

Self-Test

Language questions – NOTE: ONLY ONE ANSWER IS CORRECT!

1. Your new haircut _____.
 1) looks well 2) is looking well 3) has good looks 4) looks good
2. If he's really gone, you _____ him.
 1) won't find 2) wouldn't find 3) do not find 4) would not have found
3. Where have you _____ the corpse?
 1) lay 2) layed 3) laid 4) lain
4. If you _____ me, I could have the work completed by next Thursday.
 1) are helping 2) would help 3) had helped 4) will help
5. Where would the phrase "above all" fit best in this sentence?
 One could say (1) _____ that it is Hemingway (2) _____ who has created stories (3) _____ which seem to be about action (4) _____ but in which in fact almost nothing happens.
6. In which sentence is the word "it" used correctly?
 1) At the age of twenty-one he took over the family business, as it was expected of him.
 2) Jennifer was quite attractive, and it led many men to fall in love with her.
 3) I'm sure of only it: I'll never be a millionaire.
 4) [On the telephone:] "It's Paula William's calling."
7. Which of the following sentences is correct?
 1) It was very simple when I was younger – in case I ran out of money my father used to give me some more.
 2) The man I'm talking about is the one, who stole all the money from the bank.
 3) For he passed his exam, we gave him a big party.
 4) It is possible that the work will have to be finished by next Tuesday.
8. The reporters were taken out to see a film _____ on location in the desert.
 1) having been shot 2) being now shot 3) being shot 4) while being shot
9. Do you ever go _____ on business?
 1) abroad 2) in foreign climes 3) flying 4) in other countries
10. I _____ it as the most likely _____.
 1) hold ... suggestion 2) regard ... alternative 3) agree ... plan 4) consent with ... solution
- 11.-16. For each word on the left, find the opposite on the right.
 Example: heavy 1) easy 2) ponderous 3) light 4) difficult
 The opposite of "heavy" is "light". Therefore 3) is correct.
11. ascertain 1) waver 2) deny 3) forget 4) disprove
12. prompt 1) superfluous 2) unreliable 3) tardy 4) wait

Cultural Knowledge and Linguistic Questions – NOTE: MORE THAN ONE ANSWER MAY BE CORRECT!

27. The President of the United States of America is formally elected by
- 1) the House of Representatives
 - 2) the Members of the Smithsonian Institute
 - 3) the Supreme Court
 - 4) the Electoral College
28. The Pilgrim Fathers arrived in New England in the year
- 1) 1620
 - 2) 1776
 - 3) 1861
 - 4) 1941
29. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 1) gave a speech known as the “I have a dream”-speech
 - 2) led the March on Washington in 1963
 - 3) was the first African American candidate for President
 - 4) was assassinated in 1968
30. *The Great Gatsby* is
- 1) a novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald
 - 2) a short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald
 - 3) a screenplay by Zelda Fitzgerald
 - 4) a play by Arthur Miller
31. Impeachment is a procedure
- 1) to redraw Congressional districts
 - 2) to produce alcoholic beverages in the South
 - 3) to install church officials
 - 4) to remove government officials and judges from office.
32. The Emancipation Proclamation
- 1) declared segregation in schools to be illegal
 - 2) freed the slaves in the states of the Confederacy
 - 3) gave women the right to vote
 - 4) permitted Hispanic immigrants to become American citizens
33. Who said, “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country”?
- 1) William J. Clinton
 - 2) Ronald Reagan
 - 3) George W. Bush
 - 4) John F. Kennedy
34. “Black Friday” refers to
- 1) the Massacre at Wounded Knee
 - 2) the Stock Market Crash
 - 3) the assassination of President Kennedy
 - 4) the attack on the World Trade Center

35. Name the two sections of the British parliament.
- 1) Senate and Congress
 - 2) House of Lords and House of Commons
 - 3) Assembly and Congress
 - 4) Inner Temple and Outer Temple
36. What is the political status of the United Kingdom?
- 1) federal republic
 - 2) commonwealth
 - 3) constitutional monarchy
 - 4) parliamentary democracy
37. Which of the following newspapers are traditional tabloids?
- 1) *The Times*
 - 2) *The Independent*
 - 3) *The Daily Mail*
 - 4) *The News of the World*
38. What is the name of Britain's state-funded television and radio corporation?
- 1) ITV
 - 2) MTV
 - 3) BBC
 - 4) BLT
39. In which part of Britain is Britain's highest mountain?
- 1) England
 - 2) Wales
 - 3) Northern Ireland
 - 4) Scotland
40. Which citizens of Britain would normally speak Punjabi?
- 1) people living in Wales
 - 2) people living in Scotland
 - 3) migrants from India
 - 4) migrants from Africa
41. Where do most of the so-called "black" citizens of Britain come from?
- 1) Africa
 - 2) Australia
 - 3) the Caribbean
 - 4) the U.S.A.
42. "Rugby" is
- 1) a word for a small carpet
 - 2) a famous public school
 - 3) a team game
 - 4) the brand name of a British car
43. Which of the following words has a voiced <th>?
- 1) three
 - 2) them
 - 3) thanks
 - 4) threat

