Use of English C1 – Test 2

Name: Class: Date: Score: / 36

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Read each item carefully and choose the one correct option (A, B, C or D).

Part 1: Multiple-choice cloze

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

In many towns, a quiet revolution is (1) ___ place in community halls and libraries. Once a month, volunteers set up tables, plug in their tools and offer to fix whatever local people bring along, from wobbly chairs to broken toasters. These so-called repair cafés were originally (2) ___ up as a response to the growing mountain of household waste, but they have come to mean much more than that.

For one thing, they challenge the assumption that it is always cheaper to replace than to repair. Many visitors are surprised to learn that a fault which seemed fatal can be (3) ___ down to a single loose wire. For another, they (4) ___ a need that has little to do with electronics. Regulars often say that the chance to chat over a cup of tea is what keeps them coming back, and organisers are well (5) ___ that the social side matters as much as the technical one.

The volunteers themselves come from all (6) ___ of life. Some are retired engineers; others are students who simply enjoy taking things apart. What they share is a reluctance to (7) ___ up on objects that still have years of use left in them. Rather than doing the work for visitors, they try to involve them, so that people leave not only with a working lamp but with the confidence to (8) ___ a go at the next repair themselves.

Critics point out that a monthly event can hardly make a (9) ___ in the vast amount of waste produced each year. Supporters, however, argue that changing attitudes has to start somewhere.

1. (1) In many towns, a quiet revolution is _____ place in community halls and libraries.
   A having **B** taking **C** making **D** getting

2. (2) These so-called repair cafés were originally _____ up as a response to the growing mountain of household waste.
   A put **B** brought **C** set **D** taken

3. (3) ...a fault which seemed fatal can be _____ down to a single loose wire.
   A put **B** set **C** laid **D** brought

4. (4) For another, they _____ a need that has little to do with electronics.
   A reach **B** achieve **C** meet **D** gain

5. (5) ...organisers are well _____ that the social side matters as much as the technical one.
   A conscious **B** informed **C** aware **D** known

6. (6) The volunteers themselves come from all _____ of life.
   A paths **B** ways **C** roads **D** walks

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7. (7) What they share is a reluctance to _____ up on objects that still have years of use left in them.
   A let **B** give **C** turn **D** hold

8. (8) ...with the confidence to _____ a go at the next repair themselves.
   A make **B** take **C** try **D** have

9. (9) ...a monthly event can hardly make a _____ in the vast amount of waste produced each year.
   A dent **B** crack **C** scratch **D** bruise

Part 2: Open cloze

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

Few people would describe boredom as a pleasant experience, and most of us go to great lengths to avoid (10) ___. Yet a growing body of research suggests that boredom may serve a useful purpose. (11) ___ to some psychologists, it acts as a signal that our current activity is no longer meeting our needs, prompting us to look for something more rewarding.

In one well-known experiment, participants were asked to copy numbers from a long list for fifteen minutes before completing a creative task. Those (12) ___ had endured the dull activity came up with more original ideas than a group who had gone straight to the creative task. The researchers concluded that a wandering mind, far (13) ___ being wasted, may be quietly making new connections.

This does not mean that all boredom is beneficial. When it becomes chronic, it has (14) ___ linked to poor concentration and low mood. The problem today is that we rarely allow ourselves to stay with the feeling long enough for it to do (15) ___ good. (16) ___ soon as we sense the first hint of restlessness, we reach for our phones.

Some experts recommend building short periods of 'empty time' into the day. (17) ___ strange it may sound, sitting on a bus without headphones could turn out to be the most productive part of your morning. After all, it is only (18) ___ the mind has nothing to occupy it that it finally has the space to wander.

