



# Koala *International* Competition

**Sample Paper**  
**LEVEL: B2**

**Time: 60 minutes**

**Answer all 40 questions**

**Mark your answers on the answer sheet.**

**Use black or dark blue pen NOT pencil**

**At the end of the test the supervisor will collect your paper and answer sheet**

**Instructions are also given in your language by your supervisor**

**Good luck!**

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## ▪ Part 1 ▪

### Questions 1 – 10

For questions 1 – 10 choose the best answer **A, B, C** or **D** for each gap.  
Mark the answers on your answer sheet.

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### Bear Facts

Bears can be found all over the world. There are many things we don't know about bears because we usually don't have very much contact with them. For example, bears can run almost 65 kilometres per hour, fast (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to catch a running horse. The fastest known human alive today can run about 43 kilometres per hour.



Bears live in forests, mountains, deserts and grassy areas. They have fur-covered bodies, short legs and a round head with a long snout. In fact, bears have two layers of fur. A short layer of fur keeps the bear warm and a long layer keeps water (2) \_\_\_\_\_ from the skin and short fur.

Of course, there are different (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of bears but one of the most common bears is the brown bear.

Bears are omnivorous, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ they eat vegetation and meat. The brown bear's diet is quite similar to all other bears. They eat grass, fruit, insects, roots and bulbs of plants and, when hungry enough, will hunt small animals. Brown bears that live near the coast feed on fish, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ salmon.

Brown bears are found in more places than any other bear. They live in north-western North America, the Atlas Mountains of north-western Africa, northern Asia, Europe and the Middle East. There are (6) \_\_\_\_\_ subspecies of brown bears.

Many bears in the Northern Hemisphere hibernate during the colder months of the year. Hibernation is a deep sleep which (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the bears to live for a long period without food. During hibernation the bear's temperature drops and its heart beat slows down. The body fat the bear has stored during the warmer months is used during hibernation and this keeps the bear alive.

When a baby bear is born it usually does not have any fur and only weighs between 450 and 700 grams. The baby bear is often smaller than a teddy bear. These baby cubs need their mother for food and (8) \_\_\_\_\_ until they grow up into healthy strong bears and can (9) \_\_\_\_\_ themselves.

Bears can be dangerous to humans, particularly if surprised or if a person gets

(10) \_\_\_\_\_ a mother bear and her cubs.

1.    **A)** easily            **B)** more than    **C)** also            **D)** enough
2.    **A)** apart            **B)** over            **C)** away            **D)** between
3.    **A)** individual    **B)** types            **C)** character       **D)** family
4.    **A)** definition    **B)** explanation **C)** meaning       **D)** pointing to
5.    **A)** particularly **B)** particular    **C)** special       **D)** exceptional
6.    **A)** several       **B)** a number       **C)** variety       **D)** severely
7.    **A)** means       **B)** enables       **C)** causes       **D)** entitle
8.    **A)** screen       **B)** safe            **C)** protection    **D)** safeguard
9.    **A)** care of       **B)** caring for    **C)** look after    **D)** look at
10.   **A)** before       **B)** in front       **C)** between       **D)** close

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**Part 2**

**Questions 11 – 18**

Read the article below. For questions 11 – 18 choose **A, B, C** or **D**.  
Mark the answers on your answer sheet.

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**Interview with America's Got Talent Finalists Celtic Spring**

Irish American dance and fiddle band Celtic Spring was one of the finalists in America's Got Talent. The NBC television series searches for America's next big talent, featuring singers, dancers, magicians, comedians and other talents of all ages. The judges included Piers Morgan, singer Brandy, and actor and singer David Hasselhoff.



**A. For readers who didn't watch America's Got Talent, how did Celtic Spring first start?**

Celtic Spring had its beginnings in our desire to pass on the culture of my grandparents to our children. My grandparents were from Ireland, and they loved their culture and passed on a love of the culture to me. I wanted to pass the love on to our children so when each one turned four years old, he or she began to learn to play the fiddle and to Irish dance. We never intended to be a performing family, but the children loved the music and dance and became quite accomplished at an early age. We also began going to fiddle camps when the children were very young. Ten years ago our children began fiddling at a local farmers' market to earn money for fiddle camp and thus Celtic Spring was born.

