



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: **December 6, 2024**

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

Examination responsible: **Stefan Sönnnerhed**

Teachers concerned

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

Other

- Instructions
- ☐ Take a new sheet of paper for each teacher.
 - ☐ Take a new sheet of paper when starting a new question.
 - ☒ Write only on one side of the paper.
 - ☐ Write your name and personal ID No. on all pages you hand in.
 - ☒ Use page numbering.
 - ☒ Don't use a red pen.
 - ☐ 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 in 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) Business letters _____
- b) Official speeches _____
- c) Professional emails _____

B. Sentences and clauses

2. Identify the four 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. (4 points)

She sold her bike the day before yesterday.

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

Because exams are often too difficult.

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 complete sentence (They have already left_) _____
- b) After an indirect question (He asked if we were on our way_) _____
- c) To introduce a list (We'll buy_ apples, bananas, cherries, and dates) _____
- d) To indicate a range (It happened during the years 1939_1945) _____

5. What's the grammatical difference between "Adam's and Eve's children" and "Adam and Eve's children"? (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) jewelry	_____
b) goat	_____	e) pumpkin pie	_____
c) homework	_____	f) sheep	_____

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

a) aircraft	_____
b) coconut	_____
c) goose	_____
d) Japanese ¹	_____
e) species	_____
f) woman	_____

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

8. The noun "fish" has two different plural forms: "fish" and "fishes." What's the difference in meaning between the two? Explain. (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) Maria has a great interest in _____ nature.
- b) She's _____ great singer.
- c) The building is very close to _____ Central Park in New York.
- d) What _____ honor to see you here.
- e) When he was in Istanbul, he stayed at _____ Bosphorus Palace. (=A hotel in Istanbul)
- f) Why didn't we get our copy of _____ Los Angeles Times today? (=A newspaper in the US)

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) bravely _____
- b) dangerous _____
- c) dead _____
- d) narrow _____
- e) read _____

F. Pronouns, numbers, conjunctions, and prepositions

11. Is it correct to say both "he's taller than I am" and "he's taller than me"? What's the difference between the two? (3 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) 1,200,000 / **One million two hundred thousand** people live in Bricktown. (A made-up name)
- b) Around **3** / **three** % of all people are color-blind.
- c) He has three cars and **26** / **twenty-six** old bicycles.
- d) They have **11** / **eleven** neighbors.

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

- a) Congrats _____ your graduation.
- b) It was late _____ the afternoon.
- c) There's a post office _____ Letter Street.
- d) They moved here ten years _____.

G. Verbs

14. Which verb form ("is" or "are") is correct in the following phrase: *My bag of hamburgers is/are gone?*
Explain your answer. (3 points)

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

- a) bring _____
b) hang¹ _____
c) gain _____
d) swim _____
e) teach _____

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) Belgium hopes **to be** / **being** the new main tourist destination in Europe.
b) George quit **to gamble** / **gambling** after he lost lots of money on poker.
c) He helped **to wash** / **wash** / **washing** the car yesterday.
d) He stopped **to pick** / **picking** the pen he dropped.
e) They stopped **to smoke** / **smoking** last year. Smart!
f) We're looking forward **to see** / **to seeing** you again.

¹ "hang" here in the sense hanging an object on the wall or from the ceiling (and similar examples)

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) A number of incidents **is** / **are** the result of poor preparations.
- b) Either our cats or the dog **has** / **have** eaten the meatballs. (Use the proximity rule)
- c) The president as well as the prime minister **is** / **are** coming to the press conference.
- d) The number of people riding a bike to work **has** / **have** gone up in the past year.
- e) The police **is** / **are** at the crime scene right now.
- f) The total price of the company's new laptops **was** / **were** \$316,000.

H. Tenses

18. Which is correct: "Abraham Lincoln has been assassinated in the American Civil War" or "Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in the American Civil War"?³ Or are both possible? Explain your answer. (2 points)

³ The American Civil War (April 12, 1861 – May 26, 1865; also known by other names) was a civil war in the United States between the Union[e] ("the North") and the Confederacy ("the South"), which was formed in 1861 by states that had seceded from the Union. (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. Eating habits and our bodies

We are becoming taller and taller and also becoming physically grown-up at an earlier age than ever before. Our hands and our feet are getting bigger. At the same time, we eat fast food, easy-to-cook microwaved food, and sometimes skip meals altogether. Are our eating habits of today examples of progress—proved by the growth of our bodies—or not? Is there a danger that we will forget how to cook nutritious food by ourselves or are we in a better position food-wise than our grandparents? Discuss.

2. Gender and toys

Starting from an early age, many children get some toys that supposedly are either for girls or for boys (of course many toys are played with by both boys and girls). You're most certainly more likely to find miniature cars in a boy's room and dolls in a girl's room. But what is the reason for that and is it really relevant and reasonable that children play with certain toys based on their gender? What kind of toys did you have as a child and what kind would you like to give your future children? Discuss.

3. The truth

Probably all of us were brought up with the notion that we should always tell the truth and that lying is a bad thing. At the same time, there are moments in life when we tend to twist the truth a bit in order to accomplish something or avoid being blamed—or for any other reason. Discuss your views of always telling the truth vs. "adjusting" the truth a bit when there might be a reason for that. You may very well give examples, but you should focus on the moral aspect here.

Good luck ☺

Stefan