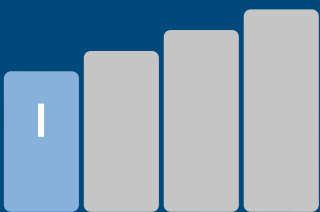




# UN Level I

## Basic Language Competence Examination

### English



# READING



## Learning objective



Identify key details in routine texts/understand forms requesting basic information.

## Domain



Public

## Task 1

Read the advertisement and the information about Eduardo and his family. Then for questions 1 to 4, choose 'T' for True or 'F' for False.

### CONVERSATION EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (CEP) Dinner plans

Take advantage of Geneva's cultural diversity to improve and practise speaking any language of your choice, in exchange for your own.

CEP is open to all international and local staff and their families (children under 12 excepted).

CEP is free of charge and aims to be an enjoyable addition to, but not a replacement for, language classes.

Conversation is the basis of the programme, so a minimum intermediate level of language proficiency is required. We do not accept registrations from beginners.

*Adapted from an advertisement on the CAGI (Geneva Welcome Centre) website.*

Eduardo is Spanish and has just arrived in Geneva for a new posting. He, his Italian partner and their bilingual son aged 10 want to improve their language skills.

### According to advertisement and the information about Eduardo and his family:

- | T                        | F                        |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Eduardo can register to exchange his native Spanish with a French speaker.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. His partner can offer Italian in exchange for advanced English.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Their son can exchange Spanish for French.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. If Eduardo registers for the conversation exchange programme, he cannot follow a French course at the United Nations at the same time. |

# READING



## Learning objective



Understand simple news stories and magazine articles, with the support of resources if needed.

## Domain



Personal

## Task 2

Read three news articles about protected animals. Then for questions 1 to 6, choose the correct answer A, B or C.

### Polar Bear in Ohio

Two months ago, a polar bear was born at a zoo in Ohio, USA. The staff had to take care of the cub after her mother stopped caring for her. The staff put her in an incubator to keep her warm.

The cub weighed only 200 grams when she was born, but now she weighs three kilograms. The cub eats special polar bear formula and staff feed her six times a day.

### Hawk Catches Drones

In the past, wild hawks sometimes made mistakes. They thought that drones were birds and tried to catch them. This gave people ideas that they could train these birds to catch and remove dangerous drones.

The Dutch police are training the birds to do this, and they have been successful. However, the drones sometimes hurt the hawks. This is a problem that the Dutch must solve.

### Smallest Monkeys in the World

The smallest monkey in the world weighs only 100 grams. That is the same as an apple! The species is endangered because people are destroying the forests where it lives.

A zoo in Sydney, Australia is trying to help the species survive. Zookeepers paired a male and a female to start a monkey family. A year later, two lovely monkeys were born. They weigh just 15 grams and are smaller than a human thumb!

**According to the articles:**

	A	B	C
	The polar bear	The hawk	The monkey
1. Which animal's habitat is in danger?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Which animal needs regular help?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Which animal now weighs more than ten times its birth weight?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Which animal has the least protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Which animal has the tiniest young?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Which animal needs a solution for the future?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# READING



## Learning objective



Understand simple emails on everyday matters, mainly work-related, including requests for information, instructions and acknowledgements.

## Domain



Professional

## Task 3 / Part 1

Read a UN Broadcast about garage operations at UNHQ. Then for questions 1 to 4, choose 'T' for True or 'F' for False.

**From:** BROADCAST United Nations <XXXXXX@un.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, September XX, XXXX 9:12 PM  
**To:** Broadcast - UNHQ NY Secretariat <XXXXXX@un.org>  
**Subject:** Garage operations starting 1 October

Dear colleagues,

We would like to inform you that administrative staff will share monthly updates about the new garage operations starting on 1 October until further notice.

The parking garage entrance will remain open to staff with a valid UN ID. Otherwise, you must purchase a daily ticket with cash at the entrance.

Demand for parking at UNHQ is increasing among delegates and staff, while garage parking space remains limited. We will introduce new rules if availability changes next year.

Best regards,

### According to the UN Broadcast:

T F

1. Future updates about garage operations won't be given on 1 October.
2. Parking tickets can be purchased with a credit card.
3. Delegates and staff can park outside of the garage with a valid UN ID.
4. There is a small amount of parking space available.

## Task 3 / Part 2

Read an email about the 2019 Staff Survey. Then for questions 1 to 6, choose the correct answer A, B or C.

**From:** BROADCAST United Nations <XXXXXX@un.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, December XX, XXXX 3:21 PM  
**To:** ALL UN Secretariat <XXXXXX@un.org>  
**Subject:** 2019 Staff Survey

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for participating in the 2019 Staff Survey that concluded on 12 December. More than 200 duty stations completed the survey before 10 December.

These survey responses will provide information to senior leaders for improving staff needs and interests. Additionally, it will give Human Resources data for reviewing staff performance.

Senior leaders will prepare a final report of Secretariat-wide responses on 20 December and will share it at the beginning of January. They will discuss this report with staff at the end of the month.

Kind regards,

### According to the email:

#### 1. 200 duty stations:

- A. submitted their responses after 12 December
- B. submitted their responses before 12 December
- C. submitted their responses on 10 December

#### 2. The responses will be used:

- A. to improve needs and interests, but not performance
- B. to review performance, needs and interests
- C. to review performance

**3. The responses will provide information to:**

- A. Human Resources and global staff
- B. global staff and senior leaders
- C. Human Resources and senior leaders

**4. The final report will be available:**

- A. to all staff members at the end of the year
- B. to senior leaders at the beginning of next month
- C. to senior leaders in December

# LISTENING



## Learning objective



Understand simple key factual information such as numbers, times and dates, and location.

