

PROGRESS TEST 3 (UNITS 9–12)

Name: _____

Total: _____ out of 50

A Word formation

For questions 1 – 8, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals below to form a word that fits in the space.

Is university always the right choice?

Many teenagers today push themselves to the limit to gain places at university in the belief that becoming a graduate is the most secure route to a successful and financially (1) _____ career. Much store is put on (2) _____ achievement by families, and few teenagers wish to buck the current trend and opt for an alternative to studying for a degree. (3) _____ governments have endeavoured to make a university education (4) _____ for more and more students and it is true that in the UK the student population has grown considerably. However, current thinking indicates that perhaps a nation of graduates is not necessarily the best way forward for industry, business and for many of the students themselves. Businesses (5) _____ the fact that all too often the graduates applying to work for them have little practical experience behind them.

Many industries would like to see more 'apprenticeships' offered to students, which would allow them to earn money while training and learning the valuable skills that are really required in the workplace. An 'apprenticeship' was once a time-honoured route into employment but it has rather fallen out of fashion in recent years. (6) _____, this alternative to university education would benefit large numbers of students who at present find themselves out of their (7) _____ at university and sometimes drop out completely. Perhaps the time has come for a (8) _____ along more practical lines when we consider the opportunities that should be available for young people today.

1) REWARD

2) ACADEMY

3) SUCCEED

4) ATTAIN

5) MOAN

6) ARGUE

7) DEEP

8) THINK

[__/8]

B Comprehension questions

1) What do you think is meant by the phrase 'buck the current trend' in line 4?

2) Why do you think the writer has used the phrase 'time-honoured' in line 13?

[__/2]

C Open cloze

For questions 1 – 8, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space.

Brainy cabbies

Have you ever jumped into a taxi cab, given your destination to the driver and been on your way immediately without the cabbie having to refer to a sat-nav, map or (1) _____ other navigation device? London cab drivers seem truly amazing when it (2) _____ to finding their way from A to B through the 25,000 streets of the English capital. And it has been shown that the London 'cabbie' can perform these magical feats because the part of their brain that is concerned (3) _____ navigational memory, the hippocampus, is actually larger than most other people's. It is this part of the brain that is well developed in animals (4) _____ as squirrels because they need to remember a vast number of areas where they have stored food over several months.

Scientists have been trying to (5) _____ out whether training can influence the growth of certain areas of the brain, and as part of their research, they studied cabbies over a four-year period. This covered the time that cabbies take to prepare for 'The Knowledge', an extremely difficult test that all prospective cab drivers in London need to get (6) _____. The scientists' tests showed that over the training period there was a significant growth in the hippocampus. They conclude that it is the memorising (7) _____ all the routes and the streets of London that causes the hippocampus to grow larger. So, perhaps we (8) _____ all train our brains to increase our memories – at least to help us remember where we put the car keys!

[__/8]

D Key word transformations

For questions 1 – 6, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.

1) The accountants were directed by the Managing Director to check out the company's financial situation before considering a merger.

had

The Managing Director _____ the company's financial situation before considering the merger.

2) The teacher refused to listen to Jim's explanation and sent him home.

out

The teacher refused _____ and sent him home.

3) The manager was furious when he discovered I'd been on a social networking site while at work.

throat

The manager _____ out I'd been on a social networking site while at work.

4) The gym was underfunded and clients were only able to use a few pieces of equipment.

do

Because of _____ only a few pieces of equipment at the gym.

5) The dancer performed beautifully and impressed the critics on the first night of the ballet.

beautiful

The critics were _____ on the first night of the ballet.

6) From what I hear I think your sister is having problems at work.

though

It _____ problems at work.

[___/12]

E Writing

Write an answer to one of the following writing tasks.

1) Your company wants to improve the working conditions for its employees and you have been asked to write a report for the Managing Director. Write a **report** on the improvements that employees would like to see and why, and advise on the priority in which the improvements should be implemented.

2) A travel website is asking for articles about travel experiences or holidays that turned out to be far more interesting than had been expected. Write an **article** for the website describing an interesting travel experience or holiday.

Write your answer in 280 – 320 words.

[__/20]

TOTAL [__/50]