

CAMBRIDGE
EXAMINATIONS, CERTIFICATES & DIPLOMAS

FCE

FIRST CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH

SAMPLE PAPERS

English as a
Foreign Language



UNIVERSITY *of* CAMBRIDGE
Local Examinations Syndicate

Part 1

You are going to read a newspaper article about a day in the life of a footballer. Choose the most suitable heading from the list **A-I** for each part (**1-7**) of the article. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (**0**).

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

- A** Domestic matters
- B** Time off
- C** All players are different
- D** Putting in the practice
- E** Working together
- F** Keeping my standard up
- G** What makes a good player
- H** Not my choice

A day in the life of Jim Barber, Scottish Footballer

Jim Barber is a centre forward for Glasgow Rangers football club. He talks to Paul Sullivan about a typical day in his life.

0

1

I don't usually get up till 8.30. On a match day I'll get up even later. I'll sit in bed, watch breakfast TV for a while, and then I'll go down, get the mail, have a coffee and read the papers. I'll have a wash and then I'll get ready to go to the club. Rangers is probably the only club where the players have to come in every morning wearing a shirt and tie; it's a traditional thing and I quite like it really.

1

Every day except Sunday, I'll be at the club by 10. It's a short drive but I'll still usually be a few minutes late. I've a bad reputation for being late, and I've been fined many times. Each day of training is in preparation for the next match. We'll do some weight training and some running to build up stamina. Players work on particular aspects of the game but tactics are usually left till match day.

2

After training I'll usually have a sauna and then we'll have lunch: salads and pasta, stuff like that. In the afternoon I just try to relax. I started playing golf with the rest of the lads, and I love horse racing, too. My other great hobby is music which helps me to escape the pressure of work.

3

The best thing in football is scoring goals - and I'm a top goal-scorer. It feels absolutely fantastic but I never feel above the rest of the team; if I did, I wouldn't last two minutes in the dressing room. Any success I have is a team success. My idol in the past was always Kenny Dalglish. My idols now are the other Rangers players.

4

The matches themselves are always different from each other. You go through a lot of emotions during a game but really it's a question of concentration. You've got just 90 minutes to give everything you've got and take every chance you can. There's luck and there's being in the right place at the right time, but you can't make use of those without concentration and responsibility.

5

Sports writers often talk about age but it's not something that bothers me. I'm 30 and feel fantastic. I missed a few games last year due to injury and my place was taken by a young player at Rangers. We are friends but he is a threat to my position. My job is to score goals and if I don't I'll be replaced.

6

I try not to let football rule my home life but my wife would probably disagree; last year we only got three weeks' holiday. It's difficult for Allison, my wife, but I think she's learned to accept it. She likes football and comes to the matches. I do like to go out and see friends but I always have dinner with my wife.

7

We'll usually go to bed about midnight. Sometimes I do worry when I think of the day it all ends and I stop scoring. That scares me and I can't see myself playing for any other team, either, but the reality is that the players don't make the decisions. If someone makes your club a good enough offer for you, they'll accept it. But I try not to let things like that bother me.

Part 2

You are going to read a magazine article about a book. For Questions 8-14, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Natural CLASSIC



Each month we ask one of our experts to tell us what wildlife book - novel, guide or textbook - has most influenced him or her. Here, Martha Holmes, marine biologist, TV presenter and film producer, reveals all.

I'm a very keen reader, but selecting the book with a natural-history theme which has influenced me most was some challenge, until I
9 thought back to my childhood. Then it was easy.

Where the book came from is a mystery, and I have never met anyone who has heard of it. It is Rita Richie's *The Golden Hawks of Genghis Khan*. I read it when I was about 10 years old and I remember to this day the effect it had on me.

Set in 1218, it is a story of a rich boy whose parents are dead. He is growing up in the splendid city of Samarkand and has a fascination for hawks, those magnificent hunting birds. There is a great deal of mystery surrounding his past, but he is led to believe that a band of Mongols killed his father to steal a rare type of bird - the golden hawk. Determined to get these birds back, he runs away from Samarkand and joins a group of people travelling to the country

of Mongolia. What follows is a grand adventure centred on the city of Karakorum, where the great Mongol chief Genghis Khan was then based.

The book combines adventure, mystery, honour, friendship, danger, suffering - all seen through the eyes of the young hero, Jalair. I still find this fantasy a thrilling read. Jalair's great love for the birds was enviable and inspiring. But most of all it was the sense of *place* that stayed with me. The book gives the reader an idea of the vast open spaces of central Asia and its huge skies, without the use of the long descriptive passages that would bore a child. There are no boundaries. The emptiness of the Gobi Desert, the Tian Shan mountains and the excitement of riding through forests and over rolling hills fascinated me.

