

Schriftliche Aufnahmeprüfung 2024

Moderne Fremdsprache: ENGLISCH

mit Lösungen

Zugelassene Hilfsmittel: keine

Dauer: 120 Minuten

Maximale Punktzahl: 80

Aufgabe	Reading Comprehension	Vocabulary & Use of English			Sentence Transformation		Verb Forms
Maximale Punktzahl	17	14	8	8	9	9	15
Erreichte Punktzahl							
Total erreichte Punktzahl							
Note							

I Reading Passage

Read the passage carefully. You are allowed to take notes. The Comprehensions Questions are based on the Reading Passage. The underlined words are dealt with in the first Vocabulary Task.

Drowning in Money

Tuvalu was the world's third-poorest state until an internet deal made it rich

If you came into a fortune all of a sudden, how would you spend it? And if you knew that your world as you know it was about to disappear, what would you do with the time you had got left? For most of us, these are two theoretical questions with which we entertain ourselves through long hours of procrastination, while stuck on a very long flight, or during an especially boring evening at the pub. But for the people of Tuvalu, a tiny state comprising nine islands in the South Pacific, these are the only two questions that count.

In 1999 Tuvalu, with its population of 11,000, was the third-poorest state in the world. But suddenly salvation was found, and from an extremely unlikely direction. Tuvalu received a domain name on the internet, which was none other than the letters ".tv". A communication company from California was quick to get in touch — buying the domain for the bargain price of \$40m. For the Tuvalans, with an average annual income of about \$1,000, this was a life-changing sum. The islanders became, or at least reacted as if they had become, very rich.

This sudden wealth was accompanied by a firm forecast of doom. The people of Tuvalu became aware of a dark shadow looming over their very existence. Due to global warming, and because the islands are only 3m above sea level, Tuvalu is likely to be the first state in the world to be submerged by rising water levels. According to scientific estimates, the islands will be severely flooded within the next 15-20 years, and by the end of the century, the islands will have disappeared from sight altogether.

Paul Lindsay, a documentary film-maker, took these questions with him all the way to Tuvalu, and came back with a story that seems almost too metaphorical to be true. Defiant in the face of the rising water, the Tuvalans are using the windfall to develop the land that is soon to disappear. Buildings are being raised, nightclubs, restaurants and hotels are being planned and built, newly bought cars are cruising on newly laid roads. The residents do not think it is strange: "Just because we are sinking, it doesn't mean we don't want to raise our standards of living," Lindsay was told by Sam Teo, Tuvalu's minister for natural resources.

Of the \$40m raised by the internet deal, \$10m was used to asphalt the islands' 19km of roads. Before 1999 there were four cars on the islands. The Tuvalans used to walk or cycle everywhere. The minister for natural resources, who was in charge of paving the roads, owns one of the two petrol stations on the main island.

The motor revolution accompanied a wave of other imported foods and goods and soon had

an unexpected consequence. Many Tuvalans, having given up their daily exercise, were introduced to obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes. Others discovered that the maintenance of their vehicles was far beyond their means, and that the luxury itself is hardly necessary in a state that is just 26 sq km. A huge area at the centre of the tropical paradise is now covered with abandoned cars and other rubbish. "I see it and feel disgusted," says the minister.

Other islanders speak of the loss of community spirit. "People used to give you things you needed for free," says Eseta Penatuse. "Now everything is worth money. People are ashamed to ask their neighbours for things."

For a while vast amounts of money were spent in an attempt to raise international awareness of Tuvalu's predicament. Tuvalu joined the UN, at a cost of \$1.5m a year. In diplomatic terms membership is not that expensive, but renting an office in New York is. The delegate to the UN is the prime minister's brother, and the Tuvalan delegation was especially active in promoting the Kyoto protocol to fight global warming.

But soon people in Tuvalu felt that too much money had been spent on diplomacy to no avail. They wanted speedy development, hoping to enjoy the money that comes into the public till. "But all the Tuvalans wanted is what we all want: comfortable houses, cars, good lives," says Lindsay.

