

School of Business  
Basel  
Brugg  
Olten

English Entrance Exam

Candidate's name .....

**TOTAL TIME: 120 MINUTES**

**NO DICTIONARIES PERMITTED**

SECTION B: READING COMPREHENSION	30	
SECTION C: USE OF ENGLISH	30	
SECTION D: WRITING	40	
WRITTEN EXAM TOTAL	100	
SECTION A: LISTENING COMPREHENSION	40	
SECTION E: INTERVIEW	60	
<b>ORAL EXAM TOTAL</b>	100	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	200	

Final Mark

Marking Scale	
184-200 =6	102 - 119 = 3.5
168-183 = 5.5	88 - 100 = 3
152-167 = 5	72 - 87 = 2.5
136 - 151 = 4.5	56 - 71 = 2
120-135 =4	40 - 55 = 1.5

# Aufnahmeprüfung

Name, Vorname:

\_\_\_\_\_

Standort: Basel \_\_\_\_\_ Brugg/Windisch \_\_\_\_\_ Olten \_\_\_\_\_

Fach: Dozent: Prüfungsdatum:

Prüfungsstandort: Olten

Fach: Englisch

Prof. Pieter Perrett

**Prüfungsdatum:**

Erlaubte Hilfsmittel: Keine

Punkte: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: \_\_\_\_\_

Unterschrift Dozent. \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION A****LISTENING COMPREHENSION**

**You will hear all the recordings twice**

**LISTENING 1****[2 points each]**

You will hear an interview with a man who enjoys flying in a small aircraft called a 'microlight'. Complete the sentences, using 1-3 words or numbers.

- 1) Before his retirement, Brian worked as a pilot for a company called ..... for a long time.
- 2) Brian feels like a bird when flying his microlight because he doesn't have a ..... around him.
- 3) Brian disagrees with the suggestion that steering a microlight is like steering a .....
- 4) Brian's record-breaking flight ended in .....
- 5) Brian organised his flight in advance to avoid needing other people as ..... on the way.
- 6) Brian's microlight was modified so that it could carry more ..... on board.
- 7) It took Brian ..... to plan the record-breaking flight.
- 8) Brian feels that flying over miles and miles of ..... was the most dangerous part of the trip.
- 9) Brian describes his navigation system as both ..... and easy to use.
- 10) Brian says that his main problem on the flight was the fact that he became very .....

**LISTENING 2****[2 points each]**

You will hear five different people talking about short courses they have attended. Choose from the list (A – F) what each speaker says about their course. **Use the letters only once.** There is one extra letter which you do not need to use.

11) Speaker 1 .....	<b>A</b> I was encouraged by the teachers to continue developing my skill.
12) Speaker 2 .....	<b>B</b> I learnt something about the subject that I hadn't expected.
13) Speaker 3 .....	<b>C</b> I preferred the social life to the course content.
14) Speaker 4 .....	<b>D</b> I intend to do a similar course again.
15) Speaker 5 .....	<b>E</b> I found out something about myself.
	<b>F</b> I thought the course was good value for money.

(Note: there are no numbers 16 + 17)

**LISTENING 3****[2 points each]**

You will hear another five recordings.  
For each recording, decide what the speaker is doing.  
Write **one** letter (A – H) next to the number of the recording.  
**Use the letters only once.** There are 3 extra letters.

18) .....	<b>A</b> making a complaint
19) .....	<b>B</b> confirming information
20) .....	<b>C</b> giving instructions
21) .....	<b>D</b> changing an arrangement
22) .....	<b>E</b> requesting information
	<b>F</b> making a recommendation
	<b>G</b> giving an invitation
	<b>H</b> requesting advice

## SECTION B READING COMPREHENSION

TEXT 1 Questions 1 – 8

[1 point each]

You are going to read a magazine article about the early life of the writer Peter Griffiths. Circle the best answer (A, B, C or D) to the questions like this: (A)

# How I became a writer

*Peter Griffiths tells us his story*

Where and when did my writing life begin? I suppose it was in a small schoolroom in a village in Ireland when, as an alternative to calculus, I was occasionally required to compose six sentences on such random subjects as *A Wet Afternoon* or *A Day in the Life of a Dog*.