The book gave me more than hawks, horses and a desire for wild places. It also gave me a set of values. The Mongols in *The Golden Hawks* were totally uninterested in possessions, a characteristic that is absolutely essential for people who spent their lives travelling from place to place. They were never mean. Generosity, goodwill and optimism were highly valued, hard work was enjoyed and the rest was pure fun. They simply loved life.

Two years ago, I fulfilled a life-long ambition and went riding in Mongolia's mountains. I was not disappointed.

- 8 When first asked to choose a book, Martha Holmes
- A was influenced by the experts.
 - B chose one she had read recently.
 - C had difficulty in making a decision.
 - D was pleased to have been approached.
- 9 What does 'it' in line 9 refer to?
- A the choice
 - B Martha's childhood
 - C the book
 - D the theme
- 10 Martha says the book *The Golden Hawks of Genghis Khan*
- A was recommended by a friend.
 - B was very popular when she was a child.
 - C is known to very few people.
 - D is one of many mystery books she has read.
- 11 The main interest of the hero of the book is
- A what happened to his parents.
 - B the desire to see different countries.
 - C the beauty of his homeland.
 - D his passion for particular birds.
- 12 Where does most of the story take place?
- A in Samarkand
 - B in Karakorum
 - C on the way to Karakorum
 - D in the Tian Shan mountains
- 13 What did Martha enjoy about the book?
- A the range of characters
 - B the geographical setting
 - C the descriptive writing
 - D the changes of atmosphere
- 14 What values did Martha learn from the book?
- A the importance of a sense of humour
 - B how to be a successful traveller
 - C the need to protect your goods
 - D how to get the most out of life

Part 3

You are going to read a magazine article about an actress. Seven paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose the most suitable paragraph from the list **A-H** for each part (**15-20**) of the article. There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (**0**).

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

- A** 'I didn't like school and I spent most of my time in my head. One of the teachers noticed that. She'd say, "I'm not going to repeat that for Nyree Porter because she's not listening anyway. No doubt she'll let me have the sketch she's doing under the desk." '
- B** Her mother also did well at school. She became a gifted painter and was, as her father always said, 'The prettiest girl in New Zealand.'
- C** Against hundreds of other actors, Nyree was given the part. She had no hesitation in giving up everything to act and within two years had been brought to England by a famous film producer.
- D** By the time she left school, Nyree had passed all the required exams for teaching ballet. She had her own dance studio and enjoyed her work. But something told her that at some stage she would have to leave New Zealand to find full satisfaction.
- E** Nyree was born on the north island of New Zealand. Her father was a butcher who later became a developer and a businessman. She was given the Maori name of Ngaire which was later changed to its present English form as nobody could pronounce it.
- F** Sadly, that didn't happen. 'My parents were like oil and water,' explains Nyree. 'They simply couldn't live together. My father's work kept him away from home but I think it was partly because he found it difficult to live with my mother.'
- G** That was followed by another successful show called *Look Who's Here* at the Fortune Theatre and a BBC television series, *Madame Bovary*. Four years later, in 1967, came *The Forsyte Saga*, the series which became addictive, not just in Britain, but all over the world.
- H** 'It stopped me dead and instead of joining the other performers I walked down to the front of the stage to find out what that noise was.'



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Nyree's Story

After an upbringing in New Zealand and a spell acting in her own country, Nyree Dawn Porter made London her home. Interview by Alan O'Kelly.

Nyree Dawn Porter made her first stage appearance at the age of three. Playing the part of a ladybird in an amateur production of *Noah's Ark*, she walked onto the stage and into the lights to delighted applause and laughter.

18

'I was acting in a local amateur production when a woman came to my dressing room and asked me if I had ever considered acting as a career. She was the wife of a leading actor at the New Zealand National Theatre. Her car had broken down outside and that was the only reason she had come in. She arranged for me to try for a role in an American comedy called *The Solid Gold Cadillac*.'

0

H

'That noise' has charmed her ever since and in a long, successful career, both on the theatre stage and on television, she has received plenty of it.

15

Nyree speaks lovingly of her father Ken, who was warm and affectionate and loved music passionately. For a long time she was an only child, but when her sister, Merle Isabel, came along, the happy family should have been complete.

19

'I loved London and my lucky break came when I was given a letter of introduction to Hazel Vincent Wallace at the Leatherhead Theatre. I got a job in a Christmas show, both acting and dancing.'

16

As a result, Nyree remembers her childhood as being sad but productive. She had a nervous stammer and was so shy and quiet that her teachers became extremely worried about her. She found her release through books, painting and ballet.

20

Nyree Dawn Porter has adopted England, and we have adopted her. She has lived here ever since, although she does visit her old home and regularly works in Australia.