All Tuvalans know that they are not likely to die of old age on their islands. What to do otherwise is trickier. Mass immigration to the nearby island of Kioa, populated with expatriates, is out of the question, due to its refusal to absorb any more newcomers. Australia is far from enthusiastic about letting Tuvalans in, and New Zealand agrees to absorb them on the basis of an annual quota. The hope of keeping the tiny nation as one community after the flood is highly unlikely.

After the eight months he spent among the Tuvalans, Lindsay is not sentimental about white sands and turquoise waters. "There are no more paradises. Tuvalu is struggling to keep its sense of social solidarity in the face of progress. Nowadays even paradise comes with a price tag".

(The Guardian Weekly)

II Reading Comprehension

17 points /

Answer the questions referring to the Reading Passage in full sentences. Use your own words as far as possible. Be concise and use the given space, but not more.

- 1. Explain giving **at least two reasons** why the offer made by the Californian firm was at first sight a bargain indeed. (3 points: 2 points for content / 1 point for language)

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- 2. Explain giving **at least two reasons** why Tuvalu joined the UN and what problems this brought it? (4 points: 3 points for content / 1 point for language)

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3. The Tuvalans' reaction to getting the money caused several types of problems for the people and for the land. **Mention at least four problems.** Write complete sentences. **(5 points:** 4 points for content / 1 points for language)

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4. Mention **at least four aspects** of Tuvalu's impending end which make it particularly difficult for the people to cope with? **(5 points:** 4 points for content / 1 point for language)

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III Vocabulary and Use of English (30 points)

A: Synonyms

14 points /

The underlined words come from the Reading Passage. Write down a synonym (i.e. word/short phrase) which expresses the same idea. Choose as few words as possible. Do not use the same word family again. There is an example at the beginning. (14 pts)

0. ...until an internet deal made it rich = **wealthy**
1. If you came into a fortune =
2. ... that your world was about to disappear =
3. ... a tiny state comprising nine islands =
4. ... salvation was found, and from an extremely unlikely direction =
5. Due to global warming =
6. ... the Tuvalans are using the windfall =
7. The residents do not think =
8. The minister, who was in charge of paving the roads =
9. The maintenance ... was far beyond their means =
10. ... too much money had been spent on diplomacy to no avail =
11. What to do otherwise is trickier. =
12. Australia is far from enthusiastic about letting Tuvalans in =
13. New Zealand agrees to absorb them on the basis of an annual quota =
14. Nowadays even paradise comes with a price tag. =

B: Word formation / Word families

8 points /

The following task tests word formation. Fill in the suitable word taking the given word as a starting point. Think about negative / positive meaning, prefixes / suffixes, various word forms of the same word family. There is an example at the beginning.

(8 pt)

Emotional and Physical Health

To a large extent, problems and difficulties are an ~~unavoidable~~ (AVOID) part of everyday life. According to psychologists, however, there is a (TEND) for people in the west to hide negative feelings, such as anger or (SATISFY), rather than express them. Furthermore, studies have shown there to be an (DEPEND) between physical and emotional health. For example, via the (NERVE) system, a person's emotions have a direct effect on heart rate and digestion, and the suppression of strong emotions can have a (DETRIMENT) effect on a person's health. Such findings, however, should not be taken to mean that emotions are best expressed in a totally (CONTROL) manner. On the contrary, the ability to convey feelings in a rational way is widely regarded as evidence of emotional maturity. Thus, the questions people need to ask themselves are: Am I a good (COMMUNICATE)? Is there balance in my relationships with others? Do I show (SENSE) to others' emotions and moods? If the answer to these questions is 'yes', then they are on the right path.

