The contrast between the rich and the poor

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Instructions: Read the following extract carefully and then answer Items 39–46 on the basis of what is stated or implied.

Industrialization has created a new set of intangible threats to health. These threats have presented themselves in socially accepted forms: the socially acquired glamour of cigarette smoking, the pleasures of alcohol and the spurious release gained through drugs, which have resulted in many cases of heart disease, cancer and debility.

5 Since many developing countries are succumbing to the same habits and dependence, they lay themselves open to the same diseases. One can work by one rough rule-of-thumb, says Dr H. Hansluwka, chief statistician of the WHO's Global Epidemiological Surveillance and Health Situation Assessment: once a country achieves a life expectancy at birth of 60 years, cancer rapidly moves up in the ranking of health problems and causes of death.

10 We now need to work hard and determinedly to implement decisions on lifestyle change. These will depend on two aspects: the personal choices made and the choices that are only possible if national policies and health strategies break new ground.

15 Nothing illustrates these aspects more succinctly than smoking. About a quarter of all cigarette smokers are killed before their time by tobacco. Most would have lived on for another 5 to 30 years, the average being an extra 10 to 15 years. If they stopped smoking before they developed cancer or heart or lung disease, they could have averted the risk of dying from tobacco.

20 Government policies can strengthen individual choice and prevent the growth of the smoking habit. Restrictions on advertising and promoting cigarettes will reduce incentives to smoke; raising the cost of cigarettes lowers consumption. Health education should promote a way of life free of smoking. This is particularly necessary in developing countries, where there is generally minimal control on the promotion and sale of cigarettes.

25 Developing countries can ill afford the enormous burden of tobacco-related illness on health resources which are already overstretched. Governments may be collecting taxes and buying jobs in the growing of tobacco and the manufacture of cigarettes, but the cost of long-term medical care and inhumane suffering and premature death is expensive.

Some causes of ill health can be removed by political action and financial investment. But some, brought about by the way people live, can be removed by people deciding to change their way of living.

Source unknown

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39. According to paragraph 1 (lines 1–4), deaths from heart disease, cancer and debility are on the increase because of
- (A) the dangers posed by modern living
 - (B) traditional lifestyles in developing countries
 - (C) growing substance abuse in today's society
 - (D) longer life expectancy in recent years
40. The words “succumbing” and “dependence” (line 5) imply that the habits of cigarette smoking, alcohol and drug use
- (A) inhibit development
 - (B) are created by the users
 - (C) give rise to a state of numbness
 - (D) have an overpowering effect on people
41. The writer feels that deaths from cigarette smoking can BEST be minimized if
- (A) governments institute new policies
 - (B) countries have more creative health programmes
 - (C) individuals simplify their lifestyles in the area of health
 - (D) individuals make more personal choices about health programmes
42. From paragraphs 1 and 2 (lines 1–9), we may deduce that cancer is
- (A) on the increase in developing countries
 - (B) caused by excessive alcohol, drug and cigarette use
 - (C) more likely to cause the death of people under 60 years of age
 - (D) one major drawback to health programmes in developing countries
43. In the extract, it is suggested that one reason people smoke is that cigarette smoking
- (A) is fashionable in modern society
 - (B) provides governments with needed revenue
 - (C) provides release and relaxation for individuals
 - (D) is promoted by numerous advertisements
44. We may reasonably conclude from paragraph 4 (lines 13–16) that
- (A) most cigarette smokers die of cancer at a young age
 - (B) about a quarter of all cigarette smokers develop cancer
 - (C) cigarette smoking is linked to cancer, heart and lung diseases
 - (D) the approximate lifespan of a cigarette smoker who has cancer is 45 years
45. The word “prevent” as used in line 17 is closest in meaning to
- (A) restrict
 - (B) stabilize
 - (C) enhance
 - (D) eliminate
46. In the last paragraph (lines 26–28), which of the following is NOT suggested as a way in which dangers to health can be reduced?
- (A) Politicians becoming more responsible
 - (B) Governments implementing new policies
 - (C) Allocating funds adequately to policies
 - (D) Individuals altering patterns of living

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Items 47–54

Instructions: Read the following passage carefully and then answer Items 47–54 on the basis of what is stated or implied.

Music Too Loud, I Can't Study

THE EDITOR: I just can't take it anymore. I just can't take the noise forced on me by a restaurant and bar located across the street. The noise is unbearable and I cannot concentrate on my studies. I am writing the CXC exams in May/June this year and I must pass all my subjects. I am attending a reputable girls' school and I want to make good grades to get into the CAPE class.

