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دائرة الامتحانـات الرسميّة		

| | مسابقة في مادة اللغة الانكليزية | الاسم: |
| | المدة: ساعتان و نصف | الرقم: |

Part One: Reading Comprehension   (Score: 12 /20)

The following selection highlights the positive effects of using online language learning apps. Read it carefully, and then answer the questions that follow.

A Language Learning Phenomenon

1 Over 1,000,000 people have turned to technology as an efficient means to learn a language. A study has been conducted to investigate why app-based learning is proving to be such a popular method, and what advantages it may hold over traditional methods.

2 Facebook now has approximately 1.6 billion users, which is almost one quarter of the world's population. This number becomes even more astonishing when you consider that 3.3 billion of the world's 7.2 billion people are connected to the internet. Actually, Facebook has registered over half the world's connected population. The other internet giant, Google, handles around 4 billion search queries a day. Our Information Age of hyper-connectivity has initiated a new understanding of achievable scale. Every two days, we generate the same amount of information as that generated from the dawn of civilization until 2003.

3 Companies that operate on the breathtaking scale of Google and Facebook address and satisfy fundamental human needs — mainly, access to information and social interaction. It is a formula for success which is to identify a need and provide a product or service that fulfills this need. What happens, though, when a web company focuses not on need, but on aspiration? Can **it** also unite thousands of people in a common desire to educate and improve themselves?

4 In 2007, the language experts at Babbel, a language learning app and e-learning platform, set out to make language learning easy, effective, and accessible to everyone. During nine years, the four founders of Babbel have miraculously multiplied into over four-hundred language enthusiasts — among them are linguists, teachers, and authors — **who** produce courses for learners of fourteen different foreign languages from seven different native languages, which equates to ninety-eight combinations of individually tailored courses. The numbers speak for themselves: over 1,000,000 people have chosen to learn a language with Babbel, and that number continues to grow.

5 Babbel headquarters has evolved to house a broad range of experts united by the common goal of producing the best language learning tools possible after being an attic established by a small group of language enthusiasts in the Kreuzberg neighborhood of Berlin. Such a noticeable ambition possesses a strong force of attraction. For a company that requires specialists in ninety-eight language combinations, this force of attraction is integral to finding the right people, whether it is a Spanish linguist who can design a course in Polish, or a graphic designer who can help localize *the look and feel* across seven languages. This imperative multilingual, intercultural expertise has provided the company with a truly unique topography of skills, and an extraordinary potential for innovation within the world of language learning.

6 App-based learning carries a few inherent advantages. It is convenient: you have your smartphone by your side at all times, fully-charged and ready to guide you through the maze of contemporary life, from the gentle tap of the snooze in the morning to the emoji-peppered goodnight-message you compose for a loved one in the evening.

7 Furthermore, an online product can be constantly improved and updated as it simplifies the distinction between product and service. A Babbel learner's progress is measured, and stages within courses which prove to be difficult are adjusted in order to ensure that information is conveyed as effectively as possible. Yes, all that German grammar may sometimes seem complicated, and yes, some of those French words do not look anything like they sound, but that is exactly where Babbel comes in handy: it prides itself on making the complicated simple.

8 All of the 1,000,000+ learners have their own story and their own reason for endeavoring to learn a language. The Babbelonians themselves are also keen Babbelers while using Babbel. They have taken part in numerous challenges to see how much they can learn within a given period of time, whether that be Turkish in seven days or French in a working week.

9 Science fiction is rapidly becoming science reality. The education industry has often lagged behind other industries, such as gaming and traveling, in adopting and developing new digital technologies. Babbel aims to change this — bringing in innovation to keep education in step and simultaneously addressing the soaring trend toward informal, autodidactic learning that has been produced by the Information Age.

Questions

A. Answer each of the following questions in 1-4 complete sentences using your own words.
1. In reference to Paragraph 2, identify two uses of the internet. **(01)**
2. How does the writer describe Babbel in Paragraph 4? Justify your answer. **(01)**
3. Based on Paragraph 5, what two factors have contributed to the remarkable development of Babbel? **(01)**
4. Based on Paragraph 9, deduce two consequences in case Babbel experts fail to fulfill their aim. **(01)**

B. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.
1. What function do the questions in Paragraph 3 serve? Explain. **(01)**
2. Identify the thematic relation between Paragraphs 6 and 7. Justify your answer. **(01)**
3. What two adjectives best describe the writer's tone in Paragraph 8? Justify. **(01)**

C. Babbel conducted a survey in six countries (France, Germany, the UK, Spain, Italy, and the USA) about the reasons behind learning a language. Read the table carefully, and then answer the question that follows. **(01)**

Top Reasons Why People Learn Languages				
Reason	Communicating better when traveling	Finding a job	Refreshing language skills	Staying mentally fit	Having interest in the language
Percentage	31%	10%	13%	20%	26%

What do you conclude from the table? Explain your answer in 4 to 5 sentences, using your own words.