## Domains



Personal



Public

## Task 1

Listen to a voicemail between two friends about making dinner plans in the city. As you listen, complete the form by writing your responses in the spaces below.

1. Restaurant Name: Hacienda
2. Restaurant Location: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Time of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Reason for Time Change: traffic
5. Car Parking: next to the \_\_\_\_\_
6. Meeting Place: \_\_\_\_\_ to the lobby



# LISTENING



## Learning objective



Understand the main ideas and key details in simple, short presentations, speeches and interviews on familiar subjects, with visual support.

## Domain



Public

## Task 2

Watch the video Sir David Attenborough posted on Instagram twice. Then for questions 1 to 6, choose the correct answer A, B or C.

<https://www.instagram.com/tv/CFg3LHIHGug/>

According to the video:

1. How long has David Attenborough been appearing on radio and television?

- a) six years
- b) sixteen years
- c) sixty years

2. Which is true?

- a) David is new to Instagram
- b) David is new to communication
- c) David is an explorer

3. Why is David speaking on Instagram?

- a) Because he wants to stop appearing on radio and television
- b) Because he wants people to know that the natural environment is at risk
- c) Because he doesn't know what to do to communicate

**4. What is the good news?**

- a) The list of problems is short
- b) David knows how to communicate
- c) There are solutions to the problems

**5. What is David going to do?**

- a) He's going to speak on Instagram again
- b) He's going to ask the public to share problems and solutions with him
- c) He's going to make deals with people

**6. At the end, what does he ask people to do?**

- a) To follow him on Instagram
- b) To listen to the radio
- c) Not to be late for his next message

# LISTENING



## Learning objective



Understand basic requests, instructions or advice, particularly in a work-related context.

## Domain



Professional

## Task 3

Listen to a conversation between two colleagues, Emma and John. Then for questions 1 to 4, choose 'T' for True or 'F' for False.

According to the conversation:

- | T                        | F                        |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Emma is meeting Sophia to discuss some financial details that afternoon. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Emma is helping her old friend Dave on Saturday morning.                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. John is doing some professional training on Saturday afternoon.          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. John has a good working relationship with Sophia.                        |

Listen to the conversation again. Then for questions 5 to 8, choose the correct answer A, B or C.

According to the conversation:

- |   | A                        | B                        | C                        |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|   | Emma                     | John                     | Both                     |
| 5. Who is worried about the presentation on Monday? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Who has been to the café before?                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Who will be in town at 2 p.m. on Saturday?       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Who needs to bring something to the meeting?     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



# WRITING



## Learning objective



Write and respond to simple emails mainly for work-related purposes using formulaic phrases and reference resources to inform, request, organize and so on.

## Domains



Professional



Public

## Task 2

A new colleague in your section, Genevieve, asked you about arranging a tour at UNHQ. You have contacted the United Nations Visitor Centre and received more information. In an email, inform your colleague of the following details. Then make plans to go on the tour together:

### Guided public tour information

**Length:** 60 minutes

**Offered languages:** Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

**Dates and times:**

Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

Thursdays at 2.30 p.m.

**Individual adult ticket:**

Virtual tour: \$10.00

Guided tour: \$22.00

*\*Other weekdays and weekends are available upon request.*

To: xxxxx@un.org

From: xxxxx@un.org

Subject: Scheduling a UNHQ tour

# SPEAKING



## Learning objective



Describe experiences, events and the immediate environment, including where one lives, works and socializes, using basic language.

## Domains



Personal

## Task 1 / A (spoken production)

You are going to speak for between 2 to 3 minutes on a topic which I will give you. You have 5 minutes to prepare.

What good and bad memories do you have of your school days?

How is school different for children today?

How is school the same for children today?

# SPEAKING



## Learning objective



Participate in simple exchanges to discuss everyday topics, interests or plans by sharing opinions and preferences.

## Domains



Personal

## Task 2 / A (spoken interaction)

You are now going to have a 5-minute discussion to develop the topic of education.



1. What can you see in this photograph?
2. What is easier and more difficult for adult learners than for school children?
3. Have you done any professional development?
4. Was it useful? Why or why not?
5. What professional development would you like to do in the future?



# SPEAKING



## Learning objective



Describe experiences, events and the immediate environment, including where one lives, works and socializes, using basic language.

## Domains



Personal

## Task 1 / B (spoken production)

You are going to speak for between 2 to 3 minutes on the topic of the natural environment. You have 5 minutes to prepare.

What environmental problems are there in and around your duty station?

What are the causes of these problems?

Do you have any ideas how to solve them?

# SPEAKING



## Learning objective



Participate in simple exchanges to discuss everyday topics, interests or plans by sharing opinions and preferences.

## Domains



Personal

## Task 2 / B (spoken interaction)

You are now going to have a 5-minute discussion to develop the topic of the natural environment.



1. What can you see in this photograph?
2. Where are your favourite natural places?
3. Are you worried about the future of your favourite natural places? Why?
4. What can governments do to protect them?
5. What can you do?





**United Nations Language Framework  
UN Levels of Language Competence**

Language and Communications Training Unit (LCTU)  
at UN Headquarters New York

Language Training Programme (LTP)  
at UN Office in Geneva