



NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
SINGAPORE

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION SAMPLE PAPER

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Time Allowed: 90mins

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This examination contains TWO (2) sections.
2. All TWO (2) sections are compulsory.
3. Read the instructions at the beginning of each section, which specify the marks allocated and give time recommendations.
4. Write all your answers in the spaces provided in **THIS EXAMINATION BOOKLET**.
5. No replacement examination booklets will be provided.
6. Dictionaries should **NOT** be used.

For examiner's use only

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| A | /70 |
| B | /30 |
| Total | % |

SECTION A – Writing

Choose **one** of the following topics and write an essay of **400 words on the following pages**. You are writing for an educated reader who does not have specialized knowledge in the topic area you have chosen.

It is recommended that you spend no longer than 60 minutes to complete this section of the test. Allow 5 minutes for organizing, 45 minutes for writing and 10 minutes for proofreading. (Use the space provided below for your essay plan/notes.)

TOTAL: 70 MARKS

1. In future, through the use of the internet, students can receive their formal education at home rather than in school. Do you think that the internet will ever replace face-to-face learning?
2. Married women should give up their jobs to look after their children. What are your views on this statement? Justify your views with examples.

You may use this space for your planning and rough work.
Anything written in this space will not be graded.

Circle the number of the topic you have chosen. 1 2

Do not write out the essay question again. Begin writing your essay here.

SAMPLE

Blank lined paper with horizontal ruling lines.

Section B – Reading Comprehension

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow it. You are advised to spend a maximum of 30 minutes on this section.

TOTAL: 30 MARKS

1. Cultural shock generally goes through five stages; excitement or initial euphoria, crisis or disenchantment, adjustment, acceptance, and re-entry. Davis and Krapels (2005) visualize cultural shock as being represented by a U-shaped curve, with the top of the left of the curve representing the positive beginning, the crisis stage starts down the left side to the base of the U, the adjustment phase starts at the base of the curve, then acceptance moves up the right side of the curve, and re-entry into the original culture is at the top of the right side of the curve.
2. The first stage is excitement and fascination with the new culture, which can last only a few days or several months. During this time, everything is new and different; you are fascinated with the food and the people. Sometimes this stage is referred to as the "honeymoon" stage, during which your enthusiasm for the new culture causes you to overlook minor problems, such as having to drink bottled water and the absence of central heating or air conditioning (Black et al., 1999).
3. During the second stage, the crisis or disenchantment period, the "honeymoon" is over; your excitement has turned to disappointment as you encounter more and more differences between your own culture and the new culture. Problems with transportation, unfamiliar foods, and people who do not speak English now seem overwhelming. The practice of bargaining over the purchase price of everything, an exercise originally found amusing, is now a constant source of irritation. Emotions of homesickness, irritation, anger, confusion, resentment, helplessness, and depression occur during the second stage. People at this stage often cope with the situation by making disparaging remarks about the culture; it is sometimes referred to as the "fight-back" technique. Others deal with this stage by leaving, either physically, emotionally, or psychologically. Those who remain may withdraw from people in the culture, refuse to learn the language, and develop coping behaviors of excessive drinking or drug use. Some individuals actually deny differences and will speak in glowing terms of the new culture. This second stage can last from a few weeks to several months.
4. In the third stage, the adjustment phase, you begin to accept the new culture or you return home. You try new foods and make adjustments in behavior to accommodate the shopping lines and the long waits for public transportation. You begin to see the humor in situations and realize that a change in attitude toward the host culture will make the stay abroad more rewarding.