C: Use of English

8 points /

Read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

Underline the word in the offers below the text. There is an example at the beginning.
(8 pt)

MERCHANT@FLORENCE

An Italian academic, Giorgio Stabile, has ... **(0)** to light the fact that the ubiquitous symbol of Internet era communication, the @ sign used in email addresses, is actually a 500-year-old invention of Italian merchants. He claims to have ... **(1)** on the earliest known example of the symbol's use, as an indication of a measure of weight or volume. He said the @ sign ... **(2)** an amphora, a measure of capacity based on the terracotta jars used to transport grain and liquid in the ancient Mediterranean world. The first known ... **(3)** of its use occurred in a letter written by a Florentine merchant on May 4, 1536. The ancient symbol was ... **(4)** in the course of research for a visual history of the 20th century. **(5)** ... , the sign had made its way along trade routes to northern Europe, where it ... **(6)** on its contemporary accountancy meaning: 'at the price of'.

(7) ... to Professor Stabile, the oldest example could be of great value as it could be used for publicity purposes and to ... **(8)** the prestige of the institution that took hold of it.

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|----------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| (0) <u>A brought</u> | B given | C shed | D shown |
| (1) A encountered | B stumbled | C run | D fallen |
| (2) A substituted | B represented | C described | D typified |
| (3) A instance | B occasion | C precedent | D illustration |
| (4) A uncovered | B unwrapped | C unearthed | D unmasked |
| (5) A Outwardly | B Urgently | C Logically | D Apparently |
| (6) A put | B took | C set | D came |
| (7) A Thanks | B Due | C Owing | D According |
| (8) A enhance | B lift | C elevate | D embellish |

IV Sentence Transformation

9 points /

A: Complete the second sentence so that the meaning of the original sentence is kept. There is an example at the beginning. (9 pts)

e.g. These people lost their houses in the flood.

These are the people **who lost their houses in the flood**

1. "Why did you sell your bicycle last week?" asked Lindsay.

Lindsay asked

2. They should really urgently start to think about their future.

It is high time

3. As the sea level rises, more and more houses are flooded.

The higher

4. When the Tuvalans had spent most of the money, they realised how it had changed their lives.

Not until

5. I'm quite sure that Tuvalu was once a paradise.

Tuvalu must

6. Some Tuvalans hired people to build new houses for them.

Some Tuvalans had new houses

7. She tried her hardest but she still could not fight back the water.

However

8. "I demand to speak to someone in authority!"

She insisted

9. It's quite useless to fight the water.

There is no point

B: Rewrite the sentences using the word in brackets. Do not change this word and make sure that the meaning of the original sentence is kept. There is an example at the beginning. (9 pts)

e.g. I tell you: You should use your bicycle more often. (BETTER)

You had better use your bicycle more often.

1. "If we don't accept the money, we will never live in comfortable houses". (UNLESS)

.....

2. The minister said that they could pave their roads". (SUGGESTED)

.....

3. The Tuvalans are building a lot of new buildings. (BEING)

.....

4. I wish they had not accepted the money. (ONLY)

.....

5. Lydia moved to New Zealand in 2020, and she feels at home there. (LIVED / SINCE)

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6. They still find it difficult to be so rich. (NOT USED)

.....

7. A lot of islanders had not driven a car before. (FIRST TIME)

.....

8. I guess you're desperate, but that is no reason to give up hope. (MIGHT)

.....

9. Although it was raining, they went for a walk on the beach. (SPITE)

.....

V Verb Forms

15 points /

Put the verbs in brackets into a suitable form. Decide on: use of tenses; simple, perfect and continuous forms; active and passive forms, gerunds, infinitives, participles, word order. (15 pts)

Travel insurance: Do I really need it?

