



School of Health Sciences

WRITTEN EXAMINATION

Course: **English: Proficiency**

Sub-course: **Grammar and Written Proficiency**

Course code: **EN247G**

Credits for written examination: **3.0**

Date: **March 15, 2024**

Examination time: **14:15-17:30**

Examination responsible: **Stefan Sönnnerhed**

Teachers concerned

Aid at the exam/appendices: **None**

Other

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Instructions | <input type="checkbox"/> Take a new sheet of paper for each teacher. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Take a new sheet of paper when starting a new question. |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Write only on one side of the paper. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Write your name and personal ID No. on all pages you hand in. |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use page numbering. |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don't use a red pen. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark answered questions with a cross on the cover sheet. |

Grade points (grammar part): **Pass/E 45; D 49; C 53; B 60; A 68 (Maximum: 75)**

Examination results should be made public within 18 working days

Good luck!

Total number of pages **8**

EN247G – EXAM in Grammar and Written proficiency

Name: _____ ID no: _____

This exam consists of two parts: grammar and written proficiency. For the **grammar part**, you answer a number of questions concerning standard grammar in the English language. Please write your answers here in the test form. The maximum score in this part is 75 points with 45 points required for a passing grade (E). Note that all given answers must be clearly written. When in doubt—in terms of the clarity of the answer—no point(s) will be awarded.

For the **written proficiency** part—where you write an essay on one out of three topics—your grade will be based on correctness, vocabulary, and style. Paragraphing and sentence structure are also included here.

You have to pass both the grammar and the proficiency part at the same exam. The results of the two parts will be brought together into an overall result according to the ECTS grading scale (A–F). When the grade difference between the two parts is one or three steps, the grammar part will be regarded as more important.

Stefan

Your score: _____ points (grammar part)

GRAMMAR		PROFICIENCY		OVERALL	
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GRAMMAR

A. Language register

1. What kind of language register is usually used for: (3 points)

- a) Articles _____
- b) Phone texts (to friends) _____
- c) Letters of complaint _____

B. Sentences and clauses

2. Identify the five different clause elements in this sentence by writing the names of the clause elements and the parts of the sentence they consist of on the blank lines. (5 points)

Last Christmas, I gave you my heart.

3. What kind of sentence problem is there in the sentence below: run-on sentence, comma splice, sentence fragment? Rewrite the sentence in the correct form by changing the phrase, removing one or more words, or adding a part. (3 points)

Because it's so much fun to visit Euro Disney with all the different attractions.

C. Punctuation and capital letters

4. Which punctuation mark should you use in the following cases? Write the name of the punctuation mark on the blank lines. (4 points)

- a) After a salutation when using a person's first name (Dear Sara_)

- b) After an exclamation (Watch out_)

- c) To complete a statement (Guess we better go home now_)

- d) To indicate irony (Zero points; that's a _great_ result!)

5. "Job" and "work" basically mean the same thing when talking about having some kind of employment. But the words are grammatically different. Explain how. (3 points)

D. Nouns and articles

6. Are the words below (usually) countable or uncountable nouns? Write C for countable and U for uncountable. (6 points) *IMPORTANT NOTE: For this question, incorrect answers will result in minus points whereas no answer (a blank line) results in 0 points.*

a) advice	_____	d) sheep	_____
b) idea	_____	e) suggestion	_____
c) jewelry	_____	f) turtle	_____

7. What are the plural forms of the following singular nouns? (6 points)

a) aircraft	_____
b) Burmese ¹	_____
c) cactus	_____
d) reindeer	_____
e) species	_____
f) woman	_____

¹ "Burmese" here refers to the people—not the language.

8. Some nouns can be both uncountable and countable. One such noun is "cheese." In what kind of context/situation can "cheese" be countable? (2 points)

9. Article or no article. Choose between **a / an / the / -** (= no article) and insert that article (or "-" if no article should be used) on the blank lines. (6 points)

- a) George Constanza likes to read _____ *New York Times*. (=A newspaper in the US)
- b) He stayed at _____ Sokos Presidentti when he visited Finland. (=A hotel in Helsinki)
- c) She regards _____ art as her greatest passion.
- d) She's _____ young doctor but already very skilled.
- e) We'll have a coffee break for _____ hour—then we'll start working!
- f) We went to _____ Central Park when we were in New York.

E. Adjectives and adverbs

10. Compare the following adjectives and adverbs: the positive—the comparative—the superlative. If an adjective/adverb for logical reasons can't be compared, just write "can't compare." (5 points)

- a) fun _____
- b) generously _____
- c) pregnant _____
- d) special _____
- e) sung _____

F. Pronouns, numbers, conjunctions, and prepositions

11. Why could it be confusing to write a date like March 8 / 8 March in numerals only? (2 points)

12. Should the numbers in the phrases below (in standard writing) be spelled out or written as numerals? Choose one of the two alternatives (in bold type) on either side of the slash symbol by circling or underlining the right alternative. (4 points) *IMPORTANT NOTE: For this question, incorrect answers will result in minus points whereas no answer results in 0 points.*

- a) 1,015 / **One thousand fifteen** bikes were sold in Kyoto last month.
- b) Around 9 / **nine** % of all Americans are millionaires.
- c) He found two cat toys and 23 / **twenty-three** pens under the couch.
- d) She has 6 / **six** chapters left of the book to read.

