

# **NATIONAL ENGLISH COMPETITION FOR *AJTP* STUDENTS**



**YOU CAN WORK ON THIS TEST PAPER,  
BUT YOU MUST WRITE ALL YOUR ANSWERS  
ON THE ANSWER SHEET.**

## TEST 1: READING

**TASK 1:** Read the text and insert the correct phrases (A–K). There is **ONE EXTRA PHRASE** that you do not need. Remember to write your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**. (10 points)

### THE POWER OF SMALL INNOVATIONS

Across the world, some of the most transformative inventions have come not from high-tech laboratories but from simple ideas created in resource-limited settings. In rural Kenya, for example, a group of students designed a portable water filter using local materials after witnessing their community struggle with unsafe drinking water. Their motivation was not fame or profit but a desire to help people close to them. **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_, they were surprised when international organizations reached out to congratulate them.

The filter itself was inexpensive and easy to reproduce, yet its impact was potentially enormous. **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_, the students realized that innovation does not need to look futuristic to be effective. Instead, it requires empathy, observation, and a willingness to experiment. Many adults had dismissed their early prototypes as unrealistic, but the students persisted. **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ meant recreating their model several times until it finally worked in real-world conditions.

Their story is not unique. All around the world, young innovators are identifying local challenges and transforming them into opportunities for improvement. **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_, a teenager in Brazil created a drone that maps areas affected by illegal logging. In Nepal, a high-school club developed a solar-powered incubator for rural clinics. Such examples demonstrate that creativity thrives under constraint. **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_, the pressure to solve urgent problems pushes people to think in original ways.

Ultimately, the Kenyan students' invention serves as a reminder that innovation is less about complex technology and more about human intention. **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ are increasingly looking for ideas that combine simplicity with meaningful social impact. When young people begin to see themselves as capable of shaping their surroundings, **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_. Empowering them with resources, mentorship, and encouragement is essential. **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_ determines whether a small idea remains local or grows into a global solution.

In the end, small innovations, rooted in empathy, can shift entire communities toward progress. **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_, they also inspire others to take action. **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_, even the most modest ideas can grow far beyond their original context.

- A. This persistence
- B. Ironically
- C. International investors
- D. As a result
- E. In many cases
- F. Sometimes
- G. What matters most
- H. For instance
- I. their confidence grows
- J. The right support
- K. However complicated they may appear

**TASK 2:** In the following interview about *A Future Built on Collaboration* the questions have been removed. Your task is to write the letters of the questions (A-I) next to the appropriate numbers. There is **ONE EXTRA QUESTION** that you do not need. Remember to write your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**. (8 points)

## A FUTURE BUILT ON COLLABORATION

**Interviewer: (1)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expert:** Modern problems are rarely confined to a single domain. Environmental pressures interact with economic decisions, and technological advances affect social behaviour. When teams combine insight from multiple areas, they gain the breadth required to examine these links in a meaningful way.

**Interviewer: (2)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expert:** One initiative brought together marine researchers and specialists in digital imaging to map coral health over time. Another project involved theatre practitioners and urban planners creating public performances that encouraged citizens to rethink shared spaces.

**Interviewer: (3)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expert:** Younger participants often contribute a kind of conceptual openness. They challenge longstanding assumptions; notice overlooked patterns and bring an instinctive understanding of newly emerging communication styles.

**Interviewer: (4)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expert:** Productive cooperation depends on a group's capacity to integrate a range of working habits. Members must respond constructively to unfamiliar processes, re-evaluate their own routines, and share responsibility for collective outcomes.

**Interviewer: (5)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expert:** Coordination has become increasingly transnational. Experts from different regions are now forming long-term alliances to explore issues like water scarcity or digital rights, where solutions require adaptable strategies that can operate across cultural boundaries.

**Interviewer: (6)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expert:** Obstacles do occur. Some teams struggle because time demands are not equally distributed, while others face unresolved disagreements about priorities. In many cases, inadequate preparation rather than lack of skill undermines progress.

**Interviewer: (7)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expert:** Technology amplifies the reach of collaborative work. Real-time data exchange and shared digital workspaces enable contributors separated by continents to develop prototypes and analyse findings without delay.

**Interviewer: (8)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expert:** Ultimately, collaboration is a mindset. It requires recognising that progress is often built through dialogue rather than independent achievement. Teams that embrace this perspective can respond more creatively to uncertainty.

- A. How do contemporary tools shape the possibilities for joint research and creation?
- B. What kinds of difficulties might hinder the progress of cooperative efforts?
- C. What circumstances prompt the need for contributions from a wide variety of disciplines?
- D. What guiding attitude allows teams to respond productively to ambiguous or shifting conditions?
- E. Can you mention projects in which experts from contrasting fields have generated notable results?
- F. Why do some individuals believe individual achievement is more valuable than cooperation?
- G. How are international collaborations changing the way groups address long-term challenges?
- H. In what way do younger contributors influence collective problem-solving?
- I. What interpersonal capacities help a team function effectively when members use different methods?

