

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, JAMAICA
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
THE LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH CENTRE
ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST – JULY 4 2024

PAPER TWO

Time Allowed: 1 hour

SECTION 1: READING COMPREHENSION

Time Allowed: 45 mins

Instruction: Read the three prompts carefully and answer all the questions. For each question, shade in the bubble representing the letter selected.

PASSAGE 1

Can Scientist ‘solve’ Stress?

Adapted from Yudhijit Bhattacharjee (2024, May 14)

From: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/premium/article/scientists-stress-research-health>

1. Over the last five decades, scientists have established beyond doubt that persistent stress really can poison our overall health. In addition to increasing the risk of cardiovascular disease, stress plays a role in obesity and diabetes and can weaken the immune system, leaving us more vulnerable to infectious diseases.
2. You can recover swiftly from an episode of acute stress—for example, the alarm one might feel when caught unprepared for a presentation. Chronic stress, on the other hand, is more toxic as it is an unrelenting circumstance that offers little chance for a return to normalcy. Financial strain, having a bully for a boss, and social isolation are all examples.t will
3. So far, one of the major realizations among scientists is that stress harms all of us in different and powerful ways. But is there any way to avoid it—or at least recover more quickly? Some promising avenues of research offer hope for the future. Groundbreaking studies in orphans showed how stress in early life can leave an **indelible** mark on the brain.
4. “Chronic stress in early life has more serious and lasting effects, because that’s when a lot of connections are being laid down in the brain,” says Aniko Korosi, a researcher at the University of Amsterdam who has been conducting experiments on mice to elucidate that link between early-life stress and brain development.
5. Korosi may have found a surprising link between stress and the resulting nutrient composition in the brain. She and her colleagues noticed that mouse pups that had been exposed to stress in the first week of their lives—having been moved from their mother’s care to a cage—had lower levels of certain fatty acids and amino acids in their brains compared with pups being raised in a stress-free environment.
6. She wondered if it was possible to normalize a stressed pup’s development by feeding it a diet rich in the specific nutrients its brain would be lacking. To find out, the researchers first fed a supplemented diet to the mothers so it would pass through their milk, then continued to provide it in the pups’ feed for two weeks after they were weaned. A few months later, the

researchers tested the now adult mice in learning and memory. Unlike stressed mice that had never received an enriched diet, these mice did not display cognitive impairments.

7. “I was surprised that changing the nutrition could have such a powerful effect, because it’s such an easy intervention,” Korosi says. If further studies provide more evidence of the nutritional pathway, she says, there would be a strong basis for supplementing the diets of infants born to mothers living in stressful conditions.

Questions

1. Which of the following best explains the difference between chronic and acute stress?
 - a. Acute stress allows for a return to normal activities while with chronic stress this is rare.
 - b. Chronic stress is more preventable than acute stress.
 - c. Chronic stress is always more severe than acute stress.
 - d. Acute stress only occurs in a few isolated situations while chronic stress happens frequently.
2. Choose the option which is closest in meaning to the word **indelible** as used in paragraph 3.
 - a. unforgettable
 - b. permanent
 - c. temporary
 - d. bulging
3. Which of the following is **NOT** true of chronic stress?
 - a. Chronic stress can result in multiple lifestyle diseases.
 - b. Chronic stress can lead to a compromised immune system.
 - c. Chronic stress has a lengthy recovery time.
 - d. Chronic stress barely affects the brain.
4. What is the **main** finding that came out Korosi’s research?
 - a. Being stressed at an early age results in no brain development.
 - b. Mouse pups experience stress when taken from their mothers.
 - c. Stressed mice responded positively to an enhanced diet.
 - d. Stress appears to alter the nutrient composition of the brain.
5. How did Korosi address the issues she found with the stressed mice pups?
 - a. They were placed in a less stressful environment.
 - b. They were fed pure milk directly from their mothers.
 - c. They were fed a diet rich in specific nutrients.
 - d. They were weaned from their mothers.

PASSAGE 2

Jamaica must embrace a future where AI takes on teaching roles

From: <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/letters/20240511/jamaica-must-embrace-future-where-ai-takes-teaching-roles>

The Editor, Madam:

1. In the vibrant world of the Caribbean economy, the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) emerges as a **game-changer**, poised to transform industries, and redefine how we work. This potential shines bright with recent breakthroughs in AI-powered antibiotics, vital in the fight against antibiotic resistance (Duboust, 2023; MIT News, 2023; Hsu, 2023).

