

EmSAT: Overview of the Exam

What is the EmSAT?

- The EmSAT is a national system of standardized computer-based tests in the UAE.
- The objective of this test is to acknowledge that students are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively participate in a modern society.
- The EmSAT is used for university admission purposes as well and,
 - It is also used for evaluating the effectiveness of schools' performance and the quality of the education system.
 - It helps students determine the appropriate educational paths.
- The total time for the test is 2 hours.

Exam Preview

- The EmSAT is a computer-based exam and has 4 major sections:
 - Grammar
 - Vocabulary
 - Reading
 - Cloze Reading
 - Extended Reading
 - Writing
- Each of the sections and their respective subsections are timed by the computer.
- Students will be witnessing different types of questions such as multiple choice, drag and drop, sentence construction, paragraph, and dialog construction.

Exam Sections

Section 1: Grammar

- The grammar section of the test consists of short grammar questions.
- You will be assessed on your ability to select the correct word(s) to complete the sentence.
- Content is informed by the English Profile Project.

Section 2: Vocabulary

- The vocabulary section consists of short vocabulary questions that test the student's knowledge of the high-frequency word, and where and when are they fitted in the English language → Refer to **"EmSAT Vocabulary Builder"** flashcards/glossary by **Almanahel Academy**

Section 3: Reading

Cloze Reading

- This section consists of two passages, with missing words in between sentences.
 - Students will need to fill in the missing blanks with the correct word from the word text box which is given above the passage itself.

Extended Reading

- This section includes 3 reading sub-sections.
 - Passages could be non-linear prose text (e.g., advertisement), narrative, or descriptive.
- ➔ Refer to “**EmSAT Words in Action 1 to 5**” reading material by **Almanahel Academy**

Section 5: Writing

- This section consists of a single task, where the test-takers are expected to write 200-250 words.
- The task is then checked by two professional markers using a holistic banding scale.
- This section accounts for 25% of the total score.

EmSAT Score Breakdown

Score	Score Description
2000	Can easily understand almost everything heard or read. Can summarize spoken or written information and express fluently and precisely in different situations (CEFR Band C2)
1625-1975	Can understand a wide range of texts. Can express him or herself fluently and spontaneously without much difficulty. Can use language flexibly and produce clear, well-structured, text on complex subjects (CEFR Band C1)
1250-1600	Can understand the main ideas of complex text. Can interact with native speakers without strain. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint. (CEFR Band B2)
875-1225	Can understand main points of familiar subjects in work, school, and leisure. Can deal with most situations while travelling where English is spoken. Can produce simple connected text or describe experiences on familiar or personal topics. (CEFR Band B1)
500-850	Can understand sentences and common expressions on basic personal and family information, shopping, or routine. Can communicate regarding simple familiar or routine matters. Can describe simple aspects of environment and immediate needs. (CEFR Band A2)
300-475	Can understand and use everyday expressions and very basic phrases for immediate needs. Can introduce him or herself and give personal details (address, friends or possessions). Can interact if the other person talks slowly and clearly and is helpful. (CEFR Band A1)

Section I: Grammar

The grammar section consists of short grammar questions. Most of the questions are based on the following topics:

Agreement	Pronouns	Modals
Articles and determiners	Word order	Conditionals
Quantifiers	Prepositions	Phrasal verbs
Intensifiers	Verb forms	Questions

Description on the EmSAT Grammar topics

- **Subject/verb agreement** is important when we are dealing with tenses.
 - We must read the sentences properly and in such a flow, that we understand the context behind it and fill in the blank correctly.
 - An example of subject/verb is putting an 's' at the end of a verb.
- **Articles and determiners.**
 - Articles are words *a, an, and the*
 - Determiners are words such as *this, that, these, and those*
- **Quantifiers** are more determiners which include words such as *many, some, much and any.*
- **Intensifiers** are words that make other expressions and their meaning stronger.
 - These include words such as *completely, absolutely, highly, rather, really, so, too, totally, very and at all.*
- **Pronouns** are words such as *she, he, and it.*
- **Word order** is self-explanatory; arranging the words in such an order that the sentence makes sense.
- **Prepositions** is a word/group of words used before a noun or pronoun and expresses relationship to another word or element.
- **Verb form** is a way in which a verb is shaped or modified to suit the context that speaks about an action that is performed.
 - There are 5 verb forms in English.
 - Root verb
 - Third person singular present form of verb
 - Present participle
 - Simple past
 - Past participle
 - An example can be the word **sing**. Its verb forms can be *sing, sang, sung, singing or sings.*
- **Modals** are verbs that show intent, possibility or ability.
 - Examples can be words such as *must, can and should.*
- **Conditionals** describe the result of a certain condition.

