

Learning outcomes in the open exam of the module Professional English I - May 2026

Learning outcome 1: Reading comprehension (20% of the total)

See annex 1.

Learning outcome 2: Oral comprehension (20% of the total)

See annex 2.

Learning outcome 3: Oral expression (20% of the total)

Choose one of the following topics and prepare a draft or outline that will allow you to present it orally in a monologue of approximately 3 minutes. You will be permitted to look at the outline, but not read it.

Possible topics would be the following:

- “My Favourite Renewable Energy for the Future”
- “Renewable Energy in My Area”
- “A Day Without Electricity”
- “Environmental Problems and Energy Solutions”
- “My Future Job in Renewable Energy”

Learning Outcome 4: Written expression (20% of the total)

Choose one of the following topics and write a text of around 150 words. Give it a title, divide the text into paragraphs and respect the margins.

- Job description
- Letter of application / recommendation
- Letter of request for information or budget
- Letter of response to the request for information or budget
- Letter of complaint
- Response to a letter of complaint

Learning outcome 5: English in Use (20% of the total)

See annex 3.

Pupil's name:

Mark:

Open exam - Reading comprehension**Planned Obsolescence: A Strategy That Keeps Consumers Buying**

Planned obsolescence is a deliberate business strategy in which the lifespan of a product is predetermined from its very conception. Manufacturers design products in such a way that, after a certain period, they become less efficient, outdated, or even unusable. This approach ensures that consumers feel compelled to replace their old items with new models, thereby maintaining a steady demand for the latest versions.

One of the earliest examples of planned obsolescence can be found in the nylon stocking industry. For decades, manufacturers were aware that tights and stockings would develop ladders (long, thin holes caused by broken threads), yet they hesitated to create a more durable material. The constant need to replace damaged stockings kept sales high, benefiting companies at the expense of consumers. Similarly, the fashion industry is built upon this principle. Clothing trends are intentionally short-lived, making last year's styles seem undesirable so that consumers feel pressured to buy the latest designs.

This strategy is particularly prevalent in the technology sector, especially in the computer and smartphone industries. Companies frequently launch new software updates that, over time, slow down older devices or make them incompatible with newer applications. For instance, many smartphones begin to experience battery issues or sluggish performance after a few years, subtly encouraging users to upgrade. A prime example is Intel, a leading semiconductor manufacturer, which is already developing next-generation processors before the current ones even reach the market.

Household appliances are also affected by planned obsolescence. In the past, washing machines, refrigerators, and televisions were built to last for decades. However, modern gadgets often include components that are difficult to replace or almost irreparable forcing consumers to buy entirely new devices instead of fixing the old ones. Many electric kettles, vacuum cleaners, and coffee machines now feature plastic parts that wear out faster than necessary, making repairs uneconomical.

The automobile industry has also adapted its approach to planned obsolescence. In the past, cars were built to be durable, and people kept them for many years. However, as automotive technology improved, manufacturers realized that customers were holding onto their vehicles longer than before. To counteract this, they introduced frequent design changes, styling updates, and additional features that make older models look outdated. As a result, many consumers replace their cars not because they are no longer functional but simply because they appear obsolete.

As consumer awareness grows, some companies are being pressured to adopt more sustainable practices by offering longer-lasting products and repairable designs. However, for now, planned obsolescence remains a widespread strategy, shaping the way we purchase and replace our electronic devices, appliances, and everyday products.

1.- Read the text carefully and decide whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F). (10 points)

1. Planned obsolescence is a strategy that makes products last as long as possible.
2. The fashion industry does not use planned obsolescence because trends do not change frequently.
3. Many software updates intentionally reduce the performance of older devices.
4. The semiconductor company Intel waits until its latest processor is fully marketed before developing a new one.
5. Household appliances today are generally easier to repair than older models.
6. Many modern electric kettles and vacuum cleaners contain fragile plastic components that wear out quickly.
7. The automobile industry encourages consumers to change cars frequently by making major mechanical improvements every year.
8. People today tend to replace their cars mainly because they are no longer functional.
9. Some companies are being pressured to produce more durable and repairable products.
10. Planned obsolescence continues to influence consumer behavior in many industries.

