

T.C.
Biruni Üniversitesi

Proficiency Test Sample

(This sample test has been prepared to give you an idea of the exam level. The number questions in each section will vary in the actual exam. In addition to all these questions , vocabulary , writing and speaking modules will also be included in the exam.)

SECTION 1 – Grammar (15 Questions)

Choose the best option to complete each sentence.

1. Had the committee taken the concerns of the employees more seriously, the recent strike _____ avoided.
a) might have been
b) should be
c) will have been
d) could be
2. The new regulations require that every applicant _____ all the necessary documents before the deadline.
a) submits
b) submit
c) submitted
d) will submit
3. By the time this project is completed, we _____ on it for more than three years.
a) will have been working
b) have worked
c) are working
d) had worked
4. The report is believed _____ by a group of independent researchers rather than the company itself.
a) to have been prepared
b) to be preparing
c) having prepared
d) prepared
5. I wish the university _____ more flexible in allowing students to choose their own courses.
a) would be
b) were
c) had been
d) will be

6. It's time we seriously _____ the environmental impact of our daily consumption habits.
 - a) consider
 - b) considered
 - c) had considered
 - d) will consider
7. Not until the results of the investigation are made public _____ any official statements issued.
 - a) will
 - b) were
 - c) are
 - d) have
8. If it _____ for her encouragement, I would never have applied for the scholarship.
 - a) weren't
 - b) hadn't been
 - c) wouldn't be
 - d) hasn't been
9. The conference was postponed so that more participants _____ to attend.
 - a) can be able
 - b) will be able
 - c) could be able
 - d) would be able
10. Rarely _____ such overwhelming evidence against a single defendant in this court.
 - a) we have seen
 - b) have we seen
 - c) we saw
 - d) did we see

SECTION 2 – LISTENING (10 Questions)

Instructions:

You will hear two separate audio recordings. Each recording will be played twice. After listening, answer the related questions by choosing the option that best fits.

Part 1 – Cultural Exchange Program

(Questions 16–20)

16. According to the conversation, what was the primary motivation for both students to join the cultural exchange program?
 - a) Improving their language skills and gaining academic credit
 - b) Taking a vacation during the summer break
 - c) Finding part-time work opportunities abroad
 - d) Visiting family members in another country

17. What challenge did the female student mention about her host family experience?
- a) Limited access to transportation in the area
 - b) Cultural differences in meal times and food preferences
 - c) A language barrier that made communication impossible
 - d) Strict household rules about socializing
18. Which activity did both students agree was the most valuable for understanding the local culture?
- a) Attending university lectures
 - b) Participating in traditional festivals
 - c) Visiting historical museums
 - d) Joining sports clubs
19. How did the male student describe his adjustment to the new environment?
- a) He felt at home immediately due to similarities with his own culture
 - b) He initially struggled but adapted gradually
 - c) He never fully adjusted and wanted to return early
 - d) He adapted easily thanks to prior travel experience
20. What recommendation did they give for future exchange students?
- a) Avoid staying with host families
 - b) Focus only on academic requirements
 - c) Be open-minded and participate in community activities
 - d) Limit social interaction to fellow exchange students

Part 2 – Urban Sustainability and Smart Cities

(Questions 21–25)

21. According to the lecture, what is the main goal of implementing smart city technologies?
- a) To create tourist-friendly environments
 - b) To increase efficiency and sustainability in urban living
 - c) To replace traditional city governance structures
 - d) To reduce the need for public transportation
22. What example did the lecturer give to illustrate the role of data collection in smart cities?
- a) Monitoring citizens' online activities
 - b) Using sensors to manage traffic flow and reduce congestion
 - c) Tracking university attendance rates
 - d) Measuring the number of tourists in a city

23. How did the lecturer describe the relationship between smart cities and climate change adaptation?
- a) Smart cities can help reduce environmental impact through better resource management
 - b) Climate change has no real connection to smart city planning
 - c) Smart cities will eliminate the effects of climate change entirely
 - d) Smart cities make adaptation more difficult for traditional communities
24. Which challenge did the lecturer identify regarding public acceptance of smart city initiatives?
- a) Lack of access to digital devices
 - b) Concerns over privacy and data security
 - c) High unemployment rates
 - d) Inadequate tourist infrastructure
25. What final suggestion did the lecturer make for successful smart city implementation?
- a) Focus only on technology investment without public involvement
 - b) Combine technological solutions with community engagement and education
 - c) Privatize all city services to improve efficiency
 - d) Limit innovation to wealthier districts

SECTION 3 – READING

Read the passages and answer the questions

Passage 1: The Impact of Social Media on Political Participation

Over the past two decades, social media has transformed from a niche form of online communication into one of the most influential platforms for public discourse and political engagement. Social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter (now known as X), and Instagram have given ordinary citizens unprecedented access to political information, enabling them to express opinions, share news, and participate in discussions that were once limited to traditional media and formal political institutions. This transformation has fundamentally altered the way people interact with politics, making political participation more immediate, decentralized, and, for many, more personal.

