



CAMBRIDGE O LEVEL — PROGRESS TEST

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Reading, Vocabulary, Grammar & Writing

Unit Progress Test 3

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.

The Tryout

- 1 I had practised the shot in my head so many times that the actual missing of it felt almost unreal, like watching someone else's arm let go of the ball a fraction too late.
- 4 Coach Reyes didn't say anything at first. She just wrote something on her clipboard, the way she did after every attempt, whether it went in or not, and called the next name on the list.
- 8 I sat back down on the bench, telling myself it didn't matter, the way you tell yourself things you don't yet believe. Around me, the gym carried on exactly as it had before — sneakers squeaking, someone laughing near the water fountain — as though my missed shot hadn't rearranged anything at all, which, I suppose, it hadn't, for anyone but me.
- 14 It was Priya, two seats down, who finally spoke. "You had the form right," she said, not looking up from retying her laces. "That's the part you can actually control." I hadn't expected advice, least of all from someone I'd exchanged maybe ten words with all year.
- 19 The list went up on Friday. My name wasn't on it, and for a weekend I turned that missed shot over and over, looking for the moment I could have done differently. I never quite found it, and slowly, that started to feel less like a failure and more like a fact — something that had simply happened, the way weather happens.
- 25 I went back to the courts the following Monday anyway, alone this time, and put up the same shot fifty times before I let myself go home.



Question 1 — Comprehension

(a) Give one word from lines 1–4 which suggests the missed shot felt strange or hard to believe. [2]

(b) What does Coach Reyes's reaction (lines 4–7) suggest about her approach to the tryouts? [2]

(c) Explain, in your own words, why the narrator felt that the missed shot “hadn't rearranged anything ... for anyone but me” (lines 8–13). [4]

(d) Explain what the narrator means by saying the missed shot started to feel “less like a failure and more like a fact” (line 23). [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) not seeming real or genuine (paragraph 1) [1]

(b) fastened again (paragraph 3) [1]

(c) anticipated; thought something would happen (paragraph 4) [1]

(d) examined repeatedly in one's mind (paragraph 5) [1]

(e) by oneself; without company (paragraph 6) [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: "If it ____ (rain) tomorrow, we will cancel the picnic." [1]

2. Fill in the blank with the correct preposition: "The team was proud ____ their achievement." [1]

3. Fill in the blank with the correct preposition: "She apologised ____ arriving late." [1]

4. Choose the correct verb form to complete the sentence: "The number of applicants ____ (has / have) increased this year." [1]

5. Rewrite the sentence in the passive voice: "They will repair the road next month." [2]

6. Rewrite the sentence in reported speech: "I can't attend the meeting," he said. [2]

7. Combine the two sentences into one, using an appropriate connective: "The power went out. We lit some candles." [2]

8. Rewrite the following sentence with correct capitalisation and punctuation: "im not sure she replied ill think about it" [2]

9. Identify and correct the grammatical error in this sentence: "There is many reasons to celebrate today." [1]



Section D — Short Writing

Write a short diary entry (80–120 words) describing a time you didn't succeed at something you had prepared for, 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) unreal — the word suggesting the missed shot felt strange or hard to believe. [2]
- (b) Accept: suggests she is neutral and professional, treating every attempt the same regardless of outcome, without showing favouritism or emotion. [2]
- (c) Accept: the world and people around the narrator carried on completely unaffected — the disappointment was real and significant only to the narrator, not visible or important to anyone else. [4]
- (d) Accept: suggests a shift from self-blame or judgement towards simple, calm acceptance of what happened — viewing it as something neutral that occurred, rather than a personal failing. [4]

Question 2 — Vocabulary in Context

- (a) unreal (b) retying (c) expected (d) turned (e) alone — one mark each for the correct word. [5]

Section C — Grammar & Use of English

1. rains [1]
2. of [1]
3. for [1]
4. has [1]
5. The road will be repaired next month. [2]
6. He said (that) he couldn't attend the meeting. [2]
7. Accept any logically joined sentence using a suitable connective, e.g. "When the power went out, we lit some candles." [2]
8. "I'm not sure," she replied. "I'll think about it." [2]
9. Accept: "There are many reasons to celebrate today" — corrects the subject-verb agreement error (are, not is). [1]

Section D — Short Writing (Marking Guidance)

Award content marks (up to 10) for a clear, relevant recollection of an unsuccessful attempt at something prepared for, with a sense of how it felt.

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