Use of English C2 – Test 1

Name: Class: Date: Score: / 36

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

Part 1: Multiple-choice cloze

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

The Unexpected Value of Boredom

For most of human history, boredom was simply an unavoidable (1) ___ of daily life, something to be endured rather than analysed. Only recently have researchers begun to take it seriously, and their findings (2) ___ in the face of the conventional wisdom that idleness is wasteful. Far from being a mere absence of stimulation, boredom may (3) ___ out to be a vital signal, prompting us to seek out goals that are more meaningful than whatever currently occupies us.

The difficulty is that modern technology has made it all too easy to (4) ___ that signal. The moment a flicker of tedium arises, a device is within (5) ___ reach, offering an endless stream of distraction. Psychologists warn that by never allowing our minds to wander, we may be (6) ___ ourselves of the very conditions in which original ideas take shape. In one frequently cited study, participants who had first completed a deliberately dull task went on to (7) ___ considerably more inventive solutions to a creative problem than those who had not.

None of this is to suggest that boredom should be (8) ___ for its own sake. Rather, it is a case of recognising that a little restlessness, left to run its (9) ___, can be surprisingly productive.

1. Gap 1: boredom was simply an unavoidable _____ of daily life
   A truth **B** matter **C** fact **D** case
2. Gap 2: their findings _____ in the face of the conventional wisdom
   A run **B** fly **C** stand **D** go
3. Gap 3: boredom may _____ out to be a vital signal
   A come **B** work **C** turn **D** figure
4. Gap 4: it all too easy to _____ that signal
   A drown out **B** put off **C** give off **D** wipe out
5. Gap 5: a device is within _____ reach
   A hand's **B** finger's **C** palm's **D** arm's
6. Gap 6: we may be _____ ourselves of the very conditions
   A preventing **B** depriving **C** sparing **D** removing
7. Gap 7: participants ... went on to _____ considerably more inventive solutions
   A come round to **B** come down to **C** come in for **D** come up with
8. Gap 8: boredom should be _____ for its own sake
   A followed **B** pursued **C** tracked **D** traced

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9. Gap 9: a little restlessness, left to run its _____

A course **B** path **C** route **D** way

Part 2: Open cloze (multiple choice)

Read the text and choose the grammar word that correctly fills each numbered gap.

Reading the City

Few inventions have reshaped the way we perceive cities as profoundly (10) ___ the humble street map. Before printed maps became widely available, travellers had little choice (11) ___ to rely on local guides, (12) ___ knowledge was often patchy and occasionally unreliable. (13) ___ the eighteenth century, however, surveyors had begun to produce plans of remarkable accuracy, and with them came a new sense that a city could be grasped as a whole.

Today, of course, hardly anyone (14) ___ a phone consults a paper map. Yet some historians argue that we have lost something in the process. Navigating by satellite, they claim, we are told where to turn without ever (15) ___ asked to understand where we are. (16) ___ convenient digital directions may be, they rarely encourage the kind of mental picture that comes from studying a map at leisure. Not (17) ___ do paper maps show the route; they also reveal the relationships between places. Whether this loss matters is open to debate, but it is certainly worth bearing (18) ___ mind.

10. Gap 10: as profoundly _____ the humble street map

A than **B** like **C** as **D** so

11. Gap 11: travellers had little choice _____ to rely on local guides

A but **B** than **C** except **D** rather

12. Gap 12: local guides, _____ knowledge was often patchy

A whom **B** which **C** their **D** whose

13. Gap 13: _____ the eighteenth century, however, surveyors had begun

A Until **B** By **C** Since **D** During

14. Gap 14: hardly anyone _____ a phone consults a paper map

A by **B** at **C** with **D** for

15. Gap 15: without ever _____ asked to understand where we are

A having **B** been **C** be **D** being

16. Gap 16: _____ convenient digital directions may be, they rarely encourage

A However **B** Although **C** Despite **D** Whatever

17. Gap 17: Not _____ do paper maps show the route; they also reveal

A once **B** only **C** even **D** until

18. Gap 18: it is certainly worth bearing _____ mind

A on **B** to **C** in **D** at

Part 3: Word formation

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

19. Her stubborn _____ to compromise eventually cost her the support of her colleagues. (WILLING)

A willingness **B** unwilling **C** unwillingly **D** unwillingness

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20. The new evidence casts doubt on the _____ of the original witness statements. (RELY)
A reliance **B** reliability **C** reliant **D** reliably

