

# Final Writing Exam

## REVISION PAPER

Semester 1 Humanities/Science/Medical  
2017/18  
T. Fateha

# Example topics

Each topic will have 3 or 4 prompts (extra questions about the topic which you must answer)

- ▶ Describe your city and how it has changed (the buildings, the people, the lifestyle)
- ▶ Describe the best city in the world (name/location, good things about it, why you like it)
- ▶ The place you would like to be in right now (where/what, what you like, why it's better)
- ▶ The most important day of your life
- ▶ The ideal best friend
- ▶ Your ideal place (where this place is, why is it ideal, who is with you in this place)
- ▶ The internet (how often you use it, ways of using the internet, when you use it)
- ▶ Eid holidays
- ▶ Your hobbies
- ▶ Your friends
- ▶ Your parents
- ▶ Your cousin's wedding
- ▶ Learning English at PY
- ▶ A memorable experience
- ▶ Your favourite city
- ▶ Your experience at PY
- ▶ Daily routines
- ▶ Food and drink

# Example topics – continued

Each topic will have 3 or 4 prompts (extra questions about the topic which you must answer)

- ▶ Your house or flat
- ▶ The person you like the most in your family
- ▶ A city or place you visited
- ▶ A gift you have received in the past
- ▶ A useful invention
- ▶ Your favourite hobby
- ▶ Your last vacation/holiday
- ▶ A sad experience/event
- ▶ A happy experience/event
- ▶ A frightening (scary) experience
- ▶ Your best friend
- ▶ Future plans
- ▶ Future job/career
- ▶ Someone in your family
- ▶ Your weekends
- ▶ Most enjoyable holiday
- ▶ Your neighbourhood
- ▶ How you usually spend your summer holiday
- ▶ How you prepare for exams

# Previous *real* topics in the exam

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## SEMESTER 1

### Humanities (50 words)

- ▶ Your free time activities
- ▶ Your favourite restaurant
- ▶ Starting a business
- ▶ Your weekend

### Science & Medical (80 words)

- ▶ A happy experience in your life
- ▶ Your favourite season
- ▶ How people communicate
- ▶ Free time activities

## SEMESTER 2

### Humanities (80 words)

- ▶ Daily routine at university
- ▶ Famous place in your country
- ▶ Famous city in your country
- ▶ Academic life (studying at university)
- ▶ An electronic device

### Science & Medical (120 words)

- ▶ Benefits of studying at university
- ▶ Your university life
- ▶ Modern innovation
- ▶ Newspapers you read – *Science only*
- ▶ Medical careers – *Medical only*

# Word counts...

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## Humanities

SEMESTER 1

**50 words**

*All levels*

SEMESTER 2

**80 words**

*All levels*

## Science & Medical

SEMESTER 1

**80 words**

*All levels*

SEMESTER 2

**120 words**

*All levels*

# About the exam...

- ▶ Semester 1 Humanities students are usually asked to write 50 words
- ▶ Semester 1 Science/Medical students are usually asked to write 80 words
- ▶ Can you write more? Of course you can, but don't write *too* much, because we will still count the mistakes in the extra words.
- ▶ Look at the spelling of the words given to you in the question, and don't make mistakes with these words in your answer. For example, if the question asks you about 'communication' – make sure you don't make a mistake with spelling for this word.
- ▶ Make sure you know the difference between verbs, nouns, and adjectives.
  - Communicate – *verb*
  - Communication – *noun*
- ▶ You can practice writing your answer on your paper, but when you have copied your answer on a new page, remember to cross out your old practice answer, so the teacher only reads your final answer.
- ▶ Write clearly, make your handwriting easy to understand and read. Make sure you write on the lines. Make it easy for the teacher to read your answer so she can mark it quicker and give you a grade the next day.

# About the exam...

- ▶ If the question is asking you to ‘describe’ – make sure you know you to use adjectives.
- ▶ If the question is asking you ‘why’ – make sure you know how to give reasons (...because..., ...to be able to...).
- ▶ If the question is asking you say ‘how’ – make sure you know to explain. You can say “by + verb ing” and “from + verb ing) for example:
  - I learnt how to cook **by watching** my sister
  - I learn more about biology **from watching** YouTube programmes

*We don't say “to + infinitive” in these types of sentences above.*

# About the topics...

- ▶ Make sure you read the question very carefully. If there are three questions for the topic, make sure you answer all three questions. You will LOSE marks if you answer only one or two.
- ▶ Look at how the question is written, then write your first sentence for the answer using similar words first. This makes it easier for the teacher to check if you have answered the question. For example:
  - *“How do you usually spend your summer holiday?”*  
You can begin your sentence with *“I usually spend my summer holiday in America”*
  - *“Who do you like the most in your family?”*  
You can begin your sentence with *“The person I like the most in my family is...”*
- ▶ Another example, “What do **you like to eat?**” – you can begin your sentence with “I **like to eat...**” – this also makes it easy for the teacher to check if you have answered the question.

