

JAN KOCHANOWSKI UNIVERSITY OF KIELCE
FOREIGN LANGUAGES CENTRE



ACADEMIC ENGLISH EXAMINATION – WRITTEN COMPONENT

B2 LEVEL

Procedure for Conducting the English Language Examination

1. The examination is conducted online via Microsoft Teams Forms.
2. The duration of the examination is 60 minutes .
3. The examination consists of Reading Comprehension task 1, Reading Comprehension task 2, Language Elements task1, and Language Elements task 2.
4. Candidates must log in no later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the written examination.
5. Each candidate is required to present a valid photo identification document for verification purposes before the examination.
6. Candidates are not permitted to use any additional materials and are expected to comply with academic ethical standards during the examination.
7. The chairperson of the Examination Committee reserves the right to disqualify any candidate who received unauthorised assistance, used prohibited resources, helped other candidates, or otherwise disrupted the examination process.
8. Exclusion from the written examination results in terminating the examination process.

Part 1: Reading Comprehension 1

For questions **1–8**, choose the best answer **A, B, or C** according to the text.

A Glimpse into the Academic World: The International Academic Challenge

Each year, university students from across Europe assemble for the International Academic Challenge – a rigorous academic competition that assesses their ability to research, synthesize complex information, and communicate findings in a formal, scholarly manner. The Challenge simulates authentic university processes by asking teams to collaboratively write a mini-thesis, perform peer reviews of other teams' work, and ultimately defend their research before a panel comprised of university lecturers and representatives from academic publishing houses.

This event is more than a competition; it's an immersive academic experience. Competitors must adhere to established academic conventions: they are required to cite sources using appropriate referencing styles, navigate plagiarism detection systems, and deliver presentations in formal academic English. Judges evaluate not only the quality of the research but also students' ability to engage with critical feedback, revise arguments, and uphold academic integrity.

In recent years, the competition has attracted the attention of prominent scientific journals and research foundations, many of which now offer internships or publication opportunities to top-performing participants. One central objective is to familiarize students with the expectations of the academic community, particularly concerning research ethics and transparency. In 2024, a team was temporarily disqualified after it was revealed that a source listed in their bibliography was entirely fabricated. After issuing a public apology and attending a mandatory workshop on academic misconduct, the team was permitted to submit a revised entry.

According to Dr. Isabelle Leclerc, the event's founder and a professor of education policy, the peer-review process is the most valuable component. "It mirrors the real-world experience of submitting to a journal," she states. "Students learn that criticism, when constructive, is an essential part of scholarly development."

By exposing participants to the realities of academic work in a structured environment, the Challenge prepares them not only for university life but also for the professional demands of academia and research-oriented careers.

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1. What is the main purpose of the International Academic Challenge?
 - A. To promote cross-cultural exchange among European students
 - B. To train students in practical academic skills and ethical research
 - C. To select top students for university scholarships
2. Which of the following is part of the competition?
 - A. A written thesis submitted individually
 - B. A group debate judged by a student panel
 - C. A formal defence of research findings
3. According to the text, participants must:
 - A. Use informal English when presenting
 - B. Avoid citing too many sources
 - C. Follow proper referencing conventions
4. What consequence did one team face in 2024?
 - A. They were permanently banned from the competition
 - B. They were disqualified for a false bibliography entry
 - C. They received financial penalties from sponsors
5. Why are sponsors like journals interested in the Challenge?
 - A. They want to publish promising student work
 - B. They are required by law to support education
 - C. They aim to replace university-led conferences
6. What does Dr. Leclerc suggest about peer review?
 - A. It reduces students' chances of academic success
 - B. It plays a central role in professional academic development
 - C. It should be replaced with online feedback forms
7. What message is conveyed about academic integrity?
 - A. Violations are expected from new students
 - B. Fabricating sources can be acceptable if justified
 - C. Upholding ethical standards is non-negotiable
8. What is implied by the text about student preparation?
 - A. University exams are more difficult than the Challenge
 - B. The competition prepares students for real academic environments
 - C. Only students from elite institutions are accepted

Part 2: Reading Comprehension 2

For questions **9–16**, choose from the sentences **A–I** the one which fits each gap. There is **one** extra sentence you do not need.

Football Makes History

The late Bill Shankly, one-time manager of Liverpool, insisted that football wasn't a matter of life and death – it was more important than that. Looking back at the history of football matches one would tend to agree with him. The history of football, in particular the World Cup, is marked by fights, bad sporting behaviour and even murder. **(9)** _____

The year was 1914 and World War I had transformed much of Western Europe into a mass of battlefields and trenches. The area between the two sides at war was known as “no-man’s land” because if a soldier left a trench and walked into this area, he would be shot by the enemy. **(10)** _____ The soldiers put down their weapons, met in the middle and played a game of football. The Scottish Seaforth Highlanders were positioned on the Franco-Belgian border with the enemy, the 9th Royal Saxon Infantry opposite. They were preparing to celebrate Christmas day.

