

## **Example Filter Exam**

Specs for filter exam.

This complex exam assess all four main language skills: Receptive (listening and reading) and productive (speaking and writing).

The exam comprises three reading tasks, assessing a range of micro and macro skills and two writing tasks, one academic and one general English in style. The listening component also consists of 3 tasks, assessing all aspects of listening skills. The oral component comprises a short question and answer section, a longer turn of 1 to 2 minutes (with one minute preparation time) and a discussion.

Topics and language for the chosen text are a combination of those covered in Language Improvement classes, which are organised around the broader academic subjects.

**You will have 2 hours to complete this exam. You may not use a dictionary and all the work (including planning) should be shown and should be your own.**

Example

## Writing Task 1

Write an e mail to a friend describing the last film you saw/book you read.

Include the following points:

- What you did/didn't enjoy about it.
- Discuss the characters, scenery, actors chosen for the roles (if a film or film adaptation).
- Give your overall impression and say whether you would recommend it or not and why..

**You should spend around 20 minutes on this task. Please write a minimum of 150 words.**

## Writing Task 2

More and more students are deciding to study abroad. This can either be long or short term.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of this? Give reasons for your answer.

**You should spend around 40 minutes on this task. Please write a minimum of 250 words, drawing on your own knowledge and experience.**

Example

## Reading Part 1

Read the following text, then read the five statements. Some of these statements are true according to the text, some of them are false. Write **T** for True or **F** for False in the box next to each statement.

### MAN ON THE MOON

This was no ordinary July evening. On any other July evening the park near my house would be bustling with activity. Children playing, mothers pushing prams ... Anyone not on the beach on such a warm day would most definitely be there. But on this particular July evening, nearly 40 years ago, something seemed amiss. The streets were empty. As were the beach and the park. Everyone was in their homes, glued, it would seem, in front of their television sets. Transfixed. Waiting for something great to happen. I was there too of course. Almost too young to remember. And I probably wouldn't remember the event itself had it not been shown over and over again for many years to come, being etched as it were in our memory. But what I could never forget is the atmosphere, the sense that something great was about to take place. It was there on the faces of the grown-ups. In the way everyone sat quietly in anticipation. And then, there it was. A fuzzy image of a strange vehicle landing on a dry surface. Out came two men dressed in strange white suits and walking in a very peculiar way. And that was it. July 16, 1969 Apollo 11 became the first manned mission to land on the moon. Ever since it has been disputed many times over. Many have said that it was all filmed in a studio. That it was the hoax of the century. Maybe they are right and maybe they are not. Maybe it was all make-believe. But what was not fake was the feeling of hope it put in our hearts. If we could walk on the moon then the sky was the limit. What could possibly be out of bounds for us from now on? And then, just for the briefest of moments we sat awe-stricken as we knew that we were watching history being made.

1. People would spend the warm afternoons in the park.

2. People were waiting to see their favourite TV show.

3. The event has been broadcast many times since then.

4. The atmosphere was light and festive.

5. The people shown on TV acted strangely.

Example

**Match the holiday reviews with the correct headings. There are two extra headings you don't need.**

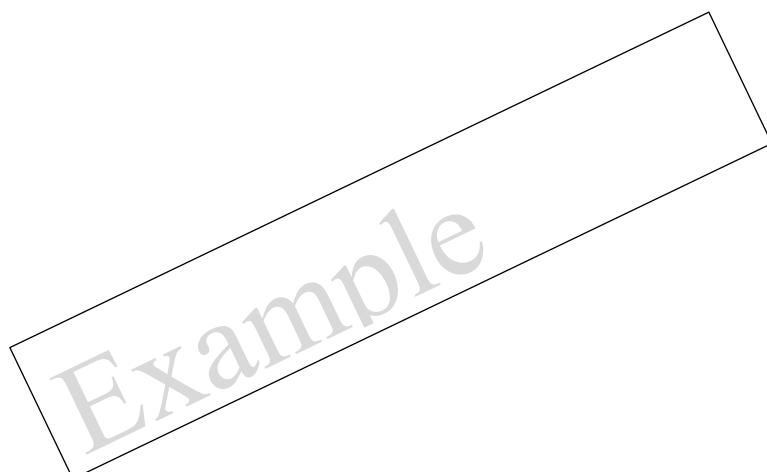
**A.** We loved it! The extremes of weather, the diversity of animals, the quality of the accommodation and facilities, and something you can't plan for - new found friends! But, don't set your heart on seeing anything specific. Be prepared for the changes in weather. It's not as challenging as I expected. We don't think the holiday impacted on the local people, though we did buy a lot of beer! But it has to be said that everyone (staff and guests) were very conscious of where we were and every effort was made to be respectful of closeness to the animals and birds.

**B.** Everything was great!. All activities of the trip were so memorable and exciting. We really enjoyed all the activities. We felt that the holiday benefited the local people and reduced environmental impacts as everywhere had 'green' everything: lights, selective rubbish etc. We give this 9/10.

