

Modified Cloze I

Part 1: Modified Cloze I (10 marks)

Questions 1–10

Read the passage below very carefully and then fill in each blank with the most suitable word from the list of options provided. You will not need to use all of the words provided. DO NOT USE ANY OF THE OPTIONS MORE THAN ONCE.

reducing	well-being	strengthens	mental	consequence
boost	crucial	extend	exposing	sharper
fulfilling	improving	recommend	fosters	significantly

The first Modified Cloze passage may appear challenging, especially to those who struggle with vocabulary. However, there are two pointers and strategies to take note of which will help you score better in this section.

Contextual Clues:

As a candidate, you need to understand the context of the given passage to be able to collect information that will help you fill in the missing words. Remember: clues can be found within the sentence itself, the sentence(s) before or after the sentence with the blank, or even the paragraph before or after the blank.

Exercise also has a remarkable impact on (4) _____ health. It releases endorphins, the "feel-good" hormones, which can alleviate stress, anxiety, and depression. It boosts

On its own, the blank can be filled with more than one of the given helping words. However, when you read the sentence after the sentence with the blank, you will notice words like "stress", "anxiety" and "depression" – all of which are states of mind. Therefore, by picking up these contextual clues, you will be able to derive at the correct word – "mental".

Pay Attention to Grammar and Syntax:

To help yourself select the suitable words to fill in the blanks, pay attention to sentence structures. When filling in the blanks, make sure that the word you choose fits into the grammatical structure of the sentence. This means considering subject-verb agreement, verb tenses, and other rules you have learnt.

overall (1) _____ and improved quality of life. Firstly, exercise is essential for maintaining a healthy body weight, (2) _____ the risk of obesity, and preventing various chronic conditions such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and certain cancers.

When attempting to fill in blank (2), what do you notice about the words around it? Do you see the continuous verbs "maintaining" and "preventing"? Hence, it is very likely that the blank must be filled with a similar word i.e. a continuous verb (Remember:

every clause needs a verb). From here, you can zoom in on the four related helping words, eliminate accordingly, and select the correct one – “improving”.

As a closing, do not rush through this section. Doing so will lead to careless mistakes and you misunderstanding the context of the passage. Take your time and read the passage thoroughly to understand the context, pay attention to the grammatical structures of the sentences, and choose the most appropriate word to fill in each blank.