Use of English C1 – Test 1

Name: Class: Date: Score: / 36

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Choose the correct option (A, B, C or D) for each question.

Part 1: Multiple-choice cloze

Read the text and choose the word or phrase that best fits each gap.

Slow travel: the journey as the destination

For decades, the conventional (1) ___ was that a good holiday meant covering as much ground as possible in as little time as possible. Increasingly, however, travellers are (2) ___ the opposite approach. Rather than ticking off five cities in a week, they choose a single region and stay long enough to get under its skin.

Advocates of slow travel argue that rushing from one landmark to the next leaves visitors with little more than a blur of photographs. By contrast, spending a fortnight in one village allows you to strike (3) ___ conversations with locals, learn a few phrases of the language and get a (4) ___ for the rhythms of daily life. Many find that it is the unplanned moments, rather than the famous sights, that (5) ___ the most lasting impression.

There are practical benefits, too. Travelling overland by train or bus is often cheaper than it first appears, and it (6) ___ you the stress of airports. Admittedly, not everyone can (7) ___ to take several weeks off work, and critics point out that slow travel can be something of a luxury. Nevertheless, even a modest shift, such as replacing a short flight with a scenic rail journey, can make a (8) ___ difference to how a trip feels.

Ultimately, slow travel is less about the speed of transport than a state of mind. It asks us to (9) ___ our expectations and accept that we cannot see everything, and that this is perfectly fine.

1. (1) For decades, the conventional _____ was that a good holiday meant covering as much ground as possible.
   A knowledge **B** wisdom **C** sense **D** intelligence

2. (2) Increasingly, however, travellers are _____ the opposite approach.
   A obtaining **B** gaining **C** adopting **D** acquiring

3. (3) …spending a fortnight in one village allows you to strike _____ conversations with locals.
   A out **B** off **C** in **D** up

4. (4) …and get a _____ for the rhythms of daily life.
   A feel **B** touch **C** grip **D** sense

5. (5) …it is the unplanned moments, rather than the famous sights, that _____ the most lasting impression.
   A put **B** leave **C** set **D** place

6. (6) …and it _____ you the stress of airports.
   A prevents **B** avoids **C** protects **D** spares

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7. (7) Admittedly, not everyone can _____ to take several weeks off work.
   A allow **B** permit **C** afford **D** spare

8. (8) ...can make a _____ difference to how a trip feels.
   A noticeable **B** wide **C** heavy **D** deep

9. (9) It asks us to _____ our expectations and accept that we cannot see everything.
   A turn down **B** cut off **C** scale back **D** put off

Part 2: Open cloze (multiple choice)

Read the text and choose the grammar word that best fits each gap.

Why we put things off

Almost everyone has, at (10) ___ point, delayed a task they knew was important. For a long time, procrastination was dismissed as simple laziness, but researchers now believe it has (11) ___ to do with time management than with emotions.

According to one widely discussed theory, we avoid tasks (12) ___ make us feel anxious, bored or insecure. Scrolling through messages offers instant relief, (13) ___ only temporarily. The unpleasant feelings return, often stronger than before, (14) ___ the deadline approaches.

What, then, can be done? (15) ___ than relying on willpower alone, experts suggest breaking a large task into smaller steps. Not only (16) ___ this make the work seem more manageable, but each completed step also provides a small sense of achievement. Another strategy is to forgive yourself for past delays. Studies have found that students (17) ___ forgave themselves for procrastinating before one exam were less likely to do so before the next.

None of this means that procrastination can be eliminated entirely. However, understanding (18) ___ drives it is the first step towards keeping it under control.

10. (10) Almost everyone has, at _____ point, delayed a task they knew was important.
    A any **B** some **C** every **D** all

11. (11) ...researchers now believe it has _____ to do with time management than with emotions.
    A fewer **B** little **C** least **D** less

12. (12) ...we avoid tasks _____ make us feel anxious, bored or insecure.
    A that **B** what **C** whose **D** where

13. (13) Scrolling through messages offers instant relief, _____ only temporarily.
    A despite **B** albeit **C** unless **D** whereas

14. (14) The unpleasant feelings return, often stronger than before, _____ the deadline approaches.
    A so **B** unless **C** as **D** despite

15. (15) _____ than relying on willpower alone, experts suggest breaking a large task into smaller steps.
    A Other **B** Instead **C** More **D** Rather

16. (16) Not only _____ this make the work seem more manageable, but each completed step also provides a small sense of achievement.
    A is **B** does **C** has **D** do

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17. (17) Studies have found that students _____ forgave themselves for procrastinating before one exam were less likely to do so before the next.
    A whom **B** which **C** who **D** whose

18. (18) However, understanding _____ drives it is the first step towards keeping it under control.
    A what **B** that **C** how **D** whose

Part 3: Word formation

Choose the correct form of the word in capitals to complete each sentence.

