The linguist taking the test
Ideas and reflections from an outsider

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Welcome to ALTE, 
Association of Language Testers in Europe

ALTE is an association of language test providers who work together to promote accurate assessment of linguistic ability across Europe and beyond. It organises courses and conferences on aspects of language assessment, and facilitates a quality auditing system of European language examinations.

ALTE was founded in 1989 by the University of Cambridge (UK) and the Universidad de la Comunidad de Madrid, Comunidad de Madrid (Spain). Today, ALTE has 33 Full Members representing 28 countries, as well as 58 Institutional Affiliates and over 500 Contributing Members from all around the world.

ALTE is an official observer body in the Council of Europe, and has Participatory Status as an NGO with the United Nations.
33 full members
58 institutional affiliates
500 individual affiliates
DIPLOMAS DE ESPAÑOL
DELE 2017
ADMIRATION
BRACE YOURSELVES

EXAM RESULTS ARE COMING
The example below is part of a simple story about Adrian and Martin who are going camping. Read the sentences and decide which answer (A, B or C) is the correct one. For the exam, there are two more questions like the ones below.

6. They ............... to go camping for their holiday.
   A decided       B thought       C felt

7. They wanted to ............... somewhere near the sea.
   A stand       B put       C stay

8. It ............... three hours to drive to the camp-site.
   A had       B took       C got
Repaso de sintaxis tradicional: Ejercicios de autocomprobación
1. El complemento directo de buscaba en la secuencia el libro que tanto buscaba me defraudó es... (elija una opción):
   a) El libro. – b) Libro. – c) Que. – d) Me. – e) Buscaba carece de complemento directo en esta oración, puesto que aquí tiene un uso intransitivo. – f) El objeto directo de buscaba está sobreentendido. – g) Las opciones anteriores son incorrectas.

2. Si acentuamos la palabra que en la oración Juan no sabe que es mi vecino...
   a) Cambiaremos una oración sustantiva por una adverbial. – b) Cambiaremos un adverbio por un pronombre. – c) Cambiaremos un sujeto por un objeto directo. – d) Obtendremos un mayor énfasis en la palabra que se desea resaltar. El cambio no afectará en lo fundamental al análisis sintáctico, aunque sí afectará, lógicamente, al significado de la oración. – e) Seguiremos teniendo una subordinada sustantiva. – f) Dos de las opciones anteriores son correctas. – g) Todas las opciones anteriores son incorrectas.
Wilfred Thesinger, the D adventurer once said, ‘We live our lives second-hand’. Sadly, his words are true for far too many of us, as we (1) droop in front of the television, (2) captivated in ‘reality’ television, living our adventures through the words and pictures of others. But it does not have to be that way – there are more opportunities than ever for taking a break from our increasingly sanitised lives and exploring not only some exotic (3) corner of the globe, but also our own abilities and ambitions. The kind of first-hand experience whose loss Thesinger laments is still available for anyone willing to forsake the beaten (4) path, and put their mind to (5) turning out into the less explored regions of this (6) wide planet.
IS LANGUAGE TESTING TO BE TRUSTED?
Fomento recomienda a Ryanair que sus pilotos hablen un inglés «más claro»

Aviación Civil concluye en un informe que hubo falta de entendimiento en el aterrizaje de emergencia en Manises de un avión que volaba hacia El Altet

Ryanair: «Nuestros pilotos hablan un inglés claro; el controlador, no»
Ergonomics

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information: http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/terg20

The challenge of regional accents for aviation English language proficiency standards: A study of difficulties in understanding in air traffic control-pilot communications