Next to the trenches they had put up simple trees decorated with candles. **(11)** _____ The Germans did not return the gunfire. The Scots in turn stopped shooting and silence followed. Then the sound of German soldiers singing *Silent Night* could be heard. **(12)** _____ At midnight, silence fell until the next morning when a few of the Saxon infantry wandered into “no-man’s land”. The Scots responded and went out to meet them. One report states that cigarettes, watches, rings and tins of meat were exchanged and photos of loved ones were shown. **(13)** _____ An unorthodox match of football followed. Goal posts were marked with caps and teams were established. Finally the men shook hands and went back to their trenches and to war.

Since then there have been other matches that have been history. Unfortunately, many have done so for the wrong reasons. South American players and supporters have often committed acts of violence. After Uruguay beat Argentina to win the first World Cup in 1930, Argentines stoned the Uruguayan Consulate in Buenos Aires until the police began shooting at them. **(14)** _____

Another example is the tragic death of 39 Italian supporters who died in the riot at the Heysel Stadium when Liverpool were playing Juventus in the final of the 1985 European Cup. Players too often display extremely unsporting behaviour.

(15) _____ In 1962 an Italian player's nose was broken by Chile's Leonel Sanchez, and twenty years later a French player lost two teeth after being hit by the West German goalkeeper. Accusations of cheating or "fixing" the score have also been made. Andres Escobar scored an own goal when Colombia lost 2-4 to the USA in 1994. **(16)** _____ It was said that Colombian drug barons had bet a lot of money on Colombia losing.

- A. The World Cup also provides us with two examples of this.
- B. A few of the British soldiers started singing too, and slowly soldiers up and down both lines began to join in.
- C. Football has been invaluable in crossing cultural boundaries throughout the years.
- D. Later, when Escobar returned to his home in Colombia, he was shot twelve times and died.
- E. Then a Scotsman produced a football and kicked it to one of the Germans.
- F. However, one Christmas day, that changed.
- G. One extreme incident took place in 1969 when Honduras and El Salvador went to war after a World Cup game, and 2,000 people died in the fighting.
- H. However, one particular incident showed how football can also cross national frontiers and unite people at a time of great disunity.
- I. The Highlanders reacted to this with gunfire, as they feared it was a trap.

Part 3: Language Elements 1

For questions **17–26**, choose the answer **A, B, or C** that best fits each gap.

Academic writing requires clear organisation and a strong **(17)** _____ of argument. One of the biggest challenges for new university students is understanding how to structure their ideas logically. While spoken presentations are often informal, academic papers must follow strict **(18)** _____.

Another important element is proper citation. Failing to **(19)** _____ your sources correctly can result in accusations of plagiarism. Instructors typically advise students to use established referencing **(20)** _____, such as APA or MLA.

Many students rely heavily on digital **(21)** _____ to find information. Although tools like academic search engines are useful, it's essential to **(22)** _____ between reliable and questionable sources.

Research is not only about collecting data, but also about asking the right **(23)** _____. Whether you're working on a literature review or a scientific **(24)** _____, critical thinking is key.

Before submitting any paper, students should carefully **(25)** _____ it for grammar, coherence, and formatting. Academic success depends on your ability to communicate clearly and **(26)** _____.

(17) A. line B. thread C. flow

(18) A. formats B. structures C. templates

(19) A. register B. cite C. mention

(20) A. methods B. systems C. styles

(21) A. platforms B. stations C. sites

(22) A. divide B. separate C. distinguish

(23) A. questions B. points C. claims

(24) A. output B. experiment C. article

(25) A. edit B. build C. analyse

(26) A. effectively B. obviously C. equally

Part 4: Language Elements 2

For questions **27–37**, choose the correct answer **A–K** to fit each gap.

It's amazing to think about how much fashions have changed through history. A few hundred years ago completely different parts of the body were **(27)** _____ to be attractive. A century ago, people thought a small **(28)** _____ was very elegant; a generation later, they **(29)** _____ a long neck. Not that long ago, women's clothes were designed to show **(30)** _____ their curved figures; now boy-like fashions are more popular with women. It's hard to **(31)** _____ a prediction about what will happen next. We seem to have done everything already, so how can fashion designers manage to come **(32)** _____ **(33)** _____ anything new? It must be very difficult to **(34)** _____ to be so creative all the time. Most designers have to put **(35)** _____ two fashion shows a year, which must be challenging, especially if they have been in the business for years and years. Despite this, it is highly unlikely that the fashion industry will **(36)** _____ its appeal. Everyone wants to look good and looking good is big business. It's still considered a very glamorous profession that many young people are keen to **(37)** _____ .

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|---------|----------|----------|------------|---------------|--------|
| A. with | B. enter | C. lose | D. admired | E. up | F. on |
| G. make | H. have | I. waist | J. on | K. considered | L. off |