

English Level Test C2 – Test 2

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



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

Part 1: Grammar

Choose the word or phrase that best completes each sentence.

1. By the time the rescue team arrived, the climbers _____ in the snow for nearly two days.
A had been trapped **B** have been trapped **C** were trapping **D** had trapped
2. She insisted on _____ for the meal, even though it was my birthday.
A paying **B** to pay **C** that she paid **D** pay
3. 'Will we have to cancel the trip?' 'I'm afraid _____. The forecast is terrible.'
A so **B** not **C** it **D** yes
4. If she hadn't turned down that job in Lisbon, she _____ there now.
A would be living **B** would have lived **C** will be living **D** had been living
5. _____ the instructions carefully, she was surprised when the machine still wouldn't start.
A Having followed **B** Followed **C** To follow **D** Being followed
6. He talks about the city as if he _____ there for years, but he only arrived last month.
A had lived **B** lives **C** would live **D** is living
7. It was only after she had moved abroad _____ she understood how much her family meant to her.
A that **B** when **C** which **D** so
8. At the time, nobody could have predicted that the tiny café _____ into one of the city's best-loved institutions.
A would grow **B** will grow **C** was growing **D** had grown
9. _____ to say, the plan backfired spectacularly.
A Needless **B** Needlessly **C** Unneeded **D** No need
10. _____ tired he may be, he never complains.
A However **B** Whatever **C** Although **D** No matter
11. The report, the conclusions _____ were widely disputed, was eventually withdrawn.
A of which **B** of whom **C** which **D** whose
12. I'm going to finish this marathon, come _____ may.
A what **B** which **C** whatever **D** that
13. _____ I admire his work, I can't agree with his conclusions.
A Much as **B** As much **C** However much as **D** Even as much
14. Little _____ that the decision would affect him so profoundly.
A did he realise **B** he realised **C** he did realise **D** had he realise

15. She spoke quietly lest she _____ the sleeping baby.
A wake **B** woke **C** would have woken **D** waking
16. The project was badly underfunded. _____, the team delivered it on time and under budget.
A Be that as it may **B** Be it as it may **C** As it may be **D** May it be so

Part 2: Vocabulary and collocation

Choose the word or phrase that best completes each sentence or answers the question.

17. The figures in the report don't _____ up; someone must have made a mistake.
A add **B** sum **C** count **D** total
18. She took the criticism in her _____ and simply worked harder.
A stride **B** step **C** pace **D** walk
19. He's been _____ the idea of retraining as a nurse for a while, but he hasn't made up his mind.
A toying with **B** playing at **C** fiddling with **D** joking about
20. The film was a _____ success, earning back ten times its budget.
A runaway **B** runoff **C** runabout **D** rundown
21. I can't make _____ of these instructions; they seem to contradict each other.
A head or tail **B** heads or tails **C** top or bottom **D** front or back
22. The proposal was greeted with scepticism, to put it _____.
A mildly **B** lightly **C** softly **D** gently
23. The company's profits have _____ over the past decade, from millions to almost nothing.
A dwindled **B** swelled **C** soared **D** lingered
24. The judge handed down a _____ sentence after hearing how deeply the defendant regretted his actions.
A lenient **B** clement **C** tolerant **D** benign
25. The negotiations reached a _____, with neither side willing to make any concessions.
A stalemate **B** checkmate **C** stagnation **D** stillness
26. Rather than tackling the issue directly, the spokesperson _____ every question.
A sidestepped **B** overstepped **C** outstepped **D** stepped down
27. In the sentence 'By midnight the hall was all but empty', 'all but' means:
A almost **B** completely **C** except for **D** not at all
28. His _____ remarks about his colleagues eventually cost him his job.
A disparaging **B** disparate **C** despairing **D** dispensable
29. The novel explores the _____ of memory and the way it shapes our sense of who we are. (FALLIBLE)
A fallibility **B** fallaciousness **C** fallacy **D** infallibility
30. The decision to close the only library in the area was widely condemned as _____. (DEFEND)
A indefensible **B** undefensable **C** indefendable **D** defenceless
31. The professor's lectures were notoriously _____; even the most diligent students struggled to stay awake.
A soporific **B** sonorous **C** succinct **D** salient

32. She has a ——— wit that can leave even her sharpest opponents speechless.
A rapier **B** sabre **C** dagger **D** blade

Part 3: Accuracy, paraphrase and register

Choose the correct sentence, identify the error, or choose the best paraphrase or response.

