

**UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, JAMAICA  
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
THE LANGUAGE, TEACHING AND RESEARCH CENTRE  
PROFICIENCY TEST IN ENGLISH 2023**

**PAPER TWO**

**Time Allowed: 1:30 mins**

**SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION**

**Recommended Time: 1 hr**

**Instruction:** Read the three prompts carefully and answer **ALL** questions. For each question, shade in the bubble **ON THE BLUE SIDE** of the computerized sheet representing the letter selected.

**Passage 1**

**Volunteering May Boost Kids' Well-Being, Study Says**

Adapted from: Jamie Ducharme, *The New York Times* May 30, 2023

1. Kids and teenagers who volunteer may be helping not only their communities, but also themselves, according to research published May 30, 2023 in *JAMA Network Open*. Volunteering through school, a religious organization or a community group is associated with better overall health and wellness among children and adolescents, the researchers found.
2. Compared to kids who hadn't participated in community service in the past year, those who had were 34% more likely to be in excellent or very good health, 66% more likely to be considered "**flourishing**", and 35% less likely to have behavioural problems. Kids ages 12 and older who volunteered were also roughly 25% less likely to have anxiety than peers who did not.
3. Those findings come from survey data provided by the parents of more than 50,000 U.S. kids ages 6-17, about half of whom reported that their child did some kind of volunteer work. Parents answered questions about their kids' **demographic** characteristics, health, and community service activity. This type of data cannot prove cause and effect, only uncover associations so it is not possible to say for sure that volunteering leads to better mental and physical health.
4. The researchers did, however, account for potentially influential factors like household income and religious affiliation. More than 80% of the included kids were from families living above the poverty line and in metropolitan areas, and about two-thirds were white. About a quarter of parents reported some kind of religious involvement.
5. Despite the new study's limitations, the data come at an important time for youth mental health. **In recent years, rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal behaviour have risen significantly among young people.** Recent data show that more than 40% of high school students felt sad or hopeless in 2021. About 30% of female and 14% of male high schoolers considered suicide that year.

6. Given those statistics, there is a clear need for accessible and effective mental-health resources. Giving back to the community, it seems, may be one such tool- and this study is not the only one to reach that conclusion.

## Questions

1. Which of the following statements **BEST** expresses the main point being made by the writer about kids who volunteer?
  - (a) They help themselves and their communities
  - (b) They have better overall health and wellness
  - (c) They are less likely to be impacted by anxiety
  - (d) They are from families living above the poverty line
2. Identify from the list below, the type of evidence that the writer **MOSTLY** relies on in this extract.
  - (a) Observation
  - (b) Expert sources
  - (c) Statistics
  - (d) Case Studies
3. Flourishing as used by the writer in paragraph 2 suggests that the kids are:?
  - (a) doing fairly well
  - (b) doing exceptionally well
  - (c) successful
  - (d) prosperous
4. The survey data used in the JAMA Network Open study is drawn from which of the following groups?
  - (a) 50,000 US based youth
  - (b) 50,000 youth worldwide
  - (c) 50,000 US parents of youth under 18
  - (d) US youth between 6-17 years of age
5. What caution does the writer present regarding the interpretation of the data?
  - (a) It is not conclusive
  - (b) It can prove cause and effect
  - (c) It can somewhat prove the claim
  - (d) It can uncover some associations

## Prompt 2

Examine the flyer and the information below it, then answer the questions which follow.



Microsoft Word image

## A Slice of Paradise!

So, you thought you had explored all of Jamaica? There is still a little gem that we have tucked away on the rustic northeastern shores of the island, where beauty, serenity, and adventure are all wrapped in one to give you the vacation of a lifetime!

MoMo's Ground and Water, promises an incomparable experience. Spend the day exploring nature on land and water, then at night, dine under the stars on your water or land catch or pick of the day. Our courteous and reliable staff will take your party of 4-8 through an **invigorating** experience.

For a limited time, enjoy our 10% discount. Book now, spaces are filling up quickly!

Location details will be provided on booking. Open June to September. Call 876-555-4971 or visit our website at [www.coolvacay.com](http://www.coolvacay.com)

## Questions

1. According to the information presented, specifically when can one visit the location described?
  - (a) when they book a vacation
  - (b) during the summer months
  - (c) when it is available for visitors
  - (d) during periods of good weather
  
2. What is the name of the company through which bookings can be made for this vacation package?
  - (a) Coolvacay
  - (b) A Slice of Paradise
  - (c) Vacation of a Lifetime
  - (d) MoMo's Ground and Water
  
3. The phrase *A Slice of Paradise* is an example of which figure of speech?
  - (a) metaphor
  - (b) antithesis
  - (c) assonance
  - (d) paradox
  
4. Which word below can **BEST** replace *invigorating* as used in paragraph two?
  - (a) uplifting
  - (b) fascinating
  - (c) enervating
  - (d) exhilarating
  
5. Based on the information presented, which Jamaican parish is the **MOST LIKELY** location of this vacation spot?
  - (a) St. Ann
  - (b) Trelawny
  - (c) Portland
  - (d) St Thomas

## Prompt 3

### Preparing for El Niño

Adapted from the *Gleaner* Editorial Published: May 31, 2023 12:28 a.m.