Regular readers of my column will know that the complications, costs, and pitfalls of insurance are subjects I (regularly / try) ... **regularly try** ... **(0)** to tackle. Often I get follow-up enquiries from readers as a result. But the last article, two weeks ago, (get) **(1)** a very unusual response. It (send in) **(2)** from a reader called Edward and here is what he (write) **(3)**: 'I am in my mid-sixties and (often / travel) **(4)** since my late teens. At present I live in China, and take about 60 to 70 flights a year, both inside the country and abroad. I (never / once / pay) **(5)** for travel insurance. Naturally, I've had mishaps and dozens of cancelled flights. For example in 1968, I (hold up) **(6)** in Amman in transit just after a war (break out) **(7)**. As a consequence, all flights (cancel) **(8)**. I treated it as an unexpected opportunity to visit the city. I've always put such incidents down to experience. Indeed, it is my firm conviction that over time, I (lose) **(9)** far less cash than I would have paid for policies." Obviously, Edward's approach is not for everyone. He is clearly a highly experienced traveller and he apparently enjoys (take) **(10)** risks. But he did make me think again about the whole question of travelling without insurance. And it is important to remember Edward's point that even if you have insurance, you can never be sure it (pay out) **(11)** when you need it. However, for all the limitations on travel insurance cover, where Edward's argument falls down in my eyes is on the question of medical cover. The Foreign Office travel advice pages are explicit in advising us (not, travel) **(12)** without insurance, because of the potentially high cost of hospital treatment, and medical repatriation. On balance, while Edward's approach (sound) **(13)** temptingly refreshing, I (take out) **(14)** insurance if I take my next flight. (stick) **(15)** in a war zone just because I have been miserly, is definitely not an attractive idea of a holiday for me. (*The Telegraph*)

Lösungen

I Reading Passage

Authentic text from *The Guardian Weekly*, abridged, 833 words

II Reading Comprehension (17 points)

Answer the questions referring to the Reading Passage in full sentences. Use your own words as far as possible. Be concise and use the given space, but not more.

1. Explain giving **at least two reasons** why the offer made by the Californian firm was at first sight a bargain indeed. (**3 points**: 2 points for two fully explained reasons / 1 point for correct and varied language)
 - *it is a lot of money (especially for a people like the Tuvalans)*
 - *their chance to catch up with modern life*
 - *they didn't need the domain name then anyway*
 - *it's easy to sell something which you were given before for free*

2. Explain giving **at least two reasons** why Tuvalu joined the UN and what problems this brought it? (**4 points**: 3 points for at least 3 correct and fully explained reasons, 1 pt for correct and varied language)
 - *wanted to make the world aware of their problem*
 - *wanted to promote the Kyoto protocol as they held the global warming responsible for the sinking of the island*
 - *it was very expensive to maintain membership*
 - *frustration about being ignored by world*
 - *spending money of membership lead to discussions and disputes among the islanders*

3. The Tuvalans' reaction to getting the money caused several types of problems for the people and for the land. **Mention at least four problems**. Write complete sentences. (**5 points**: 4 points for meaningful categorisation and suitable examples, 1 point for correct and varied language)
 - *last decades on the island will not be spent in peace and quiet but in unrest and change*
 - *inevitability of the near end*
 - *the end wasn't caused by the people themselves, but by others (global warming)*
 - *uncertainty about when to leave the island (New Zealand's annual quota)*

- *it's a definite end: there will be no place to return to, no place to mourn, it will be completely gone*
- *the whole community will be destroyed as no neighbouring country can or wants to host the whole community*
- *islands will be destroyed by the sea, which has always been the basis of life on the islands*

4. Mention **at least four aspects** of Tuvalu's impending end which make it particularly difficult for the people to cope with? (5 points: 4 points for at least 4 meaningful arguments, 1 point for correct and varied language)

- *last decades on the island will not be spent in peace and quiet but in unrest and change*
- *inevitability of the near end*
- *the end wasn't caused by the people themselves, but by others (global warming)*
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A: Synonyms: *The underlined words come from the Reading Passage. Write down a synonym (i.e. word/short phrase) which expresses the same idea. Choose as few words as possible. Do not use the same word family again. There is an example at the beginning. (14 pts)*

Spelling mistakes: - ½ pt, if word is correct and as such recognizable, at least ½ pt given