33. Which sentence is the most appropriate opening for a formal letter of complaint?
A I am writing to express my dissatisfaction with the service I received on 14 March.
B I'm writing 'cause I'm really fed up with your service.
C I am writing to express my dissatisfy about the service I received on 14 March.
D I write you to complain the service I received on 14 March.
34. Which sentence is correct?
A Neither the manager nor his assistants were aware of the problem.
B Neither the manager nor his assistants was aware of the problem.
C Neither the manager or his assistants were aware of the problem.
D Neither of the manager nor his assistants were aware of the problem.
35. Which word is incorrect? 'The number of applicants have risen sharply since the fees were reduced.'
A number **B** have **C** risen **D** were
36. Which sentence is closest in meaning to: 'She was on the verge of giving up when the offer arrived.'?
A She was about to give up when the offer arrived.
B She had already given up when the offer arrived.
C She had no intention of giving up when the offer arrived.
D She gave up because the offer arrived.
37. Which sentence is correct?
A The success of the plan is contingent on securing funding.
B The success of the plan is contingent to securing funding.
C The success of the plan is contingent of securing funding.
D The success of the plan is contingent with securing funding.
38. Which sentence is incorrect?
A Few people attended, which was disappointing.
B A few people attended, so the room wasn't completely empty.
C Little of the information was new to us.
D Few of the information was new to us.
39. Which sentence best rephrases: 'I wish I hadn't lent him my car.'?
A I regret lending him my car. **B** I regret to lend him my car.
C I'd rather lend him my car. **D** I should lend him my car.
40. 'You must be exhausted after the journey.' Which reply is correct?
A Not in the least, actually. I slept most of the way.
B Not at the least, actually. I slept most of the way.
C Not least, actually. I slept most of the way.
D In the least not, actually. I slept most of the way.

41. Which sentence is closest in meaning to: 'There's no telling how long the repairs will take.'?
- A It is impossible to know how long the repairs will take.
 - B Nobody has told us how long the repairs will take.
 - C We mustn't tell anyone how long the repairs will take.
 - D To tell the truth, the repairs won't take long.
42. Which sentence uses 'whereby' correctly?
- A The firm introduced a scheme whereby employees can buy shares at a discount.
 - B She didn't know whereby to go after the meeting.
 - C Whereby you finish the report, let me know.
 - D This is the house whereby I grew up.
43. Which part is incorrect? 'The data suggests that the policy, while well-intentioned, has had little affect on unemployment.'
- A The data suggests
 - B while well-intentioned
 - C little affect
 - D on unemployment
44. What is wrong with this sentence? 'Having been told about the delay, the tickets were refunded by the airline.'
- A The participle clause does not refer to the subject of the main clause.
 - B The passive voice cannot be used after a participle clause.
 - C 'Having been told' should be 'Being told'.
 - D The preposition 'about' should be 'of'.

Part 4: Reading

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

Few debates in architectural conservation are as old, or as stubbornly unresolved, as the question of what should be done with a building that time has begun to undo. In the nineteenth century, one school of thought held that a damaged cathedral or castle ought to be returned to a state of completeness, even, on occasion, to a state it had never actually enjoyed. Restorers armed with sketches, guesswork and considerable confidence added towers, replaced carvings and smoothed away the irregularities of centuries. The results were often spectacular, and frequently fraudulent.

Their critics were scathing. To scrape a façade clean, they argued, was to erase the very evidence that gave it meaning: the weathering of stone, the patched repairs of medieval masons, the scars of fires and wars. A building, in this view, is less an object than a document, and to 'improve' a document is to falsify it. The proper response to decay was therefore not renewal but maintenance: modest, continuous care that would slow deterioration without disguising it.

Today, most professionals profess allegiance to the second position, at least in principle. Contemporary guidelines insist that any intervention be minimal, reversible and clearly distinguishable from the original fabric. Yet practice is rarely so tidy. A roof cannot be left to collapse out of respect for its authenticity; a crumbling wall must sometimes be rebuilt if the structure is to survive at all. Every repair, however discreet, involves a judgement about which layers of a building's history deserve to be kept and which can be quietly sacrificed.

What complicates matters further is that the public does not always share the experts' reverence for age. Visitors tend to admire buildings that look 'as they were', and many are disappointed to find a ruin left as a ruin. Conservationists are thus caught between a professional ethic that values honesty and an audience that frequently prefers illusion.

Perhaps the most persuasive recent argument is that this tension is not a problem to be solved but a condition to be managed. A building that has survived for eight hundred years has already been altered countless times by people with competing ideas of what it ought to be. Seen in this light, today's conservators are not the final guardians of a fixed original, but merely the latest contributors to an unfinished conversation, one that their successors will, in turn, reinterpret.

45. According to the first paragraph, nineteenth-century restorers sometimes
- A** recreated features that a building had never possessed
 - B** refused to alter buildings without documentary evidence
 - C** deliberately left damaged sections untouched
 - D** copied the techniques of medieval masons exactly
46. The word 'scathing' in the second paragraph most nearly means
- A** severely critical
 - B** mildly amused
 - C** openly envious
 - D** cautiously supportive
47. The critics compared a building to a document in order to suggest that
- A** its signs of age are a record that should not be altered
 - B** it should be studied mainly by historians
 - C** written records are more reliable than physical evidence
 - D** old buildings should be replaced by detailed archives
48. What point does the writer make in the third paragraph?
- A** Even careful conservation requires choices about which parts of the past to preserve.
 - B** Modern guidelines have made the restoration debate obsolete.
 - C** Most professionals secretly prefer nineteenth-century methods.
 - D** Repairs should be avoided as long as a building is still standing.
49. According to the fourth paragraph, conservationists face a dilemma because
- A** visitors often prefer buildings to look complete rather than authentically aged
 - B** experts cannot agree about the value of ruins
 - C** visitors refuse to pay to see restored buildings
 - D** public funding depends on buildings being left as ruins
50. Which statement best reflects the writer's conclusion?
- A** Conservators should see themselves as participants in an ongoing process rather than protectors of a fixed original.
 - B** The tension between honesty and illusion will soon be resolved.
 - C** Buildings should be returned to the state their original builders intended.
 - D** Future generations will reject today's conservation methods entirely.