My world at that time was not extensive. It was a short distance, my journey to school in the town, past the sweetshop and the chemist's, and the draper's that sold material and dresses. On a wall nearby, a faded poster advertised the arrival of Duffy's Circus a few years earlier. Horses trudged slowly, carts carrying milk to the dairy. On fair-days, farmers stood by their animals, hoping for the best. You made the journey home again at three, the buying and selling over. If you had money, you spent it on sweets or stuff for making lemonade that was delicious if you ate it as it was. The daughters of the draper sometimes had money. But they were always far ahead, on bicycles, because they were well-to-do.

At home, there was a bookcase on the landing packed with books, but pride of place was given to the entire output of Charles Dickens, which my father had obtained in a sale. My sister had a bookcase specially made for her school novels by the postman, who was good at carpentry. Between deliveries one morning, he measured *The Terrible Twins* and *The Girls of the Chalet School*, *Jo's Big Surprise* and all the others. A week later he had the bookcase with him, balanced on the saddle of his bike. Expanding my world, I began with the school novels – hockey practices and midnight feasts, the odd spy. I read until I had read everything, then turned to detective novels. There was murder in London, on trains, in planes, in hotels. We had nothing like it in our town.

The figures that emerged from the printed words on white paper were shadows at first and often remained so. But often, too, they brightened into a life that was as vivid as reality. They did so more and more, and with a natural ease, when eventually – in the library of the last of my schools – I arrived at the fiction of Dostoyevsky, Hemingway and Steinbeck. Somewhere in that communication, in the exhilaration of one imagination touching another, I sensed a marvel. I did not then know that this particular variation of creating something out of nothing was simply the art and craft of storytelling. Nor did I know that I would one day follow a similar path.

line 42

I have always thought it best not to know how the thing is done. Marvel it may be, but it is a mystery, too, and analysing can be destructive. Interviewers ask questions that seem reasonable enough, and yet the answers are mostly very hard to find. Have I known a man like Mr Jones, who is in a recent novel of mine? Was my childhood unhappy? Do I mind being old? – although this was more politely put. 'Do you write with a purpose?' is a question that comes up from time to time. I just say that I write instinctively and suggest that instincts are difficult to pin down. I mention curiosity: perhaps, in writing, a sense of curiosity is satisfied. But I am not sure.

It's sometimes a bit confusing. It is true that, to a degree, all fiction is autobiographical, since happiness and pain must be the storyteller's own. Memory hovers over the past like a figure with a metal-detector on a beach. Yet, far more of my fiction's raw material comes out of nowhere.

- 1) What impression does Peter Griffiths give of his early life?
  - A) His experience of life was very limited.
  - B) He lived in a poor neighbourhood.
  - C) He was envious of other children.
  - D) He usually had money to spend.
  
- 2) The circus poster is described as being
  - A) badly positioned.
  - B) in poor condition.
  - C) old-fashioned.
  - D) in poor taste.
  
- 3) What influenced Peter Griffiths' early reading?
  - A) an interest in serious literature
  - B) someone else's tastes
  - C) his dislike of non-fiction
  - D) his desire to read about travel
  
- 4) Peter Griffiths' family
  - A) was very intellectual.
  - B) encouraged reading.
  - C) was poorly educated.
  - D) mainly read murder mysteries.
  
- 5) What does 'they' refer to in line 42?
  - A) the words
  - B) the pages
  - C) the characters
  - D) the shadows
  
- 6) What happened to Peter Griffiths towards the end of his schooldays?
  - A) He spent more and more time in the library.
  - B) He learnt how to write novels.
  - C) He decided to become a writer.
  - D) He was inspired by what he read.
  
