

CELU : Certification of English URCA

The language test will test two skills : **listening and reading comprehension**.

The first part of the exam (online CELU) will last 1h30.

The second part (online adaptive) will last between 25 and 40 minutes.

These examples will help you better anticipate the **format** of the exam.

PART A : Listening Comprehension

30 minutes approximately of listening.

You will hear the recording on loud speakers

You will type your answers onto the computer.

At the end of each page on the screen, **you must confirm** (*valider*) your answers.

There will be three sections

Section 1 : Eight Multiple Choice Comprehension questions on Short Recordings

You will hear 8 short conversations (10 to 20")

You will hear each conversation TWICE

For each recording you must choose the correct answer to the multiple choice question (*QCM*)

You will have 10 seconds to read the question and the answer choices.

EXAMPLE :

(Audio 1 *) *You will hear a man and a woman having a conversation. What will the woman probably do?*

- a) Buy the leather bag later.
- b) Use her credit card to buy the bag.
- c) Go back home to get her purse.
- d) Get the man to buy the bag for her.

Answer: d)

Section 2: Seven Multiple Choice Questions on Short Monologues

You will hear 7 monologues (30"). You will only hear them TWICE.

There will be 1 multiple choice question per monologue.

The subject of the monologue will be identified.

There will be a 10-second pause before each recording begins. Use that time to read the questions and answers

EXAMPLE

(Audio 2*) *You will hear a young man speaking about running after an injury. What did he injure?*

- a) his toes
- b) his ankle
- c) his foot

Answer: c)

(Audio *) : Examples which have a MP3 file are marked with a * and can be found under "documents"

Section 3 : Gap-fill with key words from longer oral monologue or interview

In this part of the test, you will hear a longer recording (3').

Read the summary carefully before listening to the recording.

You will have 3 minutes to read the question and the answer choices before the beginning of the recording.

You will hear the recording TWICE.

You should note down the key words and facts as you listen. Then use the key words from the audio document to fill in the summary.

When two words are required two spaces are given. Small grammatical changes may be necessary to fit the sentence. The order is not necessarily the same as in the recording.

You will have 10 minutes to complete the text.

EXAMPLE :

(0)

economic

The (0) _____ (1)_____ has caused a lot of (2)_____ among the Venetian population against the Italian government. In October 2012 a great number of protesters gathered in Venice to call for independence from Italy. These (3) _____ called for an immediate (4) _____ arguing that the new Venetian (5)_____ would then become one of the (6) _____ countries in Europe. Indeed out of the 70 billion euros they pay in taxes to Rome, they only get back about 50 billion euros, thus losing out on 20 billion euros a year, which is (7) _____, pro-independence activist Lodovico Pizzati said. He added that the economic situation is really (8) _____, with the recession hitting nearly all types of businesses. Another argument which has been set forth is that Venice had been an (9)_____ republic until it became part of the Kingdom of Italy nearly 150 years ago. A recent survey showed that there is a strong support from local inhabitants for (10)_____.

end of Oral Comprehension PART A

PART B : READING COMPREHENSION

The Reading Comprehension is made up of 4 SECTIONS: **Section 4 (S 04)**, **Section 5 (S 05)**, **Section 6 (S 06)**, **Section 7 (S07)**;

Once you have validated all the items in a Section on the computer, **you CANNOT go back to this section**

You must do each Section in a specific order. This order will be indicated the day of the exam.

At the end of each page on the screen, **you must confirm (valider)** your answers and then go back to the next Section

You will have 45 minutes. We suggest that you average 10 minutes per Section. Sections 4 and 7 may take a few minutes longer.

Section 4 : Banked Multiple Choice

In the text below, 10 words are missing.

You will find the missing words in the list of words

Identify which word belongs in which gap and mark your choice in the blank

Follow the example of the sample answer (0) given below

Sample Answer :

(0)

(D)

America's Smallest Town Sold Online

The town of Buford, Wyoming, population one, was (0) _____ on Thursday for \$900,000. The (1) _____ are two unidentified men from Vietnam. Buford was (2) _____ online as the smallest town in the USA. It is (3) _____ between the Wyoming state capital Cheyenne and Laramie. It is on the Interstate 80 road that runs from New York to San Francisco. The buyers now (4) _____ a gas station and convenience store, a schoolhouse built in 1905, a cabin, a garage, 10 acres of land, and a three-bedroom house. The online bidding for the town started at \$100,000 and attracted bidders from 46 countries. The winning bidders flew to Wyoming especially for the (5) _____. They had read about the town online.

