



**İSTANBUL
KÜLTÜR
UNIVERSITY**

**ISTANBUL KÜLTÜR UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAM

Invigilator's Initials

DATE:

EXAM HALL: SFL / _____

NAME SURNAME: _____

DEPARTMENT: _____

STUDENT NO: _____

FOLLOW-UP NO: _____

FORM A

EXAM INSTRUCTIONS

- Keep your student card on your desk throughout the exam.
- Fill in the exam banners on your Exam Booklet.
- You are only allowed to use a pencil and an eraser.
- Dictionaries of any kind or any electronic gadget with a dictionary feature and smart watches are not allowed. Please hand over any such items to the Exam Invigilator before the exam starts.
- Look through each and every page of your Exam Booklet, checking page numbers and readability.
- Do not ask any questions to the Exam Invigilator during the exam.
- You are not allowed to go to the restroom during the exam.
- Your Exam Booklet will be taken by the Exam Invigilator at the end of the exam.
- There are 20 questions in the exam. The listening and reading parts of the exam will be marked out of 50 points.

THERE ARE TWO SESSIONS IN THIS EXAM.

1. Writing

2. Reading and Listening

1st Grader / 2nd Grader

READING GRADE: _____ / _____ / 25 pts.

LISTENING GRADE: _____ / _____ / 25 pts.

READING (10x2.5=25 points)

(Suggested Time: 30 minutes)

READING 1

Part 1. Reading for Main Ideas: You will read a text about old age. For questions 1-5, read the text and match the main ideas to the paragraphs (A-F). There is ONE EXTRA paragraph which you do not need to use.

IS YOUR AGE JUST A NUMBER?

¶A Life expectancy around the world has increased. According to the American Central Intelligence Agency website, people in many countries lived to be 80 or older. In Japan, it is common for people to live past 85 years. People in many parts of the world are living longer than in the past. So it is more important to think about how they live fully and how others help them. In different parts of the world, the point at which old age begins may change. For example, in the UK, people can get a state pension at 65. In Japan, 60 is seen as an important turning point that marks the beginning of old age. In New Guinea, males over 50 may be referred to as “lapun,” meaning “old man.” No matter when old age starts, there are often challenges, and people may need support services.

¶B Older adults have a number of different needs that affect the kinds of services that are suitable for them. One of the main ones is health, and many older people have various health issues. The Nuffield Trust, an independent health organisation in the UK, says the UK health service spends about seven times more money on an 85-year-old man than on a man in his 30s. Besides health needs, there are also social needs. Isolation and loneliness can be a problem for people of all ages, but these can become more intense as they age and their peers start to die. The challenge is to keep older adults healthy and socially active for as long as possible.

¶C Even though there are problems, older people can adapt to changes in their social lives and want to help society. In many developing countries, there is evidence of the productivity, creativity, and participation of older adults in workplaces, communities, households, and families. For example, farming in developing countries is increasingly dominated by older workers. In these countries, farmers are getting older quickly. In Indonesia, 80% are already over 45 and in Mozambique, 70% are over 45. Arild Angelsen, a professor of Environmental and Development Economics at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), thinks that the idea of taking care of older people is not that problematic. According to his survey, people in their 80s today are as strong as 75-year-olds in the past. Therefore, older people are important members of any society.

¶D Many countries take very different approaches to caring for older adults. In Japan, there is generally a lot of respect for older people. There is a national holiday on the third Monday in September called “Respect for the Aged Day,” on which young people perform song and dance routines for older neighbours. Families are expected to care for older relatives and have grandparents and great-grandparents live in the family home as part of the larger family. This approach is also common in Southern European countries and in areas such as Central America. On the other hand, in the US, older people are expected to be independent for as long as possible and then to get healthcare services or to make their own plans for retirement.

¶E There are several potential difficulties with the way different countries think about old age. In countries like India, where families care for older people, urbanization is affecting this process. More and more young people leave villages to find jobs in cities. They often live far from their older relatives, which makes caring for them difficult. In some of these countries, such as Japan, this situation is worse because there are far fewer young people than older people. This causes a greater financial pressure on those who work to provide for older people. Many families around the world only have one or two children, such as in China. Those children are

expected to take care of their parents when they grow up. In some countries, healthcare services mainly help older people who have saved money, own homes and have good pensions rather than those with poor financial resources.