2.- Read the definitions below and find the correct word in the text. The paragraph number is given to help you. (10 points)

1. A carefully planned method used to achieve a particular goal, especially in business.
– (Paragraph 1) = _____
2. Something decided in advance, before it happens. – (Paragraph 1) = _____
3. A person or company that produces goods in large quantities. – (Paragraph 1) = _____
4. Purposely, in a planned or intended way – (Paragraph 2) = _____
5. A particular style in clothing, design, or behavior that is popular for a short time. – (Paragraph 2) = _____
6. To release or introduce a new product to the public. – (Paragraph 3) = _____
7. A small device or tool that has a specific function, often electronic. – (Paragraph 4) = _____
8. Requiring too much money or too many resources. – (Paragraph 4) = _____
9. Able to be used for a long time – (Paragraph 5) = _____
10. Something that can be fixed or restored. – (Paragraph 6) = _____

Pupil's name:

Mark:

Open exam- Listening comprehension: vertical wind turbines

Based on this [video](#)

Part 1: Multiple choice (until minute 4:24) Choose the correct answer for each question.

1. Why might some people want to install a vertical wind turbine on their building?

- a) Because they are cheaper than horizontal turbines.
- b) Because of their futuristic and appealing design.
- c) Because they generate more electricity than other types.

2. What determines whether a wind turbine is categorized as vertical or horizontal?

- a) The number of blades.
- b) The material of the rotor.
- c) The orientation of the rotor axis.

3. What is a disadvantage of the Darius rotor in vertical wind turbines?

- a) It can only rotate at low wind speeds.
- b) It moves partially against the wind, causing energy loss.
- c) It has a maximum efficiency above the physical limit.

4. Why are taller masts not always used with Darius turbines in inland areas?

- a) Because they're illegal in certain countries.
- b) Because they create too much noise.
- c) Because of issues like vibration and resonance.

Part 2: Are the following statements true or false? (Up to minute 7:13)

5.- Vertical wind turbines require complex wind-tracking systems to follow the wind direction.

6.- One of the reasons vertical turbines are quieter is that they rotate more slowly than horizontal turbines.

7.- Horizontal turbines are often more cost-effective because they produce more electricity for a similar investment.

Part 3: Fill each blank with **one** exact word from the audio.

8.- In conclusion, horizontal small wind turbines emerge as the more economical _____ due to their capacity for generating higher electricity.

9.- When it comes to vertical salvoneous rotors, a major drawback is the scarcity of _____ independent references, leaving potential buyers with limited information.

10.- One thing is clear, the _____ for vertical wind turbines is immense, and the demand is growing.

Pupil's name:

Mark: /70

Open exam - Use of English

1.- Renewable energies summary. Complete the grid with the words from the box. (20 p)

-blades – tidal - coastal - combustion – steam – avian - weather – drought - saltwater - noise - storage
- marine – geothermal – wind – flow – heat – gravity-fed - waste – patterns – emissions -

Energy Type	Energy Source	Conversion method	Main benefits	Primary challenges
solar	sunlight	photovoltaic cells	-highly scalable -low operational costs -zero _____	-Intermittency (daylight only) -requires lots of space -requires _____ solutions
_____	moving air	Kinetic energy turns turbine _____ to spin a generator	-high efficiency in _____ / plains -allows the use of the land below for agriculture	-visual and noise impact -threat to _____ wildlife -weather dependent output
hydropower	water _____	_____ water spins large-scale turbines.	-most reliable baseload renewable -it can be "turned on" instantly to meet peak demand	-significant disruption to river ecosystems -high capital cost -_____ risk
biomass	organic matter	_____ or chemical conversion into biofuels/biogas.	-turns _____ into energy -it can be stored and transported like traditional fuels	- _____ from burning -land-use competition between food crops and fuel
_____	Earth's _____	Tapping underground _____ or hot water to drive turbines	-runs 24/7 regardless of _____ -smallest land footprint per megawatt produced	-location-specific (tectonic edges) -high risk/cost of deep-well drilling
_____	tides	harnessing the energy of ocean swells or _____ movements.	-highly predictable _____; -massive untapped energy potential in coastal nations.	-high maintenance due to _____ corrosion -technology is still in early stages.

