

# **Exam Practice and Techniques**

**Unit 1: Reading and Language  
Systems <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Exam Paper  
Teacher's Resource Kit**

## EPT 1.2 Part 1 - Reading Comprehension

Read the following article and then answer questions 1 - 12. From the four choices given, choose the option which best answers each question. You should mark your answers to questions 1 - 12 on the multiple-choice answer sheet.

### A peace prize, and a window of opportunity

Indonesia's anger at the presentation of the Nobel Peace Prize to two key players in the struggle for East Timor's self-determination was entirely predictable. The Nobel committee may also have intended to arouse such a reaction, if only as a side effect to the more important goals of the award to Timorese Catholic Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo and the resistance movement's political spokesman, Jose Ramos-Horta. The selection committee chairman, Francise Sejerstedt, did not mince his words. East Timor was, he said, about to become a forgotten conflict and the committee wanted to contribute to maintaining attention paid to it.

The committee regards it as an important part of its brief to intervene in ongoing political struggles, rather than offer empty plaudits for peace agreements already in the bag. In doing so, it has no hesitation in taking sides, usually with the underdog or with the side which lacks the firepower to press home its demands.

Perhaps it would have been easier to disguise this year's award as an attempt to kick-start a stalled peace process or to encourage further reconciliation, which was how the award was presented in 1994 when the Nobel committee rewarded the architects of the Israel-Palestinian accords. But in East Timor's case there is barely any peace process to kick-start.

The United Nations, which has never recognised Indonesia's 1975 annexation of East Timor, still regards Portugal, the former colonial power, as the acting authority there. But when Portugal and Indonesia held their first meeting in the sidelines of the Asia-Europe summit in Bangkok this year, Indonesia rejected Portugal's proposals, repeating the official line that East Timor had "already determined its self-determination" - a reference to a 1976 declaration by pro-Indonesian Timorese accepting the annexation.

Whether the Nobel committee's action will promote or set back efforts towards peace and accord in East Timor is a matter for speculation. Former Portuguese President Mario Soares hailed the award as a recognition of the Timorese right to self-determination and a "breath of fresh air for these valiant people." But it may also bring renewed repression against a people which has already suffered greatly. Waves of forced expulsions and famine are said to have cost up to an estimated 200,000 Timorese lives out of a total population of 600,000 at the time of the invasion.

The Indonesian Government is a power which enjoys considerable respect in its own region and further afield. Jakarta reacts badly to international criticism and knows the Nobel awards will not cost it support from Washington. But the award is still likely to be an embarrassment to the United States in the final weeks before the presidential election next month. Not only is Bill Clinton under fire for receiving campaign funds from the Riady family of Indonesia, who control the Lippo Group. He is also criticised for plans to sell 28 F-16 fighter jets to Jakarta.

The State Department was this week put in the uncomfortable position of expressing the hope that the prize would promote peace talks while at the same time expressing outrage at reported remarks by Mr Ramos-Horta comparing arms sales to Indonesia to the sale of weapons to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. While President Clinton's administration has been readier than its Republican predecessors to condemn Indonesia's oppression of East Timor and suppression of internal opposition in the rest of the country, it will not reverse the policy of providing weapons. In the wake of the invasion in 1975, the then US Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, supported the Indonesian move as a legitimate suppression of a communist insurgency on the part of the Timorese.

Washington's appreciation of the strategic importance of Indonesia has not diminished with the end of the Cold War. Nevertheless, apart from the Nobel prize, this weekend has seen the publication of the report by Indonesia's own human rights commission condemning the Government's role in provoking the riots that swept the country this summer after the ousting of opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri as head of her party.

There is a window of opportunity between now and the actual prize awards at the end of the year to try to bring Indonesia and the Timorese to the negotiating table - either directly or through the mediation of the Portuguese or the United Nations. Only Washington has the leverage to do this, if Mr Clinton so decides. He should take the opportunity to do so before the world's attention is once again shifted elsewhere.

