

ATATURK UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
PROFICIENCY EXAM

A



NAME & SURNAME:

EXAM ROOM:

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CANDIDATES

- There are four sections in this exam: **LISTENING, GRAMMAR, READING, WRITING**
- Read the instructions for each part of the exam very carefully.
- You have to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Use a pencil.
- At the end of the test, hand in both this question booklet and your answer sheet.
- Each question in **SECTION I, SECTION II** and **SECTION III** carries one point. The total score is then adjusted to give a point out of 60. **SECTION IV (WRITING)** will be evaluated out of 20 points. For the whole exam, the total score will be given out of 80.
- In the **LISTENING SECTION**, you will listen to the extract twice.
- **TOTAL EXAM TIME: 3 HOURS**

SECTION I: LISTENING

Listen to an interview with Jason talking about his lifestyle. Listen and choose the best answer for each question below.

1. When he was a teenager, Jason _____

A. loved burgers.

C. decided to be a vegan.

B. wasn't interested in girls.

D. hated dairy products.

2. When he was at university, Jason went cycling _____

A. every other day.

C. once a month.

B. at the weekends.

D. in the evenings.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

SECTION II: GRAMMAR

TEXT 1

Read the cloze text below and place the appropriate word(s) in the gap by choosing from the options given below the text.

RENTAL FAMILIES IN JAPAN

In Japan, the concept of rental families ¹¹ _____ a fascinating and thought-provoking response to the evolving social fabric of the country in the last few decades. In a society deeply rooted in traditional family values, this trend represents a curious departure from the norm. Rental families essentially allow individuals, often young professionals or elderly citizens, ¹² _____ family members to meet various emotional, social, and even cultural needs. The diversity of reasons behind this practice is ¹³ _____ the range of family roles on offer, including partners, parents, children, and even friends for hire.

One driving force behind the rental family phenomenon is the increasing prevalence of social isolation and loneliness in Japan, particularly among the elderly. In a rapidly ageing society, ¹⁴ _____ traditional family structures are changing; many elderly individuals find themselves without the emotional support and companionship they once relied ¹⁵ _____. For them, renting a family member can provide a sense of belonging and alleviate feelings of isolation.

While rental families can be seen as a pragmatic solution to address the complex demands of modern life in Japan, they also raise fundamental questions about the evolving nature of human relationships. Some critics argue that this trend reflects a troubling disconnect within Japanese society, in which genuine emotional bonds ¹⁶ _____ by transactional relationships. Others, ¹⁷ _____, view it as an illustration of Japan's adaptability to changing circumstances and a reflection of the increasingly interconnected and fast-paced world in which we live.

¹⁸ _____, rental families in Japan provide an interesting look into how people are dealing with cultural and social changes. It shows that Japanese culture ¹⁹ _____ to new challenges. This trend also makes us think about ²⁰ _____ to connect with others in a world where traditional ideas are evolving and new solutions are emerging.

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 11. A. became | B. has become | C. was becoming | D. would become |
| 12. A. being rent | B. to be rent | C. renting | D. to rent |
| 13. A. the widest | B. wider | C. as wide as | D. so wide |
| 14. A. where | B. which | C. whom | D. what |
| 15. A. in | B. upon | C. onto | D. for |
| 16. A. replace | B. be replacing | C. are replaced | D. to be replaced |
| 17. A. however | B. although | C. in addition to | D. also |
| 18. A. Despite | B. All in all | C. Nevertheless | D. Notwithstanding |
| 19. A. doesn't have to adapt | B. mustn't adapt | C. needs adapt | D. can adapt |
| 20. A. what does it mean | B. what means | C. what it means | D. what means it |

TEXT 2

Read the cloze text below and place the appropriate word(s) in the gap by choosing from the options given below the text.

THE SUCCESS OF THE *SULTANS OF THE NET*

The Turkish women's national volleyball team (The Sultans of the Net) has achieved remarkable success in recent years, firmly ²¹ _____ themselves as a dominant force in international volleyball. Their rise to prominence is characterized by a combination of talent, dedication, and strategic development within the sport. With a roster of exceptional athletes and skilled coaching staff, the team has consistently delivered outstanding performances in prestigious tournaments ²² _____ the FIVB Volleyball Women's Nations League and the European Volleyball Championship.

²³ _____ major reason for their success is their strong dedication to working together as a team and always getting better. The way the players work together on the court and how they can adjust during games really makes them ²⁴ _____ compared to other teams. ²⁵ _____, Türkiye has put a lot of resources into programs for young players, helping them become skilled in volleyball. Also, this means there are ²⁶ _____ talented young players in Türkiye, and the future of the sport looks promising in the country.

