

English Level Test C2 – Test 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 50



Take this test online
and check your
answers instantly

Choose the one correct option for each question. You have 60 minutes.

Part 1: Advanced grammar

Choose the option that correctly completes each sentence.

- Scarcely _____ the stage when the lights went out.
 A she had stepped onto B had she stepped onto
 C did she step onto D she stepped onto
- It's high time the council _____ something about the potholes on this road.
 A does B will do C did D has done
- _____ I to accept the offer, I would have to relocate to another city.
 A Were B Should C Had D If
- Not until the results were published _____ how close the vote had been.
 A we realised B we did realise C realised we D did we realise
- The committee recommended that the proposal _____ postponed until spring.
 A is B be C will be D being
- Had it not been for her quick thinking, the fire _____ the whole building.
 A would destroy B had destroyed
 C would have destroyed D will have destroyed
- The documents, _____ were badly water-damaged, had to be restored by specialists.
 A several of which B several of them C several of that D which several
- _____ his reservations, he signed the contract without further delay.
 A Although B Despite of C However D Notwithstanding
- You _____ have told me earlier! I could have helped you.
 A must B might C will D would
- The bridge is thought _____ in the twelfth century.
 A to be built B having been built C to have been built D to have built
- So _____ the demand that tickets sold out within minutes.
 A great was B great it was C was great D greatly was
- She is said to _____ for the company for over a decade before she retired.
 A be working B working C had worked D have worked
- But for a handful of generous donors, the project, now in its fifth year, _____ off the ground.
 A would never get B would never have got
 C will never have got D had never got

14. The more I learn about the issue, _____.
A less certain I become **B** the less I become certain
C the less certain I become **D** I become the less certain
15. Try as she _____, she couldn't get the lid off the jar.
A might **B** did **C** can **D** should
16. Rarely _____ such a compelling debut novel.
A I have read **B** I have ever read **C** read I **D** have I read

Part 2: Vocabulary, collocation and idiom

Choose the word or phrase that best completes each sentence.

17. The proposal came _____ heavy criticism from local residents.
A up with **B** down on **C** in for **D** round to
18. Her argument doesn't hold _____ when you look at the figures closely.
A water **B** ground **C** sway **D** court
19. Once the new evidence emerged, his position was no longer _____.
A tenuous **B** tenable **C** tenacious **D** tentative
20. The scheme was widely criticised for its lack of _____. (ACCOUNT)
A accountancy **B** accounting **C** accountableness **D** accountability
21. His explanation was so _____ that nobody in the room could follow it.
A convoluted **B** contrived **C** concerted **D** consummate
22. She was _____ to admit that she had made a mistake.
A loathe **B** loathing **C** loath **D** loathed
23. I'm not going to _____ words: the report is a disaster.
A chop **B** mince **C** grind **D** slice
24. The new manager wasted no time in _____ her authority.
A insisting **B** pressing **C** ensuring **D** asserting
25. The proposal was met with a _____ response: polite, but hardly enthusiastic.
A lukewarm **B** heated **C** glowing **D** frosty
26. The town's economy is heavily _____ on tourism.
A dependable **B** relied **C** reliant **D** depended
27. Despite repeated setbacks, the team remained _____ in their commitment to the project.
A stagnant **B** steadfast **C** static **D** stationary
28. The rumours eventually _____ when no evidence emerged to support them.
A fell through **B** broke down **C** wore on **D** died down
29. Her latest novel is a _____ departure from her earlier work.
A marked **B** marking **C** remarked **D** markable
30. He has a _____ for exaggeration, so take what he says with a pinch of salt.
A pretext **B** prerogative **C** penchant **D** premise
31. The _____ of the matter is that we simply cannot afford it.
A crust **B** crux **C** crutch **D** crest

32. Getting the grant is a long ———, but it's worth applying anyway.
A jump **B** throw **C** leap **D** shot

Part 3: Accuracy, error spotting and paraphrase

Choose the correct sentence, identify the error, or select the best option, as instructed in each question.

