English placement test

LT3 · C2 • Proficiency

Name _____ Date _____

Language & reading

Choose A, B or C for each question. Circle one answer. If you are unsure, move on.

USE OF ENGLISH

1. Which version suggests a benefit while withholding a causal conclusion?

A The figure suggests a benefit but cannot establish causation.
B The figure proves a benefit of uncertain size.
C The figure rules out a benefit for now.

2. The policy was adopted by ___ every team. Which phrase means “almost”?

A no fewer than · B virtually · C anything but

3. Which sentence accepts the premise for the sake of argument while challenging the inference?

A The premise has been disproved, so the inference fails.
B The inference is correct and supports the premise.
C Granting the premise, the policy may still fail.

4. Which sentence says the evidence failed to persuade without calling it false?

A The panel judged the evidence fabricated.
B The panel found the evidence unconvincing.
C The panel ruled the evidence inadmissible.

5. “The explanation was economical with the truth.” What does this usually imply?

A It was concise and accurate. · B It cut the cost of checking. · C It withheld relevant facts.

6. “Far be it from me to question your priorities, but …” followed by a criticism most likely does what?

A Introduces a challenge · B Withdraws the criticism · C Accepts responsibility

READING / Read the text. Then answer the questions.

One defence of public rankings is that, imperfect though they are, they make organisations answerable to people who would otherwise have no means of comparing them. The difficulty starts when the measure migrates from the margin of a decision to its centre. A service that sees its main purpose as moving up a table may become very good at producing improvements legible to the table. This is sometimes called gaming, a label that implies a degree of cynicism the behaviour need not involve. A sincere manager can come to mistake what is visible to the measure for what matters to the public. The argument for publishing rankings remains. What weakens is the case for treating the resulting order as a verdict.

7. What changes when a measure moves to the centre of a decision?

A It starts to shape priorities. · B The public loses access. · C Managers stop seeking improvements.

8. Why does the author qualify the word “gaming”?

A The table hides rule-breaking.
B Sincere action can distort outcomes too.
C The word only applies to numbers.

9. What distinction underpins the final two sentences?

A National versus local · B Public versus private · C Comparison versus verdict

10. Which statement best captures the writer’s position?

A Imperfect rankings should be withheld.
B Rankings help comparison but can distort priorities.
C Rankings work best without incentives to improve.

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Listening, speaking & writing

LT3 · C2 • Proficiency

01 / Listen twice

Read the questions. Play the C2 recording (British English) on the test page.

1. What original problem was the target intended to expose?

_____

2. What distinction is implied by the final sentence?

_____

02 / Look and speak

The dashboard and the queue



Interpret the tension in the image. Give two plausible readings of what the figures might mean, distinguish observation from inference and propose what evidence would help you decide.

03 / Write

Write a 180–220 word briefing for a board. One colleague argues for public rankings to improve accountability. Another warns they distort priorities. Synthesise the strongest point from each and recommend a qualified approach. Distinguish what you know from what you infer. Use a separate sheet.

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