

Use of English Part 1

1 Quickly read the text. What is the text probably an extract from?

- a a novel
- b a travel guide
- c a news story

2 Look at options A–D for each gap and decide what kind of word they all are.

Example: 0 nouns

Now do the exam task.



Exam task

For questions 1–12, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example: 0 A idea B effect C belief D thought

Arriving in Shanghai

Flying in low over Shanghai gives some (0) A of the enormous size of China's commercial capital, which now has (1) over 20 million inhabitants and is still growing fast. As you walk into the magnificent new (2) for international flights, you soon become conscious (3) the fact that you are arriving in one of the world's great cities.

(4) the distance you can see ships of all shapes and sizes approaching Shanghai from the East China Sea, as they have done for centuries. On the other side of the airport, in (5), is the amazing Maglev train, which travels above the track and is (6) of reaching speeds of over 430 kilometres per hour.

(7) the line stops well short of the centre of town, the Maglev is definitely the most exciting way to reach the city. (8) you have got off the train, the best way to continue is to take the Metro, although during the morning and evening rush (9) it may not be the most comfortable way to travel as inevitably it becomes (10) crowded.

If you're not carrying much luggage, you may want to get off at Lujiazui station, just before the wide river that runs through the city centre. There in Pudong you will be surrounded by some of the world's tallest buildings, along (11) one of its most elegant: the Jinmao Tower. From Pudong, taking the ferry across the river offers (12) the best views of downtown Shanghai, especially at night when all the buildings are beautifully lit up.

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 A right | B away | C far | D well |
| 2 A harbour | B terminal | C gallery | D headquarters |
| 3 A of | B through | C about | D to |
| 4 A On | B By | C In | D For |
| 5 A spite | B comparison | C relation | D contrast |
| 6 A likely | B able | C capable | D possible |
| 7 A At least | B In fact | C Owing to | D Even though |
| 8 A Soon | B Once | C Next | D Then |
| 9 A times | B periods | C hours | D moments |
| 10 A totally | B extremely | C completely | D absolutely |
| 11 A past | B at | C with | D from |
| 12 A by far | B in all | C much of | D close to |

Writing Part 1 formal letter

1 Look at the exam task instructions and answer these questions.

- 1 What is the situation?
- 2 Who is the letter from?
- 3 What must you include in your reply?

2 Find formal expressions in Ms Liu's letter with these meanings.

- 1 thanks a lot for writing
- 2 also
- 3 please
- 4 somewhere nice to stay
- 5 should we
- 6 because
- 7 please write back soon
- 8 goodbye

Exam task

Some English-speaking people are coming to your country and you are helping to organise their visit. Read the letter you have received from Ming Liu, the leader of the group, and the notes you have made. Then write a letter to Ms Liu, using all your notes. Write your answer in 120–150 words in an appropriate style.

Thank you very much for your recent letter. We would like to know whether there is a festival or similar kind of traditional event in your country which we might enjoy attending in the spring of next year.

Say which and describe

We are considering a number of possible dates for our visit. Would April 1–7 be a good time for us to come?

No, because ...

Additionally, I would be grateful if you could tell me where we might find suitable accommodation there. Would it be advisable for us to book in advance?

Suggest

Finally, in view of the fact that it will be our first visit, please let us have any other information that may be useful.

Give details

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Ming Liu

3 Read the model letter and answer these questions.

- 1 Where does Pila cover the points in the handwritten notes?
- 2 Which words and phrases are too informal for this kind of letter? Replace these with more formal language.



Hi Ming,

Great to hear from you. I'd suggest the Fallas in Valencia – I'm sure you'd all love it. There are giant figures of people from films, sport, politics, etc., as well as dancing in traditional costumes and lots of fireworks. It must be the noisiest festival in the world!

April 1–7 wouldn't be a good time to go because it'll have finished by then. It officially starts on March 15 and finishes four days later, though the week before is fun too.

There are plenty of modern hotels in Valencia, but I'd recommend staying at a smaller place right in the city centre. I'd certainly advise booking ahead.

Try to get rooms overlooking the street so you can see what's going on and feel the exciting atmosphere. Also, while you're there make sure you try the best dish in Spain: paella!

Write again soon.

Best wishes,

Pilar

4 Plan and write your letter. Write one or two sentences about each of the handwritten notes.