Use of English C2 – Test 2

Name: Class: Date: Score: / 36

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Choose the best 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.

For most of the twentieth century, mending a broken toaster or darning a sock was simply what people did. Then, almost imperceptibly, the habit began to (1) ___ way to a culture of replacement. As manufactured goods grew cheaper, buying a new item came to seem not only easier but somehow more respectable than fixing an old one, and a whole body of practical know-how gradually (2) ___ into disuse.

Lately, however, the tide appears to be (3) ___. In community halls in cities across the world, volunteers now host regular repair sessions to which residents bring faulty lamps, torn jackets and temperamental bicycles. Organisers are quick to (4) ___ out that the appeal is not purely economic: each session is (5) ___ and foremost a social occasion, and many visitors take enormous satisfaction in seeing an object they had (6) ___ off as useless brought back to life.

Critics argue that such initiatives, however admirable, barely make a (7) ___ in the mountains of waste produced every year. Supporters counter that this misses the point: the real value lies in challenging a throwaway mindset that has gone (8) ___ for far too long. If nothing else, they contend, learning to fix things means we are no longer entirely at the (9) ___ of manufacturers.

1. Gap 1: the habit began to _____ way to a culture of replacement
   A make **B** give **C** lose **D** open
2. Gap 2: a whole body of practical know-how gradually _____ into disuse
   A went **B** came **C** fell **D** turned
3. Gap 3: Lately, however, the tide appears to be _____.
   A turning **B** swinging **C** revolving **D** rotating
4. Gap 4: Organisers are quick to _____ out that the appeal is not purely economic
   A bring **B** carry **C** hold **D** point
5. Gap 5: each session is _____ and foremost a social occasion
   A chief **B** prime **C** first **D** best
6. Gap 6: an object they had _____ off as useless
   A rubbed **B** laughed **C** written **D** kicked
7. Gap 7: such initiatives barely make a _____ in the mountains of waste
   A dent **B** scratch **C** crack **D** bruise
8. Gap 8: a throwaway mindset that has gone _____ for far too long
   A unquestioning **B** unchallenged **C** undeniable **D** unaccountable

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9. Gap 9: we are no longer entirely at the _____ of manufacturers
   A hands **B** command **C** charge **D** mercy

Part 2: Open cloze (multiple choice)

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

Few punctuation marks provoke (10) ___ strong feelings as the semicolon. Some writers adore it; (11) ___ dismiss it as a pretentious affectation best avoided altogether. The mark was popularised in fifteenth-century Venice, (12) ___ a printer sought a way of giving readers a pause longer than a comma (13) ___ shorter than a full stop. (14) ___ all its modest origins, it soon spread across Europe, and by the nineteenth century it had become a fixture of serious prose.

In recent decades, (15) ___, its fortunes have declined. Style guides increasingly advise writers to break long sentences up, and the more time people spend reading on small screens, (16) ___ fussier the semicolon seems. Even so, its defenders insist that, used sparingly, it allows a writer to link two ideas so closely related that separating them would lose something essential. (17) ___ it ever disappear entirely, they warn, written English would be poorer for it. Whether or not one agrees, few marks have inspired (18) ___ passionate debate.

10. Gap 10: Few punctuation marks provoke _____ strong feelings as the semicolon.
    A so **B** such **C** as **D** such as
11. Gap 11: Some writers adore it; _____ dismiss it as a pretentious affectation
    A the other **B** others **C** another **D** other
12. Gap 12: The semicolon was popularised in Venice, _____ a printer working in the 1490s sought a way of giving readers a pause longer than a comma but shorter than a full stop.
    A which **B** when **C** where **D** whom
13. Gap 13: a pause longer than a comma _____ shorter than a full stop
    A or **B** but **C** nor **D** so
14. Gap 14: _____ all its modest origins, it soon spread across Europe
    A With **B** In **C** By **D** For
15. Gap 15: In recent decades, _____, its fortunes have declined.
    A though **B** although **C** despite **D** even
16. Gap 16: the more time people spend reading on small screens, _____ fussier the semicolon seems
    A so **B** the **C** more **D** all
17. Gap 17: _____ it ever disappear entirely, they warn, written English would be poorer for it.
    A Were **B** Had **C** Should **D** Would
18. Gap 18: few marks have inspired _____ passionate debate
    A such **B** so **C** too **D** what