0. ...until an internet deal made it rich = **wealthy**
1. If you came into a fortune = got/ were given a lot of money (1), be lucky (1/2)
2. ... that your world was about to disappear =..begins (1/2), in on the verge of, is going to (1)
3. ... a tiny state comprising nine islands = consisting of, made up of (1), including (1/2) containing (0)
4. ... salvation was found, and from an extremely unlikely direction = unexpected, surprising
5. Due to global warming = Because of
6. ... the Tuvalans are using the windfall = unexpectedly given money/ vast amount of money, surprise gift, unexpected present
7. The residents do not think = inhabitants (1), people living there (1/2)
8. The minister, who was in charge of paving = responsible for
9. The maintenance ... was far beyond their means = was too expensive/ not affordable (1)
10. ... too much money had been spent on dipomacy to no avail = without success/use, without a result
11. What to do otherwise is trickier. = more difficult, not so easy
12. Australia is far from enthusiastic about letting Tuvalans in = not keen at all, not happy about, not eager to, not interested in ...ing.
13. New Zealand agrees to absorb them on the basis of an annual quota. = ration, portion, share, percentage, number, quantity
14. Nowadays even paradise comes with a price tag. = costs something

B: Word formation / Word families

The following task tests word formation. Fill in the suitable word taking the given word as a starting point. Think about negative / positive meaning, prefixes / suffixes, various word forms of the same word family. There is an example at the beginning.

(8 pt)

Spelling mistakes: - ½, if word is correctly chosen, at least ½ pt given

Emotional and Physical Health

To a large extent, problems and difficulties are an **unavoidable** (AVOID) part of everyday life. According to psychologists, however, there is a **tendency** (TEND) for people in the west to hide negative feelings, such as anger or **dissatisfaction** (SATISFY), rather than express them. Furthermore, studies have shown there to be an **interdependence** (DEPEND) between physical and emotional health. For example, via the **nervous** (NERVE) system, a person's emotions have a direct effect on heart rate and digestion, and the suppression of strong emotions can have a **detrimental** (DETRIMENT) effect on a person's health. Such findings, however, should not be taken to mean that emotions are best expressed in a totally **uncontrolled** (CONTROL) manner. On the contrary, the ability to convey feelings in a rational way is widely regarded as evidence of emotional maturity. Thus, the questions people need to ask themselves are: Am I a good **communicator** (COMMUNICATE)? Is there balance in my relationships with others? Do I show **sensitivity** (SENSE) to others' emotions and moods? If the answer to these questions is 'yes', then they are on the right path.

C: Use of English

Read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

Underline the word in the offers below the text. There is an example at the beginning.
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MERCHANT@FLORENCE

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(7) ... to Professor Stabile, the oldest example could be of great value as it could be used for publicity purposes and to ... **(8)** the prestige of the institution that took hold of it.

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| (0) <u>A brought</u> | B given | C shed | D shown |
| (1) A encountered | B <u>stumbled</u> | C run | D fallen |
| (2) A substituted | B <u>represented</u> | C described | D typified |
| (3) A <u>instance</u> | B occasion | C precedent | D illustration |
| (4) A <u>uncovered</u> | B unwrapped | C unearthed | D unmasked |
| (5) A Outwardly | B Urgently | C Logically | D <u>Apparently</u> |
| (6) A put | B <u>took</u> | C set | D came |
| (7) A Thanks | B Due | C Owing | D <u>According</u> |
| (8) A <u>enhance</u> | B lift | C elevate | D embellish |

IV Sentence Transformation (20 points)

A: Complete the second sentence so that the meaning of the original sentence is kept. (10 pts)

Spelling mistakes: if concerned with the aspect in question, - ½ pt. Otherwise marked, but not counted.

1. "Why did you sell your bicycle last week?" asked Lindsay.

Lindsay asked why she/he/ I/ we had sold her/ his/ my/ our bicycle the week before/ the previous week.

2. They should really urgently start to think about their future.

It is high time (that) they started to think about their future. / ... that they thought about ...

3. As the sea level rises, more and more houses are flooded.

The higher the sea level rises, the more houses are flooded.

4. When the Tuvalans had spent most of the money, they realised how it had changed their lives.

Not until the Tuvalans had spent most of the money, did they realise how it had changed their lives.

5. I'm quite sure that Tuvalu was once a paradise.

Tuvalu must have been a paradise once..