*Taken from the Editorial in the SCMP 13/10/96*

**EPT 1.2 Part 1 - Reading Comprehension**

1. The author thinks that Indonesia's anger at the presentation of the Nobel Peace Prize..
  - A. was a deliberate reaction.
  - B. was intended as a side effect.
  - C. was to be expected.
  - D. was the primary goal.
2. With regard to East Timor, the Nobel committee felt that...
  - A. intervention in current problems is better than hollow praise for things already achieved.
  - B. the underdog is often forgotten because it cannot contribute.
  - C. a brief political struggle often leads to nothing.
  - D. the conflicting issues make it difficult to take sides.
3. What does "kick-start" mean in line 10?
  - A. To react in an extreme way.
  - B. To make something happen quickly.
  - C. To discuss informally.
  - D. To get very annoyed.
4. The author says that...
  - A. Indonesia regards Portugal as the official policy maker on East Timor.
  - B. Indonesia sidelined the United Nation's recognition of East Timor.
  - C. Indonesia accepts East Timor's current declaration of independence.
  - D. Indonesia is only prepared to discuss an established policy on East Timor.
5. The author feels that...
  - A. the Nobel Peace Prize will encourage efforts towards peace.
  - B. the Nobel Peace Prize will force self-determination on East Timor.
  - C. the Nobel Peace Prize could lead to further suffering in East Timor.
  - D. the Nobel Peace Prize will help a brave people to breathe more easily.
6. What comment does the author make about the peace prize and the US Presidential election?
  - A. That there will be a powerful effect on the Indonesian government and region.
  - B. That campaign funds are controlled by Jakarta.
  - C. That it will be difficult for Washington to support Jakarta.
  - D. That it will cause problems for the United States.
7. What comment does the author make about the US State Department's position?
  - A. That it had to publicly take two conflicting views.
  - B. That it was furious about arms sales.
  - C. That it hoped to be more comfortable in the future.
  - D. That it wouldn't listen to hearsay.

**EPT 1.2 Part 1 - Reading Comprehension (cont...)**

8. What do "its" and "it" refer to in lines 34 and 35?
  - A. Clinton/Republicans
  - B. Clinton/Clinton
  - C. the administration/the administration
  - D. the administration/the Republicans
  
9. In line 36 what does "in the wake of" mean?
  - A. being aware of
  - B. following on from
  - C. listening to
  - D. taking up
  
10. What comment does the author make about the current situation in Indonesia?
  - A. That the finish of the Cold War ended discussion of strategy about human rights in Indonesia.
  - B. That while Indonesia has important strategic value there is a need for it to re-examine human rights and the Government's part in such matters.
  - C. That the Government needs to rethink problems of opposition and to commission a report on the leader of the party.
  - D. That appreciation of human rights will take a long time and that the problems that swept the country this summer will soon pass.
  
11. What does "window of opportunity" mean in line 42?
  - A. A new time that can benefit all.
  - B. A time when everything is seen clearly.
  - C. A time of difficulty.
  - D. A time when something can happen which may not come again.
  
12. The author thinks that...
  - A. the US administration can push hard for meetings between the opposing sides and has an obligation to try.
  - B. the US, the Portuguese and the Indonesians should take the case to the United Nations by the end of the year or lose their chance.
  - C. the prize award ceremony will bring everyone together and that this will make compromise easier.
  - D. negotiation and mediation is best left to the United Nations as they can make sure that every country will spend time on debating the issue.

### **EPT 1.4 Part 2 - Multiple Choice Cloze**

From the four choices for questions 13-36, choose the option which would best complete the article if inserted in the blanks.

You should mark your answers to questions 13-36 on the multiple-choice answer sheet.

#### Use and Abuse of Baby Foods

After several years of discussion, the (13) of the baby foods sold by international companies in the countries of the developing world has this week reached the World Health Assembly, meeting in Geneva. It is an issue which has stirred up a great deal of emotion, and with good reason. If they are used in (14) conditions, in strict conformity with the manufacturer's (15), these baby foods are a perfectly adequate substitute for breast feeding. But in a backward country, where the water needed to (16) them (17) of good quality, where illiterate mothers may not be able to read the instructions, and where they may not be able to carry out the proper sterilization (18), they can be a hazard to a child's health, if only (19). And there is a great deal of information to suggest that the companies concerned have been unscrupulous in their selling techniques. Baby foods have been sold as the (20) to a child's health, and overall, the number of babies who are now breastfed, in spite of the fact that this is generally a much safer method in (21) conditions, has dropped significantly.

