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Final Mark: 77/100

Level: Intermediate

Company: Accenture

Vocabulary (10/10pts total)

Complete the sentences with the correct terms seen in class.

reclaimed land / availability of housing / green-belt land / infrastructure / overcrowding / demolition of old buildings / residential areas / high-rise buildings / shanty towns / no-go areas

1. Due to rapid population growth, the city has been suffering from severe **overcrowding** in public transport and schools.
2. The government approved the construction of several **high-rise buildings** to accommodate the increasing number of residents in the city centre.
3. Many families struggle because the **availability of housing** in major cities is far lower than demand.
4. The authorities invested billions in urban **infrastructure** such as roads, railways, and sewage systems.
5. Environmental activists protested against plans to build on protected **green-belt land** surrounding the capital.
6. Some coastal cities have expanded by constructing districts on **reclaimed land** created artificially from the sea.
7. Wealthier citizens tend to move away from dangerous **no-go areas** affected by gang violence and high crime rates.
8. The mayor announced the **demolition of old buildings** to make room for a modern business district.
9. In many developing countries, thousands of people still live in **shanty towns** lacking clean water and electricity.

10. The suburbs are mainly quiet **residential areas** with schools, parks, and family homes.

Grammar (16/20pts total)

Complete the text using the correct form of the verbs in brackets or the appropriate missing modal verbs.

Over the past century, cities around the world 1. **Have expanded** (expand) at an extraordinary rate. More people 2. **live** (live) in urban areas today than at any other point in human history. As rural populations moved towards industrial centres, governments often failed to provide sufficient housing, with the result that enormous slums 3. **developed** (develop) on the outskirts of major cities.

By the time authorities finally recognised the scale of the crisis, traffic congestion and pollution 4. **has already become** (become) serious concerns. In some cities, entire neighbourhoods were demolished after officials claimed they 5. **had failed** (fail) to meet modern urban needs.

Not only 6. **has overcrowding affected** public health, but it has also contributed to rising crime rates and social inequality. If city planners had invested more heavily in infrastructure decades ago, many modern problems 7. **would not have happened** (modal / not / happen).

Meanwhile, property prices in global capitals continue to rise, and many young adults believe they 8. **can't afford** (modal / not / afford) housing in the areas where they grew up.

Although several governments have recently introduced urban renewal programmes, critics argue that little 9. **has been done** (do) to address the deeper causes of inequality.

If current trends continue, experts predict that by 2050, billions more people 10. **will be living** (live) in densely populated urban environments.

Reading (12/15pts total)

Cryptocurrency trading has become very popular. By buying and selling different currencies, traders can make huge profits. However, trading addiction is becoming increasingly common. Here, addict Josh Johnson talks about his experience.

'I heard about cryptocurrencies years ago when Bitcoin first came out, but I can't say I was intrigued from the start. Even when cryptocurrencies were mentioned more and more in the news and on social media, I didn't pay much attention. It wasn't until my friends started trading that I got into it. Seeing them earning loads of money overnight by doing practically nothing made me want to get in on it too. I'd been trading for a while by the time the pandemic started, but that was when the trouble started.

'It was crazy to begin with. My first investment quadrupled within a couple of weeks. I couldn't believe it. It gave me a feeling of power, and I felt as if I could achieve anything. I used more money in, and the same thing kept happening. Of course, it was all chance. I happened to put my money in before the currencies hit an all-time high. Then they plummeted. I was convinced they'd recover, so I kept pouring more money in. But what had worked before no longer did. I lost everything.

'Since getting help, I've thought about how I got addicted. There was a point when I had over three hundred thousand pounds. If I'd quit then, I could have bought the house that I had my heart set on. But rather than the money itself, it was the drama that hooked me. And winning didn't give me as big a thrill as losing. You would think I'd feel devastated when money disappeared, but instead, I'd feel a new sense of purpose and drive to prove myself once again.

