

# LAU – EEE – Sample Exam Questions

The English Entrance Exam at the Lebanese American University consists of 3 sections:

- Section A is a **Reading Test**: it includes 3 passages and asks you to answer 16 multiple-choice questions. You should complete this section in 25 minutes.
- Section B is a **Textual Analysis Test**: it includes 4 passages and asks you to answer 24 multiple-choice questions. You should complete this section in 40 minutes.
- Section C is a **Writing Test**: it includes 1 suggestion and asks you to choose one. You are advised to allocate 5 minutes for reading the suggestions and planning your essay. You should complete this section in 35 minutes.

The EEE is a test that is taken using computers. You will be provided with writing paper and a pencil. The notes that you make during the test must be left in the testing room. They will be shredded by the proctors at the end of the session. You should not bring any books or stationery with you to the test room. You will not be allowed to carry any electronic devices while you are taking the test; these include:

- Smart phones
- Smart Watches
- Bluetooth enabled earphones
- Any other device that is considered “Smart” and can be connected to the internet or make calls.

The proctoring team will ask you to leave your coats, jackets, handbags, backpacks and mobile phones in a safe place inside the room, but not close to you.

The EEE session lasts 2 hours. The testing period is 1hour and 45 minutes. We allow 20 minutes for administration. During the entire session, you will not be allowed to leave the room. If you experience an emergency which requires you to leave the testing room, your session will be terminated and you will be required to re-register for a different session, on a different day.

Click [here](#) to confirm that you have read, that you understand and agree to the information above.

## Section A - Reading Test

### Sample Passage

25 minutes – 16 questions

#### Directions

Each passage below is followed by a number of questions. After reading each passage, choose the best answer to each question based on what is stated or implied in the passage.

Questions 1-5 are based on passage A below.

This passage is adapted from Ian Crofton, *The Vikings* (2011).

Between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries, waves of raiders and migrants swept out of Scandinavia and stamped their mark on a period that has come to be known as the “Viking Age”. Long feared as brutal pillagers and deliverers of merciless slaughter, the Vikings were also expert seafarers, long-distance traders and fine craftsmen, and in many places settled down as peaceful farmers, generally integrating with **the indigenous peoples** and cultures. By the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century nearly all had swapped their pagan beliefs for Christianity. The term Viking is unknown in modern English before the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. To **their contemporaries**, they were simply Norsemen – the men from the north.

As far as England was concerned, the Viking Age commenced when the abbey on the island of Lindisfarne, off the Northumbrian coast, was destroyed by a fleet of Norse longships on 8 June 793. All the monks were killed. The event sent shockwaves through the Christian kingdoms of north-west Europe. Two years later, in search of further treasure, the Vikings attacked the abbey on the small Hebridean island of Iona, the cradle of Christianity in Scotland. Many more such raids were to follow, the Danes attacking the east coast of England and north-west France, while the Norwegians concentrated on the Hebrides, the

wester seaboard of Scotland, the Isle of Man and the coasts of Ireland. They even had a short-lived settlement in North America that they called “Vinland”, which may have been in modern day Maine.

Vikings from Sweden turned their attention eastward across the Baltic to Russia, sailing down the Volga to the Caspian Sea and the Dnieper to the Black Sea, and even mounting an attack on Constantinople, capital of the Byzantine empire. Although this failed, the Byzantine emperors were so impressed by the fighting skills of the Vikings that they later recruited large numbers to form their personal bodyguards. In Russia, the Swedes were known as the Rus, and established the most important early Russian principality, based in Kiev.

Quite what prompted the Viking expansion is the subject of some debate, but it is likely that in their harsh northern homelands agriculture production lagged behind population growth, prompting many to eye up the richer, more temperate lands to the south.

1. As used in the text, what does the expression “**the indigenous peoples and cultures**” most nearly mean?
  - a. The native people
  - b. The original inhabitants
  - c. The local population
  - d. All of the above\* ✓
  
2. As used in the text, “**their contemporaries**” most nearly means
  - a. The people who lived in the same period\* ✓
  - b. Their opponents
  - c. Their families
  - d. Their predecessors
  
3. What method of conquest did the Vikings mostly use?
  - a. They farmed the land
  - b. They traded with people from other countries
  - c. They invaded from the sea\* ✓
  - d. There is not enough information in the passage to answer this question
  
4. According to the information in the passage, what is the foremost reason for the Vikings’ expansion?
  - a. They were raiders
  - b. They wanted to eliminate Christian settlements
  - c. They wanted to defeat the Byzantine empire
  - d. Their population was increasing and they needed access to fertile land\* ✓
  
5. Which modern-day location is believed to have been established by Viking settlers? Tick all the answers that apply
  - a. The island of Iona in Scotland
  - b. The state of Maine in the United States\* ✓
  - c. The city of Constantinople in the Byzantine Empire
  - d. The city of Kiev in Russia\* ✓

## Section B – Textual Analysis Test

### Sample Passages

40 minutes – 24 questions

#### *Directions*

Each passage below is accompanied by a number of questions. For some questions, you will consider how the passage might be revised to improve the expression of ideas. For other questions, you will consider how the passage might be edited to correct errors in sentence structure, usage or punctuation.