**B. Celtic Spring was consistently a fan-favourite, as one of the Viewer's Choice in the semi-finals, and in the top 5 of the finals. Why do you think America loved your performance as it did?**

America loved Celtic Spring's performance because the Irish fiddle music is beautiful to listen to and the Irish step dancing is awesome. Furthermore, Celtic Spring members are excellent musicians and dancers. I think people love that they are all one family and that they also fiddle and dance at the same time.

We had a wonderful experience on America's Got Talent. We were thrilled that the audience liked our performance so much! We also had a great time getting to know the other performers and all the staff at the show. The talent and the staff became like a big family. Most of all, we liked having all that time together as a family. We are sad that the show has ended and all the family have expressed their sadness. We are grateful for all the friends and fans we have made through the show and hope to meet them as we perform around the country.

**C. Who was your favourite judge?**

We actually liked all three judges until we came before Piers in the semi-finals. We had thought his judging was good and we mostly agreed with him. We were shocked when he said to us "dump the parents and the little brother", but happy that he could not find something specific to criticise. He never said why we should "dump" the parents and the little brother. After we had won the semi-finals, he said "You are brilliant!"

We also liked David very much. During the time of filming, we got to know him and we realised that he is different in real life than the show depicted him. We were really touched and happy, and felt like we had won the million dollars, when at the end of the show, he presented us with a photo of himself that said: "To Celtic Spring! Your family values, your talent, your dedication is what all of America will remember. See you on the big stage soon!"

We liked Brandy because by the finals we had her appreciating what we do. I think initially our Celtic music and dance was not a genre she was familiar with. I think she loved our rendition of "Amazing Grace".

**D. Celtic Spring has performed across both North America and Europe. Where have audiences been the most responsive?**

Wherever we have performed, our audiences have loved Celtic Spring. Music and dance are a universal language and speak to everyone. One of our treasured memories of performing was when we performed in an Italian village for a really enthusiastic crowd with whom we could not speak. But they loved our show and afterwards showered us with their treasures: a gold painted horseshoe, poems, books, etc... We were so grateful to be able to bring them joy through our music and dance.

We also had great fun performing at an all-boys boarding school in England. Afterwards they showed us all around their school, including the haunted corridors (it felt like something out of Harry Potter)

When we perform we think we are giving something special to our audiences but we are deeply moved by what we get back: happy faces, stories, friendships...

- 11) **What was the main reason Celtic Spring was born?**
- A) Because they wanted to pass on the culture of their grandparents.
  - B) It was a decision made when the children turned four years old.
  - C) As a result of trying to gather money to go to fiddle camp.
  - D) Because they always intended to be a performing family.
- 12) **American viewers of the show loved Celtic Spring because..**
- A) viewers thought the fiddle music was beautiful.
  - B) Celtic Spring members can dance.
  - C) they are a singing family.
  - D) they liked the combination of a family playing music and dancing.
- 13) **Celtic Spring liked all the judges but....**
- A) changed their views about one of the judges during the semi-finals.
  - B) thought Piers was a good judge and was brilliant at the semi-finals.
  - C) didn't like Piers until the semi-finals.
  - D) were surprised that Piers found a lot of things to criticise.
- 14) **What is the most probable reason Celtic Spring could not talk to the enthusiastic crowd in Italy?**
- A) It is not permitted to talk when performing this kind of music.
  - B) There was a language barrier.
  - C) The audience were not really interested in talking to them.
  - D) Because the sudden showers meant they had to leave quickly.
- 15) **When Celtic Spring performed for an all-boys school in the UK....**
- A) it felt like something out of Harry Potter.
  - B) they were scared of the haunted corridors.
  - C) they knew the boys had fun at the school.
  - D) they enjoyed the experience.