2.- Wind energy. Write the names of the elements in the definitions. (5p)

- a) This element connects the three rotating blades and the main shaft. =
- b) This is the vertical structure, usually of truncated cone shape, on which the rotor and nacelle are fixed. This component of the wind turbine can reach a height of up to 170 metres, and is designed to withstand the full force of the wind and to support, in the latest models, a weight of up to 260 tonnes. =
- c) Made of reinforced concrete, this element additionally provides a high stabilising capacity for the wind turbine. The tower is anchored to this element by means of steel connectors. =
- d) This element consists in the structure at the top of the tower that houses all the internal components, such as the transmission system and the electricity generator. They exist primarily to protect these elements from external weather conditions. =
- e) United to the turbine through the hub, these elements play a fundamental role in generating clean energy and can be up to 85 m long. They bear the full force of the wind, which makes them rotate at wind speeds ranging from around 3 m/s to approximately 25 m/s. =

3.- Fill in the Blanks (Short Text Completion) - Read the text below and complete the blanks with the correct words from the box. **There are more words than you need. (8 points)**

Word Bank: *solar panels, inverter, charge controller, solar batteries, mounting racks, scalable, grid-tied, efficient, install, maintain*

Text:

Solar energy systems rely on (1)_____ to capture sunlight and convert it into electricity. To make this energy usable in homes, an (2)_____ is required to change direct current (DC) into alternating current (AC). A (3)_____ regulates the flow of energy from the panels, preventing overcharging and damage. Many systems also include (4)_____ to store extra energy for later use.

For proper performance, solar panels must be securely attached using (5)_____, ensuring they are positioned correctly for maximum efficiency. Some modern solar energy solutions are (6)_____, allowing users to expand their systems when needed. Homeowners can choose between off-grid and (7)_____ systems, which remain connected to the public electricity network. To ensure longevity, users must regularly (8)_____ their solar equipment.

4.- Fill the blank in each sentence with only ONE word. (15 points)

- 1.- Solar energy, some of _____ major advantages are that it is clean, silent and unlimited, has experienced a big growing in the last decades.
- 2.- I was quite _____ after watching a documentary on how wind turbines can power entire cities without polluting the air.
- 3.- Let's check the instruction manual, _____ we?
- 4.- By this time next year, many cities will _____ installed solar street lighting to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions.
- 5.- In a few months, farmers _____ be using solar water pumping systems to irrigate their crops more efficiently.
- 6.- Not _____ does the job require technical skill, but also teamwork.
- 7.- A new geothermal station is currently _____ constructed near the coast to increase the region's energy independence.
- 8.- The recruiting company liked my profile. _____, they asked me to improve my English.
- 9.- At what time _____ the convention next Wednesday start?

10.- Despite all potential hazards, during the whole repair task all workers _____ following security procedures.

11.- Since all workers were wearing the appropriate PPE at all times, luckily, nobody _____ hurt.

12.- When the charging stations are ready, we will be able to plug in the car near _____ house.

13.- After switching to renewable energy, the majority of customers reduced _____ electricity bills by 40%.

14.- The engineers fixed the battery system _____. They repaired it without help.

15.- Applicants for a job are _____ recruited by a company without having passed a previous job interview.

5.- Write a short sentence explaining the meaning of these signs. (6 x 2 = 12 p)

1	2	3
		
4	5	6
		

1.-

2.-

3.-

4.-

5.-

6.-

6.- Make questions (direct and indirect) using the elements given (5 x2 = 10 Points).

a) in / the / located / town / a / small / Is / job / ?

b) Could / if / is / experience / any /me / tell/ required / you / previous / ?

c) salary / pays / a / job / Do / the / if / know / you / good ?

d) can / When / us / working / with / you / start/ ?

e) is / most / know / I / the / who / to / would / workshop / the / worker / like / experienced / in / .