Some questions will direct you to an underlined portion of a passage. Other questions will direct you to a location in a passage or ask you to think about the passage as a whole.

After reading each passage, choose the answer to each question that most effectively improves the quality of writing in the passage or that makes the passage conform to the conventions of standard written English.

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#### **Questions 1– 7 are based on the below passage**

**Marc Williamson, “Why does Happiness Matter?”**

Does happiness matter? People react to this question in surprisingly different ways. Some suggest that there are far more significant things to worry about; others see happiness as vitally important and something that every human being ultimately wants in life. To explore this conundrum (1), we need to start by looking at what happiness actually means.

Happiness relates to how we feel, but it is more than just a passing mood. We are emotional beings and experience a wide range of feelings on a daily basis. Negative emotions – such as fear and anger – help us to get away from danger or defend ourselves. And positive emotions – such as enjoyment and hope – help us to connect with others and build our capacity to cope when things go wrong.

Trying to live a happy life is not about denying negative emotions or pretending to feel joyful all the time. We all encounter adversity and it’s completely natural for us to feel anger, sadness, frustration and other negative emotions as a result. To suggest otherwise would be to deny part of the human condition.

Happiness is about being able to make the most of the good times – but also to cope effectively with the inevitable bad times, in order to experience the best possible life overall. Or, in the words of the biochemist turned Buddhist monk Matthieu Ricard: “Happiness is a deep sense of flourishing, not a mere pleasurable feeling or fleeting emotion but an optimal state of being.”

One popular misconception about happiness is that happy people are somehow more likely to be lazy or ineffective (2). In fact research shows the opposite is true: happiness doesn’t just feel good, it actually leads to a wide range of benefits for our performance, health, relationships and more. So, rather than success being the key to happiness, research shows that happiness could in fact be the key to success.

But perhaps most importantly of all, people who are happier are more likely to make a positive contribution to society. In particular, they are more likely to vote, do voluntary work and participate in public activities. They also have a greater respect for law and order and offer more help to others. There is even evidence that happiness is contagious, so that happier people help others around them to become happier too.

When it comes to the happiness of society as a whole, however, the sad truth is that in recent decades we have

become substantially richer but no happier. The positive benefits of higher incomes have been undermined by rising inequality and falling levels of trust and social cohesion. We've also reached the point where mental ill health is one of the greatest social challenges causing more of the suffering in our society than either unemployment or poverty (3).

1. Which of these statements is not in keeping with the argument in this passage?
  - a. Happiness can be achieved by leading a healthy lifestyle\*✓
  - b. Happiness is all about being in a good mood
  - c. Happiness can be achieved by ignoring the negative events around us
  - d. All of the above
2. According to the passage, why is happiness important for society?
  - a. Happy people improve the society around them
  - b. Happy people obey the law
  - c. Happy people tend to be successful
  - d. All of the above\* ✓
3. According to the passage, what is the impact of societies becoming richer?
  - a. People trust each other more
  - b. People suffer from mental ill health
  - c. People experience greater levels of inequality\*✓
  - d. All of the above
4. As used in sentence (1) "conundrum" most likely means
  - a. Puzzle\* ✓
  - b. The meaning of Happiness
  - c. Idea
  - d. All of the above
5. Which of the statements below expresses an idea that is similar to the point being made in sentence (2)?
  - a. Many people believe that happy individuals are lazy
  - b. It is not fair to state that all happy individuals are lazy
  - c. Although many people may think that happy individuals are not effective, yet this is not accurate
  - d. All of the above\*✓
6. Which of the statements below expresses an idea that is similar to the point being made in sentence (3)?
  - a. Unemployment, poverty and ill-health are all equally damaging
  - b. More people suffer from mental ill-health than from unemployment or poverty
  - c. Mental ill-health has a more detrimental impact on societies than unemployment or poverty\*✓
  - d. All of the above
7. According to the passage, what positive effect does happiness have on people?
  - a. Improves their work performance
  - b. Improves their health
  - c. Improves their personal relationships
  - d. All of the above\*✓

Questions 8 -13 are based on the below and the data provided below.

The passage is adapted from Don Tapscott *Grown Up Digital* (2009).