In 1991, there was a meeting in Geneva, held under the auspices of the World Health Organization and UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, at which (22) of many of the main producer companies agreed to some of the demands of their critics. They undertook to put an end to sales promotion of products (23) as substitutes for breast milk. But the (24) has not always been respected, and a few weeks ago the companies were accused by the International Baby Food Action Network of more than 1,000 (25). So it is widely felt that more effective action (26), and in Geneva this week delegates from member countries of the WHO will be (27) a code of behaviour on the marketing of breast milk substitutes. (28), among other things, advertising to the general public and the provision of (29) to pregnant women, and it calls for the encouragement of breast-feeding.

The (30) has been criticized by the International Council of Infant Food Industries, which groups the companies concerned. It has also been opposed by the administration in Washington, with the result that two senior officials of the Agency for International Development have resigned this week after expressing (31) with the (32). But otherwise it has received wide support from other members of the WHO, including this country. So the expectation is that it will be adopted, not as a regulation of the organization, which would have (33) force, but as a recommendation. This seems to be about right. There would be practical and legal difficulties about enforcing such a (34) regulation, while a recommendation by the WHO will enable the pressure to be kept up on the companies that are involved. It is important that this (35) form of consumer protection should be provided for people of the developing world – and that it should be maintained by keeping a constant (36) on how it is observed.

**EPT 1.4 Part 2 - Multiple Choice Cloze (cont...)**

13. A. issue  
B. question  
C. problem  
D. topic
14. A. decent  
B. suitable  
C. proper  
D. usual
15. A. orders  
B. instructions  
C. demands  
D. requirements
16. A. measure  
B. weaken  
C. dilute  
D. boil
17. A. should not be  
B. will not be  
C. can not be  
D. may not be
18. A. approaches  
B. guidelines  
C. procedures  
D. techniques
19. A. secretly  
B. erratically  
C. accidentally  
D. indirectly
20. A. key  
B. pathway  
C. answer  
D. solution
21. A. unsure  
B. underdeveloped  
C. undecided  
D. backward
22. A. representatives  
B. substitutes  
C. agents  
D. delegates
23. A. should be used  
B. will be used  
C. to be used  
D. can be used
24. A. transaction  
B. contract  
C. guarantee  
D. agreement
25. A. offences  
B. violations  
C. crimes  
D. contraventions
26. A. is requested  
B. is demanded  
C. is needed  
D. is desired
27. A. discussing  
B. arguing  
C. debating  
D. talking
28. A. It overlooks  
B. It rejects  
C. It ignores  
D. It rules out
29. A. models  
B. illustrations  
C. samples  
D. patterns
30. A. law  
B. code  
C. rule  
D. guideline
31. A. disagreement  
B. discord  
C. misunderstanding  
D. division
32. A. strategy  
B. plan  
C. scheme  
D. policy
33. A. holding  
B. binding  
C. pressing  
D. constructing
34. A. shortsighted  
B. far-reaching  
C. go-getting  
D. for-seeing
35. A. main  
B. radical  
C. basic  
D. indispensable
36. A. watch  
B. look  
C. eye  
D. glance

**EPT 1.5 Part 2 - Theme**

The following article is in three paragraphs. From each set of four options, choose the most suitable one so that the passage makes sense as a whole.

- Beijing must move now to prevent AIDS (37)
- A. from spinning out of control
  - B. from spreading to all visitors
  - C. at its borders with strict controls
  - D. from becoming written about

for entry into the country, China's health minister said yesterday.