Answer key – English Level Test C2 – Test 2

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

Explanations

1. **A** – A passive past perfect is needed for a state lasting up to a point in the past.
2. **A** – 'Insist on' is followed by a gerund.
3. **A** – 'I'm afraid so' replaces a positive clause ('we will have to cancel'), which matches the bad forecast.
4. **A** – A mixed conditional links a past condition to a present result: would + be + -ing.
5. **A** – A perfect active participle shows an action completed before the main clause.
6. **A** – After 'as if', an unreal situation in the past is expressed with the past perfect.
7. **A** – Cleft sentences with 'It was...' use 'that' to introduce the rest of the clause.
8. **A** – 'Would' expresses the future seen from a point in the past.
9. **A** – 'Needless to say' is a fixed expression meaning 'obviously'.
10. **A** – 'However + adjective' introduces a concession; 'no matter' would need 'how'.
11. **A** – 'The conclusions of which' is the formal possessive relative for things.
12. **A** – 'Come what may' is a fixed expression meaning 'whatever happens'.
13. **A** – 'Much as' introduces a concession, meaning 'although'.
14. **A** – Negative adverbials like 'little' at the start of a clause trigger inversion with an auxiliary.
15. **A** – 'Lest' is followed by the base form (subjunctive) or 'should' + infinitive.
16. **A** – 'Be that as it may' is the fixed form meaning 'nevertheless'.
17. **A** – 'Add up' means to make sense or be consistent; 'sum up' means to summarise.
18. **A** – 'Take something in your stride' means to deal with it calmly.
19. **A** – 'Toy with an idea' means to consider it casually without deciding.
20. **A** – A 'runaway success' is an extremely and quickly successful one.
21. **A** – 'Can't make head or tail of' means can't understand at all.
22. **A** – 'To put it mildly' signals an understatement.
23. **A** – 'Dwindle' means to become gradually smaller.
24. **A** – 'Lenient' is the standard collocation with 'sentence' meaning not severe.
25. **A** – A 'stalemate' is a situation where no progress is possible for either side.
26. **A** – To 'sidestep' a question is to avoid answering it.
27. **A** – 'All but' + adjective means 'nearly'.
28. **A** – 'Disparaging' means showing that you think someone has little value.
29. **A** – 'Fallibility' is the noun meaning the tendency to make mistakes.
30. **A** – 'Indefensible' means impossible to justify; 'defenceless' means unprotected.
31. **A** – 'Soporific' means causing sleepiness.
32. **A** – 'Rapier wit' is a fixed collocation for quick, sharp humour.
33. **A** – It is grammatically correct and uses a suitably formal register.
34. **A** – With 'neither... nor', the verb agrees with the nearer subject ('assistants').
35. **B** – 'The number of' takes a singular verb: 'has risen'.

- 36. **A** – 'On the verge of' means very close to doing something.
- 37. **A** – 'Contingent' is followed by 'on' or 'upon'.
- 38. **D** – 'Information' is uncountable, so it takes 'little', not 'few'.
- 39. **A** – 'Regret + -ing' expresses sorrow about a past action; 'regret to' announces bad news.
- 40. **A** – 'Not in the least' means 'not at all'; 'not least' means 'especially'.
- 41. **A** – 'There's no telling' means it is impossible to predict or know.
- 42. **A** – 'Whereby' means 'by which' and typically follows nouns like 'scheme', 'system' or 'arrangement'.
- 43. **C** – The noun is 'effect'; 'affect' is normally a verb ('data suggests' is acceptable in modern usage).
- 44. **A** – It is a dangling participle: the tickets were not 'told' about the delay; the passengers were.
- 45. **A** – The text says buildings were returned 'to a state it had never actually enjoyed'.
- 46. **A** – The critics go on to accuse the restorers of erasing evidence, showing harsh criticism.
- 47. **A** – They argue that 'improving' a building, like a document, would falsify its record.
- 48. **A** – The paragraph ends by saying every repair involves judging which layers of history to keep.
- 49. **A** – The public 'frequently prefers illusion', which conflicts with the experts' ethic of honesty.
- 50. **A** – The writer describes conservators as 'the latest contributors to an unfinished conversation'.

Notes for teachers: Allow about 60 minutes. Learners scoring 40/50 or more can be considered secure at C2; 30-39 suggests a strong C1 that needs targeted work on accuracy and idiom. The test targets typical advanced errors such as dangling participles, agreement after 'neither... nor' and 'the number of', near-synonym collocations and unreal tenses after 'as if'. For follow-up, ask learners to rewrite the incorrect options in Part 3 and to summarise the reading text in about 80 words.