33. Which sentence is correct?
A Hardly the meeting had begun when the fire alarm went off.
B Hardly had the meeting begun than the fire alarm went off.
C Hardly had the meeting begun when the fire alarm went off.
D Hardly did the meeting begin when the fire alarm had gone off.
34. Which sentence is incorrect?
A She advised me to apply for the post.
B She suggested me to apply for the post.
C She recommended that I apply for the post.
D She urged me to apply for the post.
35. Which sentence is correct?
A Had it not been for your help, I would never have finished.
B Had it not been for your help, I would never had finished.
C Hadn't it been for your help, I would never have finished.
D Had not it been for your help, I would never have finished.
36. Which word is incorrect? 'The committee, whom many believed was biased, eventually reversed its decision.'
A believed **B** reversed **C** whom **D** its
37. Which part is incorrect? 'Under no circumstances you should open the door to strangers.'
A Under **B** circumstances **C** strangers **D** you should
38. Which sentence is grammatically and logically correct?
A Walking into the room, a strange smell hit me.
B Walking into the room, I noticed a strange smell.
C Walking into the room, the smell was strange.
D Having walked into the room, a strange smell was noticed.
39. Which sentence is closest in meaning to: 'I had no sooner sat down than the phone rang.'?
A I sat down long after the phone rang.
B The phone rang before I sat down.
C I sat down because the phone rang.
D The phone rang immediately after I sat down.
40. Which sentence best rephrases: 'It wasn't necessary for you to bring a gift, but it was kind of you.'?
A You needn't have brought a gift, but it was kind of you.
B You didn't need bring a gift, but it was kind of you.
C You mustn't have brought a gift, but it was kind of you.
D You shouldn't bring a gift, but it was kind of you.
41. She's not so much a teacher ——— a mentor to her students.
A than **B** but **C** as **D** like

42. I'd sooner you — the decision until we've spoken to the lawyers.
A defer **B** deferred **C** had deferred **D** will defer
43. The defendant denied — at the scene of the crime.
A to have been **B** to be **C** that being **D** having been
44. What — me most was her complete lack of remorse.
A struck **B** it struck **C** was striking **D** striking

Part 4: Reading comprehension

Read the text and choose the best answer to each question.

Every translator eventually confronts a paradox: the more faithfully one renders the words of a text, the more one risks betraying its spirit. A pun, a regional idiom or the particular rhythm of a sentence rarely survives a literal transfer intact. Faced with this, translators have long divided into two loose camps. One favours what might be called transparency, producing a version that reads as though it had been written in the target language. The other prefers to let the foreignness of the original show through, on the grounds that readers ought to be reminded they are encountering another culture rather than a domesticated copy of their own.

Neither position is as straightforward as its advocates sometimes suggest. A seamless translation can be praised for its readability while quietly erasing everything that made the source distinctive. The reader comes away believing they have understood a writer whose humour, allusions and cadences have in fact been replaced. Conversely, a translation that clings to the contours of the original may preserve its strangeness at the cost of making it almost unreadable, so that the foreignness the translator wished to honour becomes merely an obstacle.

What tends to be overlooked in this debate is that translation is not a single decision but thousands of small ones, each made under different pressures. A translator might domesticate a joke that would otherwise fall flat, yet deliberately retain an unfamiliar word for a dish or a garment, trusting the context to carry its meaning. Far from being inconsistent, such choices reflect a recognition that no single principle can govern every line.

It is perhaps for this reason that the most accomplished translators are often reluctant to theorise about their work. Asked to explain a particular choice, they are as likely to speak of the 'feel' of a passage as of any rule. This is not mysticism; it is the accumulated judgement of someone who has spent years listening closely to two languages at once. The translation that results is less a copy than a performance: faithful, at its best, not to every word but to the experience of reading the original.

45. What paradox does the writer describe in the first paragraph?
A Translators must master many languages before they can begin working.
B Readers generally prefer texts that were originally written in their own language.
C Staying very close to the original wording can damage the overall character of a text.
D Literal translations take longer to produce than free ones.
46. The second group of translators believes that a translation should
A make readers aware that the text comes from another culture.
B read as if it had been written in the target language.
C avoid any words that are unfamiliar to the reader.
D replace foreign jokes with local equivalents.

47. According to the second paragraph, a 'seamless' translation may
- A** be too difficult for most readers to follow.
 - B** preserve every allusion in the original.
 - C** be criticised mainly for its length.
 - D** give readers a false impression of the original writer.
48. The phrase 'clings to the contours of the original' most nearly means
- A** adds explanatory notes to the original.
 - B** follows the form and wording of the original very closely.
 - C** rejects the cultural background of the original.
 - D** simplifies the structure of the original.
49. How does the writer view translators who combine different approaches within one text?
- A** As careless, because they lack a consistent method.
 - B** As less skilled than those who follow a single theory.
 - C** As responding sensibly to the varied demands of a text.
 - D** As mainly concerned with making the text easier to read.
50. What does the final paragraph suggest about experienced translators' reluctance to theorise?
- A** It reflects judgement developed through long practice rather than vagueness.
 - B** It shows that translation cannot really be learned.
 - C** It proves that rules are of no use to beginners.
 - D** It reveals a mystical attitude towards language.