- 7) When Peter Griffiths is interviewed, he
  - A) sometimes get annoyed with the interviewer.
  - B) often refuses to answer personal questions.
  - C) rarely knows what to say.
  - D) occasionally misleads the interviewer.
  
- 8) What does Peter Griffiths say about the content of his books?
  - A) They often contain painful memories of his childhood.
  - B) He often writes about people he has met during his lifetime.
  - C) He likes to write about life in the past.
  - D) There is a little of himself in his books.

## TEXT 2 Questions 9 – 15

[1 point each]

You are going to read the true story of how Nigel Hughes flew to Brazil by accident. Eight sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences **A-I** the one which fits each gap (9 – 15). There is one extra sentence you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

### I FLEW TO BRAZIL BY ACCIDENT

Settling into my seat on the plane late on a Friday, I felt tired and ready for a drink. I was really looking forward to getting home. As I sipped a glass of lemonade and pushed my seat back, I remember thinking, ‘Only a couple of hours and I’ll be home.’

I’d phoned my girlfriend, Georgina, from Copenhagen before the plane took off to tell her I was on my way.  **0**  I’d make my own way home.

After another drink, I snoozed until I heard a flight attendant announce, ‘We will shortly be landing in Heathrow.’  **9**  And that was it. I honestly don’t remember anything until I woke up again later on.

For a couple of minutes I sat wondering sleepily if we were still on our way. Then I began to realise something funny was going on. The two seats next to me had been empty when I fell asleep.  **10**  There’d been a little girl in front, who’d kept grinning at me over the back of her seat. She had gone. And weirdest of all, the lights were off and everyone seemed to be asleep.

Slowly it began to dawn on me what had happened. The plane must have landed at Heathrow, let off some passengers, taken on others and set off on the next part of its journey. And I knew where that was to – Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil.

**11**  Georgina would be wondering what had happened to me and I was stuck on the plane with no ticket. Would they believe it was an accident?

Not knowing what else to do, I went to look for a flight attendant and told her what had happened. I found out it was about 3 a.m. and we were several hours into the eleven-hour flight to Brazil. The flight attendant thought it was very funny and told me not to worry. There wasn’t much anyone could do anyway.

We landed in Rio at lunchtime on the Saturday. **12** In fact, they took me straight to the departure lounge and told me to sit and wait for the next flight to London at 10 o'clock.

The first thing I did was ring Georgina to tell her what had happened. **13** So, I slipped out of the airport and jumped into a passing taxi. It was surprisingly easy!

As the driver took me around Rio and down to Copocabana beach, I thought about where I should be – at work. The thought of work reminded me of the valuable contract I knew I had now lost, which depressed me momentarily. But then realising I couldn't do anything about it, I decided I might as well make the most of it.

In the late afternoon, I headed back to the airport. I had to confess that I'd sneaked out. The airline staff were not at all pleased and gave me an escort to watch my every move. **14** I wasn't going to miss that plane home.

Fortunately there were no problems or delays and we landed at Heathrow at lunchtime on the Sunday after a 48-hour odyssey.

Georgina recovered from the shock and was able to see the funny side of it, eventually.

**15**

**A** I was slightly worried that I might be hauled off the plane and locked up as an illegal immigrant.

**B** As for me, I still haven't worked out how I slept through a whole landing and take-off.

**C** I couldn't believe my luck!

**D** However, I wasn't planning on going anywhere else.

**E** What on earth was I going to do?

**F** 'Better get my things together,' I thought.

**G** Having done that, I decided it would be a shame to be in Rio and not see any of it.

**H** Now a man was lying across them sleeping.

**I** She said she'd pick me up at Heathrow Airport, but I told her not to bother.

## TEXT 3

## Questions 16 – 30

[1 point each]

You are going to read a magazine article in which four people talk about the experience of having their portrait painted. For questions 16 – 30 choose from the people (A – D). The people may be chosen more than once. There is an example at the beginning (0).

