

LEVEL B (B1 & B2)

2025 B

MODULE 1 Reading comprehension and language awareness

PART A - CHOICE ITEMS

ACTIVITY 1

1.1 Read the text and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 1a-2a.

1a. The text below is probably from

A. a news article about an unusual event.

B. a chapter in a children's adventure novel.

C. a magazine article about a science school project.

2a. The text is about the

A. adventures of children exploring lakes together.


B. process of writing letters for a school assignment.

C. discovery of a message in a bottle after many years.


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 Julia Binswanger - Daily Correspondent
September 25, 2024

Message in a Bottle



In 1998, a fourth grader named Makenzie typed and printed a letter, rolled it up and tucked it into a plastic bottle. Once her elementary school classmates had done the same, they all tossed their messages in bottles into a nearby lake.

Makenzie grew up, got married and had kids (today, her name is Makenzie Van Eyk). But she never forgot about her message in a bottle and often wondered what happened to it.

Now, 26 years later, her bottle has been discovered by a student at the same school. The bottle made its way to the classroom of Van Eyk's daughter, who is now in the same grade her mother was when she wrote the message.

Roland St. Pierre, the teacher who assigned the message-in-a-bottle project back in 1998, is now retired. But he remembers coming up with the idea after his class read *Paddle-to-the-Sea* by Holling Clancy Holling. The children's book tells the story of a hand-carved canoe that travels from the headwaters of the Great Lakes through the St. Lawrence Seaway to the ocean.

Roland instructed his students to write letters introducing themselves and explaining what they'd learned about the Great Lakes from the book. After putting the papers in bottles—which they sealed with wax—they went to the pier at the end of the Belle River, which feeds into Lake St. Clair. There, the fourth graders dropped their assignments into the water.

Some of the bottles were found within a few months. But others remained in the lake for more than two decades. Whether intentional or not, St. Pierre's assignment taught students an important lesson about plastic pollution. The fact that the bottle survived for 26 years without breaking down is "not a good thing," St. Pierre tells CBC News.

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ATTENTION

- Try to answer all the questions.
- Mark your answers on Answer Sheet 1 [ΑΠΑΝΤΗΤΙΚΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1].
- Provide ONE answer for each item.
- You have **85 minutes** to complete this exam.

1.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 3a-6a.

3a. Who found Makenzie's bottle?

- A.** A student at school. **B.** The retired teacher. **C.** Makenzie's daughter.

4a. The teacher asked students to

- A.** explore the St. Lawrence Seaway on a field trip.
- B.** do the bottle project after reading a book.
- C.** build their own hand-carved canoes for the project.

5a. What happened to the bottles after they were thrown into the water?

- A.** Some were found quickly. **B.** Most sank to the bottom. **C.** Many were never found.

6a. According to the text, the project taught students that

- A.** plastic bottles can harm the environment. **B.** hands-on activities work well in environmental projects. **C.** letter writing can improve through practice.

ACTIVITY 2

Read the text below and match the meaning of each underlined word (7a-11a) with options A-F. There is one option you do not need.

A.	runners	B.	cheered	C.	helpful	D.	refused	E.	circulated	F.	observers
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ACTIVITY 3

3.1 Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 12a-13a.

12a. The purpose of this text is to

- A. compare emojis with traditional writing systems. B. inform readers about the origin and use of emojis. C. persuade readers to use emojis instead of words.

13a. An alternative title for this text could be

- A. Emojis: from simple symbols to a global language. B. Visual symbols in the Japanese writing system. C. Overcoming language barriers in online communication.

The screenshot shows a web browser with the address bar displaying 'theteenmagazine.com/a-message-to-generation-alpha-from-generation-z'. The browser's address bar also shows several tabs: 'The KPG exams', 'RCEL', 'FLE', 'ECSPM', 'Google', 'cem.uoa.gr', 'NKUA - Departme...', 'Facebook', 'Gmail', 'iCloud', 'B Conference', 'Edilic', and 'New Tab'. The website's header includes 'THE TEEN MAG.' and a navigation menu with links to 'Entertainment', 'Youth Voices', 'Lifestyle', 'Style', 'Wellness', 'Quizzes', 'Apply', and 'Log in'. Below the header, there is a row of nine emojis: a red heart, a green checkmark, a yellow star, a yellow star, a yellow star, a yellow star, a yellow star, a yellow star, and a yellow star. The main title of the article is 'Understanding emojis: A simple guide'. The text of the article discusses the importance of emojis in everyday communication, their history, and how they can be used to express emotions and connect with others. The article is written in a simple, easy-to-understand style. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text 'THE TEEN MAGAZINE' and several social media icons.