13. Fill out the blanks with the correct prepositions. (4 points)

- a) Congrats, Kalush Orchestra, _____ winning the Eurovision Song Contest 2022.
- b) I last saw her _____ 2022.
- c) She moved to Sweden almost three years _____.
- d) There's a lizard _____ the ceiling.

G. Verbs

14. Which verb form ("is" or "are") is correct in the following phrase: *The commercial success of these programs is / are the driving force behind a sharp rise in dolphin captures from the wild?* And why is it relatively easy to make a mistake here also for an educated native speaker of English? (3 points)

15. Give the simple past and the present perfect form of the following verbs (two words on each line). (5 points)

- a) catch _____
- b) feed _____
- c) learn _____
- d) ride _____
- e) wear _____

16. Choose the correct verb complement (=the second verb) in the verb phrases below. (6 points)
IMPORTANT NOTE: For this question, incorrect answers will result in minus points whereas no answer results in 0 points.

- a) He decided **to buy / buying** a new bike since the old one got stolen.
- b) Juliet wanted **to marry / marrying** Romeo—but sadly their marriage was too short.
- c) She doesn't mind **to spend / spending** money on cool, second-hand clothes.
- d) They practiced **to play / playing** piano quite a lot last week.
- e) We mustn't forget **to buy / buying** eggs since it's soon Easter.
- f) Well, time flies by. But I'm looking forward **to see / to seeing** many of you in Period 2.

Subject-verb agreement

17. Decide whether the verb phrases should be in the singular or the plural in the sentences below. Underline or circle the correct form of the verb—written in bold type in the singular before the slash symbol and the plural after it. (6 points) *IMPORTANT NOTE: For this question, incorrect answers will result in minus points whereas no answer (a blank line) results in 0 points.*

- a) Either a bike or an electric scooter **is** / **are** going to be the mode of transportation.
- b) Finland as well as Sweden **has** / **have** joined NATO after Russia's war on Ukraine.
- c) It's a surprising fact that a number of students **is** / **are** not listed by their last name.
- d) The number of severe cases of COVID-19 **has** / **have** gone down a lot.
- e) The police **is** / **are** coming in a few minutes.
- f) Their homework **has** / **have** to be done in a few days only. English, math, history and more.

H. Tenses

18. "Flowers" by Miley Cyrus became a huge hit. But which is grammatically correct: *Miley Cyrus won an Emmy for the best song in January this year.* or *Miley Cyrus has won an Emmy for the best song in January this year.* Or are both possible? Explain your answer. (2 points)²



² Cyrus released *Endless Summer Vacation* (2023). Its lead single "Flowers" set various records, marked her second US number-one. The song won two Grammy Awards including Record of the Year and the album was nominated for Album of the Year. (Wikipedia)

PROFICIENCY

For the proficiency part, you write an essay of 350–450 words on one of the topics below. State the number of words you have used at the end of your essay.

Make sure your grammar, vocabulary, spelling, use of capital and lowercase letters, and punctuation are as correct as possible. Grading is to a great extent based on correctness. However, it is not solely the number of errors—or lack of errors—that will decide a grade; vocabulary, variation, style, and structure are also important. Furthermore, think about the word limit.

1. America and global culture

A few years ago, *Parasite* won an Oscar for best feature film and did it as the first non-English language motion picture ever. Many movie fans welcomed not only that the prize went to a very good film but also the fact that the English language “monopoly” on this award now was broken. Some Americans, however, expressed disappointment that a non-American movie was awarded this prestigious prize although it in fact is an international award. What do you think of this American dominance in global culture? How can we—if we want to—achieve more cultural diversity in today’s world? Discuss.

2. Gender—toys, hobbies, and jobs

Girls and boys, women and men, have in many cases traditionally in our society been put in a certain role simply (or mostly?) because of gender. This could be what kind of toys we play with, what kind of sports we do, what kind of games we like—and what kind of jobs we have or household chores we do. Do you think that these differences between the two genders reflect natural differences between us as males and females, or are they merely a result of structures in society? What are your own experiences of gender roles from your childhood and today as an adult? Would you like to challenge any gender roles? Discuss.

3. School—learning and grading

What and how we learn in school has varied over the years. And it also varies from one culture to another. Sometimes learning facts by heart, sometimes learning how to find the answer in different kinds of texts or other media, sometimes learning (or practicing) how to express our views. There’s also the difference between answering short questions in an exam or writing long answers—maybe even of a more analytical kind. Furthermore, we have both individual and group work as well as written and oral tests. What way of learning do you consider being the best—at least in most cases? And what kind of grading is most fair and correct? Discuss.

Good luck ☺

Stefan