¶F The role of the local community has changed shape during the recent coronavirus crisis. In some countries, such as the UK, older people were advised to stay at home for an extended period. During that period, they were supported by family, friends, and neighbours, who performed important daily tasks. As life expectancy and all these challenges increase, government policies and families will have to adapt. Age may just be a number, but that number is growing.

QUESTION	MAIN IDEA	PARAGRAPH
1.	Some possible problems related to looking after the old	
2.	Older people assist society in many ways	
3.	Meeting the social and medical needs of the old	
4.	Various opinions about the beginning of old age	
5.	Different ways of showing care and respect to the elderly	

1st Grader: _____ / 12.5 pts.

2nd Grader: _____ / 12.5 pts.

READING 2

Part 2. Reading for Details: You will read a text about parenting trends. For questions 6-10, write the correct answer on the answer sheet. For the gap-fill question, write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS.

PARENTING TRENDS

¶1 The way people raise their children is always changing. Every generation grows up, becomes parents, and then makes thousands of decisions about how they behave toward their children, how much freedom they give and how they discipline them when things go wrong. A person's parenting style can be based on how they were raised. Some follow the same parenting style, while others choose a different approach.

¶2 In terms of parenting styles, it's possible to identify a few common approaches, including the helicopter parent and the lawnmower parent. A helicopter parent gets involved in processes like applying to college, finding a job, and even talking to employers about salaries. This parenting style describes a parent who takes great interest in their child's experiences and problems, especially in education. In the same way that a helicopter circles overhead, a helicopter parent watches everything as the child grows, even into early adulthood. The lawnmower parent is similar, but this type of parent goes a step further and tries to put an end to all problems in a child's way, like how a lawnmower cuts grass. While many parents help their children face challenges, lawnmower parents try to prevent them completely. Some people have expressed concern that this approach may not prepare children very well for adult life, since dealing with difficult situations is unavoidable in life.

¶3 There are also trends in how much freedom children have. All parents are concerned about their children's safety, and that means safety both online and offline. In the U.S, the average age when a child gets a smartphone is now 10, so this issue has become more important. While some phones, such as the iPhone, allow parents to limit screen time and to track a child's location, many parents want to have a lot more authority over the child. Apps such as Mama Bear give them that. Mama Bear not only provides location information for a parent to know where the child is, but it also controls all social media use, meaning that the parent knows when the child checks in, posts, or uploads photos. Another trend is "flip phone parenting". In this case, parents don't give their children a smartphone but instead give them a simple phone that can only make calls and send texts. The idea is that it keeps children safe without having to worry about internet dangers.

¶4 In addition, there are some other interesting trends connected to everyday life. Subscription services are becoming increasingly popular. Parents pay each month, and things they need for their children are delivered to their home. Parents with babies might get baby food and diapers delivered regularly. Other services offer monthly toy kits that are designed to provide exactly the right kind of development for a baby of that age. Another popular idea is renting toys. Children grow up quickly and often get bored with toys, meaning that an expensive toy might be played with for a short while and then never be touched again. With a toy rental subscription, parents can purchase toys and then exchange them for other toys when their child has outgrown them.

¶5 One final trend is "slow parenting." Many children today have very busy schedules. Every evening and every weekend are filled with planned activities, such as a music class, a dance class, or a birthday party. Parents sometimes find themselves spending all their time taking their children from one activity to the next, without really having time to enjoy the activity together. Slow parenting involves making sure parents have plenty of free time when the only thing they have on their agenda is to enjoy quality time with their kids.

¶6 Finally, researchers say it's important to make sure that the parenting style supports healthy growth

because the way parents interact with their child and how they discipline them has a lifelong impact on the child's personal and mental development. They also state that parenting will continue to change in the future and new trends will appear as parents do their best to bring up their children in a changing world.

