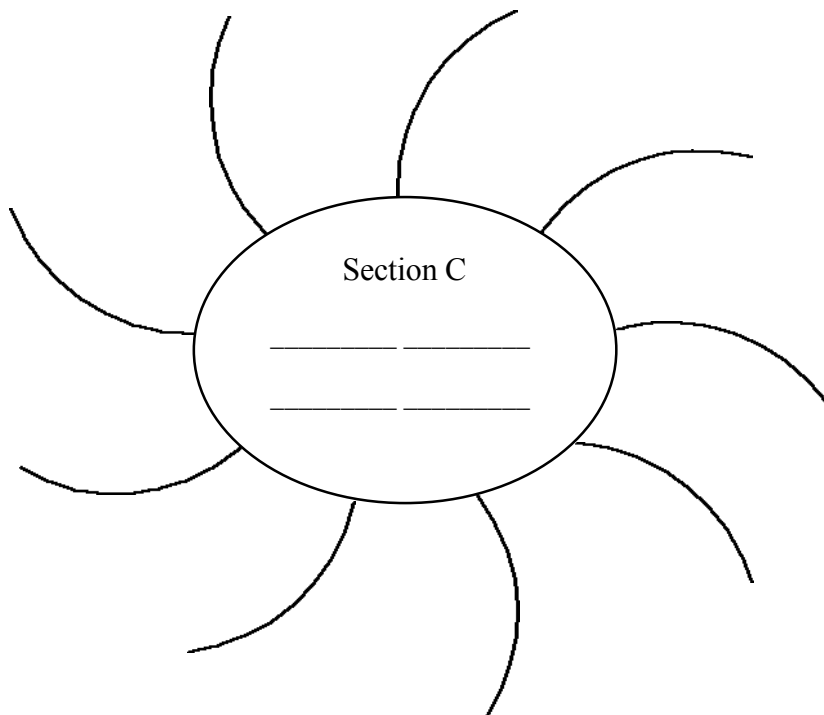


# **Exam Practice and Techniques**

## **Unit 1: Reading and Language Systems**

**Student's File EPT 1.1**

**Student's File EPT 1.2**

Twenty-five tonnes of substandard meat have been dumped in an uncovered landfill at Pillar Point every day for almost two weeks.

The practice — which contravenes the Environment Protection Department's code of practice — has been blamed for the recent plague of flies in markets in the Butterflies, Tai Hing, Shan King and Leung King estates in Tuen Mun.

Some of the meat had been smuggled from China. It also includes unregistered products brought in by the Regional Services and other carcasses.

May Ng Fong Siu-mei, director of Friends of the Earth, said the practice was "highly dangerous" and "totally unacceptable".

"The meat may be infected or contaminated in the mainland. The carcasses may have pathogens while flies are disease transmitters.

"It is not just about an unpleasant environment but about health hazards," she said.

In a bid to curb the insects, Regional Services Department workers began spraying pesticides on the rubbish yesterday.

At the same time a new disposal method was begun - burying the waste within the landfill to reduce exposure time.

The 60-hectare site stopped taking domestic waste at the beginning of the month, reducing the amount of waste handled there from 3,000 to 1,900 tonnes a day.

But dumped animal carcasses increased from between 15 and 20 tonnes to 25 tonnes, said Civil Engineering Department engineer David Chan Wing-ngai.

Previously domestic waste was used to cover the meat waste.

SCMP

**Student's File EPT 1.2 (cont...)**

Read the passage and then answer the general comprehension questions.

1. What has been blamed for the plague of flies?

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2. Is this definitely the cause?

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3. Where did the meat come from?

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4. How does the Director of Friends of the Earth feel about the practice?

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5. What is the main issue in the report?

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6. How is the situation different to the situation at the beginning of the month?

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## Student's File EPT 1.2 (cont...)

Choose the best option.

1. The substandard meat has been discovered and uncovered in a landfill.
2. The meat was smuggled from China and is infected.
3. The dumping of the meat is against the EPD's regulations.
4. EPD's code of practice does not cover products brought in by the Regional Services.

Which one did you choose? Now read about how a choice is made.

<p>1. is not a good option because it does not reflect the facts as stated in paragraph one. The meat has been <u>dumped</u> in an uncovered landfill.</p> <p>2. is not a good option because <u>only some</u> of the meat has come from China and it is reported that it <u>may</u> be infected.</p> <p>3. the dumping of the meat (the practice or habit of doing this) is against EPD's code of practice (the action of dumping meat contravenes EPD's regulations or code of practice). 3 is the best option.</p> <p>4. is not a good option because we can find no information to support this statement.</p>
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Now choose a title for the report.

- a. **Substandard meat from China**
- b. **Dangerous practice says Friends of the Earth**
- c. **Regional Services spray fly plague**
- d. **Dumped carcasses caused fly plague.**

Which did you choose?