**For each question, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.**

**Which paragraph states the following?**

One of the judges may not have been familiar with this kind of music.

Celtic Spring were well received during their performances abroad.

One of the judges appeared to change his opinion of Celtic Spring following the semi-finals.

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## ▪ Part 3 ▪

### Questions 19 – 25

Read the history of the Ferris wheel. For questions **19 – 25** choose **A, B, C** or **D**.  
Mark the answers on your answer sheet.

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### From the Ferris Wheel to the London Eye

Often called one of the greatest inventions of all time, the original Ferris wheel was invented in 1893 by George Washington Ferris. It is now more than one hundred years since the first wheel was commissioned in the City of Chicago as the greatest attraction at the Chicago World's fair. The cost of the Ferris wheel was over \$385,000 and weighed 1,200 tons. It was as high as a twenty five-storey building and could hold up to 1,400 passengers. The unobstructed view was spectacular. The Ferris wheel required more than twenty minutes to make a complete turn. It was the largest wheel ever built. However, today the highest wheel can be found in Las Vegas



The wheel was taken to the 1904 St. Louis Exposition and was later returned to Chicago. However, it was decided to dismantle the wheel in 1906 because of the enormous operational costs. The steel from the wheel was used to make a large ship during World War 1 and they called the ship the U.S.S. Illinois.

#### Why did they build the London Eye?

The London Eye was built to commemorate the new millennium. The wheel is meant to represent the passage of time, and was called the Millennium Wheel when it first opened in 2000. The wheel was designed by Julia Barfield and David Marks. The cost of construction was over £70 million.

It is now called the London Eye and on a clear day the incredible view means you can see for up to 40 Kilometers in any direction. With more than 3.75 million visitors every year this means that more people visit the London Eye on a yearly basis than those who visit the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt or the Taj Mahal.



The 32 capsules on the London Eye represent the 32 London boroughs, and each capsule weighs 10 tons.

Although there are only 32 capsules, for superstitious reasons they are numbered 1 to 33 so there is no capsule with the number 13. Each rotation lasts for 30 minutes and the Eye can carry 800 people.

#### 19. Why did they build the Ferris wheel?

- A) They needed a wheel to open the Chicago World Fair.
- B) George Washington Ferris insisted.

- C) To use as an attraction for an international fair.
- D) To build a large ship using the steel from the wheel.

**20. What did the original Ferris wheel have in common with the London Eye?**

- A) They were both built in America.
- B) The stunning view from the top.
- C) They were both built to commemorate a fair.
- D) Neither could carry a lot of passengers.

**21. Why was the Ferris wheel dismantled?**

- A) To decorate the U.S.S Illinois ship in World War 1.
- B) The wheel was too slow and required 20 minutes to make a turn.
- C) The cost of keeping the wheel working was too great.
- D) George Washington Ferris could not afford it any longer.

**22. The London Eye is popular and visited by...**

- A) more people than the Pyramids at Giza and the Taj Mahal together.
- B) more people than the Taj Mahal but fewer than those who visit the Pyramids at Giza.
- C) fewer people than the Taj Mahal but more than the Pyramids at Giza.
- D) more people than either the Pyramids at Giza or the Taj Mahal.

**23. Where can you find the original Ferris wheel today?**

- A) It is now the largest standing wheel in Las Vegas.
- B) It no longer exists.
- C) The wheel is now dismantled and sits on a U.S.S ship.
- D) The original is in the Chicago Science Museum.

**24. How many capsules are there actually on the London Eye?**

- A) 33 for reasons of superstition.
- B) 33 plus one to avoid number 13.
- C) 33 without capsule number 13.
- D) 32 capsules.

**25 Which wheel was destined to represent the passing of time?**

- A) The London Eye because it was built with this intention in mind.
- B) The Ferris wheel as it remained the largest wheel for over 100.
- C) Both wheels represent the passing of time in similar ways.
- D) Although this was the original idea, neither wheel managed to represent the passing of time.

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▪ Part 4 ▪

For questions **26 – 31** choose the word(s) closest in meaning to the underlined word(s).