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Published online: 22 Jan 2010.
Although English has been the international aviation language since 1951, formal language proficiency testing for key aviation personnel has only recently been implemented by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). It aims to ensure minimum acceptable levels of English pronunciation and comprehension universally, but does not attend to particular regional dialect difficulties. However, evidence suggests that voice transmissions between air traffic controllers and pilots are a particular problem in international airspace and that pilots may not understand messages due to the influence of different accents when using English. This study explores the potential impact of ‘non-native English’ in pilot–air traffic control transmissions using a ‘conversation analysis’ technique to examine approach phase recordings from Bangkok International Airport. Results support that communication errors, defined by incidents of pilots not understanding, occur significantly more often when speakers are both non-native English, messages are more complex and when numerical information is involved. These results and their possible implications are discussed with reference to the development of ICAO’s new language proficiency standards.
POOR SPOKEN ENGLISH SKILLS AMONG PILOTS COULD LEAD TO AIR DISASTERS, STUDY FINDS

Communication problems can lead to dangerous misunderstandings between cockpit and ground control, warns Civil Aviation Authority
The ICAO is a UN agency through which our member states can determine common standards, including English language requirements.

To work in international civil aviation, pilots and controllers are required to pass its Level 4 exams which intend to ensure a minimum standard of English ability.

However the report said it found non-UK pilots and controllers with below-standard English skills and “grounds to suspect cheating on aviation English exams”.

In one country, candidates with no proficiency in English received their certificates after 10 days' tuition - an “impossible” feat, according to one of the report's contributors.

The review also identified “grounds to suspect that some non-native English speakers are not being tested, but instead are granted ICAO Level 4 certificates on 'sweetheart' deals (handshakes, via friends, etc)".
Confusion often occurs. Sometimes it’s just amusing, like a 2006 recording of exchanges between an Air China pilot and an air traffic controller at Kennedy Airport in New York. The controller becomes increasingly exasperated by the pilot’s hapless English, to the point where you can almost hear the steam coming out of his ears. That recording, on YouTube as Air China 981, is a favorite among air traffic controllers and pilots who have their own stories of language misunderstanding in global aviation.
JFK Air Traffic Control - Air China 981

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=max5aROuhlI
Ladies and gentlemen, we've reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants.
Please be sure to take all of your belongings. If you're going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have.
There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane.
I stand here today humbled by the task before us, grateful for the trust you have bestowed, mindful of the sacrifices borne by our ancestors.

I stand here today full of respect for the work before us. I want to thank you for the trust you have given, and I remember the sacrifices made by our ancestors.
Buenos días, don Bosque
Espero que usted esté bueno
Mi nombre es XY. Soy masculino. Quiero una cita
Gracias
Good morning, Mr John
I hope you look good [I hope you are fine]
My name is XY. I am masculine. I’d like a date
Thanks
HOW RELIABLE ARE LANGUAGE TESTS IN MEASURING LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE?
LINGUISTIC COMPE TENCE OR LITERACY?

“It's called 'reading'. It's how people install new software into their brains”
LINGUISTIC LEVELS?
LANGUAGE USE VS. TEST TASKS
LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE OR LITERACY?

“It’s called ‘reading’. It’s how people install new software into their brains”
Part 1

Read the two texts below.

Write an essay summarising and evaluating the key points from both texts. Use your own words throughout as far as possible, and include your own ideas in your answers.

Write your answer in 240 – 280 words.

1

The Excitement of Advertising

Outdoor advertising has to attract, engage and persuade potential customers; it is the most important way of grabbing customers’ attention and outdoor media continue to undergo a transformation. At the core of this transformation is the digital screen media, which encompass everything from giant screens to digital billboards. The technology is cheap and advertising agencies rave about the creative possibilities for advertisements which entertain, amuse, inform, make the environment brighter and enliven the world we live in.

Advertising: an undesirable business

Once upon a time outdoor advertising was straightforward. Posters were stuck up on anything from a bus shelter to a motorway hoarding. Many people considered this kind of advertising to be fairly dull, a harmless blot on the landscape and chose to ignore it. These people now regard digital advertising as a form of unwanted, creeping commercialisation: it attracts a buzz simply because it is new. They feel that any advertising which targets children or vulnerable adults is a dubious practice at the best of times, and digital advertising is, moreover, wasteful, damaging to the environment and completely unnecessary.

Write your essay.

