



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: **October 23, 2023**

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—you will be graded for correctness, vocabulary, and style. Note that paragraphing and sentence structure are 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) business letters _____
- b) diaries _____
- c) technical writing _____

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)

After many years, she could visit her relatives. She was happy.

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)

She usually prefers coffee, she's buying a cup now.

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 in formal American English (Dear Ms. X_) _____
- b) After an exclamation (Ouch, I burned myself_) _____
- c) After an indirect question (They asked if we could come_) _____
- d) To indicate a range (Study pages 9_15 for Friday) _____

5. What is "singular they" and why does it exist even if it goes against logic that "they" refers to more than one individual? What's the reflexive pronoun of "singular they"? (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) homework	_____	e) task	_____
c) gold ring	_____	f) umbrella	_____

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

a) aircraft	_____
b) criterion	_____
c) diagnosis	_____
d) Taiwanese	_____
e) louse	_____
f) woman	_____

8. Some nouns can be both uncountable and countable. One such noun is "coffee." In what kind of context/situation can "coffee" 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) He always says that _____ music is his greatest passion.
- b) He booked a single room at _____ Hestia. (=A hotel in Riga, Latvia)
- c) I often read _____ *Washington Post* which is my favorite newspaper.
- d) It's really _____ honor to meet you!
- e) She's _____ doctor at the biggest hospital in the region.
- f) The women's team from _____ Republic of Korea won against Germany.

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) happy _____
- b) nicely _____
- c) pregnant _____
- d) relevant _____
- e) sold _____

F. Pronouns, numbers, conjunctions, and prepositions

11. What's the difference between: "She's a pretty cool girl" and "She's a pretty, cool girl"? (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) **814** / **Eight hundred fourteen** people signed the petition.
- b) Around **12** / **twelve** % of all Americans live in California.
- c) The thief stole 23 phones and **3** / **three** laptops.
- d) There are **2** / **cities** in Spain with more than one million people.

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

- a) Congrats _____ being nominated for best goalkeeper.
- b) It's hard to imagine life without the internet _____ the 21st century.
- c) She lives _____ 12 Parkside Road.
- d) There's a fly _____ the ceiling.

G. Verbs

14. Why is it possible to say both "Spain was better than Sweden" and "Spain were better than Sweden" when referring to the semifinal in last summer's World Cup? Where (which kind of English) are people more likely to say "was" than "were"? (3 points)

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

- a) break _____
- b) draw _____
- c) fight _____
- d) rise _____
- e) win _____

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) Everyone hopes **to become** / **becoming** rich.
- b) He admitted **to take** / **taking** steroids in the Olympics.
- c) He stopped **to buy** / **buying** candy after his visit to the dentist.
- d) I must remember **to put** / **putting** my passport in my bag before I leave.
- e) She'll practice **to write** / **writing** in cursive.
- f) Thanks for the course! And I'm looking forward **to meet** / **to meeting** you again soon.

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 students **is** / **are** waiting for their new access cards.
- b) Her mom or her sister **is** / **are** going to prepare coffee for their guests.
- c) South Korea as well as China **celebrates** / **celebrate** the Lunar New Year.
- d) This year, the number of people attending the conference **is** / **are** higher than it used to be.
- e) The Berlin police **has** / **have** found lots of evidence.
- f) The furniture at home **needs** / **need** to be replaced.

H. Tenses

18. Which is grammatically correct: *Whitney Houston has recorded many popular songs* or *Whitney Houston recorded many popular songs*? Or are both possible? Explain your answer. (2 points)¹



¹ Whitney Elizabeth Houston (August 9, 1963 – February 11, 2012) was an American singer and actress. Nicknamed "the Voice", she is one of the best-selling music artists of all time, with over 220 million records sold worldwide. Whitney Houston died in February 2012. (From *Wikipedia* but slightly modified here).

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.

1. 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. 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.

2. Grades in higher education

For many students, getting good grades in junior high school and, especially, high school is a way of maximizing their chances to continue studying what they're most interested in. However, once you're accepted at the university course or program you applied for, it's often more about passing courses than getting good grades. At the same time, high grades show great knowledge and/or hard work to get there and maybe a strong personal character. Do you think grades at higher education should be more important than they often are—or maybe even less important when passing courses is enough? Discuss.

3. Online anonymity

With social media on many different devices, comments of various kinds are only a click with the thumb away. Generally it's positive but also too often negative—even hostile and threatening. What can we do? More laws and regulations? On the one hand, we don't want the government to be able to track us online. On the other hand, we want to be safe. How do you think we best can protect people who are or may become victims of online harassment and hatred—celebs and ordinary people? How can we enforce those age limits that in fact exist? How can social media companies play a more active role? Discuss.

Good luck ☺

Stefan