For questions **32 – 35** choose the best answer **A, B, C** or **D**

Mark the answers on the answer sheet.

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**Is it true we did not go to the moon?**

Various stories have and do circulate which claim that the moon-landing was a **(26) hoax**. They have all been **(27) discredited** and, in any case, cannot stand up against either official evidence or third party evidence.

It is of course entirely true that we did not go to the Moon. Furthermore I doubt we ever will.

Well, I certainly didn't go, and unless your name is Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Eugene Cernan, Harrison H. Schmitt (or a few others I could name) then you probably didn't either.

However, if you mean, 'Is it true that the Apollo landings didn't happen?' then that's a different question.

I should add something about the tens of thousands of scientists, engineers, and technicians who worked on the moon landing project. To say that the moon landing was a fake is **(28) ludicrous**; you could not keep a secret like that in a free country.

But even more important were the test pilots and astronauts who put their lives on the line to test the machines we built on our way to the moon. And some of them died.

To say that the moon landings never happened **(29) blackens** the sacrifices of brave men like Gus Grissom, Ed White, Roger Chaffee and others who lost their lives while trying to turn their dreams into reality.

Many people have speculated that we never actually landed on the moon but this is **(30) baseless** speculation by people who see the government as a constant villain.

With a powerful enough telescope you can actually see the landing sites and various objects left behind such as the Lander base and the Lunar Rover from following missions. There is even a large **(31) reflective** sheet of metallic material that was left for reflecting Laser pulses from earth for experimentation purposes.



- 26 A) honest attempt  
B) almost true  
C) true only once  
D) a trick
- 27 A) exposed  
B) proven correct  
C) let down again  
D) punctured
- 28 A) grave  
B) reasonable  
C) serious  
D) absurd
- 29 A) compliments  
B) belittles  
C) admires  
D) praises
- 30 A) grandly  
B) justified  
C) warranted  
D) groundless
- 31 A) thoughtful and shiny.  
B) causes light or sound to bounce back.  
C) used to show what something is made of.  
D) cannot be argued with.
- 32 **The author implies that some people think the moon landing was ...**  
A) staged.  
B) kept a secret.  
C) something which ordinary people could never do.  
D) a convincing story.
- 33 **What does the author mean when he says 'it is of course entirely true that we did not go to moon?'**  
A) He agrees with those who say we never went to the moon.  
B) He wants to point out that no man could go to the moon.  
C) He wants to distinguish those who did go from everybody else.  
D) He is trying to show us that only the Apollo landed on the moon.

- 34 One argument the author uses to demonstrate that the moon landing did actually happen is:
- A) there are mirrors on the moon which show us the kind of things left there by Apollo.
  - B) it would be impossible to conceal a fake landing given the number of people involved.
  - C) because some people died in the process.
  - D) speculation about the moon landing has actually led to proof of the landing.
- 35 The author believes:
- A) the moon landing may indeed have happened.
  - B) if the moon landing happened it was not a secret.
  - C) doubting the moon landing is ridiculous.
  - D) objects left behind are the only evidence of the moon landing

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▪ Part 5 ▪

Questions 36 – 40

For questions 36 – 40 choose the correct word with the correct spelling.  
Mark the answers A, B or C on your answer sheet.

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- 36 Fortunately, all his injuries were \_\_\_\_\_ so there was no need for him to stay in hospital.
- A) superficial      B) superficail      C) superfisial
- 37 I'm not sure if all children \_\_\_\_\_ what their parents do for them
- A) apreciate      B) appreciate      C) depreciate
- 38 I hate it when there are so many \_\_\_\_\_ on TV when my favourite programme is on.
- A) advertisments      B) advertisements      C) advertiesments
- 39 More and more people today care about the \_\_\_\_\_ and want to save the planet.
- A) enviroment      B) enviromeant      C) environment
- 40 The bus stop is just outside my house so this is really \_\_\_\_\_ when I want to go into town.
- A) convenience      B) convenient      C) conveneint