Tips on how to solve Grammar Questions

- Have a strong vocabulary. You can do this by reading as much as you can to be familiar with new words, new definitions etc.
- Read between the lines.
- Practice the structure of the sentence. Have a close watch on grammar. Usually there are 'clues' that can help you to easily answer or fill in the blank
- Learn new phrases, synonyms, antonyms, and idioms.
- If you see a new word while strengthening your vocabulary, underline it, and search for its definition.
- Keep practicing. Practice will help you be more accurate and improve your time management.

You now know what the Grammar section will be about. Below is a practice test for you. Topics will not be mentioned specifically, so you need to figure out yourself which topic is the question related to.

Exam-style Questions

1. _____ many students are there in your chemistry class?
 - Will
 - How
 - May
 - What
2. I was _____ a horror movie last night and my father called me.
 - about watching
 - were watch
 - watching
 - watch
3. It was raining heavily, so my husband brought _____ for me.
 - a umbrella
 - the umbrella
 - an umbrella
 - umbrella

4. I am sorry but my supervisor _____ us that we need to let you go from this company.
- tell
 - have told
 - is telling
 - has told
5. _____ a camel crossing the street.
- There were
 - There are
 - There is
 - They are
6. Our teacher urged our parents that they _____ let their children learn to live their own life.
- must
 - should
 - may
 - can
7. I am good _____ cooking.
- in
 - on
 - for
 - at

8. Drag the words into the spaces below to complete the sentence.

do	will	are	did	working	be
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What you doing in a few years if now you don't even try to do anything.

Section 2: Vocabulary

- The vocabulary section is the second section that students will come to after grammar.
- In the vocabulary section, students will be tested on their knowledge of new words, their meanings, and their involvement in sentences.
 - This section also tests students on nouns, verbs, and adjectives.
- Building a strong vocabulary takes time and consistent effort. Focus on applying the strategies mentioned below to increase your chances of choosing the right answer.

Tips for attempting the vocabulary section

- **Build a Strong Vocabulary:** Developing a strong vocabulary is crucial for success in the vocabulary section.
 - Read extensively, including books, newspapers, and online articles, to expose yourself to a wide range of words.
 - Make a habit of learning new words and their meanings regularly.
- **Understand Context:** The vocabulary section often tests your ability to understand words in context.
 - Pay attention to the surrounding words and phrases in the given sentence or passage.
 - This can provide clues about the meaning of the target word.
- **Use Word Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes:** Familiarize yourself with common word roots, prefixes, and suffixes as they can help you decipher the meaning of unfamiliar words.
 - Understanding the building blocks of words can give you insights into their definitions and usage.
- **Use Context Clues:** When encountering an unfamiliar word, look for context clues within the sentence or passage.
 - Words or phrases that provide hints about the meaning of the target word can help you make an educated guess.
- **Pay Attention to Part of Speech:** The same word can have different meanings depending on its part of speech. Identify whether the word is used as a noun, verb, adjective, or adverb, as this can influence its meaning in each sentence.