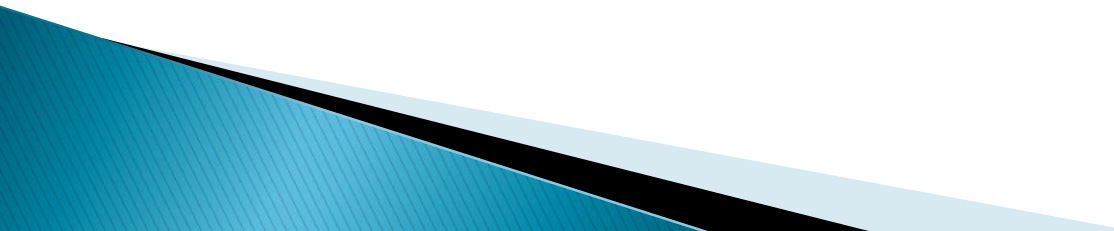


# About the topics...

- ▶ Look at the words in the question. Check if the words in the question are 'past simple' or 'present simple'. For example: "How do you **spend** your summer holidays" – The verb 'spend' is present simple, so it's asking about general facts or routine. The word is NOT '**spent**' which is past simple, so they **don't** want to know about your **last** summer holiday. So, make sure you answer using the correct grammar tense.
- ▶ You must answer all of the questions. If you don't understand the question, look at the keywords carefully and **try to understand** the meaning.
  - For example, "– **how** you make **use** of your **time**" – so now you know this means 'how do you use your time'.
- ▶ Check if the question is asking you to **talk about** something, or if you need to **describe** something.
- ▶ What kind of question is it? "What, why, when, where, how, why, do/does?"

# Layout and formatting

## How should your answer look?

- ▶ Put a line between every paragraph to make it easy to read. If you don't then have a short space before the first word of every paragraph.
  - ▶ Always use capital letters for cities, countries, names of people, and at the beginning of every new sentence (NOT line).
  - ▶ Use a comma to break a sentence, and use a full stop to end a sentence.
  - ▶ Make sure your sentences are not too long – use full stops to make sentences easy to read.
  - ▶ Answer each question in a new paragraph
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# You can use the 'block' style or the 'indent' style for paragraphs. Both are correct.

## BLOCK style

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In this example, there are NO spaces before the first word of each paragraph. There are only an extra line spaces between each paragraph.

## INDENT style

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In this example, there are 5 character spaces before the first word of each paragraph. There are NO extra line spaces between each paragraph. The 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph doesn't need the spaces.

# Things to remember in the exam

- ▶ “There is” (singular), “There are” (plural)
  - For example “**there is a** cat in the classroom” and “**there are** five people in my house”
- ▶ “A”, “An” and “The” (definite/indefinite articles) “A/an” are indefinite articles’ – if we are not sure if something is there. For example:
  - “Do you have **a pen**?” – indefinite – we use ‘a’ pen because we don’t know if there is a pen or not.
  - We also use “a/an” meaning ‘one’: for example “**a** cat” (meaning ‘one cat’, and “**an orange**” (meaning ‘one orange’, but ‘an’ is also used with words beginning with a vowel letter (a, e, i, o, u)).
  - With plural nouns, we don’t say ‘a’ because ‘a’ is used for singular only. With plural nouns, we use quantifiers like ‘some’ and ‘many’. For example, “there **are many** cats in PY”
  - “Do you have **the register**?” – “The” is a definite article, and we use it if we know something is there. We use ‘the’ register because we know there is a register
- ▶ Present simple (“I **like** coffee”, “she **likes** coffee”)
- ▶ Past simple (“I **went** to London, “he **told** me”)

# Things to remember in the exam

- ▶ **Present continuous** (“I **am** walking to school”, “I **am** studying English)
- ▶ **Present perfect** (I + have/has + Verb 3/Past Participle, “I **have been** studying English for 5 years”)
- ▶ **Adjectives** (describing words) (“nice”, “happy”, “smart”, “big”)
- ▶ **Giving opinions**: “I think that...” “I think...”, “In my opinion...”, “I believe” – the teacher will like this if it’s used correctly
- ▶ **Adverbs of frequency** (“usually, always, sometimes, often”)
- ▶ **Prepositions** (“**at** home”, “**at** university”, “**in** school”, “**on** the table”)
- ▶ Try to use words like “but”, “and”, and “however”, if you need them in a sentence.
- ▶ If you use the word ‘*also*’, try to use it in the middle of the sentence, for example:
  - This is ok but can sound better: “**Also**, I like to visit my family and friends”
  - Sounds better: “I **also** like to visit my family and friends”
- ▶ Remember your **verb patterns**
  - “She doing” is wrong, because ‘is’ is missing. To make this present continuous, we should say ‘She is doing’.