**TASK 3: Read the text and decide whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Circle T for TRUE and F for FALSE. CIRCLE all your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (7 points)**

### THE PSYCHOLOGY OF PERSEVERANCE

Psychologists increasingly argue that perseverance is not an inherent personality trait but rather a trainable skill. Research involving thousands of students suggests that persistence often outweighs raw talent when predicting long-term achievement. Interestingly, periods of low motivation do not necessarily interrupt progress; in fact, students who continue working during such phases frequently outperform those who rely solely on brief bursts of enthusiasm. This steady approach helps build discipline, which becomes more reliable than motivation alone.

The development of perseverance involves several cognitive strategies. Setting realistic goals enables students to monitor their advancement more clearly, while breaking large tasks into manageable steps prevents feelings of overwhelm. Another crucial element is adopting a growth mindset: setbacks, when interpreted as information rather than failure, can become valuable learning opportunities. Students who consciously reflect on errors tend to recover more quickly and make better decisions in the future.

Furthermore, perseverance benefits from environmental support. Encouraging feedback from teachers and peers, a structured routine, and a balanced workload can strengthen students' ability to persist. While too much pressure may hinder progress, consistent guidance fosters resilience. Ultimately, perseverance is not simply the ability to keep going; it is the capacity to grow through difficulty and sustain effort even when the path is uncertain.

1	The text suggests that perseverance relies more on learned behaviour than on natural ability.	T / F
2	According to research, moments of low enthusiasm tend to result in an immediate decline in long-term progress.	T / F
3	Dividing demanding tasks into smaller segments can prevent discouragement.	T / F
4	The text claims that setbacks usually reflect a student's fixed level of ability.	T / F
5	Students who analyse their errors benefit from the experience in future situations.	T / F
6	Supportive surroundings can improve a student's capacity to persist.	T / F
7	The author argues that increased pressure is beneficial for strengthening perseverance.	T / F

## TEST 2: USE OF ENGLISH

**TASK 1:** Some words are missing from the text. Your task is to fill in each gap with **ONE WORD**. Don't forget to write all your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**. (10 points)

### THE BUY NOTHING MOVEMENT

Social media, magazines and shop windows bombard people daily **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ things to buy, and British consumers are buying more clothes and shoes than ever before. Online shopping means it is easy for customers to buy without thinking, while major brands offer **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ cheap clothes that they can be treated like disposable items – worn two or three times and then thrown away.

In Britain, the average person spends more **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ £1,000 on new clothes a year, which is around four per cent of their income. That might not sound like **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_, but that figure hides two far more worrying trends for society and for the environment. First, a lot of that consumer spending is **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ credit cards. British people currently owe approximately £670 per adult to credit card companies. That's 66 per cent of the average wardrobe budget. Also, not only are people spending money they don't have, they're using it to buy things they don't need. Britain throws away 300,000 tons of clothing a year, most of which goes into landfill sites.

People might not realise they are part of the disposable clothing problem because they donate their unwanted clothes **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ charities. But charity shops can't sell all those unwanted clothes. 'Fast fashion' goes out of fashion as quickly as it came in and is often too poor quality to recycle; people don't want to buy it second-hand. Huge quantities end **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_ being thrown away, and a lot of clothes that charities can't sell are sent abroad, causing even more economic and environmental problems.

However, a different trend is springing up in opposition to consumerism – the 'buy nothing' trend. The idea originated **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_ Canada in the early 1990s and then moved to the US, where it became a rejection of the overspending and overconsumption of Black Friday and Cyber Monday during Thanksgiving weekend. On Buy Nothing Day people organise various types of protests and cut up their credit cards. Throughout the year, Buy Nothing groups organise the exchange and repair of items they **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_ own.

The trend has now reached influencers on social media who usually share posts of clothing and make-up that they recommend for people to buy. Some YouTube stars now encourage their viewers not to buy anything at all for periods as long as a year. Two friends in Canada spent a year working towards buying only food. For the first three months they learned **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_ to live without buying electrical goods, clothes or things for the house. For the next stage, they gave up services, for example haircuts, eating out at restaurants or buying petrol for their cars. In one year, they'd saved \$55,000.

The changes they made meant two fewer cars on the roads, a reduction in plastic and paper packaging and a positive impact on the environment from all the energy saved. If everyone followed a similar plan, the results would be impressive. But even if you can't manage a full year without going shopping, you can participate in the anti-consumerist movement by refusing to buy things you don't need. Buy Nothing groups send a clear message to companies that people are no longer willing to accept the environmental and human cost of overconsumption.