Part 2

Write an answer to one of the questions 2 – 5 in this part. Write your answer in 280 – 320 words in an appropriate style on pages 7 and 8. Put the question number in the box at the top of page 7.

2

A travel magazine has asked readers to send in articles on their favourite public building, a town hall or a museum, for example. You decide to write an article in which you describe your favourite public building, explain why it is your favourite building and assess its significance for the wider community.

Write your article.

3

You belong to an English-language reading group which recently read a book in cartoon format. You have agreed to write a review of the book for the group’s website. In your review you should give your opinion of the cartoon format used for the book and say whether you think cartoons are a good way of telling a story, in general.

Write your review.

4

A popular English-language magazine has invited readers to send in letters sharing their recent experience of making an important decision. You decide to send in a letter in which you briefly describe the situation and explain the reasons why you took an important decision, and assess what the consequences of that decision might be in the future.

Write your letter. You do not need to write any postal addresses.

5

Write an answer to one of the following two questions based on one of the titles below. Write 5(a) or 5(b) at the beginning of your answer.

(a) Tracy Chevalier: Girl With A Pearl Earring

A literary magazine has asked readers to send in articles on "Creating Atmosphere in Novels". You decide to write an article on Girl With A Pearl Earring in which you describe the atmosphere of secrecy and fear which Griet experienced in the Vermeer household. You should also explain how Griet’s relationships with two or three of the following characters added to her feelings of anxiety: Cornelia, Catharina, Maria Thins and van Ruijven.

Write your article.

(b) Tobias Hill: The Cryptographer

You belong to a book club which has asked its members to write reports on the theme of trust in a novel of their choice. You decide to write a report recommending The Cryptographer, describing the part trust plays in the development of the story and assessing how important trust is to at least two characters in the novel.
Tarea 1

INSTRUCCIONES
Usted va a escuchar un fragmento de una conferencia. Escuchará la audición dos veces y podrá tomar notas.

Después, redactará un artículo en el que deberá resumir los puntos principales de la conferencia y, al final, expresar su opinión sobre el tema.
OPCIÓN 1

Usted va a escribir en su blog una reseña sobre una revista. En dicha reseña usted deberá:

- escribir una breve presentación del tipo de revista de que se trata;
- comentar qué colaboradores o secciones le parecen más interesantes;
- hablar de aspectos como el diseño y el material gráfico;
- hacer alusión a algún número o artículo que recuerde;
- expresar su opinión y valoración de la revista, mencionando los aspectos positivos y los mejorable.

OPCIÓN 2

Usted quiere realizar estudios de posgrado en España y ha leído el siguiente anuncio en un periódico. Escriba una carta de solicitud para alguna de las becas, siguiendo las pautas indicadas en el anuncio.
Grille d’évaluation de la production écrite C1

ÉPREUVE N°1 : Synthèse de documents

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<td><strong>Respect de la consigne de longueur</strong> (1)</td>
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<td><strong>Respect du contenu des documents</strong></td>
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<td>Peut respecter la règle d'objectivité (absence d'éléments étrangers aux textes).</td>
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<td><strong>Capacité à traiter les textes</strong></td>
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<td>Peut dégager la problématique commune, sélectionner et restituer les informations les plus pertinentes.</td>
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<td><strong>Cohérence et cohésion</strong></td>
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<td>Peut organiser les informations sélectionnées sous forme d'un texte fluide et bien structuré. La mise en page et la ponctuation sont fonctionnelles.</td>
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COMPÉTENCE LEXICALE / ORTHOGRAPHE LEXICALE

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<tr>
<td><strong>Étendue et maîtrise du vocabulaire</strong></td>
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<td>Dispose d'un vaste répertoire lexical lui permettant de reformuler sans effort apparent. (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Maîtrise de l'orthographe lexicale</strong></td>
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<td>L'orthographe est exacte à l'exception de lapsus occasionnels.</td>
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COMPÉTENCE GRAMMATICALE / ORTHOGRAPHE GRAMMATICALE

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maintien constamment un haut degré de correction. Les erreurs sont rares et difficiles à repérer.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Élaboration des phrases / souplesse</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dispose d'une variété de structures lui permettant de varier la formulation. (2)</td>
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Rund zwei Drittel der Berufstätigen in Deutschland klagen über die Belastungen durch tägliches oder wöchentliches Pendeln zum Arbeitsplatz.