Their accomplishments have not only earned them global recognition ²⁷ _____ have also cultivated a deep sense of pride and unity among the Turkish people. Their victories, which have sparked a sense of national pride, highlight the capabilities of Turkish athletes internationally, inspiring young players, especially girls, to consider volleyball careers. ²⁸ _____ this trend continues, we can expect a growing number of enthusiastic athletes to join the ranks and further elevate Türkiye's presence in the global volleyball arena.

In conclusion, the success of the Turkish women's volleyball team in recent years is a testament to ²⁹ _____ skill, hard work, and the comprehensive approach to the sport's development within Türkiye. As they continue to excel internationally, they ³⁰ _____ serving as role models and ambassadors for the sport, fostering a legacy of excellence and inspiring the next generation of volleyball enthusiasts in the country.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 21. A. establishing | B. established | C. to establish | D. being established |
| 22. A. as | B. for example | C. likewise | D. such as |
| 23. A. Any | B. The | C. --- | D. An |
| 24. A. standing out | B. stand out | C. to stand out | D. to standing out |
| 25. A. On the other hand | B. Additionally | C. Although | D. Inasmuch as |
| 26. A. few | B. a little | C. a lot of | D. much |
| 27. A. or | B. so | C. for | D. but |
| 28. A. If not | B. Whether | C. If | D. Unless |
| 29. A. their | B. our | C. your | D. it's |
| 30. A. have been going on | B. would go on | C. will go on | D. will going on |

For questions 31-40, circle the correct option.

31. They _____ the money that they found, but they decided to take it to the police station.

- A. must have spent
B. could have spent

- C. can't have spent
D. should have spent

32. She believed _____ herself and her abilities, which ultimately helped her succeed _____ her artistic endeavours.

- A. on / of
B. at / from

- C. upon / about
D. in / in

33. The manager insisted that the project _____ by the end of the month, regardless of any unexpected obstacles.

- A. be completed
B. will complete

- C. should complete
D. are completed

34. _____ we should invest in renewable energy sources is a crucial question for our company's sustainability.

- A. That
B. If

- C. Whether
D. The fact that

35. I couldn't fix the leaking faucet myself, so I _____ it.

- A. had a plumber fixed
B. got a plumber to fix

- C. had a plumber to fix
D. got a plumber fix

36. She admitted _____ for weeks and decided to set strict daily goals while _____ distractions.

- A. procrastinating / avoiding
B. procrastinating / to avoid

- C. being procrastinating / avoiding
D. having procrastinating / to avoid

37. She wishes she _____ more often to explore new cultures and broaden her horizons, but unfortunately, she _____.

- A. will travel / will not
B. could travel / cannot

- C. would travel / would not
D. travelled / had not

38. When they return from their trip around the world, they _____ a wide range of cultures, tasted diverse cuisines, and visited numerous historical landmarks.

- A. will experience
B. will have experienced

- C. would have experienced
D. will be experiencing

39. She _____ of becoming a published author, and finally, after years of hard work, her debut novel _____ to critical acclaim.

- A. has always dreamed / had been published
B. always dreamed / published

- C. always dreams / will publish
D. had always dreamed / was published

40. _____ her master's degree, she felt a sense of accomplishment and eagerly looked forward to her future career opportunities.

- A. Completed B. Being completed C. Having completed D. Having been completed

SECTION III: READING

PART 1: Reading Comprehension

TEXT 1

Read the text and answer the questions below.

A SOURCE FOR THE FUTURE

With a growing global interest, geothermal energy offers exciting opportunities and invaluable potential for the future of energy and humanity, as there's a clear desire for its widespread use throughout our lives. Today, this energy source is used in many areas, ranging from producing electricity and heating to agriculture and industrial gains. Many countries are making investments to increase the share of geothermal energy in their energy markets. To illustrate, an Indonesian giant, PT Barito Renewables, with a \$228 million investment, is strengthening the country's global position; the country is ranked as the second-highest producer of geothermal energy after the USA. Germany and Hungary are also trying to boost the use of geothermal energy due to one of the worst global crises the earth has faced, namely, the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, which is threatening the European gas supply. As one of the latest sample initiatives, China is turning its attention to further investment in this field because the country's western and southeastern areas have active volcanic and geological attributes, such as hot springs and geysers, as the main indicators of geothermal energy. When it comes to the main motives behind this rising attention and investments, several good justifications become apparent. First and foremost, this energy reduces the negative impacts of air pollution and climate change mostly caused by fossil fuels. It also presents many commercial opportunities for healthier and more environmentally friendly economic growth. Besides diminishing the energy transmission expenses, it both meets local energy demands and maximises energy efficiency. Decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting sustainable agricultural ecosystems are also among the pros. Given its efficiency and eco-friendly nature, it seems that, in addition to wind and solar energies, geothermal energy will **steadily** become more important in the future of energy and human life.