Today's mobile phones do a lot more than make a phone call. In many countries, access to desktop or laptop computers with an internet connection is limited, and the mobile phone with high speed connection to the Internet is the preferred method to go online. Connecting to the Internet with a mobile phone is cheaper than connecting by computer, which is why they're growing so fast in Africa, where mobiles outnumber landlines in every country. More than 50 million Africans had a mobile subscription by the end of 2005, representing 5 percent of Africa's population. In Asia, up to 90 percent of consumers subscribe to wireless data plans, versus just over half in the United States. And while Americans mostly use basic data features such as mobile text messaging, Asians are already using their phones for many other purposes, such as watching movies, buying food at vending machines, and using them as train passes.

The figures and charts below illustrate various trends about using mobile phone usage.

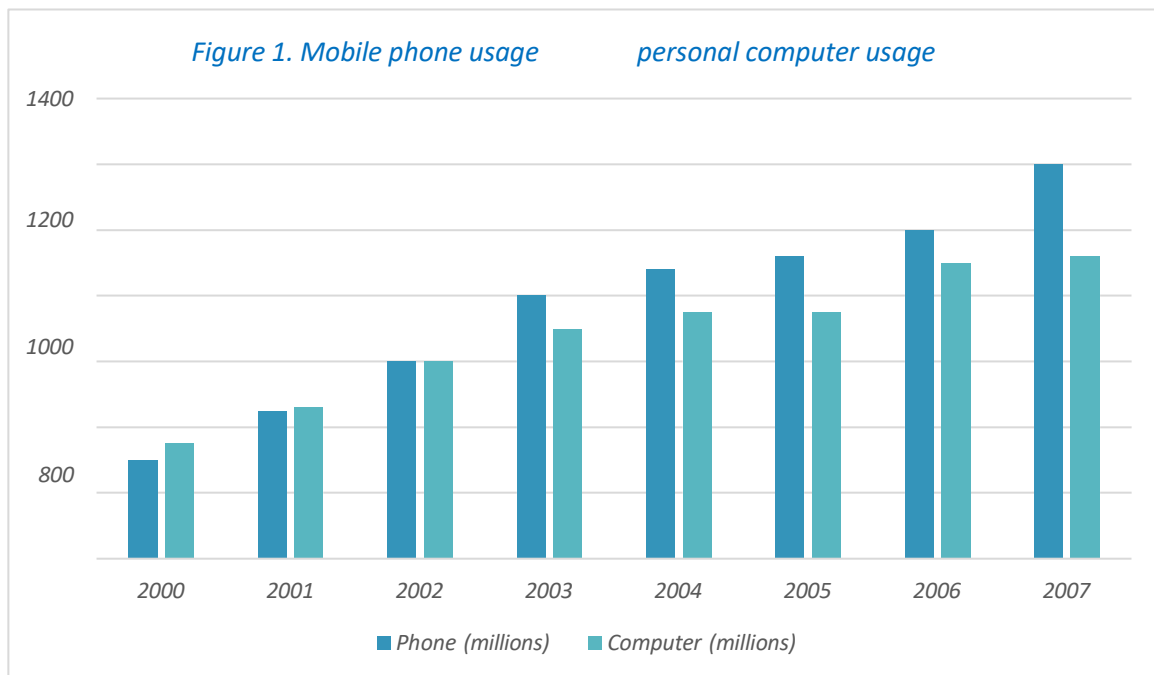


Figure 2. Percentage of people who own a phone

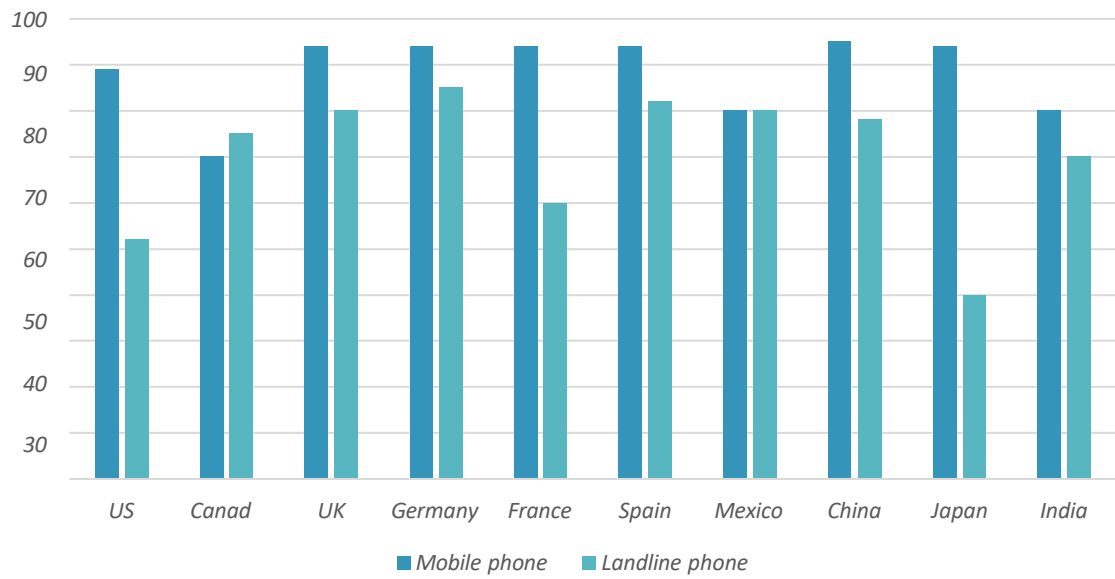
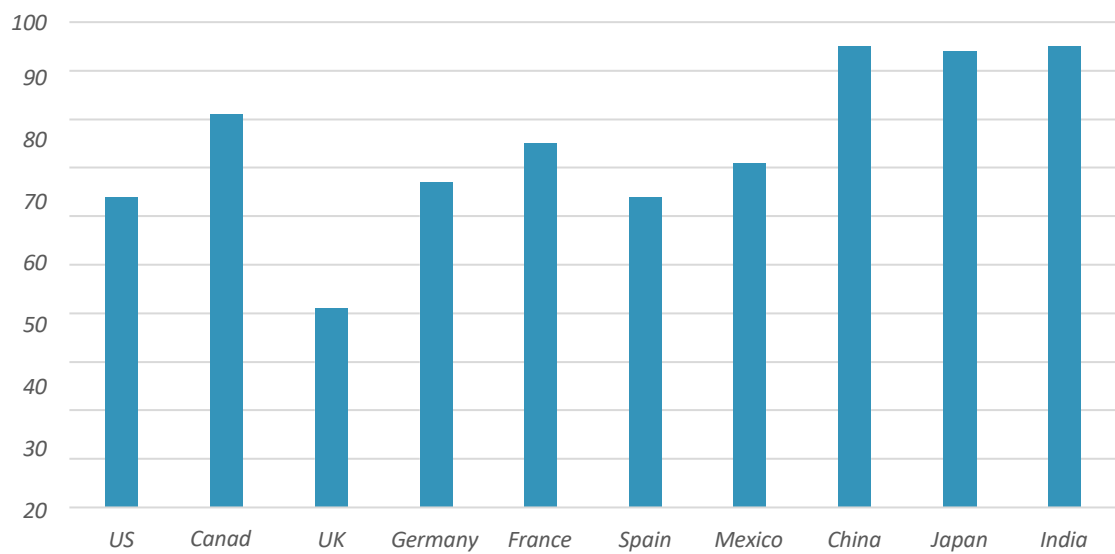


Figure 3. Percentage of people who text-messed or e-mailed using their



8. Based on the information provided, which country has the fewest number of mobile phone owners?
- a. US
  - b. France
  - c. Japan
  - d. It's not possible to know with the given information\* ✓
9. Based on the information provided, what conclusion would be reasonable about the future of mobile phone usage?
- a. It is increasing\* ✓
  - b. It is declining
  - c. It is stable
  - d. It's not possible to know with the given information
10. Based on the information provided, which statement could provide a reason for the popularity of mobile phones to access the internet?
