

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY, BELGRADE  
ENTRANCE EXAM OCTOBER 2025

**1. GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY (30 minutes)**

**I - Read the whole text carefully, choose the correct answer, and mark it on your answer sheet:**

When Pierre-François Bouchard's men discovered the ancient stone slab that (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the world on July 19, 1799, they weren't on an archaeological dig; they were doing a last-minute construction job. The French soldiers occupied a run-down fort in Rosetta, Egypt, and had just days to strengthen their defenses for a battle with Ottoman Empire troops.

As the men (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a wall that had been built using the remains of nearby ancient Egyptian sites, they discovered a large stone fragment covered in three types of writing, including ancient Greek. (3) \_\_\_\_\_, Bouchard wondered (4) \_\_\_\_\_ say the same thing in three different languages. He shared his find with French scholars who had come to Egypt to unearth archaeological treasures.

They got more than they (5) \_\_\_\_\_. The slab was the Rosetta Stone, and the letters and symbols carefully chiseled into its dark face would shed light on the glory of ancient Egyptian civilization. But first, scholars (6) \_\_\_\_\_ crack its code.

Standing at about four feet high and 2.5 feet wide, the granite-like rock is just a fragment of a larger, now lost, block. (7) \_\_\_\_\_ its text is incomplete, it is invaluable. It (8) \_\_\_\_\_ a decree affirming the royal cult of Ptolemy V Epiphanes, an Egyptian king who took the throne in 204 B.C.

At the time, the Ptolemaic kingdom was at war and dealing with an internal revolt. The decree was passed by a council of priests who used it to honor the pharaoh and declare their loyalty to him. It (9) \_\_\_\_\_ on the slab in Ptolemaic hieroglyphics, Demotic Egyptian script, and ancient Greek script. Identical slabs (10) \_\_\_\_\_ in every temple in Egypt.

The Rosetta Stone's translation became the backbone of Egyptology, and the iconic slab has been (11) \_\_\_\_\_ one of the most important objects in history. But the stone itself is controversial as a spoil of war. Over the years, there (12) \_\_\_\_\_ calls to return the stone to Egypt, but it remains at (13) \_\_\_\_\_ where it has over six million visitors a year.

1. A had changed  
B will change  
☒ C would change  
D must change

4. A would the stone  
B what the stone might  
C could the stone  
☒ D if the stone might

7. A Because  
B As soon as  
☒ C But though  
D Unless

2. ☒ A took up  
B tore down  
C pulled up  
D pulled off

5. A could chew  
B could swallow  
☒ C bargained for  
D powered through

8. ☒ A consists of  
B made up of  
C comprised of  
D contents of

3. ☒ A Intrigued  
B Intriguing  
C Interesting  
D Intuited

6. A could have to  
☒ B would have to  
C might want to  
D might have to

9. A recorded  
B was recording  
C had recorded  
☒ D was recorded

10. A was to place  
☒ B were to be placed  
C should be placed  
D should place

11. A mistaken for  
B compared to  
☒ C credited as  
D known for

12. A will be repeating  
☒ B have been repeated  
C were repeating  
D are repeated

13. ☒ A the British Museum,  
B British Museum,  
C the British Museum  
D British Museum

**II - Choose the correct answer and mark it on your answer sheet:**

14. I think there is \_\_\_\_\_ reason to think he'll cheat us as he's been \_\_\_\_\_ a liar.

- ☒ A. every / proven  
B. no / shown  
C. little / known  
D. all / marked

15. \_\_\_\_\_ the accident, she was called \_\_\_\_\_ evidence in court.

- A. Witnessing / to be giving  
B. Being witness / to provide  
☒ C. Having witnessed / to give  
D. Been witnessed / to have provided

16. I feel fortunate to have such amazing friends \_\_\_\_\_ me.

- A. who look out  
☒ B. looking after  
C. that are looking alike  
D. looked up to

17. Sarah, \_\_\_\_\_ her misfortune, always remains positive.

- A. although  
B. in spite  
C. because of  
☒ D. despite

18. I was about \_\_\_\_\_ them, but then realised I \_\_\_\_\_ their number.

- A. phoning / would have lost  
☒ B. to ring / had misplaced  
C. to be calling / was to lose  
D. to call / have forgotten

19. You \_\_\_\_\_ your boots as they predicted heavy snowfall for today.

- ☒ A. had better wear  
B. should have been packing  
C. may have brought  
D. ought to be worn

20. \_\_\_\_\_ travelling abroad, I prefer to bring \_\_\_\_\_ extra amount of cash.