41. Geothermal energy catches more global attention _____

- A. because of the sole reason, the Russian-Ukrainian conflict.
- B. as fossil fuels will end in the next decade.
- C. but this energy cannot be used in many areas.
- D. as the world desires to reach efficiency virtually in all parts of human life.

42. China _____

- A. will sustain its leading power in the field of alternative energy.
- B. is gifted with a natural infrastructure for geothermal energy.
- C. will invest less money, which means it will be the dominant figure in this area.
- D. has already ended the negative impacts of air pollution caused by fossil fuels.

43. The author stresses that _____

- A. transferring more energy to other countries will be more efficient thanks to geothermal energy.

- B.** with the latest investments and projects, Indonesia will be the main playmaker in the energy market.
- C.** geothermal energy will confine the affordability for the near future.
- D.** we will be seeing greater use of alternative energy in many parts of life.

44. Geothermal energy _____

- A.** will increase the energy transmission expenses.
- B.** cannot meet local energy demands.
- C.** will have positive effects on climate change and air pollution.
- D.** will accelerate the greenhouse release.

45. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the adverb “steadily” in the last sentence?

- A.** gradually
- B.** hardly
- C.** urgently
- D.** intensely

TEXT 2

Read the text and answer the questions below.

A NEW ADDITION TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

UNESCO recently added Gordion Ancient City as Türkiye's 20th site on the World Heritage List. Gordion, one of the oldest settlements in Ankara Province, with a history dating back to the early Stone Age, is now officially protected following a decision made during the 45th World Heritage Committee meeting in Saudi Arabia. With a history of almost 4,500 years, Gordion was once the capital of the Phrygian civilisation. The ancient city offers many fascinating traces of the past, including evidence of cultural and economic life as well as defensive structures. There are three major attractions at the site: the Gordion Museum, the Tomb of King Midas, and the ancient city of Gordion. The site was first discovered by the brothers Alfred and Gustav Körte during the construction of the Berlin-Istanbul-Baghdad railway line in the last decade of the 19th century. Their discovery paved the way for extensive archaeological work, which resulted in the uncovering of remarkable remains, including some of the country's largest burial mounds belonging to Phrygian dignitaries and noblemen.

More strikingly, the site also contributed the well-known expression "Gordian knot" to our cultural vocabulary. In 333 B.C., Alexander the Great came to Gordium and encountered an ancient chariot tied to a pole with an extremely complicated knot. According to legend, the knot could only be untied by the future conqueror of Asia. Alexander either found a way to loosen the knot or, as some versions of the legend claim, simply cut through it. Ever since, the term "Gordian knot" has been used figuratively to refer to a difficult or complicated problem that requires considerable effort to solve.

Considering Gordion's historical and cultural significance, Turkish authorities believe that its permanent inclusion on the World Heritage List will bring tourism, cultural, and economic benefits. They also hope that some of the 82 properties currently on the tentative list may eventually be added to the permanent list, although this may require a long, gradual, and costly process.

The main aim of UNESCO's World Heritage mission is to protect historical, cultural, and natural heritage by encouraging countries to sign the World Heritage Convention and by providing member countries with technical and professional assistance for the preservation of these sites. In addition, the organization seeks to increase national and international awareness of cultural and historical heritage and to promote cooperation among nations in protecting it. Furthermore, 18 April has been observed as World Heritage Day since 1983 in order to introduce people to diverse heritage sites and remind them that the past can serve as a mirror for the future.

46. What happened after Gordion was discovered in the late 19th century?

- A. The discovery led to extensive archaeological work at the site.
- B. The site immediately became part of the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- C. Archaeologists determined the exact date when the city was founded.
- D. The site was found to contain only burial mounds belonging to ordinary citizens.

47. Which of the following is TRUE about Gordion Ancient City?

- A. It contains important historical sites and remains associated with the Phrygian civilisation.
- B. It became historically significant only after UNESCO's recent decision.
- C. Turkish authorities believe its inclusion on the World Heritage List will have no economic benefits.
- D. It was selected for the World Heritage List by the government of Saudi Arabia.

