

**EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES**  
**ENGLISH PREPARATORY SCHOOL**  
**EPS ONLINE PROFICIENCY EXAM SAMPLE\***

**TOTAL: 2 SECTIONS (Listening and Reading); 60 Points**  
**TOTAL DURATION: Approx. 70 Minutes**

**SECTION 1-LISTENING (2 parts; 20 points)**

**Part 1**

**Instructions:**

- **You will hear an interview with a young TV soap opera star, Jack Benton.**
- **You will hear the recording twice.**
- **For questions 1-7 choose the best answer A, B, or C.**
- **Now, you have one minute to look at Part 1.**

1. Jack got a role in the soap opera because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) he had a certificate in drama studies
  - b) one of his friends was a TV star
  - c) a TV star had just resigned
  
2. Jack finds the most difficult part of his job is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) remembering his lines
  - b) pretending to be a bad person
  - c) working with famous people
  
3. How does Jack avoid the bad effects of fame?
  - a) He reads about other actors' experiences.
  - b) He listens to his old friends.
  - c) He follows his mother's advice.
  
4. What does Jack say about the clothes he wears?
  - a) They are light-coloured.
  - b) They are expensive.
  - c) They are fashionable.
  
5. What does Jack value most in his friends?
  - a) They help him to relax.
  - b) They listen to his problems.
  - c) They protect him from his fans.
  
6. What is Jack's reason for not going to the gym?
  - a) He prefers team sports.
  - b) He is too busy.
  - c) He thinks it is unnecessary.
  
7. Jack's dream for the future is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) to become a cinema actor
  - b) to win a TV prize
  - c) to become world-famous

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**Part 2**

**Instructions:**

- **You will hear people talking in seven different situations.**
- **You will hear each conversation twice.**
- **For questions 1-7 choose the best option A, B, or C.**
- **Now, you have one minute to look at Part 2.**

1. You hear a young woman talking about a pop concert. Why is she complaining?
  - a) The ticket was expensive.
  - b) The songs were new.
  - c) The hall was crowded.
  
2. You hear a radio announcement which gives details of a future programme about books. What will the experts on the programme tell you?
  - a) where you can sell the books
  - b) how old the books are
  - c) how much the books are worth
  
3. You hear a woman talking on the phone. Who is she talking to?
  - a) a doctor
  - b) a friend
  - c) a shop assistant
  
4. You hear two people talking about an evening class. What kind of class was it?
  - a) fitness
  - b) dancing
  - c) tennis
  
5. You hear a man talking about his job. What does he do?
  - a) He is a chef.
  - b) He is a fisherman.
  - c) He is a farmer.
  
6. You hear part of a radio play. Where does the scene take place?
  - a) in a restaurant
  - b) at a police station
  - c) in the street
  
7. You turn on the radio and hear a man talking. What are you listening to?
  - a) a competition
  - b) a lesson
  - c) an advertisement

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**SECTION II – READING (2 texts; 40 points)**

**Instructions: Read Text 1 and answer questions 1 - 7.**

**Text 1**

\_\_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_\_

**I.** Since he was a child, Don Cameron has always **been into** anything which flies. He grew up on the outskirts of Glasgow and, as a student at Glasgow University, joined the University Air Squadron. Interest in the mechanics of movement, if not flight, was a family tradition. His grandfather was an engineer who turned his hand to making model steam engines and boats.

**II.** Don Cameron’s first job was at Bristol Aircraft, where he worked as an engineer. He then had jobs in the steelworks at Llanwern and at Rio-Tinto Zinc in Bristol, working with computers. In the mid-sixties, news of American experiments with hot air balloons crossed the Atlantic, and he and a couple of friends decided to build their own balloon. This was probably the first hot air balloon used for sport in Western Europe, and they called it *The Bristol Belle*. Soon after this, there were 300 balloons in the U.K. alone – and at least two-thirds of them had been made by the firm Don Cameron set up, Cameron Balloons.

**III.** At the age of 40 he had already been halfway round the world by balloon. In 1972, he piloted the first hot air balloon to cross the Swiss Alps; and later that year, he took part in what he calls ‘an odd expedition’ to the Sahara Desert, with two balloons and a truck to carry the gas. He crossed the English Channel by balloon and even flew over the Arctic Circle in one. “Before you fly there,” he remembers, “you are taught how to build igloos and survive in the snow and ice. It’s a lovely place to fly over.”