44. Three of the words below are spelled in the American way. Which one is spelled in the British way?
- 1) color
 - 2) fulfil
 - 3) theatre
 - 4) analyze
45. In “Everybody dreams of being famous”, “dreams” is what type of word?
- 1) a noun
 - 2) a verb
 - 3) an adjective
 - 4) an adverb
46. Shakespeare’s works are written in
- 1) Old English
 - 2) Middle English
 - 3) Early Modern English
 - 4) Modern English
47. What is a “cross-reference” in a dictionary?
- 1) an advice on usage
 - 2) a note that tells you to look at study pages
 - 3) a note that tells you to look at another entry
 - 4) a symbol that refers to the idiom section of an entry
48. In English, future tense can be expressed by
- 1) modal verbs
 - 2) progressive form
 - 3) relativ clauses
 - 4) prepositions
49. In the sentence „The book sells well“, the verb is
- 1) formally passive, but logically active
 - 2) formally active, but logically passive
 - 3) in the present tense, but refers to the past
 - 4) in the simple present, but refers to the progressive
50. The words “government”, “pork” and “pronounce” were taken over into English from which of the following languages?
- 1) Old Norse
 - 2) French
 - 3) Gothic
 - 4) German

Essay

Produce a coherent short essay (complete sentences, not key words) on the two aspects listed below. Write at least one page, but not more than two!

1. Summarise the major points of the newspaper article below.
2. How would studying British and American language, literature, and culture help you to understand the issues raised in it better?

The Blair-Bush Alliance and the British Conservatives

by Al Webb

Washington Times, 22 November 2004

Prime Minister Tony Blair's close alliance with President Bush on Iraq has driven a wedge between the Bush administration and what would seem a natural ally — Britain's opposition Conservative Party, headed by Michael Howard.

The Tory leader, whose criticism of the Iraq war has grown increasingly strident in recent months, has been advised not to bother seeking a meeting with Mr. Bush, according to press reports, and has responded by telling an interviewer he will not take orders from Washington.

The rift has to come as a shock for a party that long basked in the warm relationship between Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and another Republican president, Ronald Reagan.

From the beginning, Mr. Blair's willingness to defy opposition within his left-leaning Labour Party and support Mr. Bush's war plans in Iraq has put the British Conservatives on the defensive.

The Tories initially supported the war, but became lukewarm as the conflict dragged on, and two months ago, Mr. Howard stepped up his criticism of Mr. Blair's handling of prewar intelligence.

At the White House, Karl Rove, the president's chief political adviser, blew up. According to British press reports, he told Mr. Howard's aides: "You can forget about [Mr. Howard] meeting the president. Don't bother coming" to Washington.

Far from being chastised, Mr. Howard has since fueled the fire.

When Mr. Bush was elected this month to a second term, Mr. Howard pointedly declined to voice any pleasure, saying only that "I made it clear that I could work perfectly well with both President Bush and President [John] Kerry. I don't think it's appropriate to express a view on those elections."

In a major interview with the London Sunday Telegraph, the Conservative leader went further: "I am not going to be told by anyone how to do my job," he said, "and if that displeases those in the White House, that's tough."

"As to whether, as prime minister, that would be a problem for me, well, if Mr. Blair is not there any more, then the White House won't need to be protective of him."

Some political experts suggest there is a method in Mr. Howard's behavior as he looks ahead to a British election next year.

According to one increasingly popular theory, the Conservative leader hopes to capitalize on the voting public's antipathy toward President Bush and its suspicions of Mr. Blair's continuing close relationship with the White House.

In a survey last week for the Independent newspaper, 64 percent of those interviewed said good relations with Britain's European Union partners were more important than those with the United States, while only 25 percent said the relationship with Washington should take priority. [...]