17

A teacher named Jim Goodall came to her rescue by encouraging her to do well and by making her president of the drama club. A second influential person was another teacher, who had spent a lot of time in England and France. Her enthusiasm helped Nyree to use her natural gift for French and she also encouraged her to act.

Part 4

You are going to read a magazine article about various people who did courses later in life. For Questions **21-35**, choose from the people (**A-D**). There is an example at the beginning (**0**).

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Of which of the people A-D are the following true?

A	Fiona
B	Deborah
C	Joyce

She recommends the course she took.	0	<input type="text" value="C"/>
She felt relaxed when doing a course.	21	<input type="text"/>
She felt obliged to do a course.	22	<input type="text"/>
Her training made it hard for her to do some of the work on a course.	23	<input type="text"/>
Her colleagues' attitude towards her has changed.	24	<input type="text"/>
She feels confident about the future.	25	<input type="text"/>
She was put off education earlier in life.	26	<input type="text"/>
The way classes were organised suited her.	27	<input type="text"/>
Her plans became more ambitious while doing a course.	28	<input type="text"/>
She wasted her time when she was at college before.	29	<input type="text"/>
She realised she had thought of a strong commercial idea.	30	<input type="text"/>
Her teacher provided practical advice.	31	<input type="text"/>
She found her experience of life useful when doing a course.	32	<input type="text"/>
She enjoyed the company of the others taking a course.	33	<input type="text"/>
She has learnt not to be nervous in certain circumstances.	34	<input type="text"/>
A success encouraged her to study other subjects.	35	<input type="text"/>

GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to education after years of working can open any number of doors, as Frances Brierley discovered.

A

Fiona, a freelance journalist, has just finished a four-year part-time degree in English Literature. Fiona, 33, who hadn't been in further education since finishing a journalism course at London Printing College 11 years ago, says: 'I got more out of doing it later in life than straight after school. When I did my journalism course, we sat in the canteen chatting half the time, but when you're older you realise that the only person you're cheating is yourself if you do that. And when you're older you can bring so much more to your analysis because you've done more. It was quite strange having to write an essay after many years, particularly after being a journalist where you have to say things as briefly as possible. But it was interesting having access to such knowledgeable tutors.'

B

Deborah left school without any qualifications and ended up ten years later with a degree. Obtaining the degree gave her an enormous desire to learn more. Since then, Deborah has enrolled on courses ranging from pottery to African cinema to salsa dancing.

She says: 'I never liked school. They didn't teach me to enjoy learning and I'm sure this experience can destroy many people's desire to learn more later in life. There's so much in life to learn as you get older, it becomes a real pleasure. There are no pressures – you don't have to prove anything. You are there because you want to be. There is also something special about spending time with people who share a common passion. You don't know their names or anything about them, but all the barriers are broken down because everyone has the same objective.'

C

Joyce joined the Start Your Own Business course a few months ago and she is now preparing to start an international business in furniture design. Joyce, who is in her early thirties, says: 'I had a flood of ideas that came to me in bed one night and I had to get up to draw them while they were still fresh in my mind.'

The course was taught by businesswoman, Diane Shelley. She says: 'Joyce was full of ideas and is now about to start her own multi-million pound business.'

'The course helps you identify so many things,' says Joyce, 'the ideas developed until they were almost out of control; by the end my idea had become an international business. Diane didn't just teach theory, she also shared her own experience with us. That helped me a lot, because years ago I would have been frightened to see bank managers and accountants as I didn't understand the financial aspects. Diane made me realise that you employ these people to do the work. Now I'm not scared of borrowing money because I know the business will be successful.'

Sonya did a three-day intensive desk-top publishing course in May. Sonya, 24, who works as a publicity assistant at a bank, says: 'I needed some skills to make me better at my job. Writing reports is an essential part of my job and so the presentation of my work is important.' The course, held at the London College of Printing, covers both practice and theory. Sonya says: 'It was quite demanding, they really get you thinking. Because there were only six or seven in the group, we got more attention and it was easier to ask questions. Now my reports appear more professional and I can produce them quicker. A lot of people have said "Your work's improved," and it has made me get on better with people in the office because I'm in a privileged position, having knowledge others don't have.'

Part 1

- 1 D
- 2 B
- 3 E
- 4 G
- 5 F
- 6 A
- 7 H

Part 2

- 8 C
- 9 A
- 10 C
- 11 D
- 12 B
- 13 B
- 14 D

Part 3

- 15 E
- 16 F
- 17 A
- 18 D
- 19 C
- 20 G

Part 4

- 21 B
- 22 D
- 23 A
- 24 D
- 25 C
- 26 B
- 27 D
- 28 C
- 29 A
- 30 C
- 31 C
- 32 A
- 33 B
- 34 C
- 35 B

Questions 1-20 are given two marks each, and Questions 21-35 are given one mark each.
The total score is adjusted to give a mark out of 40.