21. The plot is so _____ that I gave up trying to follow it halfway through. (CONVOLUTE)
A convoluted **B** convolution **C** convoluting **D** convolutedly

22. Despite repeated warnings, the problem remained largely _____ for years. (ADDRESS)
A misaddressed **B** addressless **C** unaddressed **D** disaddressed

23. The two accounts of the incident are virtually _____; there is no meaningful difference between them. (DISTINGUISH)
A distinguishable **B** undistinguished **C** distinguishing **D** indistinguishable

24. The minister's remarks were widely seen as _____ and deeply unhelpful. (PROVOKE)
A provocation **B** provocative **C** provocatively **D** provoked

25. The importance of early diagnosis is impossible to _____; it can quite literally save lives. (STATE)
A understate **B** restate **C** overstate **D** misstate

26. There was a wide _____ of opinion on the matter, with hardly any two experts agreeing. (DIVERGE)
A divergence **B** divergent **C** diverging **D** divergently

27. He was so _____ by the sheer scale of the task that he seriously considered giving up. (DAUNT)
A daunting **B** daunted **C** dauntless **D** undaunted

Part 4: Key word transformations

Choose the sentence that uses the key word in capitals, keeps the meaning of the original sentence and is grammatically correct.

28. I'd never have found the house if you hadn't given me directions. (FOR)
A Had not it been for your directions, I would never have found the house.
B Had it not been for your directions, I would never have found the house.
C If it hadn't been for your directions, I will never have found the house.
D Were it not for your directions, I would never find the house.

29. The moment she arrived, the meeting started. (SOONER)
A No sooner she had arrived than the meeting started.
B No sooner had she arrived when the meeting started.
C Sooner had she arrived than the meeting started.
D No sooner had she arrived than the meeting started.

30. People believe that the painting was stolen during the war. (BELIEVED)
A The painting is believed to have been stolen during the war.
B The painting is believed to be stolen during the war.
C The painting was believed to have been stolen during the war.
D It is believed the painting to have been stolen during the war.

31. It's pointless to complain about the decision now. (POINT)
A There is no point to complain about the decision now.
B It has no point complaining about the decision now.
C There is no point in complaining about the decision now.
D There is no point of complaining about the decision now.

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32. I didn't realise how serious the situation was until I read the report. (DID)
    A Only when did I read the report I realised how serious the situation was.
    B Only when I read the report did I realise how serious the situation was.
    C Only when I read the report I did realise how serious the situation was.
    D Not until I read the report did I realise how serious was the situation.

33. She is extremely unlikely to accept the offer. (CHANCE)
    A She has little chance to accept the offer.
    B There is little chance for her accepting the offer.
    C There is a little chance of her accepting the offer.
    D There is little chance of her accepting the offer.

34. Although I'd like to help you, I'm afraid I can't. (MUCH)
    A As much I'd like to help you, I'm afraid I can't.
    B So much as I'd like to help you, I'm afraid I can't.
    C Much as I'd like to help you, I'm afraid I can't.
    D Much like I'd like to help you, I'm afraid I can't.

35. You were wrong to lend him money. (OUGHT)
    A You ought not to have lent him money.
    B You oughtn't have lent him money.
    C You ought not to lend him money.
    D You ought not having lent him money.

