SOCRATES

Module E — Full Practice Exam · 90 minutes · 100 points

WRITTEN RECEPTION (70 points)

(ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS)

Read the text and then answer questions 1–9. In the multiple-choice questions, circle the number of the correct answer. In the other questions, follow the instructions.

THE POWER OF BILINGUALISM

I Every evening in Haifa, ten-year-old Daniel switches languages without thinking. He speaks Hebrew with his friends, Russian with his grandmother, and English in his favourite online games. Daniel is bilingual — he uses two or more languages in his everyday life — and he is far from unusual. Researchers estimate that more than half of the world's population regularly speaks at least two languages. So what does living in two languages do to the human mind?

II Part of the answer lies in the brain itself. Because both languages are always active in a bilingual mind, speakers must constantly choose one and quietly ignore the other. Scientists compare this endless practice to training in a gym: instead of muscles, it strengthens the brain's control system. In experiments, bilingual children and adults were often better at switching between tasks, ignoring distracting information and focusing their attention — small advantages, but ones that appear repeatedly in research.

III Bilingualism has not always had a good reputation. A century ago, many teachers and doctors believed that hearing two languages would confuse children and delay their speech, and parents were often advised to drop one language at home. Modern research tells a different story. Mixing languages in one sentence is a normal stage, not a sign of confusion, and although bilingual children may know slightly fewer words in each separate language, the total number of words they understand is usually larger.

IV The advantages reach far beyond childhood. Several studies suggest that older bilinguals develop the first signs of dementia around four to five years later than people who speak one language, perhaps because their brains have built extra connections. Speaking two languages also opens doors at work, since companies value employees who can serve customers in their own language, and it helps people understand other cultures from the inside. Some researchers urge caution, however, noting that a few laboratories have failed to repeat the famous brain experiments.

V Whatever the laboratories finally decide, bilingualism is becoming a valuable skill. Dual-language schools, where children study half the day in each language, now have long waiting lists. Translation apps are improving, yet experts insist that a machine cannot replace the trust and friendship created when people speak to each other directly. For

Daniel, the question hardly matters. His two languages feel like two open windows — and through them, he can see twice as much of the world.

QUESTIONS — PART I (70 points)

1. What do we learn about bilingualism in paragraph I?

i. It is a rare ability found mainly in Israel.

ii. Children should not play online games in English.

iii. Daniel finds switching between languages very difficult.

iv. More than half of the world's population regularly speaks at least two languages.

(7 points)

2. Scientists compare using two languages to training in a gym. COMPLETE: Instead of muscles, this endless practice strengthens

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(8 points)

3. In experiments, bilingual people showed several small advantages. Give TWO things they were often better at. (paragraph II)

(1)

.....

(2)

.....

(8 points)

4. What were parents often advised to do a century ago? (paragraph III)

ANSWER:

.....

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(8 points)

5. Bilingual children may know slightly fewer words in each separate language. COMPLETE: However, the total number of words they understand

.....

.....

(8 points)

6. According to several studies, what may happen to older bilinguals?

i. They forget one of their languages as they age.

ii. They show the first signs of dementia several years later than people who speak one language.

iii. They lose interest in learning new things.

iv. They develop dementia earlier because of extra brain effort.

(7 points)

7. Why do some researchers urge caution about the brain experiments?

i. Because the experiments were done only on children.

ii. Because bilingual people refused to take part in them.

iii. Because a few laboratories have failed to repeat the results.

iv. Because the experiments were too expensive to continue.

(8 points)

8. According to experts, what can a translation app NOT replace? (paragraph V)

ANSWER:

.....

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(8 points)

9. What is the main purpose of the text?

i. To describe what research says about bilingualism and its benefits.

ii. To warn parents about the dangers of raising bilingual children.

iii. To convince readers to rely on translation apps.

iv. To explain how dual-language schools choose their pupils.

(8 points)

PART II — VOCABULARY (30 points)

Answer questions 10–14. In each question, match THREE of the six words or expressions (1–6) to the definitions. Write the number of the word next to the definition.

10. *(6 points)*

1. identical	2. reasonable	3. population
4. try	5. specialist	6. headquarters

____ a) fair in price and not too expensive

____ b) an expert in one particular area of work or study

____ c) exactly the same in every way

11. *(6 points)*

1. stripe	2. mask	3. blame
4. extend	5. block	6. make

____ a) a long narrow line of colour

____ b) manage to arrive somewhere in time for something

____ c) to make something last longer or cover a larger area

12. *(6 points)*

1. strangely enough	2. unlike	3. will
4. Cheers!	5. indoors	6. take pleasure/pride/an interest, etc.

____ a) to feel a certain emotion about something

____ b) different from, or in contrast to, another person or thing

____ c) the mental power to control your actions; strong determination

13. *(6 points)*

1. material	2. nasty	3. in turn
4. layer	5. tough	6. revise

____ a) information or documents used for a particular purpose

____ b) one amount of material covering a surface

____ c) very unpleasant or unkind

14. *(6 points)*

1. that's it	2. get sth wrong	3. bucket
4. input	5. believe it or not	6. jury

____ a) a round open container with a handle

____ b) to make a mistake about something

____ c) a group of people who decide guilt in a court

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