"Now is the time for prevention and control of HIV infection,

- A. it needs a quick cure
- (38) B. it could be the last chance—we have no time to waste." Health Minister Chen
- C. it must be remedied
- D. it deserves publicity

was quoted as saying at a national conference. It is reported that serious HIV/AIDS epidemics

- in neighbouring countries (39)
- A. may now be under control
  - B. could be the sole problem
  - C. may have an impact on the domestic HIV epidemic
  - D. should be contained

and a large number of migrants could spread HIV infection.

- A. An uneasy silence
- (40) B. A feeling of helplessness of HIV AIDs, drug abuse, illegal blood supplies and
- C. An unsatisfactory state
- D. A general unawareness

- the drastic rise in sexually transmitted disease (41)
- A. may cause grave concern.
  - B. may make the situation tolerable.
  - C. may also contribute to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
  - D. may need to be dealt with.

These have been 4,305 reported cases of HIV and 131 AIDS patients but experts

- A. think this is unlikely
- (42) B. cannot understand the numbers of the country's HIV cases
- C. will have to re-examine the statistics
- D. estimate that the actual number

**EPT 1.5 Part 2 - Theme (cont...)**

- (43) A. is now lower than  
B. is now between 50,000 and 100,000.  
C. is upward of  
D. is higher than

Health officials at the conference warned that China would see HIV cases increasing

- beyond anyone's ability to deal with the situation (44)
- A. if no one could think of a cure.
  - B. if preventive measures were not taken immediately.
  - C. if crucial decisions were not taken.
  - D. if regulations were not imposed.

- "The next few years (45)
- A. will be a critical time
  - B. will be a positive time for AIDS prevention and control
  - C. will be a useless time
  - D. will be a difficult time

- for China," a state councillor said. (46)
- A. "We can't just stand idly by
  - B. "We should make every possible effort
  - C. "We need to concentrate on a cure
  - D. "We may be able

to curb the HIV/AIDS epidemic."

## EPT 1.6 Part 2 - Matching

The statements in Column B can be paired with those in Column A so that the second statement follows naturally from the first. The two correctly matched statements from Column A and Column B form a pair, but if all the statements in this exercise are put together they DO NOT form one complete passage. Write the letters of the paired statements from Column B in the spaces provided in Column A. Each letter should be used ONCE ONLY.

### Aspects of Employment

Column A	Column B
47. The UK Government is to give new "job splitting" grants to employers willing to offer part time work to people claiming unemployment benefit. _____	A. For some time now there has been recognised the phenomenon of the mid-career crisis.
48. Milan magistrates have ordered Alfa Romeo, the car manufacturers, to reinstate 134 workers who are among 5,700 temporarily laid off under an agreement with the unions last March. _____	B. Professor Rees of St Thomas's Hospital, London told a London symposium that while some degree of stress was helpful, uncontrolled stress could cause disease because people chose to relieve such stress in unhealthy ways.
49. For the middle-rank executive life is getting worse. Not necessarily financially, but in terms of general psychological stress. _____	C. The new scheme which took many union leaders and large employers by surprise last night, will be announced in detail in the autumn.
50. The top people in most spheres are still mainly men. In science, engineering and technology women are only in 7.8% of managerial and 6.8% of professional jobs. _____	D. While women have played an important part in various ministerial jobs at the grass roots level, they have been kept in the background.
51. Workaholics who devote almost all their time to their jobs run the risk of building up such tension and fatigue that they resort to alcohol, drugs, sex or gambling, it was said yesterday. _____	E. In contrast they account for 75% of those doing work of a clerical type.
52. This month Britain's business schools will let loose another batch of graduates, people well trained in the theories of marketing and macro-economics, organisation and accounting. _____	F. In most cases, however, the primary goals are the same: to save an office space and real estate costs; to encourage and produce teamwork among co-workers; to produce higher quality products; and to foster closer ties with customers.
53. The Health and Safety Commission is expected to decide tomorrow whether to fix new limits for the level of asbestos allowed in factory atmospheres. _____	G. If they delay returning, they may have to accept a relatively low-grade, routine job.
54. Many skilled and experienced junior managers feel that unless they return to their careers within the statutory maternity leave provision, there is no way they will be able to make their way back into their former employment at a later time. _____	H. They may be full of enthusiasm for changing the ways of British industry but will they simply vanish?
55. The French National Assembly decided by 467 votes to four to introduce positive discrimination in favour of women into local district elections. _____	I. As a result no one was sympathetic to those who talked about mobilizing wasted resources and using them to create wealth.
56. In Britain in the 1930s the fear and uncertainty connected with recession and unemployment created men and women who were apathetic and disillusioned. _____	J. A decision about implementing a recommended halving of the legal ceiling had been delayed by the EEL authorities who cannot agree on standardised rules.
57. A senior computer programmer for a leading credit card company is responsible for setting up data processing systems which handle millions of transactions which take place every day all over the world between card holders and retailers. _____	K. In two separate cases, groups of 37 and 97 appealed to magistrates against their suspension on the grounds that they had been discriminated against, because of their health, or political views.
58. Today, many companies are re-examining the way they view their offices with an eye to becoming less individualistic and more team-oriented. _____	L. Checking whether the programme is working correctly and producing the required information is repetitive and takes a great deal of concentration which is very tiring.