# Things to remember in the exam

- ▶ When do we use 'apostrophe with 's'?

## POSSESSIVES

When something belongs to someone, we use 's

For example:

This is Sarah's bag

Why? Because the bag belongs to Sarah

The dog's name is Pat

Why? Because the 'name' belongs to the dog

However, we put the apostrophe **after** the 's' when we have something plural

For example:

All of the students' homework was good

Why? Because there isn't just one student, there are many (plural), and all of the homework belong to all of the students

Most of the girls' families live in Riyadh

Why? Because there are many girls, and all of their families live in Riyadh

MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.englishclub.com/grammar/nouns-possessive.htm>

# Things to remember in the exam

- ▶ We also use apostrophes with the following:

## CONTRACTIONS

When we want to make words shorter, we use an apostrophe

For example:

I have not = I haven't

I am = I'm

He is = He's

I will = I'll

The apostrophe shows there are letters missing. We normally use contractions when we are speaking.

**MORE INFORMATION:** <http://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/contractions.htm>

# Verb patterns (rules)

- ▶ Here are some of the most common verb patterns (rules).
- ▶ You know some of these already, and you should try to use them correctly in the writing exam.
- ▶ If you need to understand grammar, look at my grammar paper that I wrote for the **mid-term/final exam**. If you would like a copy of any of them, ask me and I will email it (T.Fateha).

Let's have a look at these two pages





## 5.1 Verb patterns 1

Here are four verb patterns. There is a list of verb patterns on p143.

1 Verb + *to* + infinitive

They **want to buy** a new car.

I'd **like to go** abroad.

2 Verb + *-ing*

Everyone **loves going** to nice restaurants.

He **finished reading** his book.

3 Verb + *-ing* or + *to* + infinitive with no change in meaning

It **began to rain/raining**.

I **continued to work/working** in the library.

4 Verb + preposition + *-ing*

We're **thinking of moving** house.

I'm **looking forward to having** more free time.

## 5.2 *like doing* and *would like to do*

1 *Like doing* and *love doing* express a general enjoyment.

I **like working** as a teacher. = I am a teacher and I enjoy it.

I **love taking photos**. = This is one of my hobbies.

2 *Would like to do* and *would love to do* express a preference now or at a specific time.

I'd **like to be** a teacher. = When I grow up, I want to be a teacher.

Thank you. I'd **love to go**. = You're going to a lecture. I'm pleased that you asked me.

### Question

### Short answer

Would you like to go for coffee?

Yes, I would./Yes, I'd love to.

Would you like to come for a walk?

Yes, I would./No, thank you.

## VERB PATTERNS

Verb + <i>-ing</i>	
like	swimming
love	
enjoy	cooking
hate	
finish	
stop	

### Note

We often use the verb *go* + *-ing* for sports and activities.

I **go swimming** everyday.

I **go shopping** at the weekend.

Verb + <i>to</i> + infinitive	
choose	to go
decide	
forget	
promise	
manage	
need	to work
help	
hope	
try	
want	
would like	
would love	

Verb + <i>-ing</i> or <i>to</i> + infinitive	
begin	raining/to rain
start	

Verb + <i>sb</i> + infinitive without <i>to</i>		
let	somebody	go
make		do

Modal auxiliary verbs	
can	go
could	
shall	
will	arrive
would	

# Marking criteria

How will the teacher mark your paper? Usually full marks (12) will look like this:

- ▶ 1) **Task fulfillment (3)**
  - You have answered all the questions
- ▶ 2) **Vocabulary and spelling (3)**
  - Only **a few** mistakes and we still understand the meaning of the sentence
- ▶ 3) **Grammar and punctuation (3)**
  - Only **a few** mistakes and we still understand the meaning of the sentence
- ▶ 4) **Organisation and cohesion (3)**
  - The organisation (the way) your text (writing) is read is **mostly appropriate** (good)
  - You use pronouns (I, you, he/she...), articles (a/an/the), “and, but, so”, etc. **accurately most of the time**

# Example question

## Sample Task

### WRITING SECTION

You should spend about 60 minutes on this task.

Write at least 80 words.

Write about the person you like the most in your family.

You should:

- say who this person is;
- describe him/her; and
- say why you like him/her.

# Example answer - full marks (12)

My Family is my Life.

My Family is the best Family I had ever seen in the world, I have 4 brothers and 3 sisters.

I want to talk about my mother because she is my life, I love her so much and I can't live without her, she is affectionate woman, she love every one and she is a kind woman.

I like her because she do any things just to make me feel happy and every time when I feel sad I go to hug her because I feel very affection when I hug her.

I pray to god to make her always stay with me.

# And finally...

- ✓ Bring a pencil, eraser and pen to the exam
- ✓ Don't forget the exam rules and your ID
- ✓ Don't stress and do your best
- ✓ Don't be nervous about the topic
- ✓ Say Bismillah, make du3a

All the best!