## Which person ...

- |  |                             |                            |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| was painted in his own house?  | <input type="checkbox"/> 0  | <input type="checkbox"/> B |
| was uncomfortable sitting still for the artist?  | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| was surprised by the size of the artist's works?   | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| was the subject of a picture based entirely on a photograph?                             | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| realised the importance that the artist attached to this particular painting?            | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| understands the process of painting from both an artist's and a subject's point of view? | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| used the time he was sitting with the artist to think philosophically?                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| felt the artist could have worked more quickly?  | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| admits the artist shows a side of his character he hadn't recognised before?             | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| has an image of the artist included in his picture?                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| has been put off the idea of having further pictures painted?                            | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| enjoyed the unfamiliar experience of sitting and doing nothing?                          | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| found it didn't take as long as expected to have his picture painted?                    | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| wasn't completely satisfied with the completed picture?                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| needed to be persuaded that he should have his picture painted?                          | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 | <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| feels his personality is reflected in the artist's technique?                            | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 | <input type="checkbox"/>   |

# Having my portrait painted

*Have you ever wondered what it's like to have your portrait painted?  
Four people share the experience with us.*

## A Asif

The artist who painted my picture works from home, so I went there. Almost every one of her walls was covered with huge pictures of people and I wondered what sort of person would want to have them done and how it would be possible to hang one inside a house of average proportions. My artist was easy to be with and we talked about lots of things. When you're sitting for an artist you're at your leisure and I appreciated having the opportunity to be inactive, which is rare for me. She's known as a very quick worker and it was all over after four visits, though she took some photos for reference when I wasn't there. I think of myself as a lively person, full of enthusiasm, but in the finished picture she has found an unfamiliar, darker side to my personality. My wife and children say they can identify me in a fierce or angry mood in this picture and think it is a totally honest one.

## C John

I nearly said no to being painted because the artist said it would take ten hours. I was talked into it eventually but I wouldn't want to go through it again. When I arrived at the artist's immense and icy studio for the first time, I asked what people usually did while he painted them. He said they often got up and ran screaming from the room. So I sat and he painted. He wouldn't let me read or talk and holding one position for a long time was a cold and tedious business. The artist took lots of photographs so in the end he didn't need me for ten hours and I only went to the studio three times. In his picture of me, the artist also included a mysterious picture of himself hanging in a frame behind me. Many people, including my wife, find the style of the painting unsatisfactory because there's lots of paint splashed about, but I think it suits my character.

## B Harold

I didn't have to go to the artist's studio for my picture; he came to paint me at home. He seemed to be there for days on end, took an excessive amount of trouble and insisted that I sat absolutely motionless. He was very young and gave the impression that his future career depended on his making a success of this picture. The artist was unwilling to chat because he had to concentrate so hard, so I listened to music and sat back and reflected on the meaning of life. When I saw the finished painting I said to him, 'I sometimes smile, you know.' 'You can't have everything,' he replied. I don't recognise the expression on the face in the painting as mine and I feel the essential features of my personality aren't represented. My wife, who is an artist, likes the picture more than me because she understands what the painter was trying to do.

## D Peter

The artist just did his picture of me. I didn't see it until it was done and, as I'm an artist myself, that was probably just as well. If I had sat for him while he painted I'm sure I'd have great stories to tell about the experience, but he did it from a photo. It's a pretty good likeness of me. It's one of several paintings of artists he did using images of things they're associated with, which is an important tradition in portrait painting. The painting used little white flowers in a vase because my younger daughter is called Daisy. There are also stamps with the Statue of Liberty on them, after my other daughter, Liberty. I'm not sure why he included tin-openers as well but I expect it's part of his philosophy of what it means to be an artist. I've had my picture done a number of times and I've also done a painting of myself, so you can see me in several museums and art galleries.