**IV.** “In the early days,” he recalls, “I used to work night and day.” He looks down at his schedule for the following few days. It includes a drive to France to make a delivery, plus reading proofs of a ballooning handbook he has written. “I still don’t take it very easy,” he says. He started the business in the basement of the large Victorian house where he lives with his wife Kim and their two children. Now, Cameron Balloons has its own premises in an old church hall in Bristol, making about 350 balloons a year. They include specially designed balloons for advertising purposes. The firm exports all over the world and has **set up** a factory in America, where balloons are being made for them under license. The turnover is now around £7,000,000 a year.

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**Task A**

**Instructions: Choose the best alternative according to the information in Text 1.**

1. Which of the following is **true** according to **paragraph I**?
  - a) Cameron's interest in flying started at university.
  - b) Cameron's family was also interested in ballooning.
  - c) His grandfather worked at the University Air Squadron as an engineer.
  - d) His grandfather's hobbies were related to mechanics.
  
2. Cameron's first hot air sports balloon \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) was built in America
  - b) was built by some American experts
  - c) was built after some American experiments
  - d) crossed the Atlantic in 1960's
  
3. In the 1960s, Don Cameron's company, Cameron Balloons, \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) built the first hot air sports balloon in America
  - b) was the only firm of its kind in Britain
  - c) made most of the sports balloons in Britain
  - d) was the largest hot air balloon firm in Europe
  
4. 'been into' in **paragraph I** means \_\_\_\_\_.

a) part of	b) interested in
c) afraid of	d) discouraged by
  
5. Which of the following could be the best title of the text?
  - a) Don Cameron's family life
  - b) Hot air balloons in Europe
  - c) Don Cameron's Passion
  - d) Experiments on hot air balloons
  
6. 'set up' in **paragraph IV** means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) established
  - b) trained
  - c) found
  - d) used

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**Instructions: Read Text 2 and answer the questions 1 – 8.**

**Text 2**

**The Sands of Time**

**I** \_\_\_(e.g.) i \_\_\_ you're stepping on ancient mountains, skeletons of animals, and even tiny diamonds. Sand provides a record of earth-changing processes. If we look at **it**, we can discover there an account of a geological past and a history of marine life that \_\_\_1\_\_\_.

**II** What exactly is sand? Well, it is larger than fine dust and smaller than shingle. In fact, according to the most generally accepted measure, grains qualify if their diameter is greater than 0.06 of a millimetre and less than 0.6 of a millimetre. \_\_\_2\_\_\_ sand can be made of tiny pebbles or porous granules. Its grains may have the shape of stars or spirals, their edges jagged or smooth. They come from the erosion of rocks, from the skeletons of marine organisms, or even from volcanic eruptions.

**III** Colour is another clue to sand's origins. If it is dazzling white, its grains may come from nearby coral. On Pacific islands, jet black sand is made of volcanic minerals. Red iron oxide sand \_\_\_3\_\_\_. Yellow sand in Germany and Poland are remains from the Ice Age. The most precious sand is in Namibia, Angola, and Zaire, where \_\_\_4\_\_\_. Most of the world's sand, though, is mainly largely transparent quartz.

**IV** \_\_\_5\_\_\_ and later carried to the shore by the waves. Calcium carbonate **dissolved** in water, for example, becomes too concentrated to remain in solution any longer and precipitates out in greyish-white, egg-shaped grains. Sand made of the remains of marine organisms can include both plant and animal debris and their colour ranges from cream to orange.

**V** \_\_\_6\_\_\_ but it has one vital function you might never even notice. Sand cushions our land from the sea's impact, and geologists say it often does a better job protecting our shores than the most advanced coastal technology.

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**TASK A**

**Instructions:** Match each phrase below (a-i) with the correct gap in Text 2. The first one has been done as an example (*e.g.*, i). There are two extra phrases.

- a. More sands are generated on the sea bed or in the ocean waters themselves,
- b. diamond deposits on some beaches make it worth collecting and selling
- c. volcanic sand is usually not very good for plants
- d. Depending on its age and origin,
- e. goes back thousands, and in some cases, millions of years
- f. Sand is an irreplaceable industrial ingredient with many uses,
- g. Children play on it and make castles from it,
- h. is often found on beaches along the coast of north Africa
- i. **When you are on the beach,**

**TASK B**

**Instructions:** Choose the best alternative according to the information in Text 2.

7. 'it' in **paragraph I** refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| a) mountains | b) skeletons |
| c) sand      | d) diamonds  |
8. 'dissolved' in **paragraph IV** means \_\_\_\_\_.
- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| a) melt      | b) mix     |
| c) disappear | d) remains |