36. Nobody expected the plan to succeed, but it did. (CONTRARY)
    A On the contrary to expectations, the plan succeeded.
    B Contrary to expectations, the plan succeeded.
    C Contrary to expectations, the plan didn't succeed.
    D Contrary of expectations, the plan succeeded.

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Answer key – Use of English C2 – Test 1

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

Explanations

1. **C** – 'A fact of life' is a fixed phrase for something unpleasant that must be accepted.
2. **B** – 'Fly in the face of' is an idiom meaning to contradict what is generally believed.
3. **C** – 'Turn out to be' means to be discovered to be; the other verbs do not combine with 'out to be'.
4. **A** – To 'drown out' a signal or sound is to stop it being noticed by covering it with something louder.
5. **D** – 'Within arm's reach' is the fixed expression meaning very close by.
6. **B** – Only 'deprive' takes the pattern 'deprive somebody of something'.
7. **D** – 'Come up with' means to produce or think of an idea or solution.
8. **B** – Goals and experiences are 'pursued for their own sake'; the other verbs suggest physically following something.
9. **A** – 'Run its course' is a fixed phrase meaning to develop naturally until it ends.
10. **C** – Comparisons of equality use 'as ... as'.
11. **A** – The fixed pattern is 'have little/no choice but to do something'.
12. **D** – 'Whose' is the possessive relative pronoun linking 'guides' to 'knowledge'.
13. **B** – 'By' + time point combines with the past perfect to show something completed before that time.
14. **C** – 'With' expresses possession here: anyone who has a phone.
15. **D** – After the preposition 'without' a passive -ing form is needed: 'being asked'.
16. **A** – 'However + adjective + subject + may be' is a concessive structure; 'Although' would need 'digital directions may be convenient'.
17. **B** – 'Not only ... also' with inversion fits the meaning of adding a second point.
18. **C** – The fixed phrase is 'bear something in mind'.
19. **D** – A negative noun is needed after 'stubborn' and before 'to compromise'.
20. **B** – 'Reliability' is the noun meaning how far something can be trusted; 'reliance' means dependence.
21. **A** – An adjective meaning extremely complicated is needed after 'so'.
22. **C** – 'Unaddressed' means not dealt with, which fits 'despite repeated warnings'.
23. **D** – 'Indistinguishable' means impossible to tell apart, matching 'no meaningful difference'.
24. **B** – An adjective parallel to 'unhelpful' is needed; 'provocative' means intended to cause anger.
25. **C** – 'Impossible to overstate' means it is extremely important; 'understate' reverses the intended meaning.
26. **A** – A noun is needed after 'a wide'; 'divergence of opinion' is a common collocation.
27. **B** – The past participle 'daunted' describes his feeling and fits 'considered giving up'; 'undaunted' would mean the opposite.
28. **B** – 'Had it not been for' is the correct inverted third conditional and keeps the past meaning.
29. **D** – 'No sooner' requires inversion ('had she arrived') and is followed by 'than', not 'when'.
30. **A** – A present belief about a past passive event needs 'is believed to have been + past participle'.
31. **C** – The correct pattern is 'there is no point in + -ing'.
32. **B** – After 'Only when + clause', the main clause is inverted, and the embedded question keeps normal word order.
33. **D** – 'Little chance of + object + -ing' expresses low probability; 'a little' would mean some chance.

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34. **C** – 'Much as' is a fixed concessive conjunction meaning 'although'.
35. **A** – Criticism of a past action needs 'ought not to have + past participle'; standard English keeps 'to'.
36. **B** – 'Contrary to expectations' is the correct fixed phrase, and the plan did succeed.

Notes for teachers: Use the test as a timed mock or split it into its four parts for separate lessons. It targets typical C2 errors: near-synonym collocations (act/serve, easy/arm's reach), inversion word order after 'No sooner' and 'Only when', 'no point in' + -ing, 'Much as' concessive clauses and overstate/understate confusion. For follow-up, ask students to justify why each distractor is wrong, or to write their own transformations using the same key words.

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