

DARYA ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXAM

Upper-Intermediate Level • Total marks: 100 • Time allowed: 120 minutes

Full Name:

Date:

Score:

General Instructions

- Read all questions carefully before writing your answers.
- Write clearly in black or blue pen.
- Do not use correction fluid. Cross out mistakes with a single line.
- Mobile phones and electronic devices are not permitted.

PART 1: VERB FORMS & MODALS — MULTIPLE CHOICE

10 marks

Choose the correct option (A–D) to complete each sentence. Circle or underline your answer.

1. The girl _____ all morning before her friend came to pick her up.
☐ A) studied ☐ B) had been ☐ C) will have studied ☐ D) was studying studying
2. She _____ in Kabul for three years before she moved to Herat.
☐ A) was living ☐ B) has lived ☐ C) lived ☐ D) had lived
3. You _____ worry — the results won't be announced until next week.
☐ A) mustn't ☐ B) shouldn't ☐ C) can't ☐ D) wouldn't
4. If he _____ more, he would have a better chance to pass the entrance exam.
☐ A) studied ☐ B) studies ☐ C) had studied ☐ D) would study
5. The new clinic _____ by the end of the year, according to officials.
☐ A) will open ☐ B) is opening ☐ C) will have opened ☐ D) opens
6. I am used to _____ long distances.
☐ A) walk ☐ B) being walked ☐ C) walking ☐ D) Both A and C
7. He wanted to know whether she _____ the meeting the following day.
☐ A) will attend ☐ B) attends ☐ C) would attend ☐ D) is attending
8. This is the first formal English course I _____ in my life.
☐ A) ever took ☐ B) have ever taken ☐ C) had ever taken ☐ D) was ever taking

9. He _____ be at home — his lights are on and his car is outside.

- ☐ A) should ☐ B) would ☐ C) must ☐ D) might

10. _____ you need any help, please don't hesitate to contact us.

- ☐ A) Would ☐ B) Should ☐ C) Had ☐ D) Were

Score: _____ /

PART 2: ARTICLE GAP FILL — CLOZE PASSAGE

8 marks

Read the text below. Fill each numbered gap with the correct article: a, an, the, or — (to indicate no article is needed)

A Changing City

Kabul is (1) _____ city that has changed enormously over (2) _____ past two decades. It is (3) _____ home to more than five million people, many of whom came from (4) _____ rural areas in search of (5) _____ better life. The streets are full of (6) _____ traffic and (7) _____ noise of daily commerce.

(8) _____ education has always been important to Afghan families. In recent years, (9) _____ number of private schools and universities has grown rapidly, offering (10) _____ young people (11) _____ access to qualifications that were once unavailable to them. However, (12) _____ quality of teaching varies greatly from one institution to (13) _____ another.

Despite (14) _____ many difficulties, the people of the city show (15) _____ remarkable resilience and determination to build (16) _____ future for their families.

Score: _____ /

PART 3: REPORTED SPEECH — SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION

10 marks

Rewrite each sentence in reported speech. Begin your answer with the words given. You may need to change tenses, pronouns, and time expressions.

1. "I am studying medicine at university," she said.

She said that

2. "Do you understand the instructions?" the teacher asked the students.

The teacher asked the students whether

3. "I will call you tomorrow," he promised me.

He promised me that _____

4. "Have you ever visited Herat?" she asked me.

She asked me whether _____

5. "You need to see a specialist who can check your eyes," the doctor said to Ms Haidari.

The doctor told Ms Haidari _____

6. "Hand in your homework," the teacher told Ali.

The teacher told Ali _____

7. "Please open your mouth" the dentist asked Mariam.

The dentist asked _____

8. "You must submit your assignment by Friday," the professor said.

The professor said that _____

9. "Ask your daughter to empty the sea with this glass so that I may enlarge my dominions," the Tsar said to the man.

The Tsar told the man to _____

10. "The results will be announced next week," the official told reporters.

The official told reporters that _____

Score: _____ /

PART 4: ERROR CORRECTION

12 marks

Each sentence below contains ONE grammatical error. Write the corrected word or phrase on the line provided.

1. In spite of her salary is low, she is helping her parents.

2. She said her father to sow the boiled beans in front of the Tsar.

3. I am not aware his location.

4. She used to swimming in the sea every morning.

5. She is most accomplished student of her class.

6. I've been waiting for this opportunity since a long time.

7. The attendance lists need handed in at the end of the month.

8. Climate change threaten marine life.

9. If I would have known earlier, I would have acted differently.

10. They made him apologise of the whole class.

11. Mariam has admired her father all her life until he betrayed her.

12. She told me she didn't know where was the nearest hospital.

Score: _____ /

PART 5: WRITING TASK

39 marks

Choose ONE of the following writing tasks. Write your response on the lines provided. Aim for 200–250 words.