Mobilität ist von Vorteil, da sie im positiven Sinn den Menschen dazu zwingt, Althergebrachtes kritisch zu hinterfragen.

Wer in der modernen Arbeitswelt nicht auf der Strecke bleiben will, muss beweglich sein.

- Von Anfang an zwei Sprachen zu haben ist gerade in der heutigen Zeit eine nicht zu unterschätzende Bereicherung.

- Kinder, die mehrsprachig aufwachsen, laufen Gefahr, dass sich ihre sprachliche Entwicklung verzögert und sie keine der Sprachen richtig beherrschen.

- Wer mehr als eine Sprache sehr gut beherrscht, lernt weitere Sprachen mit größerer Leichtigkeit.
LINGUISTIC LEVELS?
Tens of thousands of words
Hundreds of thousands of collocations
Alice saw Bob
MOBILE COMMUNICATION

For many people, mobile email is a habit they couldn’t give up even (0) \ldots\; they wanted to. And (9) \ldots\; should they want to? (10) \ldots\; all, the ability to send and receive emails from a mobile device means they can stay in touch with colleagues, friends and family, whether they’re standing in a queue at the supermarket, downing a quick cup of coffee in (11) \ldots\; meetings or killing (12) \ldots\; before a flight.

It’s fair to say that access to email while (13) \ldots\; the move has done much to whet appetites for other kinds of collaborative tools. What’s (14) \ldots\; , there’s a whole new way of working that has opened up in recent years and, (15) \ldots\; a result, there’s a general expectation that efficiency and productivity don’t necessarily take (16) \ldots\; within the four walls of an organisation’s physical offices.
POWER NAPS

Power napping is an *effective* strategy. It involves taking an intense sleep which dramatically improves *alertness*, making it especially useful for those with a demanding schedule such as mothers of babies or travelling business people. However, the conditions must be right and practice is required to *maximize* the effects.

To prevent *disorientation* on awakening, power naps should last about 25 minutes. Falling asleep so quickly takes practice, but is in fact a habit which is *easy to acquire*. Initially, it is more important to relax for a while than actually fall asleep, and power-napping is not a good idea if you find it difficult to wake up at the *appropriate* time.
0  Do you mind if I watch you while you paint?

   objection

Do you ...................................................... you while you paint?

0  have any objection to my watching

Write only the missing words on the separate answer sheet.

25  It’s impossible to predict how long it will take to do this job.

   telling

   There is ...................................................... will take.

26  Not many people buy that particular product these days.

   demand

   There ...................................................... that particular product these days.
Restos arqueológicos en la Amazonia

Una de las áreas naturales más hermosas de la tierra ha sido objeto, especialmente en los últimos tiempos, de investigaciones para descubrir qué culturas la habitaron y en qué momento. Pero, desafortunadamente, la Amazonia _____27_____ siempre por tener pocos restos arqueológicos, y estos son cruciales para conocer la Historia y darnos una imagen del pasado. En la selva baja, por la _____28_____ de piedras, para la elaboración de las herramientas se utilizaron madera y otros materiales frágiles que son perecederos en el tiempo, _____29_____, normalmente, los conocimientos sobre las culturas antiguas se basan principalmente en los restos de cerámicas _____30_____, ser un material más duradero. Asimismo, los asentamientos del hombre cambiaron de lugar constantemente, _____31______ al cambio frecuente del cauce de los ríos. Esto ha impedido la ubicación de restos arqueológicos, que muchas veces suelen encontrarse en los antiguos cauces, que además en este caso están en medio de tupida vegetación.