6. The helicopter parents focus on _____.
A. the way they themselves have been brought up
B. their children's early childhood experiences
C. their kids' academic and professional careers
D. creativity and freedom rather than punishment
7. Lawnmower type of parents are different from the helicopter ones because they aim to _____.
A. remove any difficulties their kids might face
B. prepare their children very well for adult life
C. let their kids solve their problems on their own
D. teach their kids how to cope with difficult situations
8. By using the Mama Bear application, parents can have total control on their children's use of _____ and check where they are.
9. As for subscriptions and toy rentals, it can be understood that _____.
A. children don't often get bored with using their favourite toys again and again
B. renting toys might be more useful than buying toys from stores
C. rental toys are usually not suitable for children's psychological development
D. most kids and parents prefer to see toys and then buy them in a traditional way
10. According to researchers, _____.
A. kids' personal growth isn't as important as their mental development
B. keeping the child always busy with lots of activities helps their growth
C. parents should plan their whole life for the enjoyment of their children
D. there might be new parenting styles in the future since there is change

1st Grader: _____ / 12.5 pts.

2nd Grader: _____ / 12.5 pts.

LISTENING (10x2.5=25 points)

Suggested Time: 20 minutes

Part 3. While listening: You will listen to an interview about a successful family business. For questions 11-15, write the correct answer on the answer sheet. For the gap-fill question, write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS. You will hear the recording twice.

11. The Carter family decided on cupcakes because _____.
A. they had a very successfully designed website
B. it was more profitable and enjoyable than other businesses
C. there weren't many places to buy decorated cupcakes in town
D. they didn't have ideas or experiences about other businesses
12. Alan is responsible for the marketing and _____ of their family business because he studied in these two fields at university.
13. Lydia is amazed because _____.
A. people prefer bigger cakes to cupcakes on special occasions
B. cupcakes are becoming more and more favourable for weddings
C. their parents do every single thing about their cupcake company
D. large cakes are more preferable to cupcakes in parties
14. According to Molly, the mother, _____ plays the greatest role on a successful family business.
A. communicating well with each other
B. dealing with other workers honestly
C. managing the business based on experience
D. having great respect for the elderly
15. Which of the following is **NOT** mentioned for the success of a family business?
A. Having common aims and targets
B. Asking for everybody's opinion in the company
C. Making alternative plans for the future
D. Giving priority to the ideas of the oldest member

1st Grader: _____ / 12.5 pts.

2nd Grader: _____ / 12.5 pts.

Part 4. While Listening: You will hear part of a talk from a radio programme about an 84-year-old woman. For questions 16-20, write the correct answer on the answer sheet. For the gap-fill question, write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS. You will hear the recording twice.

16. Mrs. Schofield couldn't read the labels on packages. Because of this, when her children were young, _____ was frightening and unpleasant for her.

17. She was impressed by the life of the man in the shop because he _____.

- A. achieved success through his own efforts
- B. had been rich, but then he became poor
- C. had no clothes when he first came to her village
- D. went to college without earning any money

18. How was the college experience for her?

- A. Her friends often discouraged her without offering any help.
- B. Things weren't as challenging as she had imagined.
- C. Her tutor's focus included short-term improvement only.
- D. At first, she had great difficulty learning to read and write.

19. What happened after Mrs. Schofield received a letter from her relative in the USA?

- A. She refused to contact her relatives abroad.
- B. She went to the USA and wrote about her travel experiences.
- C. She visited America but didn't tell anyone about it.
- D. She went abroad as she did every year.

20. Mrs. Schofield says she wants to _____.

- A. feel more comfortable when communicating with others
- B. go on a long journey and shop in different countries
- C. learn more even though she has achieved a lot
- D. understand traffic signs easily when she travels everywhere

1st Grader: _____ / 12.5 pts.

2nd Grader: _____ / 12.5 pts.

THIS IS THE END OF THE EXAM.

FORM A ANSWER KEY

READING 1

1. E 2. C 3. B 4. A 5. D

READING 2

6. C 7. A 8. (all) social media (use) / internet 9. B 10. D

LISTENING 1

11. C 12. advertising / advertise /advertize /advertisement /ad. 13. B 14. A 15. D

LISTENING 2

16. (food) shopping / buying food / food buying 17. A 18. D 19. B 20. C