1. The likelihood of a moderate hurricane season this year is welcome news for the Caribbean. But as experts have warned, that possibility is no reason for the region to let its guard down. The very phenomenon- El Niño conditions- that might contribute to fewer hurricanes could help to fuel more ferocious ones.
2. And as the University of the West Indies' Global Institute for Climate-Smart and Resilient Development (UWI GICSRD) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) warned in their joint statement last week: "...It only takes one hurricane or storm to cause immense economic setbacks to an impacted country, and sometimes the entire region."
3. Furthermore, El Niño is generally associated with drier, hotter conditions, including prolonged drought, such as Jamaica is currently experiencing. That could be worse if this El Niño is **entrenched**. Jamaica's authorities therefore, must simultaneously plan for the mitigation of storm and the impact of drought, while preparing to help vulnerable people cope with the effects of heatwaves.

#### WARMER WATERS

4. The annual Atlantic hurricane season runs from the start of June to the end of November. This year, forecasters [at America's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's \(NOAA\) Climate Prediction Centre](#) expect a "near normal" season. There is a 40 percent chance that events will fall in that range, and a 30 percent possibility that there will be fewer storms than normal. The forecasters also gave a 30 percent chance to things being above normal, with storms exceeding the average number for the season.
5. The major difference this year is the likely return of El Niño, after three years of La Niña when the waters of the Pacific were cooler. El Niño events are often associated with hot, and often very dry spells in the Caribbean. However, a warmer Caribbean Sea may eject more moisture in the air, lending to the conditions for storms, thus adding to the uncertainty about this year's hurricane season.

#### SUPPORT FOR THE VULNERABLE

6. The possibility of heatwaves adds another layer to the preparation to be ready to support at-risk people. This must be placed on the government's agenda. Furthermore, given the prospect of a prolonged drought, we remind the administration of the good sense of mandating water-harvesting capabilities in all new major real estate developments and multi-family complexes. Merely rationing water in dry times is not sufficient.

## Questions

1. What major negative impact of hurricanes is highlighted in the passage?
  - (a) social
  - (b) physical
  - (c) economic
  - (d) population
2. Which of the following words can be substituted for **entrenched** as used in paragraph 3 the passage?
  - (a) firm

- (b) strong
  - (c) confirmed
  - (d) ingrained
3. Based on the information presented in the paragraph 4, what kind of hurricane season is **MOST** likely to be experienced in 2023?
- (a) active
  - (b) normal
  - (c) above normal
  - (d) below normal
4. The information in the extract is **MOST** concerned with which world region?
- (a) Africa
  - (b) The Caribbean
  - (c) North America
  - (d) Western Hemisphere
5. According to the writer, what conditions are favourable for the development of a hurricane?
- (a) Hot and dry
  - (b) Cool waters
  - (c) Warm waters
  - (d) La Niña

**SECTION B GRAMMAR**

Time Allowed: 30 mins

**Instruction:**

Please answer all questions on the red side of the computerized sheet provided. Shade in the space representing the number selected.

**A**

Our medical ancestors sought to heal the mind long before they could treat diseases of the brain. Magicians and priests tended the sick **1**----- suggestion, use of **2** ----- bond, and tincture of time, not by science. This has changed. During the last century and a half, our progress in understanding and treating mental **3**----- has been **4**----- by any standard, drawing importantly upon lessons from the asylum, advances in psychology and the science of the brain, and what had been learned by doctors and nurses who **5** ----- treated shell shock during the First World War.

- |                   |               |               |                |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. 1.by           | 2. with       | 3. through    | 4. after       |
| 2. 1. therapeutic | 2. salutary   | 3. remedial   | 4. curing      |
| 3. 1. ordeal      | 2. suffering  | 3. misfortune | 4. hardship    |
| 4. 1. unusual     | 2. surprising | 3. staggering | 4. remarkable  |
| 5. 1. skillfully  | 2. neatly     | 3. aptly      | 4. ingeniously |

**B**

More than four thousand years ago, Egyptians **6**..... sleep temples that served as sanctuaries for worship and for the relief of suffering. Temple priests and doctors induced trancelike states in their supplicants, interpreted **7**..... dreams and **8**..... the most auspicious paths through life. Music, painting, and walking in nature were prescribed to calm the anxious and console the grieving. Egyptian doctors, and after them the Greeks, **9**..... their **10**..... in addition to healing them. They detailed the symptoms and course of brain fevers, mania, melancholy, and other mental disorders and laid down rudimentary elements of medical psychology and psychiatry.

- |                 |             |              |              |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 6. 1. built     | 2. build    | 3. Had built | 4. builded   |
| 7. 1. their     | 2. them     | 3. they're   | 4. there     |
| 8. 1. advise    | 2. advice   | 3. adviced   | 4. advised   |
| 9. 1. study     | 2. studies  | 3. studied   | 4. studying  |
| 10. 1. patience | 2. patients | 3. pacience  | 4. payshents |

**END OF TEST**