**OPCIONES**

27.  a) se ha calificado b) se ha caracterizado c) se ha representado

28.  a) necesidad b) presencia c) escasez

29.  a) en tanto b) cuando c) mientras tanto

30.  a) por b) de c) para

31.  a) dado b) originado c) debido
¿Puedo tener un café?
Ponme un café, por favor
¿Necesito traer la composición mañana?
¿Qué te falta?

Nun, mein Lieber, was fehlt Ihnen denn?
Te lo doy
Te lo paso
Acento Robinson
Contrato de arrendamiento de vivienda: cláusulas

PRIMERA. El piso objeto del presente contrato es el sito en la calle Toledo, número 4, que se destinará para uso exclusivo de vivienda del arrendatario y de su familia, con exclusión de todo otro uso, y que el arrendatario no podrá, por consiguiente, ceder, realquilar o subarrender, en todo ni en parte, y en el que no podrá alojar huéspedes sin permiso escrito del propietario. Si entrare a convivir con el arrendatario una tercera persona ajena del ámbito familiar directo en primer grado, lo deberá comunicar por escrito a la propiedad.

SEGUNDA. El contrato comenzará a regir el día 4 de mayo del presente año, concertándose el arrendamiento por el plazo de un año. Concluido el periodo contractual pactado, el contrato se prorrogará por la tácita por períodos de un año, mientras una de las partes no notifique a la otra, en el plazo de 15 días antes de la fecha de vencimiento del contrato o de algunas de sus eventuales prórrogas, su deseo de darlo por terminado. En cualquier caso, si el arrendatario quisiera desistir del cumplimiento total del contrato, deberá indemnizar al arrendador con una cantidad equivalente a una mensualidad de la renta en vigor por cada año del contrato que reste por cumplir. Los periodos de tiempo inferior a un año darán lugar a la parte proporcional de la indemnización.
TERCERA. Las partes contratantes convienen que el importe total de la renta que en cada momento satisfaga el arrendatario durante la vigencia del contrato y en sus posibles prórrogas se acomodará cada año a las variaciones que, en más o en menos, sufra el Índice general de Precios al Consumo que fije el Instituto Nacional de Estadística (u organismo que lo sustituyera en el futuro), aplicando sobre aquella renta el porcentaje que represente la diferencia existente entre los índices que corresponden al período de revisión, teniendo en cuenta que el mes de referencia para la primera actualización será el último índice que esté publicado en la fecha de celebración del contrato, y en las sucesivas el que corresponda al último publicado.
LANGUAGE USE VS. TEST TASKS
Part 1

You will hear three different extracts.
For questions 1 – 6, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear.
There are two questions for each extract.

Part 2

You will hear a nutritionist talking about the production and uses of mastic, a spice that is found in the Mediterranean area.
For questions 7 – 15, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

Mastic is collected from a tree which looks like a smaller form of the [ ] tree.

Mastic resin will [ ] only in the region around the Mediterranean.
Part 3

You will hear a discussion in which two marine biologists, Gina Kelso and Thomas Lundman, talk about an award-winning television film they made about wildlife in Antarctica. For questions 16 – 20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

16 Gina’s interest in marine biology dates from

A her earliest recollections of life in Africa.
B one memorable experience in childhood.
C the years she spent studying in England.
D a postgraduate research project she led.
Part 4

You will hear five short extracts in which different people are talking about taking a gap year – the time which some young people take off from their studies to gain other experience.

**TASK ONE**

For questions 21 – 25, choose from the list (A – H) what each speaker did during their gap year.

**TASK TWO**

For questions 26 – 30, choose from the list (A – H) which benefit of having a gap year each speaker mentions.

You will hear the recording twice. While you listen, you must complete both tasks.