**TASK 2: Circle the right options. Don't forget to CIRCLE your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (15 points)**

1. If I \_\_\_\_\_ about the meeting, I would have attended it.  
A) know                      B) knew                      C) had known                      D) would know
2. She insisted \_\_\_\_\_ for the tickets.  
A) on paying                      B) to pay                      C) paying                      D) pay
3. By the time we arrived, the train \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) left                      B) has left                      C) was leaving                      D) had already left
4. I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ speak Spanish fluently.  
A) can                      B) could                      C) will                      D) must
5. If it \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow, we will cancel the picnic.  
A) rains                      B) rained                      C) will rain                      D) raining
6. She suggested \_\_\_\_\_ a break before continuing the discussion.  
A) take                      B) to take                      C) taking                      D) taken
7. If they \_\_\_\_\_ earlier, they wouldn't have missed the bus.  
A) left                      B) had left                      C) would leave                      D) leave
8. This is the most interesting book \_\_\_\_\_ I have read this year.  
A) which                      B) who                      C) whom                      D) what
9. He \_\_\_\_\_ at this company since 2020.  
A) works                      B) worked                      C) has been working                      D) working
10. If I \_\_\_\_\_ you, I would accept the offer.  
A) am                      B) was                      C) were                      D) be
11. The project \_\_\_\_\_ by the team next month.  
A) will complete                      B) will be completed                      C) completes                      D) completing
12. The new policy is expected \_\_\_\_\_ really popular among people.  
A) be                      B) to be                      C) will have been                      D) having been
13. She asked me where I \_\_\_\_\_ the previous day.  
A) was                      B) have been                      C) went                      D) had been
14. If you don't \_\_\_\_\_ harder, you won't pass the exam.  
A) study                      B) studied                      C) will study                      D) studying
15. This time tomorrow, we \_\_\_\_\_ to Budapest.  
A) travel                      B) will travel                      C) will be travelling                      D) 'd have travelled

## TEST 3: VOCABULARY

**TASK 1:** Read the text below and match the highlighted words with their definitions (A-L). Don't forget to write all your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (12 points)

### THE CONCRETE JUNGLE AND THE MIND

In the modern era, the rapid increase of urban environments has fundamentally altered the human experience. While cities offer economic opportunities, the sheer **barrage** of sensory input can lead to what psychologists term "urban fatigue." Research suggests that a lack of green space is **detrimental** to mental well-being, as natural settings are essential for cognitive **restoration**.

When residents feel **detached** from nature, they often experience higher levels of cortisol, the body's stress hormone. This phenomenon is further **exacerbated** by the lack of community-focused architecture, which can **foster** feelings of social isolation. To **mitigate** these negative effects, urban planners are now embracing "biophilic design"—the practice of **incorporating** natural elements directly into buildings.

However, the **efficacy** of these initiatives often depends on political will and funding. Critics argue that such improvements are merely **superficial** if the underlying issues of poverty and overcrowding are not addressed. Nevertheless, the **imperative** of incorporating nature into our cities is clear: it is not just a luxury, but a **precondition** for a healthy society.

1	<b>barrage</b>	
2	<b>detrimental</b>	
3	<b>restoration</b>	
4	<b>detached</b>	
5	<b>exacerbate</b>	
6	<b>foster</b>	
7	<b>mitigate</b>	
8	<b>incorporate</b>	
9	<b>efficacy</b>	
10	<b>superficial</b>	
11	<b>imperative</b>	
12	<b>precondition</b>	

- A. disconnected or separated
- B. to make something less harmful, serious, or painful
- C. a thing that is very important and needs immediate attention or action
- D. to encourage something to develop
- E. to include something so that it forms a part of something
- F. the ability to produce the results that are wanted
- G. harmful
- H. something that must happen or exist before something else can exist or be done
- I. appearing to be true, real or important until you look at it more carefully
- J. a large number of something, such as questions or comments, that are directed at somebody very quickly, one after the other, often in an aggressive way
- K. the process of returning something to its correct condition
- L. to make something (e.g. a problem) worse

**TASK 2: Read the text below and fill in the gaps using the words provided in the box. There are TWO EXTRA WORDS that you do not need to use. Remember to write all your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (13 points)**

### THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ALGORITHMS

<b>analyse</b>	<b>beneficial</b>	<b>constructive</b>	<b>drastically</b>	<b>exposed</b>
<b>gradually</b>	<b>ignored</b>	<b>mindfully</b>	<b>reinforce</b>	<b>servants</b>
<b>significant</b>	<b>stream</b>	<b>stricter</b>	<b>tackle</b>	<b>warned</b>

In the modern digital age, the way we consume information has changed **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ . Most of us no longer search for news; instead, it finds us through social media feeds. This process is driven by complex algorithms that **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ our behaviour to predict what we want to see. While this might seem **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ , it often leads to the creation of "echo chambers."

In these digital spaces, users are only **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ to viewpoints that align with their own. This can **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ existing prejudices and make it difficult to engage in **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ debate. Furthermore, the constant **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_ of notifications and "likes" is designed to be addictive, triggering dopamine hits that keep us scrolling for hours.

Psychologists have **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_ that this can have a **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_ impact on the mental health of teenagers, leading to feelings of inadequacy. To **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_ this issue, some experts suggest a "digital detox" or much **(11)** \_\_\_\_\_ regulation of tech companies. Ultimately, we must learn to use these tools **(12)** \_\_\_\_\_ , ensuring that we remain the masters of the technology, rather than its **(13)** \_\_\_\_\_ .