**SECTION C USE OF ENGLISH**

**1. Vocabulary A/ Word formation**

**[1 point each]**

Write the correct form of the word given in capitals at the end of each line. There is an example at the beginning (0). *Write your answers in the space provided below.*

**THE STARS IN OUR SKY**

The total number of stars in (0) ... <i>existence</i> .... is well over a billion	EXIST
billion. They are not all at the same stage in their (1) .....	DEVELOP
some are older than others, and (2) ....., new stars are still forming	AMAZE
in the universe. Stars, except for the Sun, have the (3) ..... of tiny points	APPEAR
of light. This is because of their huge (4) ..... from Earth.	DISTANT
Many patterns of stars can be (5) ..... recognised by careful	EASY
(6) ..... with the naked eye. Their positions seem to be fixed,	OBSERVE
though this is far from the (7) ..... Using large telescopes	TRUE
and computers, it has been possible to make accurate (8) .....	MEASURE
of their speeds, which are (9) ..... fast	BELIEVABLE

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....
- 7 .....
- 8 .....
- 9 .....

**B/ Gap – fill**

**[1 point each]**

Write the word which best fits each space. Use only **one word** in each space. There is an example at the beginning **(0)**. *Write your answers in the space provided below.*

**STAYING WITH A BRITISH FAMILY**

Thousands of students travel each year to Britain to attend courses to improve their English. Although the quality of the courses (0)...*is*... important, there is usually one thing that makes their stay either enjoyable (10) .... disappointing. Most students say that the families they stay (11) ..... have the biggest influence on their visit. If the family is prepared to (12) ..... time helping the student speak English, then the visit is usually (13) ..... success. However, if the family is unfriendly and appears to (14) ..... providing accommodation just to make money, then the visit is often disappointing. In order (15) ..... ensure that the home stay is satisfactory, several teaching organisations have now (16) ..... to an agreement on how to select host families.

- 10 .....
- 11 .....
- 12 .....
- 13 .....
- 14 .....
- 15 .....
- 16 .....

## 2. Structure

### A/ Tenses

[1 point each]

Fill the blank spaces in these sentences with the appropriate tense and form of the verb in capital letters. **Write your answers in the space provided.** There is an example at the beginning (0).

- (0) Robert .....*has been looking*.....for a job ever since he left university. LOOK
- (17) Gladys ..... a new car last week. BUY
- (18) If I ..... he was ill, I would have called him. KNOW
- (19) We had better not wait for him any longer. I expect he ..... FORGET  
all about the meeting.
- (20) I wish you ..... to the concert with us tomorrow. COME

### B/ Sentence transformation

[2 points each]

Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using the word in brackets. **Do not change the word given.** Use between **2 and 5 words**, including the word given.

- (0) You must do exactly what the manager tells you. (**carry**)  
You must ...*carry out the manager's*... instructions exactly.
- (21) The cost of living in Tokyo is much higher than in Madrid. (**nearly**)  
The cost of living in Madrid is .....  
in Tokyo.
- (22) The last time I went abroad was four years ago. (**been**)  
I .....four years.
- (23) It's a twenty-minute drive from here to the station. (**takes**)  
It .....from here to the station.
- (24) 'Whose book is that?' asked Mr. Simpson. (**belong**)  
'Who.....?' asked Mr. Simpson.
- (25) I haven't had a reply to my letter yet. (**still**)  
I ..... a reply to my letter.

**SECTION D****WRITING**

40 points

Choose **one** of the topics below and write **120 – 180** words in an appropriate style . Please indicate the question number.

You are not permitted to use a dictionary.

1. Your class has had a discussion about communication. Now your teacher has asked you to write an article for the school magazine giving your opinion on this statement:

*Telephones are an essential part of modern life.*

Write your **article**.

2. Your local tourist office has asked you to write a report for English-speaking visitors of all ages, giving advice on what to see and do in your region or town.

Write your **report**.

3. How important are sport and fitness for you personally?

Write your **composition**.