- A. Whichever / some  
B. Wherever / a  
C. However / the  
☒ D. Whenever / an

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Cepze Manjpa



## 2. READING COMPREHENSION (25 minutes)

Read the texts carefully in order to answer the questions that follow them. Mark the answers on your answer sheet.

### I An Infamous Heist

On the evening of Dec. 7, 2002, a man called Octave Durham stole two Vincent van Gogh paintings of inestimable value from the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam – “View of the Sea at Scheveningen” (1882), one of only two seascapes van Gogh painted during his years in the Netherlands, and “Congregation Leaving the Reformed Church in Nuenen” (1882-84), showing the church where the artist’s father was a pastor, a gift to the artist’s mother. Mr. Durham did not know the historical background of the paintings; they were the smallest ones in the gallery he targeted and closest to the hole through which he entered. He stuffed them into a bag and escaped by sliding down a rope he and his accomplice had put in place. When he hit the ground, he came down so hard that he smashed the seascape, chipping the paint. He left behind a black baseball cap. A security guard called the police, but she was not permitted to use force to try to stop the burglars.

When he returned home, Mr. Durham removed the frames and plexiglass covers from the paintings. He tossed the paint chips from the seascape into a toilet. Later, he dumped the frames in a canal. He could not sell the canvases on the open market, but he put out the word in the underworld. At one point, he met with a former convict who agreed to buy the paintings, but who was killed on the day of the planned sale. Later, Mr. Durham and his accomplice, Henk Bieslijn, contacted an Italian mobster who agreed to buy the two paintings in March 2003 for around 350,000 euros, divided equally between the thieves. He sent them to Italy within two weeks and never displayed them.

The thieves spent the money over about six weeks. Those purchases helped investigators, who were already wiretapping him, catch Mr. Durham. They went to his apartment, but he escaped by climbing up the side of the building — a skill that earned him the nickname “the Monkey.” They searched his house, but the paintings were long gone. Mr. Durham fled to Spain, where the police arrested him in Marbella, a southern resort town, in December 2003. The next summer, Dutch forensic investigators confirmed a DNA match from the baseball cap he left behind during the museum robbery. Mr. Durham and Mr. Bieslijn were convicted that year. Mr. Durham was released from prison in 2006, but still owed 350,000 euros in fines; he had only paid about 60,000 euros. In 2013, he approached the museum and, although he still insisted he was innocent, offered to help retrieve the works. The museum rejected his offer because he suggested that they buy them back.

#### 1. Durham’s heist

- A) targeted the two paintings because of their great value.
- B) was carefully planned and involved small paintings.
- ☒ C) resulted in the theft of the paintings closest to the point of entry.
- D) involved paintings with small value but significant historical importance.

#### 2. According to the text, after a rough landing while escaping the museum, Durham

- ☒ A) damaged the surface of the Scheveningen Sea painting.
- B) smashed the frames of both paintings and later threw them in a canal.
- C) smashed the glass of the Scheveningen Sea painting.
- D) damaged both pictures, but it didn’t decrease their value.

#### 3. The man who bought the paintings

- ☒ A) paid the thieves 350,000 euros and kept the paintings hidden.
- B) was a former convict who was later killed.
- C) displayed the artworks in his private collection in Italy.
- D) was caught by the police after buying the stolen art.

#### 4. Why was Durham nicknamed “the Monkey”?

- A) He was clever enough to bypass the museum’s alarms.
- B) He was reckless when he escaped from the crime scene.
- C) He knew how to hide well in the criminal underworld.
- ☒ D) He was skilled at climbing buildings to escape the police.