10. (10) ...most of us go to great lengths to avoid _____.
    A them **B** its **C** it **D** one

11. (11) _____ to some psychologists, it acts as a signal...
    A Owing **B** According **C** Due **D** Thanks

12. (12) Those _____ had endured the dull activity came up with more original ideas...
    A which **B** whose **C** whom **D** who

13. (13) ...a wandering mind, far _____ being wasted, may be quietly making new connections.
    A from **B** away **C** off **D** beyond

14. (14) When it becomes chronic, it has _____ linked to poor concentration and low mood.
    A being **B** been **C** be **D** had

15. (15) ...long enough for it to do _____ good.
    A its **B** a **C** any **D** the

16. (16) _____ soon as we sense the first hint of restlessness, we reach for our phones.
    A So **B** Too **C** Just **D** As

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17. (17) _____ strange it may sound, sitting on a bus without headphones could turn out to be...
A Although **B** However **C** Whatever **D** Even

18. (18) ...it is only _____ the mind has nothing to occupy it that it finally has the space to wander.
A unless **B** when **C** despite **D** whereas

Part 3: Word formation

Choose the form of the word in capitals that correctly completes each sentence.

19. The assembly instructions were so badly translated that they were completely _____. (COMPREHEND)
A comprehensive **B** incomprehensible **C** uncomprehending **D** comprehension

20. The rise in prices was _____ the main reason for the fall in sales. (DOUBT)
A doubtful **B** undoubted **C** undoubtedly **D** doubtfully

21. Her _____ to compromise eventually led to the collapse of the negotiations. (WILL)
A willingness **B** unwilling **C** unwillingness **D** willingly

22. The _____ of so many key players from the team left the coach with few options. (WITHDRAW)
A withdrawal **B** withdrawn **C** withdrew **D** withdrawingly

23. Compared with last year's figures, this year's drop in profits is relatively _____. (SIGNIFY)
A significance **B** insignificant **C** significantly **D** insignificance

24. Many of the town's former factories have been converted into _____ flats. (RESIDE)
A residence **B** resident **C** residential **D** residing

25. Wearing a helmet is _____ for all cyclists taking part in the race. (OBLIGE)
A obliged **B** obligatory **C** obligation **D** obliging

26. He's not really a close friend – more of a casual _____. (ACQUAINT)
A acquainted **B** acquaints **C** acquainting **D** acquaintance

27. When asked whether she would do it all again, she answered without the slightest _____. (HESITATE)
A hesitant **B** hesitation **C** hesitating **D** hesitantly

Part 4: Key word transformations

Choose the sentence that uses the word in capitals, is grammatically correct and has the same meaning as the first sentence.

28. As soon as she arrived, the meeting began. (SOONER)
A No sooner she had arrived than the meeting began.
B No sooner had she arrived than the meeting began.
C No sooner had she arrived when the meeting began.
D No sooner did she arrived than the meeting began.

29. I'd prefer you not to mention this to anyone. (RATHER)
A I'd rather you not to mention this to anyone.
B I'd rather that you won't mention this to anyone.
C I'd rather you didn't mention this to anyone.
D I'd rather you to not mention this to anyone.

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30. Paula is very likely to win the award. (CHANCE)
    A There's every chance of Paula to win the award.
    B There's every chance for Paula that wins the award.
    C Paula is every chance to win the award.
    D There's every chance that Paula will win the award.

31. They didn't finish the project because they didn't have enough money. (LACK)
    A Due to a lack of money, they didn't finish the project.
    B Due to a lack in money, they didn't finish the project.
    C Because of lack money, they didn't finish the project.
    D Due to they lacked of money, they didn't finish the project.

32. I didn't know she was ill, so I didn't visit her. (HAD)
    A If I would have known she was ill, I had visited her.
    B If I had known she was ill, I will have visited her.
    C If I had known she was ill, I would have visited her.
    D Had I knew she was ill, I would have visited her.

33. It took me a long time to get used to working at night. (ACCUSTOMED)
    A It took me a long time to become accustomed with working at night.
    B It took me a long time to become accustomed to working at night.
    C It took me a long time to become accustomed of working at night.
    D It took me a long time to accustom to working at night.

34. Everyone was surprised when he resigned. (CAME)
    A His resignation came as surprise for everyone.
    B His resignation came to a surprise to everyone.
    C He came to resign as a surprise of everyone.
    D His resignation came as a surprise to everyone.