- **A** taught a language
- **B** travelled widely
- **C** worked in an office
- **D** did voluntary work

**Speaker 1**

- 21

**Speaker 2**

- 22

**A** making long-lasting friendships
- **B** overcoming financial problems
- **C** increased independence
- **D** improved linguistic skills

**Speaker 1**

- 26

**Speaker 2**

- 27
You are going to read an extract from a novel. For questions 31 – 36, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text. Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Lucy gets a new job on a newspaper

It was a precarious period for her where her own fortunes were concerned. She had to rely on freelance work for six months after the quality weekly magazine folded. The regular salary cheque had always seemed derisively small, but now it was like lost riches. Doggedly, she wrote letters and telephoned and peppered editors with unsolicited articles and suggestions. Sometimes she struck lucky and got a commission. She wrote a profile of a woman politician who appreciated her fair-minded approach and tipped her off about a local government row in a complacent cathedral town. Lucy went there, investigated, talked to people and wrote a piece exposing a rich cauldron of corruption which was snapped up by a national daily newspaper. This in turn led to a commission to investigate the controversial siting of a theme park in the north of England. Her article was noticed by the features editor in search of something sharp and bracing on the heritage industry in general. She was getting a name for abrasive comment, for spotting an issue and homing in upon it. Anxiously, she scoured the press for hints of impending issues. In this trade, she saw, you needed not so much to be abreast of things as ahead of them, lying in wait for circumstance, ready to pounce.
Part 6

You are going to read an extract from an article. Seven paragraphs have been removed from the extract. Choose from the paragraphs A – H the one which fits each gap (37 – 43). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

The fog catcher’s forest

A bare, dusty island where the rain never falls could soon be covered with trees. Fred Pearce reports.

When Spanish sailors landed in the Canary Islands in the 15th century, they were amazed to discover an aboriginal population with extensive agriculture which they had somehow managed to sustain with virtually no rainfall. Legend has it that the Guanche people derived all their water from a single large tree, which stripped moisture out of passing fogs and dripped enough water from its leaves to support a thousand people. However true the story may be, there is no doubt that the only thing stopping the Canaries from resembling the Sahara desert, just 70 kilometres to the east, is the moisture-rich fog that drifts in from the Atlantic Ocean.

40

This summer, having declared the initial experiment a success, the island council plans to install eight much larger devices which will discharge water into a pumped drip irrigation network designed to keep the saplings watered. Riebold hopes that this will form the pilot phase of a full-scale reforestation of the mountains of northern Lanzarote.

41

If the initial results scale up, a new cloud forest
Part 7

You are going to read an extract from a book on photography. For questions 44 – 53, choose from the sections (A – E). The sections may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

In which section are the following mentioned?

1. the possibility that photography can directly influence events in the world 44 ........
2. the possibility that the photographic image has become redundant 45 ........
3. images being interpreted in a similar way by different societies 46 ........
4. a commonly held view about the relationship between what is visible and how it is interpreted 47 ........
TV documentary – Working in the food industry
Ask one of the following questions to Candidate A:

- If you had to depend on only one of the media for information, which would you choose? ..... (Why?)
- To what extent do you believe what you read or hear?
- What kind of decisions need to be made before TV programmes are broadcast to children?

Invite Candidate B to join in by selecting one of the following prompts:

- What do you think?
- Do you agree?
- How about you?
Part 1

Read the two texts below.

Write an essay summarising and evaluating the key points from both texts. Use your own words throughout as far as possible, and include your own ideas in your answers.

Write your answer in 240 – 280 words.

1 The Excitement of Advertising

Outdoor advertising has to attract, engage and persuade potential customers; it is the most important way of grabbing customers’ attention and outdoor media continue to undergo a transformation. At the core of this transformation is the digital screen media, which encompass everything from giant screens to digital billboards. The technology is cheap and advertising agencies rave about the creative possibilities for advertisements which entertain, amuse, inform, make the environment brighter and enliven the world we live in.

Advertising: an undesirable business

Once upon a time outdoor advertising was straightforward. Posters were stuck up on anything from a bus shelter to a motorway hoarding. Many people considered this kind of advertising to be fairly dull, a harmless blot on the landscape and chose to ignore it. These people now regard digital advertising as a form of unwanted, creeping commercialisation: it attracts a buzz simply because it is new. They feel that any advertising which targets children or vulnerable adults is a dubious practice at the best of times, and digital advertising is, moreover, wasteful, damaging to the environment and completely unnecessary.