19. The committee's decision was met with widespread _____ from local residents. (APPROVE)
    A unapproval **B** disapproving **C** disapproval **D** approvement

20. The museum saw a sharp drop in _____ after ticket prices were raised. (ATTEND)
    A attention **B** attendance **C** attendant **D** attendee

21. It is _____ to expect a beginner to master the software in a single afternoon. (REAL)
    A unrealistic **B** unreal **C** unrealistically **D** irrealistic

22. The new manager has a reputation for being highly _____, often changing plans at the last minute. (PREDICT)
    A unpredicted **B** unpredictably **C** predictive **D** unpredictable

23. Despite repeated warnings, the company continued to _____ the risks involved. (ESTIMATE)
    A estimation **B** underestimate **C** underestimation **D** estimative

24. The two reports were written _____ of each other, yet they reached the same conclusions. (DEPEND)
    A independent **B** independence **C** independently **D** dependently

25. The film's _____ ending left many viewers wanting a sequel. (RESOLVE)
    A unresolved **B** irresolute **C** unresolving **D** resolution

26. Recent _____ in battery technology have made electric bikes far more practical. (BREAK)
    A breakdowns **B** outbreaks **C** breakages **D** breakthroughs

27. The scheme was praised for its _____, allowing staff to choose when and where they work. (FLEX)
    A flexibleness **B** flexibility **C** flexion **D** inflexibility

Part 4: Key word transformations

Choose the sentence that uses the word in capitals and has the same meaning as the first sentence.

28. I'm sure Tom didn't take your keys on purpose. (CAN'T)
    A Tom can't take your keys on purpose.
    B Tom can't have taken your keys on purpose.
    C Tom can't have took your keys on purpose.
    D Tom can't had taken your keys on purpose.

29. It was only when she read the letter that she understood what had happened. (UNTIL)
    A Not until she read the letter she understood what had happened.
    B Until she read the letter did she understand what had happened.
    C Not until she read the letter did she understand what had happened.
    D Not until she had read the letter she did understand what had happened.

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30. People say that the castle was built in the twelfth century. (SAID)
    A The castle is said to have been built in the twelfth century.
    B The castle is said to be built in the twelfth century.
    C The castle was said to have built in the twelfth century.
    D It is said the castle to have been built in the twelfth century.

31. I regret not accepting the job offer. (WISH)
    A I wish I accepted the job offer.
    B I wish I would accept the job offer.
    C I wish I hadn't accepted the job offer.
    D I wish I had accepted the job offer.

32. The meeting was cancelled because so few people could attend. (CALLED)
    A The meeting was called out because so few people could attend.
    B The meeting was called up since so few people could attend.
    C The meeting was called off due to the low number of people able to attend.
    D The meeting was called off because of so few people could attend.

33. You should have told me you were coming. (OUGHT)
    A You ought have told me you were coming.
    B You ought to have told me you were coming.
    C You ought to told me you were coming.
    D You oughtn't to have told me you were coming.

34. Although he had very little experience, he was given the job. (SPITE)
    A In spite of he had very little experience, he was given the job.
    B In spite having very little experience, he was given the job.
    C In spite of having so little experience, he wasn't given the job.
    D In spite of having very little experience, he was given the job.

35. I didn't recognise her at first because she had changed so much. (SUCH)
    A She had changed to such an extent that I didn't recognise her at first.
    B She had changed such much that I didn't recognise her at first.
    C She had changed to such extent that I didn't recognise her at first.
    D Such had she changed that I didn't recognise her at first.

36. There's no point in arguing with him; he never changes his mind. (WORTH)
    A It's not worth to argue with him; he never changes his mind.
    B It's not worth arguing with him; he never changes his mind.
    C It isn't worth for arguing with him; he never changes his mind.
    D It's not worthy arguing with him; he never changes his mind.

