



# ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

## English Set A

Name	Applicant ID	Country

**Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes**

**Total Marks: 100**

## Section 1

### Grammar and Vocabulary (30 Points)

1. **No sooner \_\_\_\_\_ the announcement than the crowd began to shout**

- A. did he make
- B. he made
- C. had he made
- D. he had made

2. **The CEO's remarks were deliberately \_\_\_\_\_, leaving room for multiple interpretations.**

- A. explicit
- B. ambiguous
- C. coherent
- D. redundant

3. **She would rather you \_\_\_\_\_ that topic during the meeting.**

- A. don't mention
- B. didn't mention
- C. won't mention
- D. haven't mentioned

4. **The term "*pragmatic*" most nearly means:**

- A. theoretical
- B. practical and realistic
- C. careless
- D. idealistic

5. **Seldom \_\_\_\_\_ such a comprehensive study on the subject.**

- A. we see
- B. have we seen
- C. we have seen
- D. did we see

6. **His argument was \_\_\_\_\_ by a lack of reliable evidence.**

- A. undermined
- B. enhanced

- C. justified
- D. fortified

**7. She spoke in a \_\_\_\_\_ tone that made everyone uncomfortable.**

- A. cordial
- B. condescending
- C. sympathetic
- D. neutral

**8. It is high time the government \_\_\_\_\_ action against pollution.**

- A. takes
- B. took
- C. has taken
- D. will take

**9. The phrase “to beat around the bush” means:**

- A. to speak aggressively
- B. to avoid the main topic
- C. to speak clearly
- D. to exaggerate

**10. He is not only intelligent but also \_\_\_\_\_ in dealing with people.**

- A. tactful
- B. tactical
- C. touching
- D. tangible

**11. Were the data \_\_\_\_\_ more carefully, the error would have been noticed earlier.**

- A. analyzed
- B. to analyze
- C. analyzing
- D. analyze

**12. Her comments were totally \_\_\_\_\_ with the objectives of the project.**

- A. in line
- B. in touch
- C. in place
- D. in order

**13. The word “elusive” in the sentence means:**

*Success remained elusive despite his efforts.*

- A. easy to achieve
- B. difficult to find or achieve
- C. surprising
- D. temporary

**14. He insisted on \_\_\_\_\_ the bill despite our objections.**

- A. paying
- B. to pay
- C. pay
- D. having paid

**15. The policy was introduced with the \_\_\_\_\_ of reducing costs.**

- A. intention
- B. aim
- C. purpose
- D. objective

**16. She has a reputation \_\_\_\_\_ being extremely reliable.**

- A. to
- B. for
- C. in
- D. of

**17. Little \_\_\_\_\_ about the consequences of his actions.**

- A. he cared
- B. did he care
- C. he did care
- D. cared he

**18. The manager’s decision was met with widespread \_\_\_\_\_ from the staff.**

- A. resentment
- B. consent
- C. approval
- D. agreement

**19. Choose the closest synonym of “reluctant”:**

- A. eager
- B. hesitant
- C. willing
- D. determined

**20. The report was so \_\_\_\_\_ written that it was difficult to follow.**

- A. coherently
- B. vaguely
- C. concisely
- D. logically

**21. He denied \_\_\_\_\_ aware of the changes in the schedule.**

- A. being
- B. to be
- C. be
- D. having been

**22. The phrase “to go the extra mile” means:**

- A. to travel far
- B. to do more than expected
- C. to avoid responsibility
- D. to delay work

**23. Not until the deadline passed \_\_\_\_\_ the urgency of the task.**

- A. he realized
- B. did he realize
- C. he did realize
- D. realized he

**24. Her explanation did little to \_\_\_\_\_ our doubts.**

- A. clarify
- B. alleviate
- C. intensify
- D. confirm

**25. He spoke as though he \_\_\_\_\_ the entire event himself.**

- A. witnessed
- B. had witnessed
- C. witnesses
- D. has witnessed

**26. The adjective “feasible” is closest in meaning to:**

- A. practical
- B. imaginary
- C. doubtful
- D. complex

**27. She was praised \_\_\_\_\_ her dedication and hard work.**

- A. of
- B. for
- C. with
- D. about

**28. The more complex the problem, \_\_\_\_\_ the solution becomes.**

- A. more challenging
- B. the more challenging
- C. most challenging
- D. the challenging

