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 COMEBACK OF RAIL TRAVEL

I At eleven o'clock at night, twenty-year-old Sofia climbs onboard the night train in Amsterdam. Fourteen hours later she will wake up in Vienna, having traversed three countries while she slept. A decade ago, almost everyone her age would have taken an inexpensive flight instead. Today, Sofia is part of a quiet revolution: across Europe and beyond, travellers are returning to the railway, night trains are being reborn, and several routes are carrying record quantities of passengers.

II The principal engine of this comeback is concern about the climate. A train journey typically produces only a small fraction of the carbon emissions of the same trip by plane, a fact that many young travellers now contemplate before they book. In Sweden, the movement even has a name: "flight shame", a feeling of guilt about the environmental damage caused by flying. Responding to this sentiment, several European governments have begun taxing short flights and investing substantially in their railways.

III Comfort plays a part as well. Trains depart from the centre of one city and arrive in the centre of another, so passengers avoid lengthy airport queues and security checks. On board there is space to stroll around, tables to work at and, on many lines, free wi-fi. Night trains offer a further advantage: travellers sleep through the journey and save the price of a hotel room, arriving rested just in time for breakfast.

IV The comeback still faces considerable obstacles. Train tickets are often more expensive than seats on budget airlines, and booking a journey across several countries can be surprisingly complicated, because each railway company utilises its own system. Delays on crowded, ageing tracks discourage some passengers as well. The industry is responding: companies are ordering hundreds of advanced sleeping coaches, and the European Union is funding faster lines and a single booking platform that would sell tickets for the entire continent.

V The next decade promises even more. Dozens of new night routes are planned, high-speed lines are under construction from Spain to the Baltic states, and designers are already presenting quiet, comfortable carriages powered entirely by renewable electricity. Nobody expects aeroplanes to disappear, especially over oceans. Yet for medium distances, the train may soon become the natural first choice — and travellers like Sofia will simply close their eyes in one country and open them in another.

QUESTIONS — PART I (70 points)

1. What does Sofia's journey illustrate?

i. Travellers across Europe are returning to rail travel.
ii. Flying is still the only practical way to cross Europe.
iii. Night trains have disappeared from European railways.
iv. Young people prefer to travel during the day.

(7 points)

2. Trains are far better for the climate than planes. COMPLETE: A train journey typically produces only

.....

.....

(8 points)

3. What is "flight shame"? (paragraph II)

ANSWER:

.....

.....

(8 points)

4. Give TWO advantages of travelling by train rather than by plane, according to paragraph III.

(1)

.....

(2)

.....

(8 points)

5. Buying tickets for international train journeys is not always easy. COMPLETE: Booking a journey across several countries can be surprisingly

.....

.....

(8 points)

6. Why do some travellers still prefer budget airlines?

i. Planes always leave from city centres.
ii. Trains have no space for luggage.
iii. Plane tickets are often cheaper than train tickets.
iv. Airlines offer free hotel rooms.

(7 points)

7. What is the European Union doing to help rail travel?

i. Closing crowded railway stations.

ii. Funding faster lines and a single booking platform.

iii. Ordering cheaper aeroplanes.

iv. Taxing all train tickets.

(8 points)

8. Give ONE example of what is planned or already being built for the next decade. (paragraph V)

ANSWER:

.....

.....

(8 points)

9. What is the main purpose of the text?

i. To warn readers that aeroplanes will soon disappear.

ii. To sell tickets for a night train to Vienna.

iii. To compare hotel prices in European cities.

iv. To describe why rail travel is becoming popular again and what its future may hold.

(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. victim	2. rely on/upon sb/sth	3. show sb around / round
4. log in/on	5. illness	6. race

____ a) a group of people with the same skin colour and physical features

____ b) to enter a username and password to start using a computer system

____ c) to trust someone or depend on them

11. *(6 points)*

1. disabled	2. triangle	3. frozen
4. emphasis	5. at least	6. protest

____ a) turned hard and solid because of very cold temperatures

____ b) a flat shape with three straight sides

____ c) special importance given to something

12. *(6 points)*

1. run out of	2. export	3. feature
4. relax	5. navy	6. Yours sincerely

____ a) to use all of something so none is left

____ b) rest and become calm and less worried

____ c) the ships and sailors that fight for a country at sea

13. *(6 points)*

1. folk	2. considerable	3. interaction
4. just as bad / good / tall /clever, etc (as sb/sth)	5. regard	6. punish

____ a) equal in some way to another person or thing

____ b) to consider or think about someone in a particular way

____ c) to make someone suffer for doing something wrong

14. *(6 points)*

1. interpret	2. brake	3. place
4. insurance	5. hopefully	6. pregnant

____ a) used to say what you want to happen

____ b) an agreement that pays you money if something bad happens

____ c) translate spoken words from one language into another

חוברת אימון של Socrates בסגנון מחברת הבחינה — אינה מסמך רשמי של משרד החינוך. © Yaniv Holtzberg, M.Ed, M.T