

SAMPLE ONLY



Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus

English Placement Test

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Date: _____

Candidate's Name: _____

Malaysian

Foreign National

Male/ Female

Program applied for:

Foundation Diploma Degree Master's Intensive English

Section	Part	Possible Mark	Marks obtained	Percentage	Marker's Comments:
I	A and B	15 + 10 + 5 = 30			
II	A and B	10 + 10 = 20			
III	A and B	25 + 25 = 50			
	Total	100			

The candidate is NOT required to enroll on any of the supporting English courses.

The candidate is required to enroll in the:

Intensive English program Level 1 Level 2 Level 3

Note: Candidates must pass each level of the IE program before progressing to the next level. Candidates must pass Level 3 before they can start the next program of studies, e.g. Foundation.

English Proficiency course (for Foundation)

Supplementary English course (for Diploma)

Academic Writing Reading for Academic Purposes Speaking & Listening Skills

Supplementary English course (for Degree)

Academic Writing Reading for Academic Purposes Speaking & Listening Skills

* This Test consists of 21 pages including the Cover Page

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CANDIDATE

- 1. You may not use a dictionary or any aid in this Test.**
- 2. You must complete all three Sections (Section I, II and III) of this Test.**
- 3. Write all your answers (Sections I, II & III) on the Test paper.**
- 4. You may use rough paper for notes or outlines for the essays.**
- 5. Please hand in ALL your papers, including your rough work, to the invigilator at the end of the Test.**

Section I: Comprehension and Vocabulary (30 marks)

The passage below is an extract from a summary report of a major climate change review by Sir Nicholas Stern on the Economics of Climate. The review was conducted in Britain by a committee of British experts and chaired by Sir Nicholas. Read the passage (1) below and answer the comprehension and vocabulary questions that follow.

Reading Passage:

STERN REVIEW: The Economics of Climate Change

Executive Summary

- 1 The scientific evidence is now overwhelming: climate change presents very serious global risks, and it demands an urgent global response.
- 2 This independent Review was commissioned by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, reporting to both the Chancellor and to the Prime Minister, as a contribution to assessing the evidence and building understanding of the economics of climate change.
- 3 The Review first examines the evidence on the economic impacts of climate change itself, and explores the economics of stabilising greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The second half of the Review considers the complex policy challenges involved in managing the transition to a low-carbon economy and in ensuring that societies can adapt to the consequences of climate change that can no longer be avoided.
- 4 The Review takes an international perspective. Climate change is global in its causes and consequences, and international collective action will be critical in driving an effective, efficient and equitable response on the scale required. This response will require deeper international co-operation in many areas – most notably in creating price signals and markets for carbon, spurring technology research, development and deployment, and promoting adaptation, particularly for developing countries.
- 5 Climate change presents a unique challenge for economics: it is the greatest and widest-ranging market failure ever seen. The economic analysis must therefore be global, deal with long time horizons, have the economics of risk and uncertainty at centre stage, and examine the possibility of major, non-marginal change. To meet these requirements, the Review draws on ideas and techniques from most of the important areas of economics, including many recent advances.

Comprehension Question One: Comprehension & Vocabulary (15 marks): Understanding a written passage

Read Stern's Executive Summary on pages 3 and 4 carefully and then answer the following questions.

1. State in your own words the main thesis (idea) of Stern's Report.

2. Who asked for the Review to be carried out?

3. State in one sentence the purpose of the Review.

4. What is the purpose of paragraph 3 in this executive summary?

5. What do you understand by a "low-carbon economy" (paragraph 3)?

Comprehension Question Two (10 marks):

Obtaining relevant information from the reading passage

Stern's Review suggests some actions that can be taken to mitigate the effects of climate change. In a short paragraph of 80 -100 words, write about the actions referred to in his review that can be carried out to minimise the impact of climate change. Give your paragraph a short title.

Comprehension Question Three (5 marks): Checking Understanding

Complete this task: Paraphrase the main points in paragraphs 4 and 5.

- End of Section I -

SECTION II: Grammar (20 marks)

Grammar Questions One and Two are contextualized grammar questions, produced from part of the Stern Review.

**Grammar Question One is a multiple-choice question of 20 items.
Grammar Question Two also consists of 20 items.**

**Grammar Question One (10 marks):
Grammar in Context**

The twenty numbered sentences below are a continuation of the Stern Review. Your task is to fill in the blank by circling the correct choice from the selection of a, b, c, d.

Climate change threatens the basic elements of life for people around the world – access to water, food production, health, and use of land and the environment.

Estimating the economic costs of climate change is challenging, but there is a range of methods or approaches that enable us to assess the likely magnitude of the risks and compare them with the costs. This Review considers three of these approaches.