**29. His apology seemed sincere, but it did not fully \_\_\_\_\_ the damage done.**

- A. repair
- B. restore
- C. undo
- D. recover

**30. In the sentence below, what does “scrutinize” mean?**

*The documents were carefully scrutinized before approval.*

- A. ignore
- B. examine closely
- C. arrange
- D. summarize

## **Section 2**

### **Reading (40 Points)**

Task 1: Read the article and then answer the following questions:

#### **The Hidden Value of Boredom**

In a world dominated by smartphones, streaming platforms, and constant notifications, boredom has become an increasingly rare experience. Many people feel uncomfortable when they are not actively engaged in something stimulating. Waiting in line, sitting on public transport, or even taking a short break often prompts an automatic reach for a device. However, recent research suggests that boredom, far from being a waste of time, may actually play an important role in creativity, problem-solving, and mental well-being.

Boredom occurs when the mind is not occupied with a specific task or source of entertainment. While it is often viewed negatively, psychologists argue that boredom provides the brain with an opportunity to wander freely. This mental wandering, sometimes called “daydreaming,” allows people to make unexpected connections between ideas. In fact, some of the most creative solutions to problems occur when individuals are not directly thinking about the issue at all.

A study conducted at a British university asked participants to complete a dull task, such as copying numbers from a telephone directory. Afterwards, they were given a creative thinking test. Surprisingly, those who had experienced the most boredom performed better in generating imaginative ideas than those who had done a more engaging activity beforehand. Researchers concluded that boredom had encouraged the participants’ minds to explore new possibilities.

Moreover, boredom may also contribute to emotional health. Constant stimulation from digital devices can lead to mental fatigue and reduced attention span. When people allow themselves periods of inactivity, the brain has time to rest and reset. This can improve concentration and reduce stress levels. Some experts even recommend scheduling “boredom breaks” during the day to improve productivity.

Children, in particular, may benefit from boredom. In previous generations, children often created their own games and activities when they had nothing to do. Today, many children turn immediately to screens for entertainment. As a result, they may have fewer opportunities to develop imagination and independent thinking skills. Allowing children to experience boredom can encourage them to invent stories, explore their surroundings, and engage in creative play.

However, boredom must be distinguished from loneliness or depression. While boredom can be a healthy mental state, prolonged feelings of emptiness or sadness require attention and support. The key difference is that boredom is temporary and often leads to curiosity or creative action, whereas emotional distress tends to reduce motivation and interest in activities.

Interestingly, some companies have begun to recognize the value of boredom in the workplace. A few organizations encourage employees to take short breaks without checking emails or social media. These quiet moments allow workers to reflect and often lead to fresh ideas. Instead of seeing these pauses as unproductive, managers are starting to understand that they may actually enhance overall performance.

Despite its benefits, modern society continues to resist boredom. Advertising, technology, and social expectations all promote constant activity. People often feel guilty if they are not “doing something useful.” Yet learning to tolerate moments of inactivity may be essential for mental clarity and creativity. By occasionally disconnecting from devices and allowing the mind to rest, individuals may discover that boredom is not an enemy, but a valuable mental tool.

### Questions 1–4: Match the headings to the paragraphs

Choose the correct heading (A–F) for paragraphs **B–E**.

#### Headings

- A. The difference between boredom and emotional problems
- B. Boredom as a tool for creativity
- C. How modern habits prevent boredom
- D. The role of boredom in children’s development
- E. Workplace attitudes towards boredom
- F. The scientific experiment on boredom

Paragraph	Heading
1 (Boredom occurs when...)	_____
2 (A study conducted...)	_____
3 (Children, in particular...)	_____
4 (Interestingly, some companies...)	_____

### Questions 5–8: True / False / Not Given

Write:

**True** – if the statement agrees with the passage

**False** – if the statement contradicts the passage

**Not Given** – if there is no information

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. People today often check their phones when they have nothing to do.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. The British study proved that boredom reduces intelligence.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Experts suggest planning short periods of boredom during the day.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Most companies believe boredom reduces employee performance.

## Questions 9–10:

9. What does the word “tolerate” in the last paragraph most nearly mean?

- A. enjoy
- B. accept
- C. avoid
- D. ignore

10. What is the writer’s overall purpose in the passage?

- A. To criticize technology use
- B. To explain why boredom can be beneficial
- C. To encourage people to work less
- D. To describe children’s behavior today

Task 2: Read the article and then answer the following questions:

### The Paradox of Choice

In modern consumer societies, people are surrounded by an unprecedented range of choices. From selecting a brand of coffee to deciding on a career path, individuals are constantly required to make decisions. While freedom of choice is often associated with personal liberty and satisfaction, psychologists have begun to question whether having too many options may, in fact, lead to anxiety, dissatisfaction, and poor decision-making.