2. Yet, amid the excitement of innovation and competitiveness, concerns loom over the spike in academic cheating made easier by readily available AI platforms online. Tiou Clarke sheds light on the growing trend of students relying on AI tools for their assignments, posing a challenge to the integrity of education (Clarke, 2024). It underscores the importance for educational institutions to grapple with the ethical implications of AI and protect academic honesty.
3. Educators are harnessing AI to streamline teaching and elevate educational standards. Kenloy Smith highlights AI's role in tasks such as lesson planning, reshaping the role of teachers. This integration signals a shift in teaching methods and the need for educators to embrace technological advancements.
4. In this era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, proficiency in AI becomes vital for thriving in the changing job landscape (Campbell, 2024). This workforce demands not only traditional skills, but also collaboration and innovation with AI systems. As Professor Anthony Clayton anticipates, AI will revolutionize industries and the way we work. Moreover, highly intelligent AI systems may reshape industries and societal structures.
5. Yet, the rise of these super-intelligent AI systems poses a challenge for Jamaican students, potentially leaving them ill-equipped for future job markets. Professor Clayton warns of AI disrupting traditional job roles and displacing workers. Thus, integrating AI into education becomes essential.
6. To tackle this, the education ministry must explore the benefits of AI in educational settings. Minister Fayval Williams stresses the importance of leveraging AI for personalized learning and educational excellence. Rather than punishing AI use, institutions should embrace it and prioritize AI literacy.
7. The integration of AI into the Caribbean economy requires proactive steps to address academic dishonesty, prepare for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and maximize AI's potential in education. Jamaica can position itself for success by embracing AI integration and prioritizing AI literacy.
8. AI presents both opportunities and challenges for the Caribbean economy. As established companies and start-ups adopt AI, proficiency becomes crucial for students and educators. This trend hints at a future where AI may take on traditional teaching roles, highlighting the urgent need for AI skills and education.

L. H. DEER

QUESTIONS

6. The term '*game changer*', as used in para. 1 most likely means that:
 - a. Artificial intelligence will totally change how things are done in the business world.
 - b. Artificial intelligence will result in some minor changes in the business world.

- c. Artificial intelligence will have a significant impact in the business world.
 - d. Artificial intelligence will change the way in which games are played in the business world.
7. According to the passage, what appears to be the main challenge associated with the use of AI in education?
- a. The increased level of competitiveness in the classroom.
 - b. The surge in academic dishonesty made easier by AI technology.
 - c. The use of AI by students to complete all given assignments.
 - d. The burden placed on schools to protect the integrity of their assessments.
8. How, according to the passage, is AI reshaping the role of teachers?
- a. AI is poised to take on all teaching roles in the classrooms.
 - b. Students will opt for the AI online platforms rather than traditional teaching.
 - c. Teachers can now generate all teaching materials using AI technology.
 - d. AI is helping teachers to make their job more efficient and effective.
9. What do both Professor Clayton and Minister Williams agree on in terms of AI use in education?
- a. Students will be unprepared for the job market in the coming years.
 - b. Students should be penalized for using AI technology.
 - c. AI technology should only be used for personalized learning.
 - d. AI technology should be accepted and incorporated into the education system.
10. Owing to AI technology, workers in the future may:
- (i) face disruption of traditional job roles and dislocation
 - (ii) see increased workload and job security
 - (iii) be forced to work with new AI systems and technologies
 - (iv) see no significant changes to their job description
- a. i and iii only
 - b. ii and iv only
 - c. i only
 - d. iii and ii only

PASSAGE 3

 <h2 style="color: yellow;">St. Lucia</h2> <p style="color: yellow;">St. Lucia is a beautiful island paradise with beaches, coastal peaks, and magnificent rainforests. Many outdoor activities can be done on the island, such as scuba diving, snorkeling, hiking, golf, sailing, and much more. The island has a rich culture and history. Come to St. Lucia, for an exotic and amazing adventure.</p>	 <h2 style="color: yellow;">Barbados</h2> <p style="color: yellow;">Barbados has it all, no matter what your style. Besides beautiful white sand beaches, Barbados has limestone hills, botanic gardens, historical sites, and lush scenery. For those looking for action, the island has surfing, hiking, diving, and much more. Find calypso rhythms and the island vibe in Barbados.</p>	
<h2 style="color: yellow;">Jamaica</h2> <p style="color: yellow;">Jamaica has an amazing landscape, relaxing beaches, and a unique culture. The island has luxury resorts and hotels, great shopping, and delicious cuisine. You'll find natural wonders of miles of uninterrupted beaches, rugged terrain, and waterfalls. A wide array of outdoor activities can be done here. Unwind and dance to the reggae beat in Jamaica.</p> <p style="color: yellow;">Jamaica Vacation Packages: 3 nights for 2 includes airfare, hotel, and car rental- \$1,500 5 nights for 2 includes airfare, hotel, and car rental- \$1,950 7 nights for 2 includes airfare, hotel, and car rental- \$2,500 More options available</p>	<p style="color: white;">St. Lucia Vacation Packages: 3 nights for 2 includes airfare, hotel, and car rental- \$2,000 5 nights for 2 includes airfare, hotel, and car rental- \$2,600 7 nights for 2 includes airfare, hotel, and car rental- \$3,000 More options available</p> 	<p style="color: yellow;">Barbados Vacation Packages: 3 nights for 2 includes airfare, hotel, and car rental- \$1,600 5 nights for 2 includes airfare, hotel, and car rental- \$2,300 7 nights for 2 includes airfare, hotel, and car rental- \$2,950 More options available</p>