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Answer key – Use of English C1 – Test 1

1 B	2 C	3 D	4 A	5 B	6 D	7 C	8 A	9 C	10 B
11 D	12 A	13 B	14 C	15 D	16 B	17 C	18 A	19 C	20 B
21 A	22 D	23 B	24 C	25 A	26 D	27 B	28 B	29 C	30 A
31 D	32 C	33 B	34 D	35 A	36 B				

Explanations

1. **B** – 'Conventional wisdom' is a fixed collocation meaning the generally accepted belief.
2. **C** – We 'adopt an approach'. The other verbs do not collocate with 'approach'.
3. **D** – 'Strike up a conversation' is the phrasal verb meaning to start talking to someone.
4. **A** – 'Get a feel for something' means to begin to understand it through experience.
5. **B** – 'Leave an impression' is the standard collocation.
6. **D** – Only 'spare' takes the pattern 'spare someone something', meaning to save them from something unpleasant.
7. **C** – 'Can afford to do something' means to be able to do it without serious difficulty.
8. **A** – 'A noticeable difference' is a natural collocation. 'Wide', 'heavy' and 'deep' do not collocate with 'difference'.
9. **C** – 'Scale back' means to reduce something, here our expectations.
10. **B** – 'At some point' means at an unspecified time and fits an affirmative sentence.
11. **D** – 'Have less to do with X than with Y' is a comparative with an uncountable idea, so 'less' is needed.
12. **A** – A defining relative pronoun referring to 'tasks' is needed as the subject of 'make'.
13. **B** – 'Albeit' means 'although' and can be followed directly by an adverb or phrase without a verb.
14. **C** – 'As' here means 'while/at the same time that' and describes a gradual process.
15. **D** – 'Rather than' means 'instead of'. 'Instead' is not followed by 'than'.
16. **B** – After 'Not only' we use inversion, and the present simple needs the auxiliary 'does' with a singular subject.
17. **C** – 'Who' is the subject relative pronoun for people. 'Whom' is used for objects.
18. **A** – 'What' means 'the thing that' and introduces a noun clause acting as the object of 'understanding'.
19. **C** – A noun is needed, and the negative noun of 'approve' is 'disapproval'.
20. **B** – 'Attendance' is the uncountable noun for the number of people who go to a place or event.
21. **A** – An adjective meaning 'not sensible or achievable' is needed: 'unrealistic'.
22. **D** – An adjective describing a person whose behaviour cannot be foreseen is needed: 'unpredictable'.
23. **B** – A verb is needed after 'continued to', and 'underestimate' fits the meaning of ignoring warnings.
24. **C** – An adverb is needed to modify 'were written', in the fixed pattern 'independently of'.
25. **A** – An adjective meaning 'not settled or concluded' is needed: 'unresolved'.
26. **D** – 'Breakthroughs' are important new discoveries or developments, which fits the context.
27. **B** – The standard noun form meaning 'the ability to adapt' is 'flexibility'.
28. **B** – Negative deduction about the past uses 'can't have' plus a past participle.
29. **C** – 'Not until + clause' at the start of a sentence requires inversion in the main clause: 'did she understand'.
30. **A** – A present report about a past passive action uses 'is said to have been' plus a past participle.
31. **D** – Regret about the past is expressed with 'wish' plus the past perfect, and the meaning must stay positive ('had accepted').
32. **C** – 'Call off' means 'cancel', and 'due to' is correctly followed by a noun phrase.
33. **B** – 'Ought to have' plus a past participle criticises a past action, just like 'should have'.
34. **D** – 'In spite of' is followed by a noun or -ing form, and the meaning must stay the same.
35. **A** – 'To such an extent that' is the correct fixed phrase, and it needs the article 'an'.

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36. **B** – 'It's (not) worth' is followed directly by the -ing form of the verb.

Notes for teachers: Use the test as a timed practice paper (about 45 minutes) or set each part as a separate lesson warm-up. The distractors target typical C1 errors: wrong collocates, particle confusion, faulty inversion, wrong negative prefixes and transformations that change the meaning. After marking, ask students to explain why each distractor is wrong. Then ask them to write their own transformation items using the same key words.

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