3.2 Read the text again and decide if statements 14a-20a are True (A), False (B) or Not Stated (C).

STATEMENTS		A	B	C
		TRUE	FALSE	NOT STATED
According to the text,				
14a.	emojis were originally designed for social media platforms.			
15a.	emojis cover many areas of daily life, from emotions to activities.			
16a.	all categories on Emojipedia contain exactly the same number of emojis.			
17a.	adding an emoji to a message can change how the message is understood.			
18a.	emojis are understood in exactly the same way by everyone.			
19a.	young people understand emojis better than adults.			
20a.	emojis can make written communication more effective.			

ACTIVITY 4

Read the text below and for each gap (21a-25a) choose the best option (A-F). There is one option you do not need.

A.	depth	B.	separate	C.	different	D.	waters	E.	layers	F.	comparison
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Lake Baikal, found in southeast Siberia, is the oldest lake on our planet. Scientists believe it is about 25 million years old, making it much older than most other lakes. By **(21a)** _____, the Great Lakes in North America are less than 20,000 years old. The second oldest lake is Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan, which is around 20 million years old.

Lake Baikal is also very large. It covers about 31,700 square kilometers, making it the seventh-largest lake on Earth. It is not only the oldest, but also the deepest lake in the world. Its **(22a)** _____ is about 1.6 kilometers, and below that there are many more kilometers of sediment. Scientists study these **(23a)** _____ to learn how the lake has survived for so long.

Most lakes form when glaciers cut holes in the land and fill them with water. However, these lakes usually do not last long in geological time. Lake Baikal is **(24a)** _____ because it is a rift lake. Rift lakes form when two plates of Earth's crust slowly move apart, creating a deep valley called a graben. Water fills this valley, and as the plates continue to **(25a)** _____, the lake becomes deeper. This process explains why Lake Baikal has lasted for millions of years.

ACTIVITY 5

5.1 Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 26a-28a.

- 26a. The text discusses Mafalda's
 A. desire to become an adult quickly and change the world. B. great admiration for the adult world. C. personality, values, and social concerns.
- 27a. The purpose of this text is to
 A. show that a comic strip can address political issues. B. argue that comics should only make people laugh. C. criticize a comic strip for being too political.
- 28a. The writer suggests that Mafalda
 A. accepts adults' views without question. B. questions the world with childlike innocence. C. likes to ask personal questions in order to understand the world.

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The Angry Heroine of Latin America: Mafalda and Her Legacy



Mafalda is a young girl who hates soup and hypocrisy and loves democracy and the Beatles. She's a precocious 6-year old, innocently questioning how the world works—often to the exasperation of her parents. She and her friends struggle to learn chess, try to become telepathic, and worry about war and overpopulation.

Mafalda is the star of the titular comic strip, originally published in Argentina from 1964-73. Her creator, Quino, born Joaquín Salvador Lavado Tejón, was an Argentinian artist and cartoonist who, over the course of his life, produced cartoons, editorial comics, animation, and books translated into dozens of languages.

Mafalda has long been compared to Charles Schultz's *Peanuts*. Both are aimed at children but are complex enough to be appreciated by adults. Both are simply drawn, but never simplistic. The interactions of the child protagonists have metaphoric and political overtones. *Mafalda* is a story of children, but it is also a deeply political strip. "I always described it as *Peanuts* plus socialism," Liniers, the Argentinian cartoonist said.

Umberto Eco called her a 'hero of our time' and he wrote: Mafalda is truly an angry heroine who rejects the world as it is. To understand her, it is convenient to draw a parallel with another great character whose influence is not alien: Charlie Brown. Charlie Brown is North American, Mafalda South American. Charlie Brown belongs to a prosperous country, to an opulent society in which he desperately tries to integrate himself, begging for solidarity and happiness; Mafalda belongs to a country dense with social contrasts, which despite everything would like to integrate her and make her happy, but she refuses and rejects all offers. Charlie Brown lives in a childlike universe of his own, from which adults are rigorously excluded (with the exception that children aspire to become adults); Mafalda lives in a continuous dialogue with the adult world, a world that she does not esteem, respect, that she renders hostile to her, that she humiliates and rejects, claiming her right to remain a child who does not want to take over a universe adulterated by her parents.

Quino ended the strip in 1973 and with his wife, left for Europe. Many other writers and artists fled the country during this time. For years, Quino said that he quit the strip to avoid repeating himself, but in later years he cited politics as a reason for his decision. "After the coup d'état in Chile, the situation in Latin America became very bloody," he said in an interview in BBC. "If I had continued drawing Mafalda, they would have shot me once, or four times."