Buford's one former (6) _____ was Don Sammons, aged 61. He bought the town in 1992 to (7) _____ in the countryside. He decided to sell his (8) _____ to be closer to his son. Mr Sammons said he would retire from his position as the unelected "mayor" of the town. He expressed his (9) _____ at moving on from his home of three (10) _____, saying: "When the gavel drops and the guy says, 'sold,' I might break-down." He added: "I'm happy and I'm sad all at once. But I'm more happy than sad because...I can continue and start the next chapter of my life." He was surprised at the global interest in the sale. "I've lived here for more than 30 years and nobody knew it. Now I'm leaving and the world knows it," he said

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| A. auction | B. inhabitant | C. buyers. | D. sold |
| E. settle down | F. decades | G. located | H. property |
| I. advertised | J. sadness | K. own | |

Section 5: Gap-fill

For questions 57 – 66 read the text below and think of a word which best fits each gap.

Use only ONE word for each gap and write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS on your answer sheet.

Follow the example of the sample answer (0) below.

NB! No answer can exceed five letters in length.

The gapped words can be grammatical (articles, auxiliaries, prepositions, pronouns, verb tenses and forms) or lexico-grammatical (phrasal verbs, linkers and words within fixed phrases)

Sample Answer :

(0) T O

The difficulties of 'Green Living'

After attending a recent 'Earth Day' celebration, I found myself drawn (0) _____ a challenge issued by the popular ecological website "RENEST". I told myself that I was ready to "take the pledge" and to neither "buy nor acquire plastic bags (57) _____ 40 days". After all, it wouldn't change my lifestyle (58) _____ for I was already committed to the environmental cause. I used cloth carrier bags (59) _____ shopping, faithfully packed my lunch in a stainless steel container and even brought (60) _____ my favourite coffee mug whenever I went to Starbucks.

(61) _____ the end of the first day however, I realised that I would (62) _____ only have to forsake the items (63) _____ made my life more convenient but also those which made my life (64) _____ a single father with two young children actually "doable". It would mean doing without the punnets of cherry tomatoes that happen to be the only vegetable my 5 year-old will eat as (65) _____ as my toddler's disposable diapers. We would have to say good-bye to take-out Thai food and ice-cold slush puppies. We would have to make do (66) _____ our old toothbrushes, cleaning products, pens and [...]

Section 6: word-formation

For questions 67 – 76, read the text below. Modify the word given in CAPITALS at the end of each line to form a related word that fits in the space in the same line.

The modified words can be a verb, a noun, an adverb or an adjective and can be either positive or negative in meaning.

Follow the example of the sample answer (0) given below.

Sample Answer:

(0) N O V E L I S T

On hearing that my favourite (0) _____ was going to visit a local bookshop, I made the (67) _____ to go along and meet him in person. I have always had the greatest (68) _____ for him. His novels, which are basically (69) _____ have been of great (70) _____ benefit to me throughout the years. Not surprisingly, his work has received popular (71) _____.

On arriving, I saw him with a (72) _____ of his books in front of him. (73) _____, he was alone. I approached him and

NOVEL
DECIDE
ADMIRE
HISTORY
EDUCATE
RECOGNISE
SELECT
FORTUNATE

(74) _____ asked him to autograph my book. His handwriting was	POLITE
(75) _____ and therefore I had trouble reading the dedication.	LEGIBLE
Nevertheless, it was a (76) _____ experience.	MEMORY

Section 7: Reading Comprehension

This part contains **two extracts** which are concerned in some way with language.

There are several questions for each text. The last question (40) refers to BOTH texts. For the short answer questions, write the word or words that answer the question exactly as they appear in the text.

For the multiple choice questions, choose the letter (A, B, C or D) that corresponds to the BEST answer.

There is a total of 700 words including BOTH texts.

Extract 1: Texting 'improves language skill' (BBC NEWS: 2009/02/25 12:17:11)

Text speak, rather than harming literacy, could have a positive effect on the way children interact with language, says a study.