#### 5. Which statement accurately describes the events when the police finally caught up with him?

- A) After selling the paintings, Durham was arrested at his home but managed to escape and flee to Spain.
- B) The police searched his house and found his baseball cap, which served as evidence.
- ☒ C) The police failed to find the paintings at his home and Durham fled to Spain.
- D) The Dutch police confirmed he was one of the thieves because of the baseball cap, so he was convicted in Spain.



## II De-influencing: The Movement Against Overconsumption

In 2019, Diana Wiebe bought a set of heatless curling rods she saw on TikTok, only to realize she didn't need them. "Honestly, the curlers really disrupted my sleep, and I didn't make it past night one," she says. By 2025, Wiebe had become an influencer herself, but with a mission to "de-influence" her 200,000 followers from buying things they don't need. She is part of a growing movement that rejects traditional influencer culture, especially the "haul" videos where creators show off large purchases. With hashtags like #deinfluencing racking up over a billion views, the movement promotes messages like "underconsumption is normal consumption."

Wiebe believes the cultural tide is turning against an influencer model that often feels inauthentic. "When I started seeing more adverts on my TikTok timeline, I thought about how much I'd already purchased because of influencer reviews," she says. "It suddenly hit me that it was all advertising... Influencers feel like hearing from a friend or family member because we almost view our favorite TikTokers as people we know." She stresses she isn't advocating for a "no-buy" lifestyle but rather for a more mindful approach of "slowing down and really thinking through purchases."

This mindset also changed Christina Mychaskiw, a content creator who once accumulated over \$120,000 CAD in debt. "I hit rock bottom when I bought a pair of boots that cost more than my rent," she recalls. She felt trapped in a cycle of "Instagram versus reality," trying to live up to an image projected by her peers. Now, her advice is simple: "Get off your phone. Scrolling and constantly consuming content makes you more likely to give in to subliminal messages... use what you already have."

Stylist Lucinda Graham agrees, arguing that personal style requires time and patience, not constant consumption of fast fashion. "With influencers persuading us to buy clothes, we're buying items that represent the lifestyle of someone else," she says. "Fast fashion will never be authentic. If we look at indie sleaze for example, those classic looks come from people who genuinely live that lifestyle, not because they've bought ripped jeans online."

Despite the rise of de-influencing, the global influencer marketing industry was still estimated to be worth \$21.1 billion in 2023. Author Aja Barber, who wrote *Consumed*, believes the movement is helpful but thinks the real change needs to happen offline. Reflecting on modern consumption, Barber notes that some estimates suggest over 100 billion items of clothing are produced globally each year, with more than half ending up in landfills within 12 months. "We need to get real about the damage that everyday individuals are doing through the idea that we can just consume and consume, and it has no negative impact," she says.

6. According to the text, what is the primary goal of the "de-influencing" movement?

- A) To completely stop all forms of online shopping and promote a "no-buy" lifestyle.
- ☒ B) To encourage consumers to be more mindful about their purchases, resisting impulsive buying.
- C) To expose the falseness of specific fashion trends like "indie sleaze."
- D) To shift influencer marketing from TikTok to more traditional platforms like Instagram.

7. Diana Wiebe suggests that traditional influencing is particularly effective because:

- A) influencers are legally required to say when they are being paid.
- B) the products they promote are always high-quality.
- ☒ C) followers see their favorite creators as trusted friends, not advertisers.
- D) "haul" videos offer consumers detailed and honest product reviews.

8. What is Christina Mychaskiw's key advice for avoiding the trap of overconsumption?

- A) To adopt a strict minimalist lifestyle by getting rid of most personal belongings.
- ☒ B) To reduce screen time to avoid the constant exposure to marketing messages.
- C) To invest only in high-quality items that will last a lifetime.
- D) To only buy products that are recommended by de-influencers.

9. Stylist Lucinda Graham argues that an authentic personal style is primarily developed through:

- A) carefully selecting whose lifestyle should be imitated.
- B) purchasing trendy items from famous brands as soon as they appear.
- ☒ C) living an original lifestyle, rather than buying clothes to represent it.
- D) acquiring vintage items from second-hand shops.

