

Step To Intermediate Student Book

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Straight As **03**

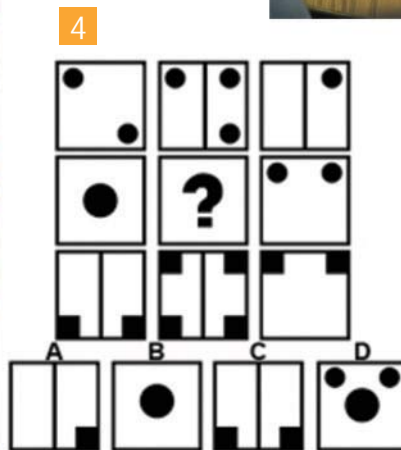
Speaking

1 Vocabulary – Types of Tests

IQ test	entrance exam	drug(s) test	driving test	oral test
eye test	end-of-year exam	physical fitness test	written test	medical exam

2 Discussion

- Which tests are shown in the pictures
- Why and where would a person take the exams listed above?
- Which of these tests and exams have you taken? Which ones will you take over the next few years?



3 Complete these sentences with tests from the box above.

- I don't think _____ are an accurate measure of intelligence.
- Opticians recommend having an _____ at least once every two years.
- I'm hopeless at _____ because I get too nervous and can't speak properly.
- She had to return her medal after she failed a _____.
- The hardest part of the _____ is the five-mile run.
- He didn't have to do his military service because he failed the _____.

Speaking

Exam Experiences

4 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

marks take measure memory coursework sitting

- Exams are the best way to _____ how much students have learnt. They are very fair because everyone in the country has to answer the same questions. However, coursework such as essays and projects should be included. I think a student's final mark should be 60% exams and 40% _____.
- I'm not very good at taking exams. Before an important exam, I usually get very nervous so I can't sleep very well. That means I'm pretty tired when I'm _____ the exam which just makes things worse.
- I'm quite good at taking exams because I have a good short-term _____ and I don't get too nervous. I got good _____ for most of my classes when I was at high school. In fact, I usually got As for all my classes except for maths.
- Some companies ask their employees to _____ drugs tests. I think that employers should trust their workers rather than treat them like criminals.

5 In pairs, discuss 1–4.

6 Advice for Taking Exams

Do you agree with these suggestions? Can you think of any others?

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Drink some coffee before you sit it. | 4. Go to a church, mosque or temple and pray. |
| 2. Don't study the day before the exam; do something relaxing instead. | 5. Stay up late revising your notes. |
| 3. Start revising three weeks before it. | 6. Sit next to a good student and copy his/her answers. |

Talking about your school exam results

*I got 97% **in/for** biology. I usually **get** very good **marks in/for** maths.*

*What **mark** did you get **in/for** the chemistry exam? I **got** nineteen **out of** twenty.*

*I was **expecting** a B, **but I got** a D.*

Writing

What things could cause you to have a bad day at school?

1 Fill in the blanks with words from the box.

fell asleep	go off	cheating	fainted	forgot
broke	missed	fell out	twisted	caught

- I overslept because my alarm didn't _____.
- I _____ the school bus so I was late for class.
- While I was playing softball, I _____ a classroom window.
- My maths teacher was angry because I _____ in class.
- I _____ to take my homework.
- One of my contact lenses _____ and I couldn't find it.
- I _____ my ankle while I was playing football.
- My science teacher caught me _____ in an exam.
- I _____ during a school assembly.
- My English teacher _____ me playing games on my cell phone.

2 Which of these have happened to you? Can you think of any other bad things that could happen?

3 Have you ever failed an exam for any of the following reasons?

Why might you fail an exam? You might fail an exam because:

- you're not good at that subject.
- you didn't study for it.
- the exam was too hard.
- you missed a lot of classes before the exam.
- you didn't feel well.
- you didn't turn the exam paper over so you only answered half of the questions.
- you were too nervous.



Writing

Writing a Narrative Essay

Essay topic: "Yesterday was my worst day at school." Continue the story.

- 4 Complete the essay by filling the blanks with the time words from the box.

moment continued when from now on after while

My day at school yesterday was a nightmare! I overslept because I had gone to bed late and forgotten to set my alarm. (1)_____ I woke up, I got a terrible surprise. It was ten o'clock! I put on my uniform and ran to school. Unfortunately, (2)_____ I was running, I slipped and fell into a muddy puddle.

(3)_____ arriving at school, I apologised to my teacher, Miss Evans. She told me to go to the boys' toilets to clean myself up. While I was there, I saw a boy from the year ahead of me smoking. He handed me his cigarette. I took it but said I didn't want to try it. At that very (4)_____, the headmaster walked in and saw me holding the cigarette. He called my parents and told them that I had been caught smoking.

My bad luck (5)_____ during the lunch break. I was playing cricket with some friends when suddenly I hit the ball really far. It flew over the sports field and crashed through a classroom window.

All in all, yesterday was the worst day that I've ever had at school. (6)_____, I'm going to go to bed earlier, remember to set my alarm, and be more careful.

5 **Useful Time Phrases for Telling Stories**

Find the following patterns in the essay above. Underline and mark them A–D.

- A. While I was V-ing, I V-ed
- B. After V-ing, I V-ed
- C. I was V-ing when (all of a sudden, suddenly) I V-ed
- D. All of a sudden / Suddenly / At that very moment, sb V-ed

The Past Perfect (had + past participle) is used when we are talking about two things that happened in the past. The past perfect shows which event happened first. We often add 'already'. *When I got home, they **had already eaten**.*

What happened first in these two sentences?

*I overslept because I **had gone** to bed late.*

*He called my parents and told them that I **had been caught** smoking.*