<p>a. only tells you about some of the meat and not <u>what</u> the problem is.</p> <p>b. only tells you a little about what the FOF <u>think</u> but not <u>what</u> it is about.</p> <p>c. only tells you about an action against the fly plague.</p> <p>d. is the best answer because it tells you <u>why</u> there is a fly plague.</p>
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A title will often point out the overall point or theme of an article.

## Student's File EPT 1.3 Vocabulary Skills

*Plague of flies* = huge numbers of flies

*infected or contaminated* = two specialist words that mean something is wrong and dangerous. Together they strengthen the argument.

*pathogens* = a specialist word connected with disease. The agent or organisation that causes disease.

*health hazard* = a collocation = words that go together. A hazard is a danger.

*carcasses* = bodies of dead animals

*domestic waste* = waste from homes

What else can you have a plague of? Tick the words associated with plague.

locusts	cows	dogs	fleas	people
rats	cars	trees	fish	wasps

What else can be infected? Tick the words that are associated with infected.

area	pens	food	wound
ear	uniform	society	water

Which of the above can also be contaminated?

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Now choose three to four words and make sentences of your own.

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**Student's File EPT 1.4 Multiple Choice Cloze**

Choose the option which best fills the gap.

One country and one system may, by itself, not be harmful since China is rapidly progressing and opening (1) \_\_\_\_\_.

Clearly, throughout history, privileges which were given to a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ were always, in time, (3) \_\_\_\_\_, and the special economic status Hong Kong and the special economic zones now (4) \_\_\_\_\_ will slowly disappear.

History has not been (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to free cities which become (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of larger countries. Salzburg, Tangier, Goa, Malacca and Venice, free and (7) \_\_\_\_\_ trading centres, all disintegrated once they were (8) \_\_\_\_\_ by large states.

(9) \_\_\_\_\_ of their political and military power, these cities inevitably lost their (10) \_\_\_\_\_.

We (11) \_\_\_\_\_ forget that merchant families are extremely (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and can move easily when a city's commercial (13) \_\_\_\_\_ deteriorates or when minority (14) \_\_\_\_\_ are (15) \_\_\_\_\_.

Unlike peasants who are (16) \_\_\_\_\_ to the land they (17) \_\_\_\_\_, merchants can (18) \_\_\_\_\_ move to the next (19) \_\_\_\_\_ of prosperity and take (20) \_\_\_\_\_ of new opportunities.

Hong Kong's (21) \_\_\_\_\_, whose wealth consists largely of (22) \_\_\_\_\_, badly miscalculated.

**Student's File EPT 1.4 Multiple Choice Cloze (cont...)**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1. a. out<br>b. up<br>c. more<br>d. easily                       | 9. a. Cut<br>b. Lost<br>c. Deprived<br>d. Swept                     | 17. a. cultivate<br>b. grow<br>c. develop<br>d. manage         |
| 2. a. elite<br>b. group<br>c. class<br>d. minority               | 10. a. flexibility<br>b. will power<br>c. wisdom<br>d. fearlessness | 18. a. successfully<br>b. slowly<br>c. simply<br>d. secretary  |
| 3. a. revoked<br>b. rebelled<br>c. repealed<br>d. reduced        | 11. a. may not<br>b. should not<br>c. cannot<br>d. might not        | 19. a. city<br>b. state<br>c. centre<br>d. country             |
| 4. a. encounter<br>b. exploit<br>c. enjoy<br>d. understand       | 12. a. cunning<br>b. flexible<br>c. mobile<br>d. clever             | 20. a. stock<br>b. advantage<br>c. refuge<br>d. hope           |
| 5. a. kind<br>b. special<br>c. fair<br>d. just                   | 13. a. infrastructure<br>b. centre<br>c. systems<br>d. government   | 21. a. superrich<br>b. prosperous<br>c. wealthy<br>d. powerful |
| 6. a. taken<br>b. given<br>c. back<br>d. part                    | 14. a. ideas<br>b. rights<br>c. forces<br>d. desires                | 22. a. land<br>b. estate<br>c. buildings<br>d. developments    |
| 7. a. lively<br>b. vital<br>c. spirited<br>d. thriving           | 15. a. struck<br>b. banned<br>c. upset<br>d. challenged             |  |
| 8. a. dissolved<br>b. absorbed<br>c. challenged<br>d. threatened | 16. a. enslaved<br>b. wedded<br>c. forced<br>d. bound               |  |



**Student's File EPT 1.5 Part 1 - Theme Exercise**

Put these sentences in the correct order to make two paragraphs.