A Formal Letter

You recently attended a free English language course run by a local community council. Write a formal letter to the community council. In your letter you should:

- explain what you found most valuable about the course
- describe one or two areas where you feel the course could be improved
- suggest one additional topic or skill you would like the course to include in future

B Opinion Essay

Some people believe that learning English is essential for success in today's world. Others argue that it places unfair pressure on speakers of other languages and risks undermining local cultures and identities. Write an essay presenting both sides of the argument and giving your own opinion.

Your essay should have a clear introduction, developed arguments, and a conclusion.

I am answering Task: _____

Word count: _____

Score: _____ /

Thousands of Iranians reach Saudi Arabia for Hajj despite war

Nearly 30,000 Iranians have arrived in Saudi Arabia for the Muslim Hajj pilgrimage that started this week despite the recent exchanges of missiles between the two countries after the US and Israel launched their war on Iran.

Tehran has launched hundreds of ballistic missile and drone attacks targeting Saudi Arabia's energy infrastructure, civilian sites and military bases since the start of the war in late February. Saudi Arabia in turn launched multiple strikes against Iran in retaliation for the attacks, although Riyadh communicated to Tehran that it was not taking part in the broader US-Israeli military campaign.

Nevertheless, about 1.5mn pilgrims have arrived from outside the kingdom for the Hajj even as concerns persist about a resumption of the three-month conflict.

Hajj is considered the fifth of Islam's five "pillars" and it is mandatory for all adult Muslims to make the journey at least once in their lifetime if they are physically and financially able. The number of pilgrims from each country is determined by a quota system.

Nearly 30,000 Iranian pilgrims travelled to Saudi Arabia on 131 flights this year, according to Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organisation. That is roughly one-third of the country's quota of 86,000. Iranian officials attributed the shortfall to the outbreak of war in the region and restrictions caused by US sanctions on fund transfers, which prevented more than 50,000 pilgrims from making the journey this year.

Saudi Arabia's government and population take special pride in hosting Muslim pilgrims from around the world who come to visit the holy sites in Mecca and Medina. The kingdom's monarchs have used the official title "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques" since 1986.

However, there have long been disagreements between Saudi Arabia and Iran over politics and religion in general and the handling of the Hajj in particular, some of which have culminated in bloodshed and boycotts.

The Iranian leadership has historically viewed Hajj as a political platform to oppose what it calls "arrogant powers", notably the US, and as a prime opportunity to voice opposition to Israel and mobilise support for the Palestinian people.

Iranian pilgrims, following the symbolic ritual of "disavowal of polytheists" established by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini decades ago, carry placards and chant political slogans. This practice has long been a source of friction with Saudi authorities, which forbid political activities and insist that Hajj remain a purely religious experience.

Back in 1987, Saudi security forces clashed with Iranian pilgrims staging anti-US protests in Mecca, an incident that Iranian officials say left 325 Iranian pilgrims dead. In response, crowds of Iranians attacked the Saudi embassy in Tehran.

Nearly 30 years later, in 2016, Iran boycotted Hajj following a deadly stampede in Mina the previous year that killed hundreds of pilgrims, many of them Iranian. The country's leaders accused Saudi authorities of failing to guarantee the safety of pilgrims. The Saudis rejected the accusation and said Iran was attempting to convert Hajj into a "political demonstration".

The boycott decision came after Saudi Arabia executed a firebrand Shia cleric earlier that year, which led to Iranian protesters attacking Saudi diplomatic missions, yet again resulting in a severance of diplomatic ties.

Tensions were markedly reduced after China brokered an agreement in 2023 that restored relations between the kingdom and the Islamic republic. Since then, Iranian pilgrims have regularly travelled to Mecca and Medina via direct flights.

Mecca and Medina are simply too sacred, and too central to the global Muslim consciousness, to be drawn into geopolitical retaliation. Riyadh would be extraordinarily reluctant to restrict Iranian access to the hajj absent a clear and specific security threat.

Open Questions: (9 marks)

1. How do the Iranian and the Saudi position on the Hajj differ?
2. What are the two reasons mentioned in the article why Iran boycotted Hajj in 2016?
3. Why did fewer Iranians travel to Mecca this year than allowed by the pilgrim's quota system? What reasons are mentioned in the text?

True and False: (12 marks)

Statements	True/False
1. Saudi Arabia has not launched attacks against Iran as it is not taking part in the US-Israeli military campaign.	
2. In the war against Iran, Teheran is retaliating by striking targets in Saudi Arabia.	
3. There have long been disagreements between Saudi Arabia and Iran about Hajj, but they never resulted in violence.	
4. China brokered a deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia to restore diplomatic relations in 2023.	
5. The Saudi Arabian parliament adopted the title "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques" in 1986.	
6. A deadly stampede in Mina killed hundreds of pilgrims in 2016.	