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5.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 29a-35a.

- 29a.** Mafalda is presented as a girl
A. happy with the world. **B.** afraid to speak up. **C.** mature for her age.
- 30a.** Both *Mafalda* and *Peanuts*
A. are meant for children but also speak to adults. **B.** feature characters with special powers. **C.** leave out political and social issues for the sake of entertainment.
- 31a.** The drawings in *Mafalda* and *Peanuts* are
A. detailed but indifferent. **B.** abstract but expressive. **C.** uncomplicated but meaningful.
- 32a.** Umberto Eco viewed Mafalda as a
A. free-thinking girl challenging the world around her. **B.** cheerful girl pleased with her society. **C.** quiet girl keeping herself out of any kind of trouble.
- 33a.** Charlie Brown lives in a
A. place ruled by aliens. **B.** country ruled by children. **C.** childlike world with no adults.
- 34a.** Quino's decision to end the *Mafalda* strip was due to
A. political issues. **B.** family issues. **C.** health issues.
- 35a.** According to the text, Mafalda came to represent
A. friendship and solidarity. **B.** opposition and resistance. **C.** obedience and loyalty.

ACTIVITY 6

Match descriptions of talents 36a-41a with options A-H. Use each of the options only once. There are two options you do not need.

A.	Technical	B.	Mathematical	C.	Social	D.	Artistic
E.	Musical	F.	Athletic	G.	Crafting	H.	Acting

36a.	Physical ability to perform sports or challenging movements with strength, speed, coordination, or endurance. Those with this talent often excel in competitions, show resilience, and can inspire others through displays of skill or stamina.
37a.	Skill in performing, whether by singing or playing an instrument. People with this talent understand rhythm, pitch, and harmony, and they can express emotions, entertain others, and create pieces that connect with listeners.
38a.	Ability to understand, connect with, and influence other people effectively. Individuals with this talent excel in communication, empathy, teamwork, and leadership, making relationships stronger and guiding groups toward cooperation or common goals.
39a.	The ability to create visually appealing works such as paintings, drawings, or sculptures. People with this talent often have imagination, creativity, and a keen eye for colour, shape, and composition, allowing them to express ideas or emotions visually.
40a.	Skill in understanding numbers, patterns, and problem-solving. People with this talent can quickly analyse complex problems, recognise logical connections, and find solutions efficiently, making them good at puzzles, calculations, or analytical thinking.
41a.	Skill in creating handmade objects, such as jewellery, furniture, or textiles. People with this talent combine precision, creativity, and attention to detail, producing items that are both functional and aesthetically pleasing.

ACTIVITY 7

7.1 Read the following text and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 42a-43a.

- 42a. The main purpose of the text is to show that alien languages
 A. lack any structure. B. resemble human communication. C. are too complex to study.
- 43a. Movie creators make alien languages appear strange through the
 A. use of unfamiliar symbols or sounds. B. mixture of many real languages. C. combination of ancient alphabets.



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Alien languages in movies and fiction

In the movie *Arrival* (2016), a seven-limbed alien species lands on Earth with a language that no human can understand. The aliens – dubbed Heptapods – are kind enough to provide room in their spaceship for language exchanges, but the team charged with translation is baffled. The creatures write in sentences that look like circular smoky inkblots, unlike anything on our planet.



The movie's drama – based on a story by Ted Chiang – rests on the complete strangeness of the Heptapod language, but it's actually not as alien as it could be.

Apart from the sci-fi twist that learning it gives special abilities, the Heptapod language is not very different from ordinary human languages. The symbols are strange and circular, sure, but they still stand for words belonging to familiar grammatical categories like nouns and verbs and can be translated into English. In fact, a major plot element in the movie is the mistranslation of a Heptapod noun meaning 'tool' as 'weapon'.

The situation is similar with several other nonhuman languages in fiction. Consider Klingon from *Star Trek*, now spoken by several Earthlings. Klingon's claim to alienness is that it contains a peculiar set of sounds and an unusual sentence structure. But, like human languages, it still contains nouns and verbs, and the same structural elements, like subject and object. The same is true of other fictional languages like Dothraki (*Game of Thrones*), Na'vi (*Avatar*) and Quenya (*The Lord of the Rings*).

Even outside fiction, imagination is rather limited. The development of constructed languages (called 'conlangs') for fictional and other purposes draws primarily from linguistics. But, as a science, linguistics generally focuses on discovering the general rules governing actual human languages – their sounds, symbols or gestures, their grammar, the elements and structure of their sentences, the meanings of their expressions, etc. And while conlangs may have unique vocabularies or break one or more rules of human languages, the formula for creating one essentially involves adapting familiar elements from how Earthlings communicate.