6. Some Tuvalans hired people to build new houses for them.

Some Tuvalans had new houses built for them.

7. She tried her hardest but she still could not fight back the water.

However hard she tried, she still couldn't fight back the water.

8. "I demand to speak to someone in authority!"

She insisted on speaking to someone in authority.

9. It's quite useless to fight the water.

There is no point (in) fighting the water.

B: Rewrite the sentences using the word in brackets. Do not change this word and make sure that the meaning of the original sentence is kept.

Spelling mistakes: if concerned with the aspect in question, - ½ pt. Otherwise marked, but not counted.

1. "If we don't accept the money, we will never live in comfortable houses". (unless)
Unless we accept the money, we won't ever live in comfortable houses

2. The minister said that they could pave their roads. (suggested)
The minister suggested paving/ (that) they should pave/ (that) they paved the roads.

3. The Tuvalans are building a lot of new buildings. (being)
A lot of new buildings were being built.

4. I wish they had not accepted the money. (only)
If only they had not accepted the money.

5. Lydia moved to New Zealand in 2020, and she feels at home there. (lived/ since)
Lydia has lived / has been living in New Zealand since 2020.

6. They still find it difficult to be so rich. (not used)
They still are not used to being so rich./ They still have not become used to being so rich.

7. A lot of islanders had not driven a car before. (first time)
It was the first time for a lot of islanders to drive a car/ that the islanders had driven a car.

8. I guess you're desperate, but that is no reason to give up hope. (might)
You might be desperate, but that is no reason to give up hope.

9. Although it was raining, they went for a walk on the beach. (spite)
In spite of the rain, I went for a walk on the beach.

V Verb Forms (15 points)

Put the verbs in brackets into a suitable form. Decide on: use of tenses; simple, perfect and continuous forms; active and passive forms, gerunds, infinitives, participles, word order. (15 pts)

Spelling mistakes: - ½ pt, short forms accepted

Travel insurance: Do I really need it?

Regular readers of my column will know that the complications, costs, and pitfalls of insurance are subjects I (regularly / try) ... **regularly try** ... **(0)** to tackle. Often I get follow-up enquiries from readers as a result. But the last article, two weeks ago, (get) **got** **(1)** a very unusual response.

It (send in) **was sent in** **(2)** from a reader called Edward and here is what he (write) **had written** **(3)**: 'I am in my mid-sixties and (often / travel) **have often travelled / been travelling** **(4)** since my late teens. At present I live in China, and take about 60 to 70 flights a year, both inside the country and abroad.

I (never / once / pay) **have never once paid** **(5)** for travel insurance. Naturally, I've had mishaps and dozens of cancelled flights. For example in 1968, I (hold up) **was held up** **(6)** in Amman in transit just after a war (break out) **had broken out** **(7)**. As a consequence, all flights (cancel) **had been cancelled/ were cancelled** **(8)**. I treated it as an unexpected opportunity to visit the city. I've always put such incidents down to experience. Indeed, it is my firm conviction that over time, I (lose) **have lost** **(9)** far less cash than I would have paid for policies."

Obviously, Edward's approach is not for everyone. He is clearly a highly experienced traveller and he apparently enjoys (take) **taking** **(10)** risks. But he did make me think again about the whole question of travelling without insurance. And it is important to remember Edward's point that even if you have insurance, you can never be sure it (pay out) **will pay out** **(11)** when you need it.

However, for all the limitations on travel insurance cover, where Edward's argument falls down in my eyes is on the question of medical cover. The Foreign Office travel advice pages are explicit in advising us (not, travel) **not to travel** **(12)** without insurance, because of the potentially high cost of hospital treatment, and medical repatriation. On balance, while Edward's approach (sound) **sounds** **(13)** temptingly refreshing, I (take out) **will take out** **(14)** insurance if I take my next flight. (stick) **Being stuck/ Getting stuck** **(15)** in a war zone just because I have been miserly, is definitely not an attractive idea of a holiday for me. (*The Telegraph*)