Politechnika Warszawska
Studium Języków Obcych
Egzamin pisemny z języka angielskiego
Poziom B2

1. Listening
You will hear part of a radio programme about reducing the amount of packaging used by supermarkets. For questions 1-10, complete the sentences. You will need to write a word or a short phrase in each box. Write only the words you hear. (10 marks)

Supermarkets are forced to change their attitude to excessive packaging by

According to a study, around 2 of people want to reduce waste.

Some items in packages, such as 3 are also wrapped individually.

Most people think it’s wrong to wrap 4 in plastic.

Shoppers at some stores can now put excess packaging into 5 when they pay.

Some people suggest giving bad 6 to supermarkets that use too much packaging.

According to manufacturers, a lot of packaging is 7 nowadays.

An official organization thinks that supermarkets should pay a special 8

Some suggest that people should buy more in 9 instead of in supermarkets.

Shoppers rarely receive free 10 these days.
2 Reading

2.1 You are going to read an article about an environmental campaigner. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences (A-G) the one which fits each gap (11-16). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. Write your answers in the boxes provided under the text. (12 marks)

A. I also tell them that it saves money and avoids breaking the law.
B. I decided to have these conversations on a regular basis after that.
C. I find this fact often takes my victims by surprise.
D. I went home and checked this out.
E. It’s not the sort of mistake you make twice.
F. I try not to get affected emotionally if drivers respond in this way.
G. I’ve been distributing them in this way ever since.
WOULD YOU TURN OFF YOUR ENGINE, PLEASE?

I was walking around my neighbourhood in New York one spring evening two years ago when I came across a stretch limousine parked outside a restaurant. The driver’s clients were inside having dinner, and he had his engine running while he waited. It really bothered me. He was polluting the air we breathe as well as wasting huge amounts of fuel, so I knocked on the driver’s window.

I explained to him that he didn’t need to waste his boss’s money or pollute our air. I addressed the issues politely and, after a ten-minute chat, he agreed to shut off the engine. I felt empowered – I could make a difference to our environment. (11) So whenever I see a driver sitting with the car engine running, I go over and talk to him or her.

Six months later, I talked to a guy who turned out to be an undercover police officer. He told me he wouldn’t turn off his engine because he was on a job, but asked me if I knew there was actually a law against engine idling, as it’s called. (12) Sure enough, under New York City’s traffic laws, you could be fined up to $2,000 for engine idling for more than three minutes.

I had small business cards printed up that referred to the relevant law on one side and the penalties on the other, and started to hand them out to idlers. (13) It’s surprising how many people are unaware that they could get a fine. That’s why I start my encounters the same way every time.

I say: ’Excuse me for bothering you, but are you aware that it’s against the law in New York City to idle your car for more than three minutes? (14) They want to know who I am, am I a cop? I tell them that I’m just a concerned citizen and want to make sure we improve our environment.

We usually have a discussion and I always try to conclude the encounter on a positive and polite note, saying how great it would be if they shut off their engine so we can all have a better environment. (15) Most are convinced by these arguments. Indeed, I’m successful seventy-eight percent of the time. Although, of course, there are people who are aggressive or who won’t do it. My success rate with cops is only five percent.

I keep an Excel spreadsheet so that I have a precise record of each of my encounters. If I get an aggressive reaction, I list their comments and highlight them in red. (16) I don’t give up, however, and try to approach them professionally. But my feelings do get hurt on occasion. Then I remind myself that because I make the first approach, I’m actually the aggressor in this situation. My victims are just sitting there thinking: ‘Who is that guy?’

To date, I have had 2,500 encounters and, overall, I have made a difference. I’m in touch with the Department of Energy in Washington and my work is endorsed by the American Lung Association. And recently a New York traffic cop wrote the city’s very first ticket for idling.
2.2 You are going to read a magazine article in which people are interviewed about the environment. For questions 17-26, choose from the paragraphs A-D. The paragraphs may be chosen more than once. Write your answers in the boxes provided. (10 marks)

Which of the people A-D:

17 no longer drives a car?
18 thinks about the effect of tourism on other countries?
19 is sure the environmentalists are going to win?
20 had to eat cold food?
21 has stopped using a bicycle for some journeys?
22 says we need to change but we can still enjoy ourselves?
23 talks about media interest in protests?
24 has gone to live somewhere else in order to travel less?
25 believes that by the time people react it will be too late?
26 wants nothing to do with companies that make weapons?
I bought a small dairy farm in Wales about 16 years ago but I became unhappy using artificial fertilizers and pesticides and so decided to change to organic farming. I’m now looking for another farm which does not need any chemical input, where I can use plants and vegetables to make the soil richer. In my everyday life I am a typically urban person. I need the car for my job, but use it as little as possible outside that. I think the most important thing about green living is to create minimum waste. I live on my own and I only fill one, possibly two, supermarket bags with rubbish each week. I recycle tins and bottles, and use energy-efficient light bulbs. I am very pessimistic about the future. I don’t understand why no one seems to care. Our rivers are drying up but people won’t do anything until the water stops coming through their taps.

The first thing I did was change my shopping habits. I started buying organic food and products with the Fairtrade label, which shows they’re made from sustainable resources, and the workers and farmers get a fair deal. Then I moved my bank account to the Co-operative to ensure my money was being invested ethically, not in businesses like arms manufacturers or polluting oil companies. And nowadays I always book my foreign holidays through a tour operator that has good environmental and social policies. I realize that those of us who earn a good salary, and enjoy spending it, are over-consuming the world’s resources. But I’m afraid it’s just not realistic to expect people to stop doing what they like doing. I just wish everyone knew that alternative, less damaging ways of doing things exist – and that these can be fun too.