D. Each of the following extracts is the correct part that completes ONE paragraph in the selection. Read them carefully, and then **choose from Paragraphs 2 to 8 the one that correctly fits with each extract.** **(01)**

Extract A: *Certain platforms provide an amount of information related to how we interact with one another and shape the way we access the vast source of human knowledge.*

Extract B: *But why has the Babbel app become very popular?*

E. Refer to Paragraphs 2, 6 and 9 to find words that can best replace the underlined words in the sentences below. **(02)**
1. Only linguists can provide accurate answers to the <u>questions</u> raised in the conference.
2. The overuse of online apps can <u>produce</u> many adverse effects especially on the young users.
3. The <u>modern</u> society has been enormously affected by the new digital technology.
4. Online learning has proven to be a <u>rising</u> approach among young learners who find it very easy.

F. What does each of the following pronouns, **bold-typed** in the selection above, refer to? **(01)**
1**. it** (Paragraph 3)   2. **who** (Paragraph 4)

Part Two: Writing   (Choose ONE of the two prompts below.) **(Score: 08/20)**

Prompt A: *Media can be a tool of some active learning strategies such as participating in online group discussions, producing video projects, or analyzing newspaper articles.* **In an expository essay of 250-300 words, explain the statement above, showing the positive impacts of media on education** (engaging students, arousing interest in the subject matter, enriching many new concepts, etc.)

Prompt B: *"Overreliance on online resources to learn results in a world of depersonalized communication."* **Write a persuasive essay of 250-300 words in which you show how important it is to have face-to-face communication in order to build social skills and family relationships** (team work, communication, values and manners, social responsibilities, tolerance, etc.)

[Content and organization of ideas (3.5), language and style (3.5), tidiness and legible handwriting (01)]

A Language Learning Phenomenon

Q	Answer	Score
I-A-1	The first use of the internet is helping people communicate through social media means like Facebook. Another use of the internet is helping users find answers to different questions (provide information) through Google. **(0.5 for each)**	**01**
I-A-2	The writer describes Babbel as a language learning app with continuous development/ improvement/ progress. Babbel was established by only four founders; but in nine years, this number has increased to reach four hundred "language enthusiasts". Moreover, Babbel users' number, which reached 1000,000 people, is on a continuous increase. **(0.5 for the description and 0.5 for the justification)**	**01**
I-A-3	First, the enthusiasm or the strong ambition of Babbel's team has been a motivating factor towards development. Second, cooperation among its language experts is also an important factor because they all work to achieve a common goal. Third, the diversity of its specialists, of different backgrounds, has helped them become multilingual and innovative in the world of teaching languages. **(two are enough; 0.5 for each)**	**01**
I-A-4	First, education will remain behind other competing industries that are based on digital technologies (or education will not flourish as an industry that is based on new digital technologies). Second, learning languages will not be considered innovative (or auto-learning of languages will not be enhanced). **Or:** Education will not be developed according to the needs of the Information Age. **(two are enough; 0.5 for each)**	**01**
I-B-1	The questions in Paragraph 3 introduce the main ideas (rhetorical questions) that will be developed in the four paragraphs that will follow it (5, 6, 7 and 8). They raise two points about Babbel: the great ambition of its founders that made them successful and its ability to bring together millions of users whose main aim is to learn new languages and improve themselves. **(0.5 for the function and 0.5 for explanation)**	**01**
I-B-2	The thematic relation between Paragraphs 6 and 7 is one of addition. Paragraph 6 presents one of the advantages of app-based learning which is its suitability or convenience to learners who can learn anywhere as long as they have their smartphones charged and connected. Paragraph 7 adds another advantage of app-based learning: online applications are always	**01**

	updated and developed to ensure that users get the best leaning outcome. The transition "Furthermore" in the beginning of Paragraph 7 serves to show this "addition" relation between the two paragraphs. **(0.5 for identification and 0.5 for explanation)**	
I-B-3	The tone is amazed and admiring/appreciative. The writer is amazed when he shows that a huge number of people make every effort (endeavoring) to learn a language. In addition, the writer is admiring/ appreciative when he uses the word "keen" to describe Babbelonians, and when he explains that they take part in many challenges in order to learn. **(0.5 for each adjective with its justification)**	**01**
I-C-3	The table shows the five reasons behind people's learning a new language, in terms of percentages (statistics). The highest percentage, which is 31%, is for Babbel users learn a new language to improve communicate abroad. Then comes those who learn a new language because they are interested in it (26%) and those who learn it in order to stay mentally fit (20%). Then 13% of the users are motivated to learn a new language to refresh their language skills, while only 10% learn a new language to find a better job. Thus, the highest percentage of language learners is motivated to learn a new language in order to communicate, while the least percentage is motivated to learn it in order to find a job. **(0.25 for the introductory sentence, 0.5 for the explanation/ analysis, and 0.25 for the concluding sentence)**	**01**
I-D	**Extract A** is the correct part that completes Paragraph 2. **Extract B** is the correct part that completes Paragraph 4. **(0.5 for each)**	**01**
I-E-1	queries	**0.5**
I-E-2	generate	**0.5**
I-E-3	contemporary	**0.5**
I-E-4	soaring	**0.5**
I-F-1	"**it**" refers to web company	**0.5**
I-F-2	"**who**" refers to linguists, teachers and authors **(or: language enthusiasts)**	**0.5**
II-A	Content and organization	**3.5**
II-B	Language and style	**3.5**
II-C	Tidiness and handwriting	**01**