35. Tom is unlikely to accept the offer. (DOUBT)
    A I doubt whether Tom will accept the offer.
    B I doubt that Tom won't accept the offer.
    C There's no doubt Tom will accept the offer.
    D I doubt of Tom accepting the offer.

36. The new rules have had no effect on the number of complaints. (DIFFERENCE)
    A The new rules have done no difference to the number of complaints.
    B The new rules have made no difference of the number of complaints.
    C The new rules have made no difference to the number of complaints.
    D The new rules have caused no difference with the number of complaints.

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Answer key – Use of English C1 – Test 2

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

Explanations

1. **B** – The fixed phrase is 'take place', meaning 'happen'.
2. **C** – 'Set up' means to establish or start an organisation or event.
3. **A** – 'Put something down to' means to say that something is caused by a particular thing.
4. **C** – The natural collocation is 'meet a need'.
5. **C** – 'Well aware that' is the standard collocation; 'well conscious' and 'well known that' are not used this way.
6. **D** – 'From all walks of life' is a fixed expression meaning from many different backgrounds.
7. **B** – 'Give up on something' means to stop believing it is worth keeping or trying with.
8. **D** – The fixed phrase is 'have a go at something', meaning to try doing it.
9. **A** – 'Make a dent in' is an idiom meaning to reduce something by a noticeable amount.
10. **C** – 'It' is the object pronoun referring back to the singular noun 'boredom'.
11. **B** – 'According to' introduces the source of an opinion or information.
12. **D** – 'Those who' is used for people as the subject of the relative clause.
13. **A** – 'Far from' + -ing means 'not at all', expressing the opposite of what is expected.
14. **B** – The present perfect passive needs 'has been' + past participle.
15. **C** – 'Do any good' is used after negative ideas such as 'rarely'; 'good' here takes no article.
16. **D** – The time linker is 'as soon as'.
17. **B** – 'However' + adjective + subject + verb means 'no matter how'; 'Although' would need 'it may sound strange'.
18. **B** – The cleft structure 'it is only when... that...' emphasises the time or condition.
19. **B** – An adjective meaning 'impossible to understand' is needed: 'incomprehensible'.
20. **C** – An adverb meaning 'certainly' is needed to modify the whole statement.
21. **C** – A noun with a negative meaning is needed, since refusing to compromise caused the collapse.
22. **A** – After 'the' and before 'of', a noun is needed: 'withdrawal'.
23. **B** – After 'relatively', an adjective is needed, and the context ('relatively') suggests the drop is small: 'insignificant'.
24. **C** – 'Residential' is the adjective used to describe buildings or areas where people live.
25. **B** – 'Obligatory' is the adjective meaning 'required by a rule'; 'obliged' describes people, not things.
26. **D** – A noun for a person you know slightly is needed: 'acquaintance'.
27. **B** – After 'the slightest', a noun is needed: 'hesitation'.
28. **B** – 'No sooner' requires inversion (had + subject + past participle) and is followed by 'than'.
29. **C** – 'Would rather' + another subject is followed by the past simple to refer to the present or future.
30. **D** – 'There's every chance that' + clause expresses strong probability.
31. **A** – The noun 'lack' takes 'of', and 'due to' must be followed by a noun phrase, not a clause.
32. **C** – A third conditional for an unreal past uses 'if + past perfect' and 'would have + past participle'.
33. **B** – The correct pattern is 'become accustomed to' + -ing.
34. **D** – The fixed expression is 'come as a surprise to someone'.

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35. **A** – 'I doubt whether' + clause keeps the meaning that acceptance is unlikely; the other options change the meaning or are ungrammatical.
36. **C** – The collocation is 'make no difference to something'.

Notes for teachers: Use this test as a timed practice paper or work through it part by part in class. Part 1 targets collocations and phrasal verbs that learners often confuse, Part 2 focuses on small grammar words that are easy to overlook, Part 3 checks negative prefixes and word class, and Part 4 tests structures such as inversion, 'I'd rather' and third conditionals. As follow-up, ask students to explain why each distractor is wrong, or have them write their own transformations using the same key words.

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