Write your essay.
Part 2

Write an answer to one of the questions 2 – 5 in this part. Write your answer in 280 – 320 words in an appropriate style on pages 7 and 8. Put the question number in the box at the top of page 7.

2 A travel magazine has asked readers to send in articles on their favourite public building, a town hall or a museum, for example. You decide to write an article in which you describe your favourite public building, explain why it is your favourite building and assess its significance for the wider community.

Write your article.

3 You belong to an English-language reading group which recently read a book in cartoon format. You have agreed to write a review of the book for the group’s website. In your review you should give your opinion of the cartoon format used for the book and say whether you think cartoons are a good way of telling a story, in general.

Write your review.

4 A popular English-language magazine has invited readers to send in letters sharing their recent experience of making an important decision. You decide to send in a letter in which you briefly describe the situation and explain the reasons why you took an important decision, and assess what the consequences of that decision might be in the future.

Write your letter. You do not need to write any postal addresses.

5 Write an answer to one of the following two questions based on one of the titles below. Write 5(a) or 5(b) at the beginning of your answer.

(a) Tracy Chevalier: Girl With A Pearl Earring

(b) [Title not specified]
DELE C1

○ Listening to:
  ▪ A fragment of a lecture and filling in some blanks from given options
  ▪ 4 conversations (multiple choice)
  ▪ Interview (multiple choice)
  ▪ 10 dialogues (multiple choice)

○ Use of Spanish
  ▪ Cloze (multiple choice) on grammar and vocabulary

○ Reading
  ▪ 2 texts with multiple choice questions
  ▪ Fitting missing fragments into a larger text
  ▪ Matching sentences to paragraphs
- Speaking
  - Oral presentation (basically a summary and some comments) based on a given text
- Writing
  - Review
  - Application letter
MORE QUESTIONS

• Will there be in a non-distant future more efficient and yet natural ways of testing linguistic proficiency?
• Will we be able to assess proficiency depending on the needs of the learner or of the employer?
• Will there be one ideal set of tasks for testing?
• Will we be able at some point in time to scan language proficiency?
Should we measure proficiency in terms of the distance to an ideal native speaker?
How do you characterize an ideal native speaker?
Who Is An Ideal Native Speaker?!

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Abstract. It has commonly been a desired end in the field of SLA to approximate to native speakers and to achieve a target-like competence. Learners’ achievements have been ideally compared with those of monolinguals -native speakers- although they constitute a different group of people, with different needs and abilities. But who is a native speaker? And what are the criteria for defining a native speaker as an ideal one? This paper aims at defining an ideal native speaker and explaining the alternative terms, discussing the criticisms regarding the issue, and elaborating on the notions of ‘globalization’ and ‘multi-competent language users’ in order to redefine the standards of an ideal native speaker.
Globalization and the spread of languages across borders have blurred the definition of a native speaker, suggesting that a totally monolingual country does not exist. [...] English as a global lingua franca is actually influenced by the various ways it is used by its users, as well as the way it relates to different cultures. This suggests one purpose of language use that all bilinguals share, as MacKay (2003, p. 18) argues: “to use English as a language of wider communication, resulting in cross-cultural encounters being a central feature of the use of EIL.

Who sets then the standards? The majority? Chinese English speakers? A qualified majority: United Nations staff?
language acquisition cannot be tied to the distinction between native and non-native speakers. Therefore, the standards seem to need redefining. Perhaps, as Anchimbe (2006) suggests, competence or proficiency must be judged instead of origin because SLA is a matter of training and efficiency rather than origin.

Should we go, then, for the Ryanair British pilots or for the Spanish flight controllers?
Being a native speaker is no guarantee for competence in communication due to the fact that even among native speakers, poor and inefficient speakers are found. In fact, not all native speakers are proficient in their native languages.

But in which contexts? Literacy contexts? Then should the standard be native literate speakers?
thank you!