10. Which statement best summarizes the overall status of the movement as described in the text?

- A) It has successfully challenged fast-fashion giants, leading to noticeable changes in their marketing strategies.
- ☒ B) It is a growing online conversation that promotes conscious consumerism, but it has not seriously harmed the influential marketing industry.
- C) Its popularity online means it will soon have a major impact on offline behaviour.
- D) Its main strategy involves online discussions, as key figures believe this is the most effective way to reach a wide audience.

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**3. LISTENING COMPREHENSION**

You are going to listen to two recordings. You will have one minute to read through the relevant set of questions and will hear a beep before each recording begins. While you are listening, you can mark your answers on the question sheet, but your final answers must be on the official answer sheet, which you will have 5 minutes to complete when both recordings have finished. You will hear each recording twice.

**Recording 1**

1. According to the recording, gardens in Britain

- A) are welcoming and delightful.
- B) are full of plants.
- C) are good for social interaction.
- ☒ D) are not used fully.

2. In 2020, when the Horticultural Trades Association started handing out plants to the residents of Manchester, their aim was

- A) to promote planting trees.
- B) to test which plants people preferred.
- ☒ C) to study gardening's effect on mental health.
- D) to compare different kinds of flowers.

3. One of the results of the study was the correlation between

- A) type of plants and stress.
- B) social interaction and hormone levels.
- ☒ C) time spent in the garden and the number of plants.
- D) money spent and health.

4. Which type of garden has the least influence on life satisfaction?

- ☒ A) formal gardens
- B) gardens with strong visual appeal
- C) vegetable gardens
- D) natural gardens

5. Which benefit of gardens is **NOT** mentioned in the podcast?

- A) They can reduce noise.
- B) They can give children a chance to connect with nature.
- ☒ C) Children spend less time on their mobile phones.
- D) They attract birds.

**Recording 2**

6. What is the one thing that Dr Michael Lewis does **NOT** claim in his new book?

- ☒ A) Ageing can be avoided.
- B) We have a chronological age and a biological age.
- C) People can influence their ageing process.
- D) People should use new tools to measure their biological age.

7. According to Dr Lewis, when it comes to the science of the new tests,

- A) there is an accepted methodology for measuring biological age.
- ☒ B) the new tests still need improving.
- C) they measure cholesterol and sugar more accurately.
- D) his tests are more reliable than traditional tests.

8. Some people might find testing their biological age stressful because

- A) they may need to change their lifestyle.
- ☒ B) they may discover they are older biologically.
- C) it is yet another test they have to perform.
- D) they may want to change the results.

9. What does Dr Lewis say about our biological age and lifestyle factors?

- A) Money has little effect on ageing.
- B) Genes decide most of our ageing.
- ☒ C) Being poor shortens life as much as smoking.
- D) There are some surprising links between the two.

10. When discussing exercise, Dr Lewis says

- A) exercise is like a magic pill.
- B) there can never be too much exercise.
- ☒ C) there can be a point when exercising becomes less effective.
- D) if you exercise enough, even eating sweets is beneficial

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**4. WRITING (45 minutes)**

*Read the instructions carefully:*

1. Write at least 150 words, using the other side of this paper if necessary.
2. Make sure that you complete all parts of the task.
3. Your paper will be judged on range and accuracy of grammar and vocabulary, as well as on coherence and task achievement. If your paper is completely off-topic, it will not be scored.
4. You may make an outline if you wish, but your outline will not count towards your score. You will not be graded on the appearance of your paper, but your handwriting must be readable. You may change or correct your writing, but you should not copy the whole composition out again.
5. You will now have 45 minutes to complete the following writing task:

Your town or municipality has secured a grant from a foreign investor to renovate the parks and streets near your school. Now the investor has asked senior students to suggest what improvements they would most like to see. Write a short proposal describing two changes near your school that you think would benefit young people most. When making your suggestions you should:

- point out some of the difficulties the current situation has caused in the past
- describe your suggested improvements and say how you expect young people to benefit from them
- say what you think may happen if the changes are not adopted.

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*For official use only*

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E2

LR/G		C/TA	
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E1

LR/G		C/TA	
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