- **Use Elimination Strategy:** If you're unsure about the meaning of a word, use the process of elimination.
 - Eliminate answer choices that you know are incorrect, which increases your chances of selecting the correct answer.
- **Be Cautious of Synonyms and Antonyms:** Pay attention to answer choices that are synonyms or antonyms of the target word.
 - Sometimes, a word with a similar meaning or an opposite meaning can help you determine the correct answer.
- **Consider Tone and Register:** The tone and register of the passage can provide clues about the meaning of certain words.
 - For example, formal or technical language may indicate a more specific or specialized definition.
- **Use Prior Knowledge:** Draw upon your prior knowledge and experiences when encountering unfamiliar words.
 - Relate the word to similar words or concepts you already know, which can help you make logical inferences about its meaning.
- **Practice Regularly:** Regular practice is essential to improve your vocabulary skills.
 - Solve practice questions, work on vocabulary exercises, and attempt sample tests to familiarize yourself with the format and types of questions in the vocabulary section.

You now know the fundamentals that are involved when attempting the vocabulary section of the EmSAT. Below are some practice questions for you to attempt. Good luck!

Exam-style Questions

1. My friend told me a _____ and asked me not to tell anyone else.
 - secret
 - reception
 - tuna
 - league
2. The two computers are _____ the same, but one is better for games and the other one has a bigger battery.
 - lightly
 - basically
 - precisely
 - adequately
3. Alia won _____ prize for her artwork.
 - healthy
 - alone
 - real
 - first
4. My grandfather taught me a lot of beautiful _____.
 - faucet
 - credit
 - poetry
 - bell
5. The classroom is full of _____ tables and chairs.
 - boiled
 - wooden
 - advanced
 - busy
6. Do you have the _____ address?
 - upset
 - ill
 - correct
 - car

Section 3: Reading

Tips and Strategies

- Before going into the questions, simply **skim** over the paragraph to gain a sense of the topic, core concepts, and organization. This will give you a better grasp of the context as you approach the questions.
- Read over the questions after you have skimmed through the entire paragraph.
- Make it a priority to **highlight** important key words in the questions that are relevant which will help to pick up information for effectively.

Solving the questions

- Start with answering questions that are more direct and ask for specific definitions and to-the-point interpretations. This saves time to focus on critical thinking questions later.
- Return to those references and carefully **analyze** the relevant information for evidence-based questions that relate to specific lines or paragraphs in the passage. Avoid making assumptions or depending simply on your memories.
- Be sure to get a strong grasp on the **context** of the question. This means to understand where and in what setting has the question been asked and use the surrounding words to deduce the correct answer.
- Pay attention to the tone and **main idea** of the passage. It is preferred to write the main understanding of the passage after the skimming step and later compare it with the options in the questions.
- If you're unclear about an answer, consider **eliminating** the apparent wrong answers first. This boosts your odds of choosing the correct answer even if you're unsure.
- You have a limited amount of time for the EmSAT reading section, so use it wisely. Don't linger too long on any one question. Make an informed assumption and continue if you find yourself stuck. If you have time, you can always return to it.

Exam-style Questions

Cloze Reading

1. Drag the words to the correct spaces. There is one extra word.

collapsed encountered eventually harvest peak starving

The Maya

The Maya civilization lived in current-day Mexico about 2000 years ago. At their they were advanced society and created some of the largest buildings on earth at the time. However, about 1000 years ago their society .

No one is exactly sure when they faced this crisis, but it might have been caused by an agricultural problem. Because of the large urban population, just a couple of years of bad were enough to seriously disrupt their society. Without enough food, the largest towns and cities were abandoned, and were covered by the jungle. When the Spanish first the Maya in 1511, they were simple people living in small towns and villages.

Extended Reading

Questions 2,3,4,5, and 6:

Over the course of history, the practice of hunting has undergone significant transformations. Initially, hunting served as a fundamental means of survival, providing communities with food, clothing, and other essential resources. However, as human civilization progressed, hunting began to undergo profound changes.

In the past, hunting primarily involved primitive methods such as bows, arrows, and traps. It required extensive knowledge of animal behavior and tracking skills. Hunting was often a communal activity, bringing people together for the common goal of sustenance. However, as human populations grew and urbanization took hold, the role of hunting shifted. With the advent of agriculture and domestication of animals, humans became less reliant on hunting for sustenance. During this time, hunting became associated with nobility, royal and aristocratic classes engaging in elaborate hunting expeditions. These hunts were often grand spectacles, showcasing power, wealth, and social status.