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7.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 44a-47a.

- 44a.** The aliens in *Arrival* communicate in a script that
 A. appears as round shapes. B. is based on numbers. C. consists of straight lines.
- 45a.** Learning the Heptapod language gives
 A. access to advanced weapons. B. abilities beyond the ordinary. C. control over human thoughts.
- 46a.** Languages like Dothraki and Na'vi
 A. follow recognizable grammatical patterns. B. are impossible for humans to pronounce. C. consist of randomly combined letters.
- 47a.** The typical way to make a conlang is by
 A. copying signs from old scripts. B. inventing an entirely new system with no rules. C. modifying features of human speech.

7.3 What do the words in italics mean? Choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 48a-50a.

- 48a.** The aliens – *dubbed* Heptapods – are kind enough to provide room in their spaceship...
 A. winged B. called C. armed
- 49a.** Klingon's claim to alienness is that it contains a *peculiar* set of sounds...
 A. strange B. simple C. familiar
- 50a.** Linguistics generally focuses on discovering the general rules *governing* actual human languages...
 A. ruling B. supervising C. limiting

PART B - SHORT ANSWERS

ACTIVITY 1

Fill in gaps 1b-5b with the correct form of each word in brackets. Use each word only once.

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Anna Renee Todd



Born in 1989, Anna Rennee Todd is the New York Times and #1 internationally bestselling author of the "After" series. Considered by some as the biggest literary phenomenon of her generation, Anna began her literary career on the social storytelling platform Wattpad. Serialized on Wattpad in 2013, she has over 1.5 billion reads on the site. The print edition, published in 2014 by Gallery Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, has over 15 million copies in circulation and has been published in over 30 languages.

Ever since Anna can remember, she dreamed of becoming a writer. Every day, she spent hours writing stories and reading books. Her **(1b)** _____ (imagine) helped her create many interesting characters and places. At school, her teacher gave her a lot of **(2b)** _____ (encourage) and told her parents that Anna had a **(3b)** _____ (create) mind and should keep practicing. Sometimes, Anna felt frustrated when she couldn't find the right words, but she didn't give up. One day, Anna's story was chosen for a school magazine. This **(4b)** _____ (succeed) made her very happy and gave her more confidence. She knew that with **(5b)** _____ (dedicate) and hard work, she could improve even more. Anna understood that writing was not always easy, but she enjoyed the challenge. Her dream was coming closer every day.

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ACTIVITY 2

Think of **ONE** word that fits **BOTH** sentences (6b-10b) in each set. The first letter of the word is given.

6b.	<p>a) A b_____ flew out of a dark cave at night, so as not to be seen by humans...It was to return to the same cave every evening for as long as it lived.</p> <p>b) He hit the baseball with his lucky wooden b_____. He didn't manage to win the game, but he came pretty close.</p>
7b.	<p>a) To plan a t_____ in the Greek mountains, identify your interests, such as hiking and historical sites, and choose a region like Epirus (Vikos Gorge) for its gorges, Crete for challenging treks like the Samaria Gorge, or Meteora for unique monasteries.</p> <p>b) Why do people t_____ over? The most common causes are moving or carrying something incorrectly, rushing around, tiredness, physical ability, lack of mobility or lack of balance.</p>
8b.	<p>a) Should we put our dirty dishes in the s_____? Yes, but leaving them there for an extended period can lead to various issues, including unpleasant odours, the growth of bacteria, and attracting pests.</p> <p>b) To s_____ the boat, for example by overloading it, has a metaphorical meaning too. It's about causing disappointment or a setback to someone's intentions or feelings.</p>
9b.	<p>a) They reached a f_____ agreement after hours of negotiation; that is, it was a mutual arrangement, where terms were reasonable, equitable, and just for all parties involved.</p> <p>b) We had a great time at the f_____ in our town. There was lots of laughter and excitement as people of all ages enjoyed from thrilling rides to colourful stalls selling delicious snacks and handmade crafts. We savoured cotton candy, played carnival games, and took memorable photos together.</p>
10b.	<p>a) She made a really good p_____ during the debate about public education.</p> <p>b) What's the p_____ of shouting at him if he's not going to listen anyway?</p>

**ΣΑΣ ΥΠΕΝΘΥΜΙΖΟΥΜΕ ΟΤΙ ΠΡΕΠΕΙ ΝΑ ΜΕΤΑΦΕΡΕΤΕ ΟΛΕΣ ΤΙΣ ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΕΙΣ ΣΤΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1
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