At first glance, the logic of more choice seems simple: the greater the number of options available, the more likely a person is to find something that perfectly suits their needs. However, research suggests that when faced with excessive alternatives, people often experience what is known as “choice overload.” This occurs when the mental effort required to compare and evaluate options becomes overwhelming, leading to stress and indecision.

One well-known study demonstrated this phenomenon in a supermarket. Customers were presented with a tasting booth offering either six varieties of jam or twenty-four varieties. While the larger display attracted more attention, significantly fewer customers actually made a purchase. Those confronted with fewer choices were more likely to buy a product and reported greater satisfaction with their decision. The abundance of options, rather than encouraging action, appeared to discourage it.

The psychological explanation for this lies in the way people evaluate decisions. When options are limited, individuals can quickly assess the advantages and disadvantages of each one. In contrast, a large selection forces them to consider numerous variables, increasing the fear of making the “wrong” choice. This fear is often accompanied by the thought that a better option may have been overlooked. As a result, even after making a decision, people may feel uncertain or regretful.

Moreover, an excess of choice can raise expectations unrealistically. When people believe that the “perfect” option must exist among many alternatives, they are less likely to feel satisfied with what they ultimately select. This dissatisfaction is not necessarily linked to the quality of the choice itself, but rather to the belief that something better could have been chosen. In this way, more choice can paradoxically reduce happiness.

This issue extends beyond consumer goods and affects significant life decisions as well. Students choosing university courses, professionals considering career changes, and individuals seeking relationships all face a multitude of possibilities. The pressure to choose correctly can lead to prolonged hesitation and anxiety. Some individuals delay decisions entirely, hoping that further reflection will reveal the ideal option, while others make impulsive choices simply to escape the discomfort of indecision.

Interestingly, cultures differ in their attitudes toward choice. In some societies, decisions are more frequently guided by family expectations or social traditions, reducing the burden on the individual. While this may appear to limit personal freedom, it can also provide a sense of relief from the stress of constant decision-making. In contrast, highly individualistic societies place the responsibility for choices entirely on the person, increasing both autonomy and psychological pressure.

In response to these findings, some experts suggest adopting strategies to manage choice more effectively. Limiting the number of options considered, setting clear criteria before making a decision, and accepting that no choice will be perfect are all recommended approaches. By narrowing the field of possibilities, individuals can reduce anxiety and improve satisfaction with their decisions.

Ultimately, the paradox of choice challenges the assumption that more options always lead to better outcomes. While choice remains an essential aspect of freedom, learning how to navigate it wisely may be equally important for maintaining mental well-being.

### **Questions 1–3: Matching Information**

Which paragraph contains the following information? Write the paragraph letter (A–I).

1. An example of research conducted in a real shopping environment. \_\_\_\_\_
2. A suggestion on how to handle the problem of too many choices.
3. A comparison between different societies’ approaches to decision-making.  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Questions 4–6: Sentence Completion**

Complete the sentences using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage.

4. When people face too many options, they may experience \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Customers who saw fewer jam varieties felt more \_\_\_\_\_ with their decision.
6. Some people make quick decisions to escape the discomfort of \_\_\_\_\_.

### Questions 7–8: True / False / Not Given

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Having more choices always results in better quality decisions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Cultural traditions can sometimes reduce the stress of decision-making.

### Questions 9–10: Multiple Choice

9. What is meant by the term “*choice overload*”?
- A. Enjoying a wide range of options
  - B. Feeling stressed by too many alternatives
  - C. Ignoring available choices
  - D. Making quick decisions
10. Which best describes the writer’s viewpoint?
- A. People should avoid making important decisions
  - B. Freedom of choice is harmful in all situations
  - C. Too many choices can reduce satisfaction and increase anxiety
  - D. Shopping habits reveal personality differences

## Section 3

### Writing (30 Points)

Write any TWO tasks only

#### Task A

Write **120–150 words**:

Describe a situation in which practicing English outside the classroom helped you. Explain what you learned and why it was useful.

#### Task B

Write **150–180 words**:

Alternative forms of assessment are becoming more common in education.  
Discuss one advantage and one disadvantage of this trend.

**Task C**

Write **180–220 words**:

Technology alone cannot improve education; effective teaching practices matter more. To what extent do you agree or disagree?