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First name(s)

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Family name

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## Opportunity Class Placement Test

Reading Question Paper

2023

30 minutes

### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Please read this page carefully.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS QUESTION PAPER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.**

A separate answer sheet is provided for this test. Please fill in the following information on your answer sheet and on this question paper:

- Student application number
- First name(s)
- Family name

There are **25** multiple-choice questions in this paper. For each question, choose the **one** correct answer and record your choice on the separate answer sheet. If you make a mistake, erase thoroughly and try again.

You will **not** lose marks for incorrect answers, so you should attempt **all 25** questions.

You must complete the answer sheet within the time limit. There will **not** be any extra time at the end of the exam to record your answers on the answer sheet.

You can use the question paper for notes, but no extra paper is allowed.

Please note that some words and phrases are **shaded** in the texts as they are referred to in some questions.

Dictionaries and calculators may **NOT** be used.



**Cambridge Assessment**  
Admissions Testing

**Due to copyright restrictions, we are unable to publish the extract or questions 1-6 for Part 1 of this test.**

**Due to copyright restrictions, we are unable to publish the extract or questions 7-11 for Part 2 of this test.**

Read the text below then answer the questions.

Six sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences (**A – G**) the one which fits each gap (**12 – 17**). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

### **The tawny frogmouth: the owl that isn't**

Australia is a land of iconic birds. Kookaburra, emu, budgie, sulphur-crested cockatoo, wedge-tailed eagle, galah – you'd never mistake one of those species for any of the others. One of our birds, though, is often confused with another type. The tawny frogmouth, hunter of midnight letterboxes, maker of weird noises in the dark, possessor of a penetrating yellow-eyed stare, is not an owl.

**12** ..... Fluffy feathers? Check. Front-facing giant eyes? Check. Hooked, raptor-like beak mostly hidden by tufts and whiskery bits? Check. Nocturnal, spooky, silent-flying and maker of hooty-type noises? All check.

In fact, the frogmouth is a type of nightjar. **13** ..... However, it's not that straightforward. Confusingly, "strigoides", the scientific name for the species, means "owl-form" and they will eat baby mice if offered them by wildlife carers. But even so, a frogmouth is not an owl.

During the day, frogmouths adopt a distinctively stretched and thin posture. With eyes closed or opened to the merest slit, they are impressively well-camouflaged against almost any tree.

**14** ..... You just never see them. You'll probably hear them, though, making a deep "oom-oom-oom" in the late evening. Manage to get a torch on one, and the bird will just stare back at you, not moving, daring you to make the first move.

Since frogmouths live in a wide range of Australian habitats, as a species they need to be able to handle temperatures from as low as eight degrees all the way up to 40+. **15** ..... When it comes to extreme cold, frogmouths can enter a state known as "torpor". It's not quite hibernation – it only lasts for a few hours at a time rather than weeks – but it has the same drop in metabolic function, slowed heart rate, and conservation of energy. During torpor, a frogmouth's body temperature can drop by up to 10 degrees. **16** .....

Meanwhile, the tawny frogmouth's close South American relative, the potoo, has become a sort of running joke on the internet. **17** ..... Not only do these exaggerated features allow them to spot and scoop up their insect prey in the dark, they have also enabled the potoo to become the star of thousands of memes.

- A** The key difference between these birds and true owls is that frogmouths feed on insects.
- B** In doing so, frogmouths play an important role in their native habitat, particularly in agricultural areas.
- C** That's unusually extensive for a single bird species, so they have special adaptations for fast panting, and use their wide mouths as radiators.
- D** Looking more like a cartoon character than a real animal, it has yellow eyes like ping pong balls and a ridiculously oversized mouth.
- E** For comparison, if this ever happened to you, you would enter severe hypothermia, lose consciousness, and unless rescued by other humans, you would probably be in serious trouble.
- F** Not that we blame anyone for making that mistake.
- G** In any sizeable garden, there are almost certainly frogmouths around.

Read the four extracts below on the theme of stars.

For questions **18 – 25**, choose the option (**A, B, C** or **D**) which you think best answers the question.

Which extract...

explains how people can learn about the stars when the sky isn't dark? **18** \_\_\_\_\_

mentions a time when people routinely come together to talk about stars? **19** \_\_\_\_\_

suggests that learning about stars may not be easy? **20** \_\_\_\_\_

describes what is happening when people think they see a star move? **21** \_\_\_\_\_

compares the writer's knowledge of natural features on Earth with what they know about stars? **22** \_\_\_\_\_

mentions the official recognition of excellent conditions for looking at stars? **23** \_\_\_\_\_

explains why a term that is often used to refer to stars is incorrect? **24** \_\_\_\_\_

provides examples of different ways that one star is referred to? **25** \_\_\_\_\_

**Due to copyright restrictions, we are unable to publish Extract A as part of this question paper.**

### **Extract B**

An old superstition suggests that if you wish upon a shooting star, your wish will be granted. The implication is that shooting stars are so rare, and your sighting so fortuitous, that you've been specially selected for a dose of good luck. But are shooting stars actually all that elusive? And what are they, exactly?

A shooting star is a "common, if inaccurate, name for a meteor," or a space rock that collides with Earth's atmosphere, said Edwin Charles Krupp, an astronomer and director of the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles. Meteors that are called shooting stars appear as "a flash of light" to sky-gazers, Krupp explained. Quite simply, a shooting star is a piece of space rock or dust that briefly becomes visible when it begins to burn up in our planet's atmosphere. "Meteors occur all of the time, all over the Earth, but are only seen at night," Krupp said.

### **Extract C**

The Milky Way galaxy sparkles brightly in all its celestial wonder when you're stargazing in the iconic Warrumbungle National Park, Australia's first Dark Sky Park near Coonabarabran. Here, the stars are your destination – the pristine night sky above the volcanic landscape is unimpeded by artificial light.

Inside the national park is the Siding Spring Observatory, where the largest optical telescopes in Australia are pointed at the cosmos. The International Dark Sky Association bestowed Dark Sky status on the park in 2016.

During the day, discover more about the universe on the World's Largest Virtual Solar System Drive on your way to Siding Spring. There are colourful three-dimensional billboards of the planets in the solar system at stops along the way to the observatory.

### **Extract D**

After 15 years of exploring Vancouver Island, Canada, I can stand on a peak and name most of the mountains lining the horizon. I learned them because it felt important to me to know my neighborhood, to place myself within my geography, to answer my own question "which peak is that?" Now I can identify 50 or 60 on sight.

I wish I could say the same about the overhead geography. But when the sun goes down and the stars begin crystallizing out of the dark blue ether of dusk I get lost. It might be that the three dimensions, dynamism, and vastness of the universe are harder to wrap my mind around. However, I think it is more that I haven't tried hard enough. Derek Kief, an astronomer at the H.R. Macmillan Space Centre in Vancouver, echoes that sentiment.

"It's like when you move to a new neighborhood," he says. "You don't really know it until you've walked it. Once you start looking at the night sky regularly you're going to start recognizing things and really understanding what's up there."

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