1. This Review has first _____ in detail the physical impacts on economic activity, on human life and on the environment.
 - a. consider
 - b. considering
 - c. considered
 - d. considers

2. On current trends, average global temperatures _____ by 2 - 3°C within the next fifty years or so.
 - a. rise
 - b. rose
 - c. has risen
 - d. will rise

3. The Earth _____ several degrees more warming if emissions continue to grow.
- was committed to
 - will be committed to
 - commits to
 - shall be committed to

Warming will have many severe impacts, often mediated through water:

4. Melting glaciers will initially increase flood risk and then strongly _____ water supplies, eventually threatening one-sixth of the world's population, predominantly in the Indian sub-continent, parts of China, and the Andes in South America.
- reduced
 - reducing
 - will be reduced
 - reduce
5. Declining crop yields, especially in Africa, could leave hundreds of millions without the ability _____ or purchase sufficient food.
- to produce
 - of producing
 - in producing
 - in production

Grammar Question Two (10 marks):

Predicting words in a text - Rational cloze

This is a continuation of the Stern Review in cloze form.

Your task is to fill in the blanks to restore his text. There are altogether 20 blanks.

(Stern Review continued in cloze form below)

The impacts of climate change are not evenly distributed – the poorest countries and people will suffer earliest and most. And if and when the damages appear it will be too late to reverse the process. Thus we are forced to look a long way ahead.

Climate change is a grave threat (1) _____ the developing world and a major obstacle to continued poverty reduction across its many dimensions. First, developing regions are (2) _____ a geographic disadvantage: they are already warmer, on average, than developed regions, and they also suffer (3) _____ high rainfall variability. As a result, further warming will bring poor countries high costs and few (4) _____. Second, developing countries – in particular the poorest – are heavily dependent (5) _____ agriculture, the most climate-sensitive of all economic sectors, and suffer from inadequate health provision and low-quality public services.

- End of Section II -

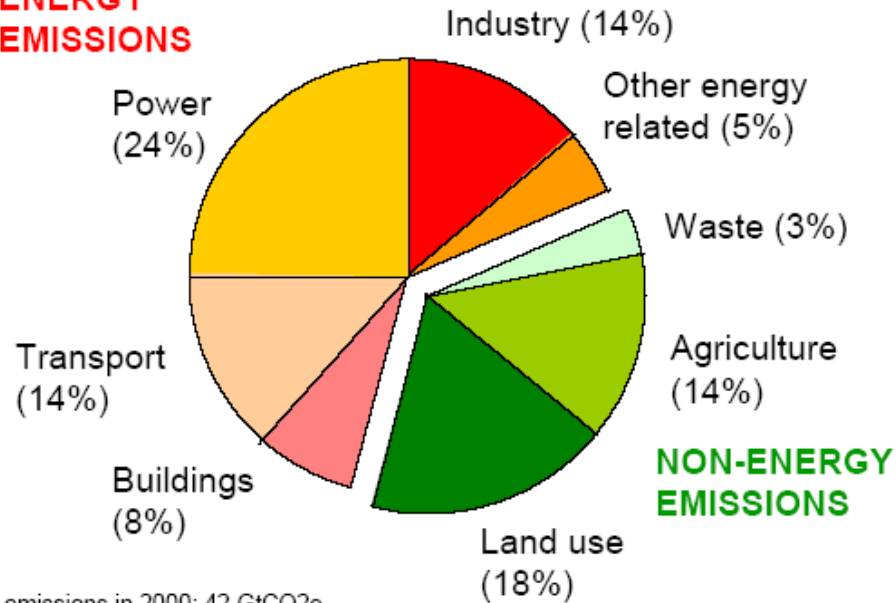
Section III: Writing (50 marks)

Writing Question One: From Chart to Word (25 marks)

This question tests your ability to express graphical information in words. Refer to Figure 1 below and put the information into one or more, clear, fluent paragraphs. Your word total should be **100 words or more**. You may add relevant details of your own. You will be marked for task fulfilment, fluency, vocabulary, grammar and logical development.

Figure 1 Greenhouse-gas emissions in 2000, by source

ENERGY EMISSIONS



Total emissions in 2000: 42 GtCO₂e.

Energy emissions are mostly CO₂ (some non-CO₂ in industry and other energy related).

Non-energy emissions are CO₂ (land use) and non-CO₂ (agriculture and waste).

Source: Prepared by Stern Review, from data drawn from World Resources Institute Climate Analysis Indicators Tool (CAIT) on-line database version 3.0.

Writing Question Two: Essay (25 marks)

This question tests your ability to present a clear and logical opinion. You have read Stern's Executive Summary and part of the Stern Review in this test paper. Now **your task is to write a letter for the letter forum of your local newspaper**. In your letter, tell the readers that the local weather changes could be a part of global climate change. Use some arguments to persuade them to lobby for government action to prepare the country for climate change.

In presenting your opinion, you may use information from Figure 1, ideas from Stern's Review and quotes from him, but **you must NOT copy**. Your letter should be **about 300 words**. **Give your letter a short title** to capture your readers' attention.

Your letter will be marked for task fulfilment, fluency, vocabulary, grammar and logical development.

**- End of Section III -
&
End of Paper**