Researchers from Coventry University studied 88 children aged between 10 and 12 to understand the impact of text messaging on their language skills. They found that the use of so-called "textisms" could be having a positive impact on reading development. The study is published in the British Journal of Developmental Psychology. (1)

"Children's use of textisms is not only positively associated with word reading ability, but it may be contributing to reading development," the authors wrote in the report. (2)

The children involved in the study were given 10 different scenarios and asked to write about **them** using text messages. The textisms were split into categories, including shortenings, contractions, acronyms, symbols and non-conventional spellings, and analysed for their use of language alongside more traditional school work. (3)

Misspellings

"The alarm in the media is based on selected anecdotes but actually when we look for examples of text speak in essays we don't seem to find very many," said Dr Beverley Plester, the lead author of the report and senior lecturer at Coventry University. (4)

Texting is likely to be an important part of a child's learning development, she thinks. "The more exposure you have to the written word the more literate you become and we tend to get better at things that we do for fun," she said. (5)

The study found no evidence of a detrimental effect of text speak on conventional spelling. "What we think of as misspellings, don't really break the rules of language and children have a sophisticated understanding of the appropriate use of words," she said. (6)

Other reports have produced similar results. Research from the University of Toronto into how teenagers use instant messaging found that instant messaging had a positive effect on their command of language. (7)

30. What impact does texting have on reading ? :

- a) It prevents children from increasing their vocabulary.
- b) It helps them to become better readers.

- c) It makes them confuse text speak and the written word. .
- d) It makes them learn to read earlier.

32. What does the word « them » in paragraph 3 refer to? (one word)
[...]

Extract 2: Nurture Shock

In today's world of involved, informed and affluent parents, prevailing assumptions abound concerning the "right techniques" for raising children to be bright, articulate, creative, tolerant and successful adults. Some of the most firmly entrenched beliefs concern how best to help a child to learn to speak. Most parents and educators would agree that the richness of language exposure is the most crucial factor in language acquisition. In other words, children raised in more robust language intensive homes will hit developmental milestones earlier. Thereby many well-intentioned parents bombard their baby with non-stop linguistic commentary or make their child take in a daily dose of the acclaimed "Baby Einstein" DVD series.

This widespread consensus and other "bedrock assumptions" have just been debunked by Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman in their newly published *Nurture Shock*. The award-winning science journalists open the doors into the surprising science of child development and show us how "modern society's strategies for parenting and educating children have backfired because key twists in the science have been overlooked."

The basic paradigm, for example, that a child's linguistic capacity derives directly from the quantity and quality of input he or she receives, doesn't explain why the language acquisition of two children with similar home experiences can be so vastly divergent.

In fact, studies focusing on how a "child's first two years pulls her from babble to fluent speech" shift the spotlight to the information that flows in the opposite direction : "The central role of the parent is not to push massive amounts of language into the baby's ears. It's rather to notice what's coming from the baby and respond accordingly". The child will then be engaged in the actual moment at hand and [...]

33. The words "prevailing assumptions" (line 1) refer to ...

- A. the proper education parents want to offer their children.
- B. the misguided beliefs that inform modern parenting.
- C. the fact that parents are raising their children badly.
- D. old-fashioned ways of bringing up children.

34. Find the word in paragraph 1 that means "reach".

35. The authors of *Nurture Shock* demonstrate that ...

- A. most child-rearing methods are basically unscientific and therefore unsuccessful.
- B. parents must go back to the basics.
- C. by ignoring crucial aspects of scientific advances, parenting methods have failed.
- D. parents have not understood the science enough to apply it correctly.

36. According to scientific studies, parents should ...

- A. talk to their baby more.
- B. talk to their baby less.
- C. listen to their baby more closely.
- D. be more responsive to what their baby say.

37. From the tone of the article, the author ...

- A.** is critical of parents today.
- B.** is skeptical of parents' ability to improve children's linguistic capacity.
- C.** wishes that she had brought up her children differently.
- D.** suggests that assumptions behind some parenting methods need to be altered.

The following question refers to both texts:

40. Both texts imply that children will have better language skills if they :

- a) interact with others
- b) are exposed to a sufficient quantity and quality of language
- c) are spoken and read to often by parents and educators
- d) use language in a meaningful way

end of Reading Comprehension PART B