In recent times, hunting has witnessed further transformations in response to changing attitudes towards wildlife conservation and ethical considerations. The emergence of wildlife conservation movements and the recognition of endangered species led to the establishment of hunting regulations and the protection of certain animals. The focus shifted from indiscriminate hunting to responsible and sustainable practices. Hunting licenses, bag limits, and hunting seasons were introduced to ensure the preservation of animal populations and ecological balance.

Hunting practices have also been transformed by technological breakthroughs. The introduction of trail cameras, GPS devices, and other technology has increased the efficiency of scouting and tracking. These advances have increased hunting success while decreasing the time and effort necessary. Moreover, there has been a growing interest in ethical and responsible hunting practices.

In conclusion, hunting has evolved from a necessary means of survival to a recreational activity influenced by societal changes and **conservation** efforts. It continues to adapt to the values and needs of modern society while striving to strike a balance between human interests and the preservation of wildlife.

- The main theme of this passage is
 - The restrictions in hunting
 - History of hunting
 - Advantages of hunting
 - Hunting practices
- What was hunting associated with?
 - Nobility and classes
 - Survival and resources
 - Agriculture
 - Wildlife and sustainability
- In the fifth paragraph, what does the word **conversation** mean?
 - Protecting nature from human use
 - Using nature for human use
 - Proper use of nature for human use
 - None of the above
- Which of the following was the main reason for changes in hunting methods?
 - Technology
 - Ethical issues
 - Urbanization
 - Society
- What changes the role of hunting?
 - Growth in population
 - Technology
 - Animals
 - Environment

7. Read the passage and answer the question.

It took at least 3000 years for humans to learn how to use wild tomatoes for food. Wild tomato plants originally grew on mountains in South America and gave a very small fruit. Farmers there selected different plants and used them to produce bigger, better-tasting fruit but it took many years before they succeeded. Recently, however, a team in China produced a better type of a wild tomato in less than three years. The team used techniques that not only give a healthier and bigger tomato but also save the plant from diseases like fungus.

Which of the following is true about the efforts to produce a better type of wild tomato?

- Recent research with wild tomatoes has resulted in tomatoes with several advantages.
- The original wild tomatoes from China are better than those from South America.
- Efforts to make the original wild tomato larger and better tomato have been unsuccessful.
- Chinese scientists are more successful than other scientists around the world in making an improved.

8. Read the passage and answer the question.

The Inca people of South America thought the moon was like a female god. They called her 'Mama Quilla' and she was believed to be a beautiful woman. However, the Inca people feared for their moon goddess. They believed that the dark spot on the moon was because a fox fell in love with her and when he reached the sky, Mama Quilla hugged him too tight.

Similarly, lunar eclipses would make the Inca people afraid as they thought that a lion or a snake was attacking Mama Quilla. People would start making a lot of noise so the animal would run away and the world wouldn't be left in the dark.

Why were the Inca people worried about the moon during lunar eclipses?

- They felt that the moon would become more dangerous.
- They didn't want the dark spot on the moon to become bigger.
- They didn't want her to fall in love with an animal.
- They thought that an animal was attacking the moon.

9. Read the passage and answer the question.

Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation or CPR is a procedure used to help someone whose heart has stopped beating. The aim is to get their heart to function once again.

If you come across someone who is not breathing or has no visible heart rate, it is vital to begin CPR. This means opening the person's mouth and giving two quick breaths. After that, it is necessary to push down on his or her chest 30 times. These pushes, or compressions, should stimulate the heart to beat again. The procedure must be repeated until emergency help arrives or the person begins to breathe again independently.

The information in this paragraph is aimed which type of audience?

- people with training in CPR.
- specialist doctors.
- people with heart problems.
- the general public.

10. Read the passage and answer the question.

In 1990, British Airways Flight 5390 was ascending out of Birmingham heading towards the Spanish sunshine. Suddenly, at an altitude of 5,300 meters, the windscreen on Captain Tim Lancaster's side separated from the plane with a loud bang, pulling him out of the airplane.

