

ESL Placement Test
Reading 2+ / 3

Name:

Date:

Campus: *FN / W / St A*

Read the following text and answer the questions

_____ / 12

- 1 More people speak English than any other language, but according to English language expert David Crystal, non-native speakers now outnumber native speakers by three to one. "There's never before been a language that's been spoken more as a second language than a first," he says. By the end of last year, the number of adult English speakers in Asia had reached 350 million. And according to the British Council, in ten years' time 2 billion people will study English and about half the world's population will speak it.
- 2 Why such enthusiasm for English? In a word, jobs. "We always tell students they need two things to succeed- English and computers," says Chetan Kumar, manager of a language school in Delhi. For the middle classes in India, English can mean a prized job in a call centre. And the story is the same in the other parts of the world. At a Toyota factory in the Czech Republic, English was chosen as the working language of the Japanese, French and Czech staff. Many other multinational companies, like Samsung and LG. Philips, have started moving towards an English-only email policy. Technology is a big factor in all this change- 80% of the world's electronic information is stored in English.
- 3 The way that people study English is also changing. In South Korea, for example, the national government has been building English immersion schools all over the country, where teenagers live in an all-English environment for up to four weeks at a time. In these 'English villages', students check into their accommodation, go shopping, order food, go to the bank, take cooking classes or acting lessons-all in English. And they seem to enjoy the experience-when we visited one acting class, a student was pretending to be the film star Orlando Bloom, to the obvious amusement of his classmates.
- 4 However, these new English speakers aren't just learning the language - they're changing it. There are hundreds of different types of English in the world today, such as 'Hinglish', the Indian mix of Hindi and English. New words are being invented every day all over the world. As David Crystal says, "No one owns English now. What happens to it is on the shoulders of all of us."

Text from 'face2face' Upper Intermediate Student's Book

1. Circle the best possible title for the text

- a) The number of English speakers is growing rapidly
- b) A global language**
- c) The way people study English is changing
- d) No one owns English now

2. Match headings a) – d) to paragraphs 1-4.

- a) Learn English 24 hours a day - Paragraph **3**
- b) A changing language - Paragraph **4**
- c) An English-speaking world - Paragraph **1**
- d) A passport to employment - Paragraph **2**

3. Answer the following questions:

- a) What is the ratio of non-native to native speakers of English?

3:1

- b) What does the text suggest is the main reason people want to learn English?

Jobs/ employment

- c) What is the age range, in years, of students at the English schools in South Korea?

13:19 years

4. Decide whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE.

Circle the correct answer.

If the statement is FALSE, find the correct statement in the text and write it on the lines.

- a) According to the British Council, in ten years' time 2 billion people will speak English.

TRUE

FALSE

In ten years' time 2 billion people will study English or in ten years' time about half the world's population will speak it.

- b) For the middle class person in the Czech Republic, English can bring a well paid job in a call centre.

TRUE

FALSE

For the middle classes in India, English can mean a prized job in a call centre.

- c) In 'English villages' in South Korea students learn English by using it every day.

TRUE

FALSE

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- d) Technology plays an insignificant role in the way English is used.

TRUE

FALSE

Technology is a big factor in all this change – 80% of the world's electronic information is stored in English.