5 I work hard and every report so far indicates that I am an above-average student.

I want to make my mother proud. She is a hard-working woman, especially since my father passed away two years ago. We have been struggling to make ends meet without complaint. But I must complain now because the restaurant and bar is intent on frustrating my ambitions and the sacrifices my mother is making. I appreciate the help of the Government in providing opportunities for education but this is going to be futile unless it is possible to take full advantage of them. Can you imagine having to struggle with a Math problem with thunderous noise bombarding your eardrums and everything in the house jumping up and down as if the place is haunted? Can you imagine speaking to a classmate about homework and you can't hear each other? Can you imagine stuffing cotton in your ears in order to get some sleep? Can you imagine trying to explain to your teacher that you didn't do your homework or that you sleep in class because of the noise coming from the restaurant and bar?

10
15

The noise coming from this place is a serious obstacle that I am unable to overcome and I am seeking help in dealing with it.

Can you imagine my mother and her 16-year-old daughter going to this place in the midst of riotous drinking to ask them to turn down the music because I want to study or just to get some sleep? I understand that residents have been calling the police but the response has been ineffective. At the moment of writing this letter (Sunday 19, at 9:30 a.m.) they are blasting away after going late into last night.

20

Under the guise of Carnival they will continue their merciless onslaught. From Carnival Friday night right up until Ash Wednesday morning they will continue non-stop. There will be total madness.

25

*"Music too loud, I Can't Study",
Newsday, 23 February, 2008.*

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47. "I just can't take it anymore" (line 1) implies that the writer is
- (A) crying
 - (B) arguing
 - (C) shouting
 - (D) frustrated
48. The sentence "I work hard and every report so far indicates that I am an above-average student" (line 5) suggests that the writer
- (A) is boastful
 - (B) is pleading
 - (C) is about to fail her examinations
 - (D) wants to sustain this performance
49. The effect that is created by the repetition of "I" in the first paragraph can be BEST described as highlighting the writer's
- (A) distress
 - (B) arguments
 - (C) impression
 - (D) misunderstandings
50. Which of the following language devices does the writer use MOST in paragraph 2 to explain her plight?
- (A) Pun
 - (B) Contrast
 - (C) Allusion
 - (D) Rhetorical question
51. Which of the following words BEST conveys the emotion that the writer is seeking to arouse in the reader?
- (A) Love
 - (B) Anger
 - (C) Horror
 - (D) Empathy
52. Lines 11–12, "thunderous noise bombarding your eardrums...", are an example of
- (A) irony
 - (B) hyperbole
 - (C) alliteration
 - (D) personification
53. What effect does the writer achieve when she says "Can you imagine my mother and her 16-year-old daughter going to this place in the midst of riotous drinking ..." (lines 19–20)?
- (A) Criticism for their actions in going to a bar
 - (B) Admiration from the reader for the women's courage
 - (C) Scorn for the women's behaviour in going into a bar
 - (D) Surprise that the women should hesitate to go to a bar
54. The last sentence of the passage expresses the view that
- (A) the noise will become worse
 - (B) carnival will be more festive
 - (C) the writer will become hysterical
 - (D) the writer's mother will quarrel with the restaurant owner

Items 55–60

Instructions: Read the following advertisement carefully and then answer Items 55–60 on the basis of what is stated or implied.

Body Mass Index

Body Mass Index (BMI) relates a person’s weight to his or her height. Clinical researchers use the following guidelines regarding a person’s BMI and possible health risks.

BMI Category	Health Risk Based Solely on BMI	Risk Adjusted for the Presence of Other Health Conditions and/or Risk Factors (such as hypertension, diabetes and heart attack)
19–24	Minimal	Low
25–26	Low	Moderate
27–29	Moderate	High
30–34	High	Very high
35–39	Very high	Extremely high

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55. Considering only the BMI values, which of the ranges suggests the lowest health risk?

- (A) 19–24
- (B) 25–26
- (C) 30–34
- (D) 35–39

56. Which BMI range is considered to have a moderate health risk when risk is adjusted for other health conditions and risk factors?

- (A) 19–24
- (B) 25–26
- (C) 27–29
- (D) 30–34

57. Mr Adams has a BMI of 32. Considering only his BMI, Mr Adams' health risk can be categorized as

- (A) low
- (B) high
- (C) minimal
- (D) very high

58. Mrs Adams visited her doctor who indicated that her BMI is in the range 35–39. The doctor MOST likely suggested to Mrs Adams that she has

- (A) a weakened immune system
- (B) an enhanced body muscle mass
- (C) an increased risk of having a heart attack
- (D) a decreased risk of being diagnosed with obesity and diabetes

59. Which of the following categories of persons would MOST likely use this information in their daily occupations?

- (A) Teachers and educators
- (B) Architects and designers
- (C) Athletes and psychologists
- (D) Nutritionists and dietitians

60. Public health campaigns might find the concept of BMI and its associated health risks important to communicate to the general population in order to

- (A) encourage fad dieting
- (B) promote cosmetic surgery options
- (C) emphasize the importance of regular exercise
- (D) educate individuals about potential health risks related to weight

END OF TEST

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS TEST.



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