### EPT 1.6 Part 2 - Proofreading

Correct the errors in the following passage. (a) to (d) are examples. No line has more than one error and some lines are correct. Changes to punctuation should not be made. Do not make unnecessary changes. If you think there is no error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided (example a).

Corrections MUST be done EXACTLY as follows:

a word which needs to be changed - underline the wrong word and write the correct version in the space provided (example b);

a missing word - mark the position of the missing word with a "^" sign and write the missing word in the space provided (example c).

an extra word - draw a diagonal line through any word you wish to delete and write that word in the space provided (example d).

Keep parks walkers-only

I have noted letters from mountain bikers,  
in these column, stating their case

for being allowed to bike ^ Hong Kong's country parks.

Whilst I greatly sympathise ~~very~~ with  
their points on the lack of space in

Hong Kong, the traffic conditions and polluted  
airs, all of which make it almost impossible  
conduct this activity, I still  
firmly believe that biking should  
not allowed in country parks.

As an avid hiker and dog owner, I  
and my dog, spent countless weekend  
hours – as do much other walkers and  
dog owners – walking in the parks.

Many of the paths are narrow with  
sharp bends and it is impossible know  
when going rounding a bend whether the  
path ahead is clear or not.

On several occasions we been almost  
run down by mountain bikers who have  
no consideration others.

I urge the proper authorities to take  
steps to ensure the majority of park  
users are allowed to be continue their  
enjoyment to the parks.

I do not wish to be discouraged by the bikers and there  
behaviour - racing around trails with  
no concern of other park users.

a. ✓ \_\_\_\_\_

b. columns \_\_\_\_\_

c. in \_\_\_\_\_

d. ~~very~~ \_\_\_\_\_

59. \_\_\_\_\_

60. \_\_\_\_\_

61. \_\_\_\_\_

62. \_\_\_\_\_

63. \_\_\_\_\_

64. \_\_\_\_\_

65. \_\_\_\_\_

66. \_\_\_\_\_

67. \_\_\_\_\_

68. \_\_\_\_\_

69. \_\_\_\_\_

70. \_\_\_\_\_

71. \_\_\_\_\_

72. \_\_\_\_\_

73. \_\_\_\_\_

74. \_\_\_\_\_

75. \_\_\_\_\_

76. \_\_\_\_\_

77. \_\_\_\_\_

78. \_\_\_\_\_

79. \_\_\_\_\_

80. \_\_\_\_\_

81. \_\_\_\_\_

82. \_\_\_\_\_

## **EPT 1.6 Part 2 - Summary Cloze**

You should write your answers to ALL the remaining questions - in this Question/Answer Book.

The article below has been produced in two versions. Version 2 has some missing words and phrases. Read Version 1 and then fill in the blanks in Version 2 in such a way that the meaning of Version 1 is preserved. You should also make sure that your answers are grammatically correct, paying attention to tenses, plurals, etc.