Part 3: Word formation

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

19. Her contribution to the project, though largely _____, was absolutely crucial to its success. (SING)
    A unsinging **B** unsung **C** unsang **D** singless

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20. The two parties remain _____ opposed on the question of funding. (DIAMETER)
A diametrical **B** diametric **C** diametrically **D** diametrally

21. Rents in the city centre have become _____ high for most young people. (PROHIBIT)
A prohibitedly **B** prohibitive **C** prohibitionally **D** prohibitively

22. After weeks of fruitless discussion, the negotiations reached an _____ and talks were suspended. (PASS)
A impasse **B** overpass **C** passage **D** bypass

23. The novelist has an _____ ability to capture the rhythms of everyday speech. (CANNY)
A uncannily **B** incanny **C** uncanny **D** uncanniness

24. The difference between the two versions is barely _____ to the untrained eye. (DISCERN)
A discerning **B** discernible **C** discernment **D** undiscerning

25. She argued her case with such _____ that even her fiercest critics were won over. (CONVINCE)
A conviction **B** convincement **C** convincibility **D** convincing

26. The scheme was _____ from the outset, so nobody was surprised when it collapsed. (CONCEIVE)
A inconceivable **B** preconceived **C** misconceived **D** unconceived

27. Once signed, the agreement is _____ and cannot be withdrawn under any circumstances. (REVOKE)
A unrevokable **B** irrevokable **C** unrevocable **D** irrevocable

Part 4: Key word transformations

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

28. She had no idea that the police were watching her. (LITTLE)
A Little she knew that the police were watching her.
B Little did she know that the police were watching her.
C Little did she knew that the police were watching her.
D Little knew she that the police were watching her.

29. People say that the company is on the verge of bankruptcy. (REPUTED)
A The company is reputed being on the verge of bankruptcy.
B It is reputed the company to be on the verge of bankruptcy.
C The company is reputed to be on the verge of bankruptcy.
D The company reputes to be on the verge of bankruptcy.

30. Her performance was nowhere near as good as we had expected. (FELL)
A Her performance fell far short of our expectations.
B Her performance fell far behind of our expectations.
C Her performance fell short from what we had expected.
D Her performance fell slightly short of our expectations.

31. Everyone was surprised when he resigned. (CAME)
A His resignation came to everyone as surprise.
B His resignation came as a surprise to everyone.
C His resignation came as a surprise for nobody.
D Everyone came to be surprised by his resignation.

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32. I don't mind at all whether we eat in or go out. (DIFFERENCE)
    A It does no difference to me whether we eat in or go out.
    B It makes a big difference to me whether we eat in or go out.
    C There is no difference for me whether we eat in or go out.
    D It makes no difference to me whether we eat in or go out.

33. He has never really accepted that his career is over. (TERMS)
    A He has never really come to terms that his career is over.
    B He has never really come to terms with the fact that his career is over.
    C He has never really come into terms with the fact that his career is over.
    D He has never really been on terms with the fact that his career is over.

34. There is absolutely no possibility of the project being finished by Friday. (QUESTION)
    A Finishing the project by Friday is out of the question.
    B Finishing the project by Friday is out of question.
    C Finishing the project by Friday is beyond question.
    D Finishing the project by Friday is without question.

35. The match was called off because the pitch was waterlogged. (ACCOUNT)
    A The match was called off on account the pitch was waterlogged.
    B The match was called off by account of the waterlogged pitch.
    C The match was called off on account of the waterlogged pitch.
    D The match was called off on the account of the waterlogged pitch.