Curacao
 Curacao is a combination of cold world European charm and a Caribbean island paradise. Well known for brightly colored mansions and houses, Curacao also has world class spas, resorts, and hotels, interesting museums, tranquil beaches, and lovely boutiques. The island has fun festivals and sporting outdoor attractions. Have a truly unique travel experience in Curacao.

Curacao Vacation Packages:
 3 nights for 2 includes airfare, hotel, and car rental- **\$1,265**
 5 nights for 2 includes airfare, hotel, and car rental- **\$1,850**
 7 nights for 2 includes airfare, hotel, and car rental- **\$2,455**
More options available

Your Island Paradise Awaits

Getaways Travel
 16067 Bluemound Rd.
 Brookfield, WI 53005
 Phone: 1-800-555-5656
 Hours: 8am-8pm Mon-Sat
 E-mail: info@getawaystravel.com
www.getawaystravel.com

Caribbean Island Vacations

Getaways Travel

11. Which of the vacation packages would be best for a couple on a budget?
- Barbados
 - Curacao
 - St Lucia
 - Jamaica
12. Choose the option which best explains ‘...*miles of uninterrupted beaches*’ as stated in the Jamaica package.
- A long stretch of beach that tourists can use without being interrupted by music or vendors.
 - A long stretch of pure coastline where tourists can enjoy beaches devoid of barriers or obstacles.
 - A stretch of beach where tourists can enjoy running for miles in the sand.
 - A long stretch of coastline that ends with several beaches.
13. Based on the information given, which two vacation packages seem ideal for a couple who like water sports
- Barbados and Curacao
 - Jamaica and St Lucia
 - St Lucia and Barbados
 - Curacao and Jamaica
14. Which island offers more than a Caribbean experience?
- Curacao
 - Barbados
 - Jamaica
 - St Lucia
15. Which Island vacation package suggests that they cater for everyone?
- Jamaica
 - Curacao
 - St Lucia
 - Barbados

SECTION 2: Grammar

Time Allowed: 15 mins

Instructions:

Read the following cloze passages, then select the correct responses from the options provided by shading the bubble representing the letter selected..

Cloze Reading Test 1

Modern life ____16____ demands on the human mind that no other period of history has made. ____17____ society becomes more and more complex, the mind has developed some defence ____18____. Confronted with inventions like the internet, television and the shopping centre, the mind will slip-all by itself- into an ____19____ state. Take the internet, for example, some people begin to think of the online world and online friends as more real than the people in ____20____ own homes.

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 16. a. makes | b. made | c. have made | d. been made |
| 17. a. Has | b. When | c. As | d. Because |
| 18. a. meckanism | b. mechannism | c. mechanizm | d. mechanisms |
| 19. a. alterated | b. altered | c. altared | d. alterred |
| 20. a. their | b. they're | c. thier | d. there |

Cloze Reading Test 2

Political science is the academic field that takes as its ____21____ and general task the analysis of politics, especially the politics of the state. There ____22____ continuing debate over how 'scientific' political science should be. Some political scientists think that politics is so complex and ____23____ such basic personal values that we should not try to pin it down to exact ____24____. They also ____25____ we should interpret each political event and idea in a personal and subjective way.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 21. a. soul | b. soule | c. sole | d. soal |
| 22. a. has been | b. have been | c. has being | d. have being |
| 23. a. involve | b. involved | c. involving | d. involves |
| 24. a. regularities | b. regularities | c. regularrities | d. regularites |
| 25. a. beleive | b. believe | c. belief | d. belive |