

Skills test 5

Reading

Life in the largest city on earth

According to some experts, Rome became the first city in the world with a population over 1 million, around the year 100 AD. So, what was life like in the largest city on earth?

Poor people lived in blocks of flats called *insulae*, sometimes more than three stories high. These flats had no heating, and no running water, so they were not very comfortable. Each flat only had one room. The typical home or *domus* for wealthier people was the town house. These houses usually had a courtyard or *atrium* in the middle, as well as bedrooms, a living room, a dining room, and a kitchen. The wealthiest people even had baths or libraries in their houses. People usually painted their houses white at the top, and red at the bottom.

Romans usually ate three times a day. They had a very small breakfast, sometimes only a slice of bread with milk or wine. They had a small lunch. The most important meal of the day was dinner. Many poor people only had bread with some vegetables. Rich people often had dinner parties, with three-course meals. They had meat, fish, vegetables, fruit and sweet desserts. They made their desserts with honey because there was no sugar in those days. They drank wine with water. But everybody in Rome, both rich and poor, used their hands to eat.

Streets in Rome were always busy, with a lot of people walking to work to do business in the *forum*, which was the main square of a town or city. People also went shopping, visiting the different shops along the streets. There were also colourful markets, temples, and public baths in the city. Rome had amazing architecture, which people still copy today!

In their free time, Romans went to see chariot races and gladiator fights at the amphitheatre. The most famous amphitheatres in the city were the Circus Maximus and the Colosseum. People also often visited the theatre. Men played all the roles on stage – even the parts of women. The theatre was free for all Roman citizens!

Public baths were also popular – they were like fitness centres or gyms today. Men, women and children all visited the baths. Many baths had restaurants, shops, libraries or museums inside. People could spend a whole day in a bath.

2000 years ago Rome was at the centre of the Roman Empire, and its people enjoyed city life in a similar way to ourselves. Of course there is still a lot we can see of the ancient city today – since Rome is now the busy and beautiful capital city of Italy!

1 Read the article. Give short answers to the questions.

- Which was the largest city on earth in the year 100 AD?
Rome.
- How many people lived in Rome in 100 AD?

- What colour were the houses in Rome?

- How many times did people eat a day?

- What was the name for the main square?

- What were the names of some important amphitheatres? _____

1 point for each correct answer

	5
--	---

2 Read the article again. Write true (T) or false (F). If there is no information in the text about the statement, write no information (N).

- Romans all lived in comfortable homes with heating and water. F
- Poor people lived in one-room flats. ____
- Some rich people could have a bath in their own houses. ____
- In the country Roman people lived in farmhouses called *villa rustica*. ____
- The biggest meal of the day was lunch. ____
- Romans never used sugar in their food. ____
- Roman people always ate with their hands. ____
- The Colosseum is the best example of Roman architecture. ____
- Women had to pay to go to the theatre. ____
- You could do your shopping in some of the public baths. ____
- According to the text, life in ancient Rome was quite different to modern city life. ____

2 points for each correct answer

	20
--	----

Reading total

	25
--	----

Skills test 5 Continued

Writing

Write a letter to your English friend about your holidays.

You should:

- include a suitable greeting.
- talk about where you went on holiday last year, and what it was like.
- say where you are going to go this year, and what you want to do there.
- ask your friend about his/her plans for the holidays.
- find a suitable closing phrase.

Write your letter in 100–150 words.

Writing task 25

Writing total 25

2 Listen again. Match two statements from a–j to each speaker. There is one extra statement.

1 d g

2 ___ ___

3 ___ ___

4 ___ ___

5 ___ ___

6 ___ ___

- a The woman wore a white shirt and blue jeans.
- b He wants to celebrate the same way in 10 years' time.
- c The others didn't want to help her find her way around.
- d The family was new in town.
- e He was sad to leave on the last day.
- f Someone spoke there for a long time.
- g Her sister took her on the first day.
- h There was a big party for everyone who was leaving.
- i He didn't know the other person's name.
- j It was the worst company she has ever worked for.
- k More people came to see him than he expected.
- l She still has a photo of the special day.

2 points for each correct answer 20

Listening total 25

Listening

1 Listen to six people talking about a special day in their lives. Tick the special occasions they mention.

birthday

wedding day

first day at school

first day at work

birth of first child

New Year's Eve

first meeting their wife

leaving school

leaving university

1 point for each correct answer 5

Speaking

1 Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 What is the best thing to do on holiday in your country?
- 2 What is the most expensive thing you have ever bought? Why did you buy it?
- 3 What makes you annoyed? What do you do when you are annoyed?
- 4 What do you think was the most important day in 20th Century history? Why?
- 5 What are your plans for studying English in the future?

max. 1 point for each topic 5

Skills test 5 Continued

- 2 Look at the photos. Compare different ways of travelling, and say what is good and bad about each. What are the good and bad points about other ways of travelling?



max. 10 points

- 3 A Look at the information. Use the words to make five questions.

Visit Ilford – the historical university city!

First mentioned in the Golden Chronicle, in 1562.

Population: 282,500.

Amazing architecture: stone buildings from the 16th and 17th centuries, university library from 1720, cathedral from 1780

Great transport links: 55 minutes from the capital by train, 70 minutes by coach (via M40 motorway). Ilford International Airport open all year round!

Excellent for shopping: Sterling Mall with the best selection of fashion, food, and electronic goods, Farmers' Market for your daily needs and Shrubbery Garden and Home Centre for the fans of gardening and DIY.

- 1 how old ?
- 2 how many people ?
- 3 see in Ilford ?
- 4 get to Ilford ?
- 5 where / go shopping / and what ?

1 point for each correct question

- B Answer the questions.

1 point for each correct answer

Speaking total

Skills test 5 total