- a. Mobile phones are easier to use
  - b. Connecting to the internet using a mobile phone costs less\* ✓
  - c. Mobile phones allow you to send text messages
  - d. It's not possible to know with the given information
11. Based on the information provided, which statement would be reasonable about future trends in using mobile phones?
- a. Mobile Phones will be used to pay for public services\* ✓
  - b. Mobile phones will be used to diagnose illnesses
  - c. Mobile phones will never replace personal computers
  - d. Personal computers will be used to send text messages
12. Consider the title of Figure 1. "Mobile phone usage personal computer usage". Which word best fills the gap
- a. however
  - b. surpasses\* ✓
  - c. declines
  - d. pushes
13. Based on the information provided, which statement is incorrect?
- a. The percentage of people who own a landline in Mexico is double that of Japan
  - b. In the year 2000, more people used their personal computers
  - c. More people own mobile phones in Canada than in India\* ✓
  - d. All of the above



**Section C - Writing Test**

**35 minutes + 5 minutes of planning**

***Write an essay responding to the suggestion below. You are encouraged to share your own ideas and opinions, and to illustrate those using references from your own reading, or your personal experience.***

Social media outlets have been inundated with fake news about the causes, symptoms and cures for COVID-19, commonly referred to as Corona Virus. Recent research has shown that young people (aged 18 -23) are amongst the most frequent consumers of information on social media. What advice would you give to anyone who is seeking information on this virus from online sources?