48. The term "Gordian knot" _____

- A. represents the power of the Phrygian civilisation.
- B. is no longer used because it is based on a legend.
- C. originated from ancient documents discovered during archaeological excavations.
- D. is used figuratively today to describe a difficult or complicated problem.

49. One can conclude from the text that _____

- A. Gordion's inclusion on the World Heritage List depended mainly on the amount of money spent on it.
- B. all the properties on Türkiye's tentative list will soon be added to the World Heritage List.
- C. gaining World Heritage status may require a lengthy and demanding process.
- D. UNESCO's main priority is to increase international tourism.

50. One of the main aims of UNESCO's World Heritage mission is _____.

- A. to increase countries' income from international tourism.
- B. to preserve cultural, historical, and natural heritage for future generations.
- C. to provide technical and professional assistance only to prestigious countries.
- D. to make changes to the original features of historical and cultural sites.

PART 2: Vocabulary

Choose the best option to complete the sentences below.
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51. Too much _____ to the sun can lead to wrinkles, sunspots and even skin cancer.
- A. contamination C. injury
B. convention D. exposure
52. Bananas and coffee together _____ almost 38% of Costa Rica's export earnings.
- A. expel C. acquire
B. constitute D. adopt
53. Lincoln M. Alexander _____ in Toronto, and when he was at the age of 18, he moved to Harlem, New York City, to pursue higher education and explore new opportunities in a bustling metropolis.
- A. grew up C. gave up
B. brought up D. turned up
54. With human populations increasing, resources for Asian elephants are scarce, so the number of these animals is _____.
- A. thriving C. accumulating
B. intensifying D. diminishing
55. Nature is a source of _____ for humanity and has always been a mirror to humankind.
- A. prohibition C. inspiration
B. ambiguity D. inheritance
56. The marathon runner displayed remarkable _____ by finishing the race despite an injury.
- A. persistence C. negligence
B. laziness D. hesitation
57. Thank you all for showing great _____ in organising this charity event for the local community.
- A. indifference C. enthusiasm
B. frustration D. deterioration
58. The chef's special sauce _____ the flavour of the dish, making it unforgettable. I loved it!
- A. diminished C. minimized
B. enhanced D. prosecuted
59. Despite facing many challenges, the explorer's _____ spirit led him to discover new lands.
- A. cautious C. passive
B. adventurous D. careless

60. The students listened _____ to the teacher's instructions, eager to start the project.

A. hesitantly

C. reluctantly

B. carelessly

D. attentively

SECTION IV: WRITING

In this section, you are required to choose **ONE** of the following prompts and write an **ESSAY** of at least 300 – 350 words. You will be graded on the **language, content development, mechanics (spelling and punctuation, etc.) and the organisation** of your paragraph. When writing your text, keep in mind all the graded features (grammar, written accuracy, spelling and paragraphing, vocabulary, style and cohesive devices, and communicative effectiveness, coherence and unity).

Your essay should have **FIVE paragraphs**, including:

- **a title**
- **an introduction paragraph** which has a clear and well-structured thesis statement
- **three well-developed body paragraphs** with topic sentences and supporting sentences with details / facts /examples
- **a concluding paragraph**

Writing Prompts:

1. **The Importance of Volunteering:** Write about the benefits of volunteering for both the community and the individual. Describe a volunteering experience you have had or would like to have, and how it could positively impact both you and those you help.
2. **Travel and Cultural Exchange:** Describe the benefits of traveling to other countries and experiencing different cultures. Explain how travel can broaden one's perspective and understanding of the world.
3. **The Influence of Celebrity Culture:** Explore how celebrities impact society and individuals. Discuss both positive and negative aspects of celebrity culture and how it affects people's values and behaviour.

Department:

Answer Key:

11. • **B**

12. • **D**

13. • **C**

14. • **A**

15. • **B**

16. • **C**

17. • **A**

18. • **B**

19. • **D**

20. • **C**

21. • **A**

22. • **D**

23. • **B**

24. • **B**

25. • **B**

26. • **C**

27. • **D**

28. • **C**

29. • **A**

30. • **C**

31. • **B**

32. • **D**

33. • **A**

34. • **C**

35. • **B**

36. • **A**

37. • **B**

38. • **B**

39. • **D**

40. • **C**

41. • **D**

42. • **B**

43. • **D**

44. • **C**

45. • **A**

46. • **A**

47. • **A**

48. • **D**

49. • **C**

50. • **B**

51. • **D**

52. • **B**

53. • **A**

54. • **D**

55. • **C**

56. • **A**

57. • **C**

58. • **B**

59. • **B**

60. • **D**