

## IELO PRACTICE PAPERS

### Use of English

#### Level B2\_2

#### SUBIECTUL A – USE OF ENGLISH (40 points)

##### I. Read the paragraph below and do the tasks that follow. (20 points)

Research by Andrew Oswald, Professor of Economics at Warwick University, shows that our reported levels of happiness are remarkably unaffected by our **affluence**. So, how much do we need to earn to feel comfortably off? And why are we **knocking ourselves out** with the longest working week in Europe if the money it makes us doesn't even cheer us up?

Part of the problem is that most of this new affluence is increasingly weighted towards a very small proportion of the population – the already rich. While fat cats and dot com squillionaires are apparently multiplying, they form only a tiny elite. My own professional income puts me in the top 20% of wage earners in the country but the simple fact is that many people don't feel richer because they aren't.

The top 20%, however, don't fit into that category. We know that we're living lives of unprecedented affluence. I have more money than my dad ever did, but nowhere near as much as my sister, and that's the problem. The generational benchmark no longer applies. Instead, according to Oswald, we look over our shoulder at our neighbours, friends and colleagues. How are we doing compared to them?

New ways of working, living and thinking have created new economic **models** and attitudes. The way we spend our money reveals not just our lifestyles, but our natures, our values, our fears, and our national identity. No wonder we feel as if we've never got enough of it!

##### A. Answer the following questions, according to the text.

8 points

1. In paragraph 1, what image of the British workforce does the writer create?
2. What exactly does the phrase 'generational benchmark' (paragraph 3) describe?
3. What point is the author trying to make when he says we look 'over our shoulders at our neighbours, friends and colleagues'?
4. What does the way we spend our money show about us?

##### B. Choose the right synonym for the words given below, according to their meaning in the text.

6 points

- |                              |             |              |                  |            |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|------------|
| 1. <b>affluence:</b>         | a. strength | b. incentive | c. wealth        | d. stamina |
| 2. <b>knock oneself out:</b> | a. collapse | b. overwork  | c. outdo         | d. amuse   |
| 3. <b>models:</b>            | a. patterns | b. moulds    | c. illustrations | d. acts    |

**C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning.**

**6 points**

1. Our reported levels of happiness are unaffected by our affluence.  
Our affluence ..... of happiness.
2. We know that we're living lives of unprecedented affluence.  
We know that we ..... been.
3. The way we spend our money reveals not just our lifestyles, but our national identity as well.  
Not only ..... lifestyles, but our national identity as well.

**II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each gap.**

**20 points**

It is **1) \_\_\_\_\_ (COMMON)** believed that a break from everyday routine can only do you good. Every summer, you can spot **2) \_\_\_\_\_ (PROSPECT)** holidaymakers at airports and waiting for car ferries. They are **3) \_\_\_\_\_ (MISTAKE)** – you can tell them a mile away by their sun hats and hopeful expressions. For all their optimism, what often actually happens can be a rude **4) \_\_\_\_\_ (WAKE)** from the blissful holiday dreams of the rest of the year. Sunburn, mosquitoes and **5) \_\_\_\_\_ (FORESEE)** expenses can make you think twice about how **6) \_\_\_\_\_ (BENEFIT)** getting away from it all really is. The fact is, the **7) \_\_\_\_\_ (LIKELY)** of something going wrong is maximized when you are abroad and **8) \_\_\_\_\_ (FORTUNE)**, your ability to deal with crisis is minimised. This could be because of language problems, **9) \_\_\_\_\_ (FAMILIAR)** with the culture, or simply a different climate, all of which make everything seem different and unreal. So, what is the answer? **10) \_\_\_\_\_ (DOUBT)**, an annual escape from the routine is a very positive thing. However, the wisdom of seeking an exotic location is questionable.

**Key**

**B2\_2**

**I. Read the paragraph below and do the tasks that follow. (20 points)**

**A. Answer the following questions.**

**8 points**

**Suggested answers**

1. that of an unhappy workforce, despite earning well.
2. measuring success according to the standards of successive generations.
3. We discreetly compare ourselves to those around us.
4. It shows our characters and our attitudes towards life.

**B. Choose the right synonym.**

**(3x2p=6p)**

1 – c; 2 – b; 3 – a

**C. Rephrase the following sentences so as to preserve the meaning.**

**(3x2p=6p)**

1. doesn't affect our reported levels
2. are more affluent than we have ever
3. does the way we spend our money reveal our

**II. Use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits in each gap.**

**20 points**

1. commonly    2. prospective    3. unmistak(e)able    4. awakening    5. unforeseen/unforeseeable  
6. beneficial    7. likelihood    8. unfortunately    9. unfamiliarity    10. Undoubtedly/Doubtless(ly)