One of the most notable changes brought about by social media is the lowering of barriers to political participation. In the past, citizens who wished to engage politically had to attend rallies, join political parties, or write letters to the editor of a newspaper. Today, a simple click can signal political support: liking a post, sharing an article, or using a trending hashtag can all be forms of participation. Critics argue that this “clicktivism” is superficial, requiring minimal effort and producing little tangible impact. However, proponents counter that even small acts of engagement can help raise awareness, influence others, and build momentum for larger movements.

The 2011 Arab Spring is frequently cited as a powerful example of social media’s political influence. In several Middle Eastern countries, citizens used Facebook and Twitter to coordinate protests, share information about government actions, and draw international attention to their causes. While the uprisings were complex and driven by many factors, social media undeniably played a role in accelerating communication and mobilization. Similar

patterns have emerged in democratic contexts, where online campaigns can rapidly reach millions of potential voters and supporters.

Yet, the role of social media in politics is not without controversy. The same platforms that enable the free flow of information can also facilitate the spread of misinformation, political polarization, and extremist views. Algorithms designed to keep users engaged often prioritize emotionally charged content, which can deepen ideological divides. Moreover, governments and political actors can exploit these platforms for propaganda or to manipulate public opinion. In this sense, social media is a double-edged sword: it offers opportunities for democratic participation but also poses significant risks to democratic stability.

Another important consideration is the unequal access to digital tools. While internet penetration is high in many developed countries, millions of people in developing regions still lack reliable access to the internet or the digital literacy skills needed to navigate social media effectively. This “digital divide” means that political participation through social media is far from universal and may disproportionately reflect the voices of younger, urban, and more educated populations.

Looking ahead, the influence of social media on political participation will likely continue to grow, but its exact trajectory is uncertain. Policymakers, technology companies, and civil society organizations will need to work together to address the risks while preserving the democratic potential of these tools. Whether social media ultimately strengthens or weakens democratic engagement will depend largely on how societies choose to regulate and use it.

Questions 26–33

26. According to the passage, one major way social media has changed politics is by:
- a) Eliminating the need for political parties altogether
 - b) Allowing more people to participate with less effort
 - c) Replacing traditional media entirely
 - d) Reducing public interest in politics
27. The term “clicktivism” in the passage refers to:
- a) Deep and sustained political activism
 - b) Quick, low-effort online actions of political support
 - c) Government-led propaganda campaigns
 - d) Using social media for business purposes
28. The Arab Spring is mentioned in the passage as an example of:
- a) How governments shut down social media during protests
 - b) How misinformation spreads quickly online
 - c) How social media can help organize and publicize political movements
 - d) The failure of online activism to create change

29. What is one risk of relying heavily on social media for political information?
- a) Citizens become less informed about current events
 - b) Social media increases political unity among all groups
 - c) Algorithms can amplify divisive or misleading content
 - d) Access to the internet is universal and equal
30. The phrase “digital divide” in the passage refers to:
- a) Differences in political opinions across generations
 - b) Inequality in access to and use of digital technology
 - c) The separation between political parties online
 - d) Divisions between rural and urban communities only
31. Which statement best reflects the author’s overall view of social media’s political role?
- a) It is entirely harmful to democracy and should be restricted
 - b) It is entirely beneficial and should be promoted
 - c) It has both positive and negative effects on democratic participation
 - d) It has little to no influence on political life
32. The passage suggests that the future impact of social media on democracy will:
- a) Depend on how societies manage and regulate it
 - b) Likely decline as traditional media regains influence
 - c) Be determined solely by technology companies
 - d) Eliminate the need for voting in elections
33. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a challenge associated with social media and politics?
- a) Spread of misinformation
 - b) Political polarization
 - c) Lack of digital access for some populations
 - d) Decrease in political advertising budgets

Passage 2 – Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Urban Areas

Cities are at the forefront of climate change impacts, both because they concentrate large populations and because their infrastructure, economies, and social systems are highly interconnected. As global temperatures rise and weather patterns become more unpredictable, urban areas face a growing number of environmental and social challenges. These include more frequent heatwaves, heavier rainfall events, flooding, and rising sea levels in coastal regions. The need for effective climate change adaptation strategies in urban areas has therefore become increasingly urgent.