I started off by moving close enough to my work so I could cycle, walk or use public transport. Then I realized I could live without the car. I began taking my young daughter, Freya, to school on my bike, but now we walk. I have to rely on friends to do our recycling. Shopping was also a big problem at first, but now I shop locally. At home, I have reduced my fuel usage a lot by putting plastic on the windows and only heating rooms when we’re in them. I recycle paper, glass and cans, so our dustbin is only about one quarter full each week. I know that our water is polluted, that the climate’s changing. The Government is afraid of doing anything about it because they think people don’t want to change their lifestyles. But we’re intelligent enough to try to avoid an environmental crisis and I think it shows a total lack of moral courage not to face it.

I first got involved in direct action during the battle to stop them building that bypass, which was when the press and TV really began to take notice of us. It meant living in a very damp and cold tree house, with no hot meals and the ever present risk of a fall, but a real sense of community developed among us. Since then, there must have been dozens of campaigns against motorway building and the movement has built up tremendous force. We’ve had so many successes and it’s clear that so many millions of people support us that we know we’re unstoppable now. If you ask me it’s all come about because people see the decision-making process as remote, and realize the political parties only listen to the rich and big business. But now it’s ordinary people who are setting the pace, and if governments don’t listen they’ll be left behind.
3 Use of English

3.1 For questions 27-36, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space. Write your answers in the answer boxes provided. There is an example at the beginning (0).

(10 marks)

A MAN MADE ISLAND

One of Japan’s biggest problems is overpopulation in relation to the limited amount of land it has. The Japanese, though, have come up with an unbelievable solution to this problem: when you run out of islands, simply build more.

The project is known as Ocean Communications City and will cost approximately 200 billion dollars. Kiyohide Terai, one of Japan’s leading experts on new technology, is the man behind the idea.

Ocean City, different from any real island, will be a four-level platform. The biggest advantage is that it will be very stable even in the event of an earthquake. In other words, it will be a safer place than mainland Japan. As many as one million Japanese citizens will be able to live there.

In addition to homes, there will be a business and financial centre, shops, places of entertainment, parks and outdoor sports facilities. The Island will have an airport and a system of hovercraft transport. These will provide connections to the mainland.

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MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TIME

These days we are (0) ___ pressure to increase the amount of work we can do in the shortest time. The pace of life threatens to leave many of us behind, and (37) ___ of this pressure we spend time looking (38) ___ short-cuts in our working lives. However, these time-saving measures may actually cause more problems than they (39) ___.

Some organizations seem to expect staff to work more than the usual eight hours, without (40) ___ the fact that tiredness causes people to (41) ___ silly mistakes and leads to inefficient working practices. Try setting clear (42) ___ in your everyday work, although you must be careful that these are not unrealistic and can be achieved within the working day. We tend to (43) ___ people who can multi-task because we think they are working hard – but do all the electronic gadgets they use increase their efficiency in the long (44) ___? Instead, they may distract them from the task in hand and cause a loss of concentration. Maybe (45) ___ every email or mobile phone call immediately is not the best use of anyone’s time. (46) ___, my advice is to keep everything simple, and prioritise tasks – you will become happier at work – and so will your boss!

For questions 37-46, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space. Write your answers in the answer boxes provided. There is an example at the beginning (0). (10 marks)
Shanghai has the first (0) __ Magnetic Levitation train line in the world. Trains can reach 350 km/h in two minutes and have a maximum speed of 431 km/h in normal (47) __. Maglev trains use a (48) ___ of magnetic attraction and magnetic repulsion to provide lift and forward (49) ___ and can operate on 10˚ gradients. They travel on raised guideways above the city which are very expensive to build, but track maintenance costs are (50) ___ lower than with conventional rail transport. Maglev runs on electricity, producing no (51) ___ from the vehicle. The speed and the (52) ___ between trains are (53) ___ controlled and maintained by the (54) ___ of the electric power fed to the guideway.

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3.4 For questions 55-59, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given. Write only the missing words in the answer boxes provided. There is an example at the beginning (0). (10 marks)

0 A friendly taxi driver drove us into town.

*driven*

We ......................... a friendly taxi driver.

were driven into town by

55 We haven’t told anyone about the change in our plans.

*informed*

No one ......................... the change in our plans.

56 They didn’t let us feed the animals in the zoo.

*allowed*

We ......................... the animals in the zoo.

57 Mary has never given such a good performance.

*performance*

That is the ......................... ever given.

58 The police forced the criminal to get into the car.

*made*

The police ......................... the car.

59 Why didn’t you tell me I was wrong?

*told*

You ......................... I was wrong.
4 Writing

Choose one of the tasks and write between 150-180 words. (10 marks)

1. You have recently seen this notice in an English-language magazine.

   AWESOME APPS – REVIEWS WANTED!

   Is there an application on your phone that you couldn’t live without?

   It could be an App you use to plan your life, to help you study, or just for fun.
   Tell us why it’s so much better than other Apps and why you’d recommend it to young people.

   There are prizes for the best reviews.

   Write your review.

2. You belong to your Faculty Science Club. The faculty authorities have asked you to write a report on the activities of the club to help them decide whether to increase the small grant they give to it every year.
   Write your report.

3. Your faculty at Warsaw University of Technology has accepted your application to study at Dublin University of Technology for one semester. In order to arrange a place to stay for the duration of your scholarship you need to contact Accommodation Officer at Dublin University of Technology, and ask their assistance. Explain what type of accommodation you are interested in, and ask about the prices and facilities.
   Write your email.
How many words have you written? _________ words

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A ..../4
S1 ..../10

T ..../4
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S2 ..../10
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