- and questions/items.
- until they had read further into the second paragraph.
- candidates must learn to read back and forth,
- To successfully complete the theme exercise,
- For example, candidates could not choose the correct answer to Q37
- constantly modifying their interpretations as they progress through the text
- as well as by knowledge of the world
- that is to read, go back, re-read, make logical guesses, use clues provided by the language
- in order to interpret the text correctly.
- The theme exercise requires students to behave very much like good readers do -

Now write out the two paragraphs here.

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**Student's File EPT 1.5 Part 2 - Theme Exercise**

This article is written in seven short paragraphs. Choose the most suitable option so that the complete article makes sense.

About 10,000 residents are being moved out of an estate

- (1) a. which had been criticized as  
b. which had been hailed as a model for low-cost housing, after  
c. which was in danger of  
d. which used to be known as

their homes were declared unsafe.

The Government has ordered an enquiry

- (2) a. into how  
b. into all sub-standard apartment blocks and terrace houses were  
c. into various  
d. into which

approved by the authorities.

The \$110 million housing estate, a joint venture by Phanga State Development Co. and a South Korean company

- (3) a. is made up of several thousand  
b. was build in 1994  
c. was developed for commuters  
d. occupies a 1,446-hectare site

four kilometres from the State capital

- (4) a. The South Korean spokesman said  
b. Officials say they have been unable to contact  
c. No one has seen the contact  
d. Telephone calls have been of no use

the South Korean company since a support beam collapsed in one block in July

- (5) a. helping the occupants to protest.  
b. slowing down building progress.  
c. forcing the evacuation of 500 people.  
d. making people aware of defects.

**Student's File EPT 1.5 Part 2 - Theme Exercise (cont...)**

Since then the other blocks have been inspected and found to be unsafe and

- a. the probability is that occupants must move
- (6) b. the possibility of salvaging the project
- c. saving the scheme is a priority
- d. the scheme will now be revised

with structural repairs ruled out.

The estate was originally planned as a satellite township with offices, schools, medical clinics and other facilities.

Moving 10,100 residents will be

- (7) a. necessary and difficult
- b. impossible to carry out
- c. no one's responsibility
- d. an act of God

but 10,000 people will be moved in stages to new homes.

## Student's File EPT 1.6

### Matching, Spelling and Proofreading

#### A. Match them up!

- |  |       |  |
|--|-------|--|
| 1. In general, for the matching exercise     | _____ | a. can be found in words such as pronouns and definite articles.                           |
| 2. Language clues, like referring words,     | _____ | b. are usually reflected in the vocabulary used.   |
| 3. Topic and content clues                   | _____ | c. to increase your exposure to the English language in whatever ways possible.            |
| 4. It is seldom possible                     | _____ | d. candidates can use a number of different kinds of clues on which to base their matches. |
| 5. The best advice for Section C is probably | _____ | e. to make matches successfully by looking at content, vocabulary or language alone.       |

#### B. Spot the odd one out.

(Poor spelling is the most common error for weaker candidates.)

- |     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1.  | calm   | calm   | calm   | calm   | clam   | calm   | calm   | calm   |
| 2.  | agree  | argree | agree  | agree  | agree  | agree  | agree  | agree  |
| 3.  | baby   | baby   | baby   | baby   | baby   | baby   | boby   | baby   |
| 4.  | casual | causal | casual | casual | casual | casual | casual | casual |
| 5.  | quite  | quite  | quite  | quite  | quiet  | quite  | quite  | quite  |
| 6.  | true   | true   | ture   | true   | true   | true   | true   | true   |
| 7.  | topic  | tropic | topic  | topic  | topic  | topic  | topic  | topic  |
| 8.  | triad  | triad  | triad  | triad  | traid  | triad  | triad  | triad  |
| 9.  | quiet  | quiet  | quite  | quiet  | quiet  | quiet  | quiet  | quiet  |
| 10. | modern | modern | modern | modern | modern | morden | modern | modern |

**Student's File EPT 1.6****Matching, Spelling and Proofreading (cont...)**

- C. Now proofread this passage. Underline every error and write the correction at the side.

The editing exercise is often the most difficultest  
part of the UE exam. The need to change words to there  
correct word forms cased a numbers of problems.

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That the editing is one of the most practically useful  
prats of the UE pager cannot be denial.

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It helps to traim candidates to correct their own work.  
Self correction is a very difficult skill for everyone  
includes native speakers.

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It is good to encouraged candidates to make the  
effect which can be considerable, to improve their  
proofreading skill.

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Here are some more errors to be corrected. The mistakes include some wrong words, one missing word and one extra word. After you have corrected them, ask a partner to check your corrections.

1. Steve works in a hotel; he's the chief cooker.

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2. I am a student at Shatin College for six years.

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3. Most young people are interested computers but I am boring with them.

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4. They has got two flats in Lam Tin.

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5. A fire has destroyed our equipments and therefore that there will be a delay.

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Now you should be feeling ready for the exam paper taken in real exam conditions.

Good luck!