

MODULE E – TEST ONE

PART I: ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS (70 points)

Read the passage below and answer questions 1-5.

THE AUCTION BUG

Do you have a deep-down, inner need to get a good deal? If your answer is yes, it's time to go to an auction! For thousands of years, buyers have streamed to auctions in order to purchase the items they desire at the lowest possible prices.

5 Much publicity is given to the big auction houses dealing in pieces of art worth hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars, but they are actually in the minority. Most auctions contain just about everything imaginable: cars, wines, household appliances, collectibles, jewelry. You name it, it's there, and often at ridiculously low prices.

10 Perhaps that's why so many regular auction goers refer to their buying habits as an "obsession" or "addiction." Who could possibly resist the opportunity to buy a brand-new washing machine and dryer for only \$32.50, or a year-old luxury car for thousands of dollars less than its list price? It's no wonder that most faithful auction attendees have houses bulging with antique furniture, books, stacks of unopened boxes, and lots of odds and ends that no one really needs or
15 wants.

The good news for auction addicts is that nowadays, you no longer have to go anywhere to bid. A computer and Internet connection are all that are necessary to access the literally *millions* of items that are put up for auction each day on online auction sites such as eBay. Thanks to these sites, the distance barrier no
20 longer exists.

On the other hand, the advantages of live auctions are that buyers can inspect items before bidding, and carry them away immediately after paying. Some unfortunate online bidders have to wait months for their purchases to arrive, while others never receive the goods they paid for. In one case, an unscrupulous
25 seller shipped a box with a phonebook inside, instead of the laptop the customer had paid for! Consequently, it's important for online bidders to be aware of the dangers, and proceed with due caution before giving in to the auction bug.

QUESTIONS (70 points)

Answer questions 1-5 in English as instructed, according to the passage.
In question 5, circle the number of the correct answer.

2. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES. (lines 9-15)

- i) Regular auction goers are “addicted” to auctions because _____
_____.
- ii) Being addicted to auctions means _____
_____.

(2x9=18 points)

3. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

Lines 19-20 tell us that “the distance barrier no longer exists.” This means that people can _____.

(10 points)

5. Which of the statements below sums up the main message the writer is trying to convey in lines 16-27?

- i) The disadvantages of online auctions outweigh their advantages.
- ii) Online auctions are recommended if you can handle the risks.
- iii) Online auctions are only worthwhile when purchasing luxury items.
- iv) Live auctions are far better than online auctions.

(10 points)

**SEE THE REST OF THE QUESTIONS FOR THIS PASSAGE IN THE
A.E.L. BAGRUT PRACTICE BOOK FOR THE 4-POINT BAGRUT!**

PART II: ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM SPOKEN TEXTS (30 points)

Answer questions 6-11 according to the broadcast. In questions 6, 7 and 10, follow the instructions. In the other questions, circle the number of the correct answer. (5 points for each correct answer.)

EUROPE’S BRAIN DRAIN

6. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

Which phenomenon does the term “brain drain” describe?

How _____.

7. FILL IN THE CORRECT WORD OR WORDS.

The European Union spends _____ on scientific research than the United States does.

8. Pascal Degiovanni’s complaint concerns (---).

- i) the fact that the European laboratories are old-fashioned
- ii) the lack of good staff in European research centers
- iii) the low salaries European scientists earn
- iv) the lack of cleaning help in European laboratories

9. Which of the following difficulties faced by European scientists is not connected to bureaucratic hardships?

- i) The fact that location is considered more important than quality.
- ii) The fact that it is sometimes illegal for firms to provide grants.
- iii) The rejection of a request if it contains even one small error.
- iv) The requirement to complete a lot of paperwork.

10. FILL IN THE CORRECT WORD.

Which difference between European and American culture is mentioned in the passage?

In Europe, _____ is valued more than hard work or creativity.

- 11.** According to the end of her report, what is Valerie Jenkins' opinion of Europe's scientific future?
- i) It is highly likely that Europe will soon be the winner in the worldwide science and technology competition.
 - ii) There is no chance that Europe will succeed in changing its current situation.
 - iii) Europe will have to make many more changes in order to successfully compete with the United States.
 - iv) By the year 2010, many European scientists will return to Europe.