Answer key – English Level Test C2 – Test 1

1 B	2 C	3 A	4 D	5 B	6 C	7 A	8 D	9 B	10 C
11 A	12 D	13 B	14 C	15 A	16 D	17 C	18 A	19 B	20 D
21 A	22 C	23 B	24 D	25 A	26 C	27 B	28 D	29 A	30 C
31 B	32 D	33 C	34 B	35 A	36 C	37 D	38 B	39 D	40 A
41 C	42 B	43 D	44 A	45 C	46 A	47 D	48 B	49 C	50 A

Explanations

- B** – After 'Scarcely' at the start of a sentence we need inversion, and the past perfect is used with 'when'.
- C** – 'It's high time' is followed by the past simple to express present criticism or urgency.
- A** – 'Were I to + infinitive' is the inverted form of a hypothetical conditional.
- D** – A clause beginning with 'Not until' requires inversion in the main clause, using the auxiliary 'did'.
- B** – 'Recommend that' takes the subjunctive, which is the base form 'be'.
- C** – This is an inverted third conditional, so the result clause needs 'would have + past participle'.
- A** – A non-defining relative clause uses 'quantifier + of which'. 'Of them' would create a run-on sentence.
- D** – 'Notwithstanding' is a formal preposition meaning 'despite' and is followed directly by a noun phrase.
- B** – 'Might have + past participle' can express reproach about something that was not done.
- C** – A passive reporting structure about the past needs the perfect passive infinitive.
- A** – For emphasis, 'So + adjective' is followed by an inverted verb and subject: 'So great was the demand'.
- D** – The perfect infinitive 'to have worked' refers to a time before the moment of reporting.
- B** – 'But for' introduces an unreal past condition, so the result clause needs 'would have + past participle'.
- C** – In the double comparative, the adjective follows directly: 'the less certain I become'.
- A** – 'Try as she might' is a fixed concessive structure meaning 'however hard she tried'.
- D** – The negative adverb 'Rarely' at the start of a sentence triggers inversion with the auxiliary.
- C** – To 'come in for criticism' means to receive it.
- A** – If an argument 'doesn't hold water', it does not stand up to examination.
- B** – 'Tenable' means able to be defended or maintained.
- D** – 'Accountability' means being responsible for one's actions. 'Accountancy' is the name of a profession.
- A** – 'Convoluting' means extremely complex and difficult to follow.
- C** – The adjective 'loath' means unwilling. 'Loathe' is a verb meaning to hate.
- B** – 'Not to mince words' means to speak bluntly.
- D** – 'Assert one's authority' is the standard collocation.
- A** – A 'lukewarm' response shows little enthusiasm without being hostile.
- C** – 'Reliant on' is the adjective-preposition pattern meaning dependent on.
- B** – 'Steadfast' means firm and unwavering in loyalty or purpose.
- D** – 'Die down' means to become gradually less intense or frequent.
- A** – 'Marked' means clear and noticeable and collocates naturally with 'departure'.
- C** – A 'penchant for' something is a strong liking or tendency.
- B** – 'The crux of the matter' is its most important or decisive point.
- D** – 'A long shot' is something with only a small chance of success.
- C** – 'Hardly' needs inversion with the past perfect and is followed by 'when', not 'than'.
- B** – 'Suggest' cannot be followed by an object and an infinitive. We say 'suggested that I apply' or 'suggested applying'.

35. **A** – The inverted third conditional is 'Had it not been for...', followed by 'would have + past participle'.
36. **C** – The pronoun is the subject of 'was', so it should be 'who'. 'Many believed' is only an inserted clause.
37. **D** – 'Under no circumstances' requires inversion: 'should you open'.
38. **B** – The subject of the participle clause must also be the subject of the main clause. Otherwise the participle is left dangling.
39. **D** – 'No sooner... than' means one event happened immediately after another.
40. **A** – 'Needn't have + past participle' describes something that was done although it was unnecessary.
41. **C** – The fixed structure is 'not so much X as Y'.
42. **B** – After 'I'd sooner' or 'I'd rather' with a different subject, we use the past simple to refer to the present or future.
43. **D** – 'Deny' is followed by a gerund. The perfect gerund 'having been' refers to an earlier time.
44. **A** – In a 'What' cleft sentence, the relative clause needs its own finite verb without an extra subject: 'What struck me...!'
45. **C** – The text says that the more faithfully one renders the words, the more one risks betraying the spirit.
46. **A** – This group wants the foreignness to show so that readers are reminded they are encountering another culture.
47. **D** – Readers believe they have understood the writer, although his or her distinctive features have in fact been replaced.
48. **B** – To cling to the contours is to stick closely to the shape of the source text.
49. **C** – The writer says that, far from being inconsistent, these choices show that no single principle can govern every line.
50. **A** – The writer explicitly says this is 'not mysticism' but 'accumulated judgement' built up over years.

Notes for teachers: Use the total score as a guide: 42 or more suggests a secure C2 learner, 32 to 41 points to a strong C1 still working towards C2, and below 32 indicates C1 or lower. The test targets typical advanced errors, such as missing inversion after negative adverbials, confusing loath and loathe, dangling participles and the misuse of suggest + object + infinitive. As a follow-up, ask learners to rewrite the sentences they got wrong and to summarise the reading text in about 80 words.