36. I'm sure she didn't intend to upset anyone. (MEANT)
    A She mustn't have meant to upset anyone.
    B She can't have meant upsetting anyone.
    C She couldn't have been meaning upset anyone.
    D She can't have meant to upset anyone.

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Answer key – Use of English C2 – Test 2

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

Explanations

1. **B** – The fixed phrase is 'give way to', meaning to be replaced by something.
2. **C** – 'Fall into disuse' is the standard collocation for something no longer being used.
3. **A** – 'The tide is turning' is the idiom for a trend starting to reverse.
4. **D** – 'Point out' means to draw attention to a fact.
5. **C** – The fixed expression is 'first and foremost'.
6. **C** – To 'write something off as useless' means to decide it has no value.
7. **A** – 'Make a dent in' means to reduce something by a noticeable amount.
8. **B** – 'Go unchallenged' means to continue without anyone opposing or questioning it.
9. **D** – 'At the mercy of' means completely in someone's power.
10. **C** – The comparison 'as + adjective + noun + as' requires 'as' in both positions.
11. **B** – 'Others' is the plural pronoun contrasting with 'some'.
12. **C** – The antecedent is the place 'Venice' and the clause after the gap is already complete, so only the relative adverb 'where' fits; 'when' needs a time antecedent, and 'which' and 'whom' would need a missing subject or object.
13. **B** – 'But' links two contrasting qualities: longer than one thing, yet shorter than another.
14. **D** – 'For all' means 'despite' and introduces a concession.
15. **A** – 'Though' can be used as an adverb between commas to mean 'however'; 'although' cannot.
16. **B** – The double comparative structure is 'the more ..., the + comparative'.
17. **C** – 'Should' + subject + bare infinitive forms an inverted conditional; 'Were' would need 'to disappear'.
18. **A** – 'Such' is used before an adjective + uncountable noun; 'so' is used before an adjective alone.
19. **B** – 'Unsung' is an adjective meaning not praised or recognised.
20. **C** – An adverb is needed to modify 'opposed', and 'diametrically opposed' is a fixed collocation.
21. **D** – An adverb is needed before the adjective 'high'; 'prohibitively high' is a common collocation.
22. **A** – An 'impasse' is a situation in which no progress is possible.
23. **C** – The adjective 'uncanny' means strangely remarkable and is needed before the noun 'ability'.
24. **B** – 'Discernible' means able to be noticed; 'discerning' describes a person with good judgement.
25. **A** – The noun 'conviction' means strong belief; 'with conviction' is a fixed collocation.
26. **C** – 'Misconceived' means badly planned or based on a wrong idea.
27. **D** – The correct form uses the prefix 'ir-' and the spelling '-vocable': 'irrevocable'.
28. **B** – Negative adverbials like 'little' require inversion with an auxiliary: 'did she know'.
29. **C** – 'Be reputed' is followed by a to-infinitive in this passive reporting structure.
30. **A** – 'Fall far short of' keeps the meaning of 'nowhere near'; 'slightly' changes the meaning.
31. **B** – The fixed phrase is 'come as a surprise to someone'.
32. **D** – The correct collocation is 'make no difference to someone'.
33. **B** – 'Come to terms with' needs 'with', so a that-clause must follow 'the fact that'.
34. **A** – 'Out of the question' means impossible; 'beyond question' means certain.
35. **C** – 'On account of' is a fixed preposition phrase meaning 'because of' and takes no article.

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36. **D** – 'Can't have + past participle' expresses negative certainty about the past, and 'mean' takes a to-infinitive when it means 'intend'.

Notes for teachers: Use the test as timed exam practice or work through it part by part in class. Parts 1 and 3 target near-miss collocations and prefix and suffix errors such as unrevokable or prohibitive for prohibitively. Parts 2 and 4 focus on inversion, comparative structures and fixed expressions where learners often drop an article or preposition. As a follow-up, have students write their own transformations using the key words from Part 4.

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