Version 1

### **TOUGH TALK AS MINISTER VOWS TO CLEAN UP MARKET**

Organised crime "is involved in Taiwan's stock market... It's fact", according to Taiwan's justice minister Liao Cheng-hao.

Such candidness has earned Mr Liao, justice minister for five months, a reputation as the government's key player in the fight against gangs, or heitao.

The war has now reached some publicly traded companies.

While such talk might unnerve some, many say cleaning up the market will help lure more international investors. It also might bolster Taiwan's role as a regional business centre.

A lawyer cum politician who previously headed Taiwan's top criminal investigation unit, Mr Liao, 50, has targeted everything from prostitution to bid-rigging for public works projects.

The justice ministry's attack on gang involvement in the stock market is part of a larger anti-crime crusade Mr Liao has led since a cabinet re-shuffle in June.

In that crusade, Country Commissioner Wu Tzu-yuan was last week detained on suspicion of taking bribes from a construction company.

The justice ministry suspects "at least 10" companies of having links to gangs, Mr Liao said. Among them are Nankang Rubber Tire Co and Tateh Agricultural Industry, a food company.

Both companies deny the allegations.

Taiwan's gangs gain influence over companies in three ways, according to Mr Liao.

Using proxy votes to take over management control, or coercing executives with threats, stand alongside the method of tapping personal cash to buy outright control of a company with a view to stripping away its assets.

"It's not just one gang that's involved... We know that they've formed businesses, set up organisations, and become more intelligent."

And they see lucrative rewards in the stock market, Mr Liao said.

The number of companies under investigation is small compared with the 367 companies listed on the Taiwan stock exchange.

But underworld companies "can have a huge effect on other normally operating companies or listed stocks," Mr Liao said.

The solution, in part, is prevention.

The minister wants the Securities and Exchange Commission to make it harder for gangs to take control of companies through proxies. He also has asked the economics ministry to toughen shareholding rules.

**EPT 1.6 Part 2 - Summary Cloze (cont...)**

Version 2

Use ONE word to fill in each blank. Note that the most suitable word MAY or MAY NOT appear in Version 1. You should make sure that your answers are grammatically correct, paying attention to tenses, plurals, etc.

The fact of \_\_\_\_\_ in Taiwan's stock market has been \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ discussed by the justice minister, Mr Liao. He is now considered a \_\_\_\_\_ for the government in their uphill \_\_\_\_\_ against the gangs. Some companies which are \_\_\_\_\_ on the stock market are now under \_\_\_\_\_. This \_\_\_\_\_ talk \_\_\_\_\_ some while others \_\_\_\_\_ that a \_\_\_\_\_ market will \_\_\_\_\_ investors from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ may \_\_\_\_\_ Taiwan to \_\_\_\_\_ a regional business centre.

Mr Liao has \_\_\_\_\_ on nearly \_\_\_\_\_ criminal activity.

His \_\_\_\_\_ against the gangs is an anti-crime \_\_\_\_\_ which has already seen the \_\_\_\_\_ of Mr Wu, the Country Commissioner who is \_\_\_\_\_ of receiving bribes. The justice minister \_\_\_\_\_ that Nankang Rubber Tire Co and Tateh Food Company are \_\_\_\_\_ at least 10 firms \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_ links.

There are three \_\_\_\_\_ that gangs are able to \_\_\_\_\_ pressure on companies.

They can \_\_\_\_\_ executives, \_\_\_\_\_ proxy votes to \_\_\_\_\_ management, \_\_\_\_\_ buying control of company \_\_\_\_\_ to sell its assets. The stock market \_\_\_\_\_ lucrative rewards, so gangs \_\_\_\_\_ businesses, organisations and develop their \_\_\_\_\_.

Although the number of companies \_\_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_, the underworld companies endanger the 367 \_\_\_\_\_ companies which are \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_. The justice minister can see that \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ a solution and wants the Security and Exchanges Commission to take \_\_\_\_\_ against gangs who \_\_\_\_\_ proxies and \_\_\_\_\_ take control of companies. In his view, shareholding rules also need to be \_\_\_\_\_.