Fortunately, Lancaster's legs caught on the controls, and a quick-acting cabin crew managed to hold onto his body (half inside the cockpit, half exposed to the freezing winds outside) until the plane made an emergency landing, twenty minutes later, with no fatalities. Lancaster suffered several bone fractures and frostbite but was lucky to escape with his life. He returned to work five months later and retired in 2008. The airplane was repaired and flew until 2002.

Which of the following is true, according to the text?

- The plane was flying from Spain to Birmingham.
- Birds hit the plane, causing the windscreen to break.
- Captain Lancaster never flew again after the accident.
- Everyone on board the plane survived the accident.

Section 4: Writing

Tips and Strategies

- **Read** the prompt carefully and understand its requirement clearly.
- Before going into writing your essay, roughly **list down** points in the “for” and “against” the prompt given to you for a clearer idea on how to approach the argument.
- When you start the essay, make sure to **not** address your opinion right away. Instead leave that for the concluding paragraph.
- Begin each paragraph with a clear **topic sentence** and add supporting data or proof to back up your claim.
- Add in **prepositional phrases** (furthermore, in addition, secondly etc.) to give flow and consistency to the points you address.
- For the **conclusion**, keep it simple by revising what you’ve discussed and give your opinion. It is best to keep this short with 2-3 lines.
- For such compare and contrast essays, **list** all of your subjects' similarities and distinctions. When you've written them all down, you can start making connections and deciding on a framework for your compare-and-contrast essay.
 - For **comparing**, use words such as similarly, likewise, to compare with etc.
 - For **contrasting**, use words such as however, in contrast, on the other hand etc.
- For an **opinion** essay, it is necessary to be **clear** on your opinion or perspective from the start. It should follow a semi-formal measured tone.
- **Avoid** the use of “I” throughout the body paragraphs. Instead state the opinion in your introduction and conclusion.

Let's practice!

Write 200-250 words on the following topic:

"Many industries perform animal testing for medical and cosmetic purposes. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of animal testing."

Animal testing is crucial to the creation of drugs and cosmetics, but it also raises questions about the well-being of the animals and the validity of the data. This essay discusses the ethical advantages and disadvantages of animal testing in the medical and cosmetic industry.

There are various advantages to the process of animal testing. Firstly, the creation of vaccinations and life-saving medications, among other significant medical advancements, have benefited from animal research. Animals are also useful models for learning human physiology and illness development since they and humans are biologically similar. Secondly, It aids in risk assessment and guarantees customer safety. Prior to human trials, animal testing helps researchers to assess the safety and potential negative effects of medical treatments and aesthetic goods.

However, animal testing can have the following disadvantages and risks in its practice. Animal testing frequently includes intrusive treatments, as well as pain and suffering for the animals. In addition, consumer tastes are evolving towards non-animal tested items, generating a monetary incentive for corporations to develop alternative testing techniques. Growing public concern about animal welfare has resulted in a desire for cruelty-free alternatives in the medical and cosmetic sectors.

Animals have rights, according to critics, and should not be harmed for human advantage. Testing for cosmetic and medical purposes is a contentious topic that necessitates a delicate balancing act. Even if safety evaluations and substantial medical discoveries have benefited from animal testing, the moral issues with animal care cannot be disregarded.

By considering the above advantages and disadvantages of animal testing in the medical and cosmetic industry, I believe that animal testing should be minimized and replaced with other ethical and reliable alternatives.

Words: 277

Exam-style Questions

I. Write 200-250 words on the following topic:

"If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and what would you do there?"

Discuss your ideas and support them with reasons and examples.

Words: 0

2. Write 200-250 words on the following topic:

“Some people like to work in small companies or businesses while others prefer working for large companies or government organizations. What are the advantages and disadvantages of working for a large company or organization?”

Words: 0

3. Write 200-250 words on the following topic:

" It is believed that Artificial Intelligence (AI) will take over peoples' jobs. However, technology experts believe that AI will produce more jobs in the market. To what extent do you agree with the experts?"

Words: 0