**C.** The views and location were amazing! - and with only a few exceptions the friendliness of the people and their willingness to speak English. The Hotel in Sorrento deserves a special mention for its first class service particularly for its restaurant. You do need to have the correct footwear for demanding terrain. The walking guide is detailed and comprehensive. verall, outstanding organisation, including administration, transport and walking guide.

**D.** The place is beautiful! - glaciers, ice caves, ice beach, lava fields and of course the aurora. All fantastic – it is an amazing country with such raw beauty. Take note of the very good and comprehensive list of clothing. You will need it all - its very cold and there are times when you are standing around! We stayed at local farms which had converted some parts to accommodation. Where ever possible the food was local. We had a fantastic time - the tutors were excellent, patient, helpful and very professional.

**E.** Ice-climbing was our favourite aspect of the holiday. We went at the beginning of March and it was the ideal time with great sunny weather, no troubles with snow on the roads but still a good amount for all the activities. Check the conditions if intend to go later as the snow was rapidly disappearing. The guides were local and were interested in the landscape and wild-life. Accommodation used local food/products and were all small businesses that were recommended.



**F.** We were the only tourists we saw all week, apart from a day we went to the coast. Don't expect to sit still for long, although there is time to relax (I read 2 books) you are on the go every day. Every day is different and totally worth the early starts. Our hosts have fully integrated with the local people who speak very little or no English at all. We drank pure spring water from the garden all week and bought local food from farmers. The locals were always pleased to see us.

**G.** One of the most memorable things was the beautiful Carpathian countryside and the people working in the fields as of yesteryear. The haymaking and haystacks were fascinating and we all fell in love with rural Romania. This trip is most worthwhile - our guide was outstanding. Most of our accommodation was in small B&B type places and we visited many local craftsmen and women.

**H.** There were so many things that enchanted me and caught my imagination: the fabulous group of people, the location, our fantastic teacher. I'd say it was the River Trip on the Friday. I can't think of a better way to celebrate the joy of a yoga retreat in such a beautiful setting with such lovely people. We swam from one side to the other, lathered mud on our bodies for a bit of fun. Like any destination in this part of the world, be prepared for the heat in the summer.

**I.** Staying on a site with over 100 chickens, various cats, rabbits and even a donkey roaming around. Great for kids with donkey rides, missions to collect eggs every day, and to hang out with other kids. Really relaxed atmosphere in this family-run eco business. Definitely get the organic food box, it had the most delicious produce. The site employed local people. It was 100% self-sustaining, with solar power, its own well and its own sewage system. We even had little solar powered lamps at nights!

**J.** The great people, the great food, the wonderful views and scenery and the good family friendly activities. Bring money in cash as cards not accepted in more rural places. It was an eco hotel so this benefitted the environment and local people benefitted through our custom and the way the hotel used and promoted local produce.

1. NORTHERN LIGHTS TAILOR MADE HOLIDAY IN FINLAND
2. YOGA HOLIDAY IN PORTUGAL
3. CATALONIA FAMILY MOUNTAIN BIKING & ACTIVITY HOLIDAY, SPAIN
4. AMALFI TO SORRENTO WALKING HOLIDAY IN ITALY
5. NORTHERN LIGHTS PHOTOGRAPHY HOLIDAY IN ICELAND, COAST & ICE
6. ACTIVITY HOLIDAY IN MONTENEGRO
7. ROMANIA ADVENTURE HOLIDAY
8. CATALAN HORSE RIDING HOLIDAY IN SPAIN
9. ARCTIC DIVING & POLAR BEAR WATCHING EXPEDITION
10. SNOWSHOEING IN THE FRENCH ALPS
11. LUXURY YURT ACCOMMODATION IN LANZAROTE, CANARY ISLANDS
12. YOGA RETREATS IN ANDALUCIA, SPAIN

Example

## Lexis and language

*Write full sentences, in the correct forms, using the words below. You may add any extra words so long as they are in the correct form and context.*

1. One of the /most disturbing/levels of pollution.

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2. Drives me mad/the most/young people/lack of tolerance/passion

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3. Biggest concern/future/country/unemployment

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4. Bothers me most/interest/arts and culture

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5. Scariest thing/ finance/war

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6. One/offer/hope/ future generations/the opportunity/travel /work

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7. Admire/most/best friend/direct/honesty

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8. Annoy/way/election campaigns/ruthless

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9. Can't stand/how much/snob/my neighbour is

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10. Love/my sister/strong-will/self-confidence

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Example

## Speaking tasks 2 and 3

### Card 8 A

#### Part 2

*Please talk about international sports- consider the following points:*

- What makes international sports events so popular?
- Why are so many football fans violent?
- What are the benefits for the host country?

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### Card 1 B

*Please talk about science-consider the following points:*

- What is the most important invention ever?
- What are the main benefits and considerations of scientific research?
- Should animals be involved in human medicine research?

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#### Part 3

*Discuss healthy living:*

- How much do you know about nutrition?
- Have you ever been involved in activities/courses regarding food education?
- How important is it to educate ourselves about food and nutrition?

Example