Adaptation refers to the process of adjusting systems, behaviors, and infrastructure to minimize the negative impacts of climate change while taking advantage of potential benefits. In the urban context, this involves not only protecting buildings and roads but also safeguarding public health, maintaining essential services, and ensuring social equity. For example, installing green roofs and expanding urban green spaces can help reduce the urban heat island effect, lower energy costs, and improve air quality. These measures are not merely cosmetic; they can make cities more resilient to temperature extremes.

Flood management is another critical area of adaptation. Many cities have begun to invest in upgraded drainage systems, permeable pavement, and floodplain restoration. Coastal cities, in particular, must address the risk of sea-level rise by constructing seawalls, restoring wetlands, or even redesigning entire neighborhoods to be more flood-resistant. In the Netherlands, for example, urban planners have implemented “room for the river” projects, allowing rivers to expand into designated areas during heavy rainfall to prevent catastrophic flooding elsewhere.

Social resilience is as important as physical resilience. Vulnerable populations, such as low-income households, the elderly, and those with limited mobility, are often the most affected by extreme weather events. Adaptation strategies must therefore include measures to protect these groups. This can involve establishing community cooling centers during heatwaves, ensuring affordable access to safe housing, and improving public transportation so residents can evacuate quickly if necessary.

Technology also plays a crucial role in adaptation efforts. Smart sensors can monitor air quality, track water levels, and provide real-time data that helps city officials respond more effectively to emergencies. Data-driven decision-making allows resources to be deployed efficiently, ensuring that interventions have the greatest possible impact. However, technology is not a substitute for political will and community engagement. Without active participation from residents, even the most advanced systems can fail to meet their goals.

Financing adaptation is one of the biggest challenges cities face. Many adaptation projects require substantial upfront investment, and the benefits—though significant—may take years to materialize. Some cities have addressed this by forming public-private partnerships, applying for international climate resilience funds, or introducing local taxes earmarked for adaptation measures. Still, securing long-term funding remains a major obstacle.

Ultimately, climate change adaptation in urban areas is a complex, ongoing process that requires coordination among governments, businesses, scientists, and citizens. No single strategy can address all challenges, and solutions must be tailored to the unique geographic, economic, and social contexts of each city. The success of these efforts will depend not only on engineering and technology but also on governance, equity, and the willingness of communities to embrace change.

Questions 34–40

34. According to the passage, why are cities particularly vulnerable to climate change?
- a) They are located only in coastal regions
 - b) They have concentrated populations and interconnected systems
 - c) They lack access to renewable energy
 - d) They are mostly dependent on agriculture
35. What is one benefit of green roofs and urban green spaces mentioned in the passage?
- a) They completely eliminate the need for air conditioning
 - b) They reduce the urban heat island effect and improve air quality
 - c) They prevent all flooding in coastal cities
 - d) They generate renewable electricity
36. How have some coastal cities addressed the risk of sea-level rise?
- a) By banning all construction near the water
 - b) By using “room for the river” projects and restoring wetlands
 - c) By moving entire populations inland immediately
 - d) By focusing only on technological monitoring
37. The passage suggests that vulnerable populations:
- a) Are less likely to be affected by extreme weather
 - b) Often face the greatest risks during climate-related events
 - c) Have more resources to adapt than wealthier groups
 - d) Should relocate permanently to rural areas
38. What role does technology play in adaptation strategies?
- a) It replaces the need for political decision-making
 - b) It monitors environmental conditions and informs rapid responses
 - c) It eliminates the need for community participation
 - d) It can only be used in developed countries

39. Why is financing adaptation projects challenging for cities?
- a) The projects are usually unimportant
 - b) They require high initial investment with delayed benefits
 - c) They are opposed by most residents
 - d) They depend entirely on foreign aid
40. What is the author's overall view on climate change adaptation in cities?
- a) A single universal strategy can solve all problems
 - b) Success requires cooperation, equity, and tailored solutions
 - c) Technology alone can solve most climate issues
 - d) Adaptation is impossible for large urban areas