5. In the fourth phase, the acceptance or adaptation phase, you feel-at home in the new culture, become involved in activities of the culture, cultivate friendships among the nationals, and feel comfortable in social situations with people from the host culture. You learn the language and may adopt the new culture's style of doing things. You even learn to enjoy some customs such as afternoon tea and the midday siesta that you will miss when you return to the home country.
6. The final phase is re-entry shock, which can be almost as traumatic as the initial adjustment to a new culture, particularly after an extended stay abroad. Many individuals are shocked at the fact that they feel the same emotional, psychological, and physical reactions they did when they entered the new culture. Re-entry shock is experienced on returning to the home country and may follow the stages identified earlier. initial euphoria, crisis or disenchantment, adjustment, and acceptance or adaptation. You would at first be happy to be back in your own country but then become disenchanted as you realize that your friends are not really interested in hearing about your experiences abroad, your standard of living goes down, and you are unable to use such new skills as a foreign language or bargaining in the market. You then move into the adjustment stage as you become familiar with new technology and appreciate the abundance and variety of foods and clothing and the improved standards of cleanliness. You finally move into the acceptance stage when you feel comfortable with the mores of the home culture and find yourself returning to many of your earlier views and behaviors.
7. Although re-entry shock is typically shorter than the first four stages of cultural shock in a new culture, expatriates who have made a good adjustment to the host culture may go through a rather long period of adjustment, lasting six months or more when they are confronted with the changes that have taken place in their absence. Some of these changes are work-related; expatriates may feel "demoted" when they return to middle-management positions without the bonuses, perks, and professional contacts that they enjoyed abroad. In other situations, changes have taken place in the home country, including politics and styles of clothing, which require re-adjustment. In research conducted by Chaney and Martin (1993), the four types of re-entry shock experienced by college students who had travelled abroad that were statistically significant were re-adjusting to changes in social life, re-adjusting to changes in standard of living, and re-establishing friendships.

8. Some re-entry problems are personal in nature. Many repatriates have changed; they have acquired a broadened view of the world and have undergone changes in values and attitudes. Personal problems may include unsuccessful attempts to renew personal and professional relationships as the realization sets in that their former friends do not share their enthusiasm for their overseas experiences and accomplishments. They must make new friends who share this common experience. Children of expatriates encounter similar readjustment problems when returning to schools in the United States.
9. Because re-entry shock is a natural part of cultural shock, multinational corporations must provide training for repatriates to ensure that the transition to the home culture is a favorable experience. In the absence of such training, you can do much to counteract re-entry shock by sharing your feelings (not your experiences) with sympathetic family members and friends, particularly those who have lived abroad. Correspond regularly with members of the home culture; ask questions concerning changes that are taking place. Subscribe to the home newspaper to stay abreast of current events. Keep in touch with professional organizations and other groups with which you may want to affiliate. Many repatriates have found that maintaining ties with the home culture cushions the shock associated with re-entry.

Adapted from Chaney L.H. & Martin J.S., 2007, Intercultural Communication, NJ: Pearson.

Questions

This task consists of **TEN (10)** multiple choice questions.

Choose the correct answer from the alternatives given. Write the correct answer (a), (b), (c) or (d), **on the line provided to the left of each question**.

Each multiple choice question carries two marks.

1. The main purpose of the reading passage is
 - a) to present the reasons behind cultural shock.
 - b) to argue for better training to counter cultural shock.
 - c) to show that cultural shock is a natural phenomenon.
 - d) to explain the different stages of cultural shock.
2. According to the passage, which of the following symptoms does not represent a person who is in the crisis stage?
 - a) He or she displays negative emotions.
 - b) He or she rebels against the new culture.
 - c) He or she experiences a period of denial.
 - d) He or she resists bargaining at the market.
3. The word "disparaging" (paragraph 3) means
 - a) insulting.
 - b) complaining.
 - c) reprimanding.
 - d) annoying.
4. What does not happen during the third stage of cultural shock?
 - a) The individual accommodates the new culture.
 - b) The individual changes his or her perspective.
 - c) The individual rejects the new culture.
 - d) The individual accepts the new culture.
5. According to paragraph 6, re-entry shock includes
 - a) feeling excited initially about returning home.
 - b) realizing that the experience has matured you.
 - c) discovering that your friends have changed.
 - d) understanding the difference between cultures.
6. Which of the following pair of words has the same meaning?
 - a) fascination (2) - euphoria (6)
 - b) accommodate (4) - adopt (5)
 - c) behavior (4) - values (8)
 - d) experienced (7) - undergone (8)
7. Based on paragraph 8, which of the following statements is true about reentry problems?
 - a) They are largely professional problems.
 - b) They are mainly personal problems.
 - c) They involve relationship problems.
 - d) They include marriage problems.
8. The term "affiliate" in paragraph 9 is closest in meaning to
 - a) relate.
 - b) represent.
 - c) associate.
 - d) adopt.

9. The writer's purpose in paragraph 9 is to
- a) illustrate the approaches toward re-entry shock.
 - b) highlight the importance of training for cultural shock.
 - c) emphasize the organization's role in handling re-entry shock.
 - d) present the strategies to counteract cultural shock.
10. The best title for this reading passage would be
- a) The Process of Cultural Shock
 - b) The Effects of Cultural Shock
 - c) Overcoming Cultural Shock
 - d) Handling Cultural Shock

SAMPLE