'Lots of people enjoy these highs and lows of trading without becoming addicts, so it's hard to know when you've gone too far. Like with many addictions, crypto addicts become isolated and withdrawn and neglect their work. But I was off work and living by myself, so if those signs were

there, they weren't noticeable. For me, I missed the high when money ran out and I couldn't trade, so I found it through drugs, and my sister found out. I'd been addicted to them in the past, and it got to the point of me lying and stealing from others. She didn't want that to happen again, and she stepped in.

'Compared to traditional gambling, cryptocurrency trading is seen as socially acceptable. It's something that smart but adventurous people do. And whereas a lot of gamblers play alone or against other people, trading is social. But this leads to a herd mentality, where people stop thinking things through for themselves. The companies make lots of information available to educate people about the risks of trading. It's far easier, though, to act on a friend's tip-off or hunch. All this means that people don't realise that they are on a slippery slope until it's gone too far.

Mark the correct answer in bold.

- 1) Josh started trading in cryptocurrency...
- A. when Bitcoin first came out.
 - B. after seeing it in the media.
 - **C. influenced by his peers.**
 - D. while working from home during the pandemic.
- 2) What was Josh's experience while trading?
- A. He immediately lost all the money he invested.
 - B. He made many small wins and slightly larger losses.
 - **C. He made lots of money, lost it all and couldn't regain it.**
 - D. He recovered from big losses at first but later could not.
- 3) Josh says that he kept gambling because...
- A. he wanted enough money to buy a house.
 - B. he enjoyed the excitement of winning money.
 - C. he didn't want to confess that he'd lost money.
 - **D. he enjoyed the feeling he got when he lost money.**
- 4) For Josh, crypto currency trading became a problem when...
- A. he stopped working and spending time with other people.
 - B. he started to sell drugs in order to fund his trading habit.

- C. he returned to a different, former addiction.
 - **D. he started telling lies and taking things from family remembers.**
- 5) Josh says that when people trade cryptocurrencies together in groups, ...
- **A. they tend not to consider their decisions thoroughly.**
 - B. they learn and share more information and make better choices.
 - C. they are given special tips by the trading companies.
 - D. they become more socially accepted by their peers.

Listening (9/15pts total)

- 1) Why did Anna decide to go to the reunion?
- A. To catch up with her old schoolmates.
 - **B. To find out how the school had changed.**
 - C. To tell people about her successes.
- 2) What did Anna do after arriving at the reunion?
- **A. She caught up with one particular friend.**
 - B. She happily met long-lost friends.
 - C. She made polite conversation.
- 3) During the game, Anna was interested to find out about...
- A. how people had changed since leaving school.
 - B. all the different experiences people had had at that school.
 - **C. people's different feelings about the same school experiences**
- 4) What does Anna think about how they were taught at school?
- **A. She regrets having received such a strict education.**
 - B. The students weren't very well prepared for university.
 - C. The students didn't learn skills for the job market.
- 5) How has the experience changed Anna's feelings about school?
- **A. She is more grateful for what she learned at school.**
 - B. She is more eager to stay in contact with schoolmates.
 - C. Her memories of school have become more positive.

Writing (10/20pts total)

You have just completed an English course paid for by your employers.

Write a report required by your employers describing the course contents and its usefulness, and conclude by saying whether you would recommend it for other members of staff.

Comments: Although you have produced a very good writing which reflects how much you have improved during the course, you have not really respected the structure of the report (no title, no conclusion, no first person) so I have to deduct points, unfortunately.

In any case, your grade here does not reflect the progress you have made during the course. Congratulations, Franco.

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the English course sponsored by the company, **describing** its content, usefulness and why it should be recommended to other employees.

The course focused on the four main language skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. It helps us to maintain a **hard** structure to use them on real situations such as writing emails, meetings, presentations, **etc.**

The course is very useful, because our company works with international teams every day. As global companies continue to expand, English has become an essential skill for effective communication and collaboration.

Personally, I have improved my confidence when speaking during meetings, writing emails and discussing technical topics with all teams. The practical exercises and regular conversations helped me to apply the language on my daily work.

I would recommend this course to other members of staff. It not only improves English proficiency but also increases my confidence when working in an international environment. In my opinion, the company should continue investing in this type of training, as it benefits both employees and the organization, improving communication across global teams.

Speaking (20/20pts total)

