



CAMBRIDGE O LEVEL — PROGRESS TEST

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Reading, Vocabulary, Grammar & Writing

Unit Progress Test 2

Candidate Name:		Class / Grade:	
Date:		Teacher:	

Subject	English Language	Total Marks	50
Focus	Reading, Vocabulary, Grammar & Writing	Time Allowed	60 Minutes

General Instructions

1. Answer all questions in the spaces provided.
2. For Section A, answer in your own words as far as possible.
3. For Section C, read each instruction carefully — question types vary.
4. For Section D, write in full sentences within the word limit given.
5. Write in dark blue or black ink.



Section A — Reading Comprehension

Read the passage below, and then answer the questions that follow.

Why Do We Get Goosebumps?

1 Goosebumps are one of the strangest habits our bodies have kept from a past we can barely remember. When we feel cold, frightened, or even deeply moved by music, tiny muscles at the base of each hair contract, pulling the hair upright and leaving behind the small raised bumps we call goosebumps.

5 In animals with thick fur, this reaction makes excellent sense. Raised fur traps a layer of warm air close to the skin, and in moments of danger, it makes a creature look larger and more threatening to a potential predator. For our distant, far hairier ancestors, the same reflex would have offered similar benefits.

10 Humans, however, have lost almost all of that fur, yet the reflex has stubbornly remained. Scientists describe this as a vestigial response — a leftover behaviour that no longer serves its original purpose, rather like the reflex that still makes us want to flatten our ears, if we had ears capable of moving.

15 What continues to puzzle researchers is why goosebumps also appear during emotional moments that have nothing to do with cold or danger — a powerful piece of music, a moving film, or a line in a speech. One theory suggests that the same nervous system pathway, originally built for the physical world, gets triggered by emotional intensity as well, borrowing an old mechanism for a new purpose.

21 Whatever the explanation, goosebumps remain a small, involuntary reminder that our bodies carry traces of a much older story than the one we are currently living.



Question 1 — Comprehension

(a) Give one word from lines 1–5 which means “tighten”, referring to the tiny muscles at the base of each hair.

[2]

(b) According to lines 5–9, suggest one clear reason why goosebumps would have been useful for our distant, hairier ancestors.

[2]

(c) Explain in your own words what is meant by scientists calling goosebumps a “vestigial response” in lines 10–13.

[4]

(d) What does the final paragraph suggest about how scientists view the origins of our bodies?

[4]

Question 2 — Vocabulary in Context

Choose one word from the passage which is closest in meaning to each of the following. Give the paragraph number where the word appears.

(a) standing straight up (paragraph 1)

[1]

(b) an animal that hunts and eats another animal (paragraph 2)

[1]

(c) persistently; refusing to change (paragraph 3)

[1]

(d) continues to be a source of confusion (paragraph 4)

[1]

(e) not done on purpose; automatic (paragraph 5)

[1]



Section C — Grammar & Use of English

Answer all questions in this section. Follow the instruction given for each item.

1. Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb in brackets: "By next June, she ____ (complete) her degree." [1]

2. Fill in the blank with the correct preposition: "He is very good ____ solving puzzles." [1]

3. Fill in the blank with the correct preposition: "The results depend ____ how much effort you put in." [1]

4. Choose the correct verb form to complete the sentence: "Everybody in the class ____ (is / are) required to submit a project." [1]

5. Rewrite the sentence in the passive voice: "Someone stole my bicycle last night." [2]

6. Rewrite the sentence in reported speech: He said, "I will call you tomorrow." [2]

7. Combine the two sentences into one, using an appropriate connective: "She studied hard. She still failed the test." [2]

8. Rewrite the following sentence with correct capitalisation and punctuation: "wont you come with us she asked" [2]

9. Identify and correct the grammatical error in this sentence: "The news were very surprising to everyone." [1]



Section D — Short Writing

Write a short diary entry (80–120 words) describing a moment when you learned something surprising about how your body or mind works, in a similar spirit to the passage above.

Up to 10 of the 20 marks available are for content and ideas, and up to 10 marks are for the quality of your writing.

[20]



Marking Guidance & Model Answers

Teacher reference: equivalent, grammatically sound wording that captures the same meaning should be accepted.

Question 1 — Comprehension

- (a) contract — the word meaning “tighten”, referring to the tiny muscles at the base of each hair. [2]
- (b) Accept: raised fur trapped warm air close to the skin, or made the animal look larger and more threatening to predators. [2]
- (c) Accept: a leftover reflex or behaviour that no longer serves its original purpose — humans have lost most of their fur, so the reaction no longer helps as it once did, yet it still happens. [4]
- (d) Accept: suggests our bodies still carry physical traces or evidence of our evolutionary past, and that features can persist long after their original purpose has disappeared. [4]

Question 2 — Vocabulary in Context

- (a) upright (b) predator (c) stubbornly (d) puzzle (e) involuntary — one mark each for the correct word. [5]

Section C — Grammar & Use of English

- will have completed [1]
- at [1]
- on [1]
- is [1]
- My bicycle was stolen last night. [2]
- He said (that) he would call me/her the following day. [2]
- Accept any logically joined sentence using a suitable connective, e.g. “Although she studied hard, she still failed the test.” [2]
- “Won’t you come with us?” she asked. [2]
- Accept: “The news was very surprising to everyone” — corrects the subject-verb agreement error (“news” is singular). [1]

Section D — Short Writing (Marking Guidance)

Award content marks (up to 10) for a clear, relevant recollection of a surprising discovery, with a sense of why it stood out.

Award language marks (up to 10) for register appropriate to a diary entry, clear expression, and accuracy of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. [20]