



# ENGLISCH

SERIE

**BETA 1**

## LESEVERSTEHEN

**KANDIDATIN  
KANDIDAT**

Nummer der Kandidatin / des Kandidaten

Name

Vorname

Datum der Prüfung

**BEWERTUNG**

Fachbereiche

Erreichte Punkte / Maximum

Task A

/ 12

Task B

/ 8

Task C

/ 5

**Total**

**/ 25**

**EXPERTEN**



**Erlaubte Hilfsmittel:** Wörterbuch in Papierform

**Prüfungsdauer:** ⌚ 30 Minuten

# A (12 POINTS)

Read the following text and the instructions on the opposite page.

## Our dying high streets

Britain was once known as “a nation of shopkeepers”, but more and more retailers are shutting their doors. The British high street is no longer the centre of activity and commerce it once was, as an increasing number of shops are going out of business, transforming once successful city centres into boring urban landscapes.

Nine new shops opened every day in the UK in the first half of 2019, but around twice as many closed. In total, almost 3,000 high street shops went out of business in the first six months of this year. These closures put tens of thousands out of work. There were 57,000 fewer people employed in retail jobs than the year before. Fewer retail jobs mean fewer people coming to the high street daily to work, which further adds to the lively atmosphere in city centres. Footfall (the number of people walking into shops) has been steadily declining each year. More and more people are shopping online rather than walking down the high street, stopping in at a shop, and finding something to buy. Every one in five pounds is now spent online.

It is thought that spending time in a public place with others who live in the same area creates a sense of community. And for hundreds of years, high streets in town centres used to do exactly that. The high street gave local residents not only a place to buy and sell things, but also a space where they could come together. Shopping on the high street provided an opportunity to greet acquaintances, catch up with friends over an afternoon tea or pint in the pub, and buy in shops owned by neighbours. Of course, the romantic version of a high street with retailers such as small shopkeepers, greengrocers,



and the news agent on the corner has not been the reality for some time now. In the last decades, chain stores and restaurants have become standard. But now even these businesses are struggling to survive on the high street. Some retailers are beginning to wonder whether physical buildings are worth it. They mean costs. Money spent on heating, electricity and rent can be saved when a company sells goods online only.

And retailers also pay a higher rate of taxes than other businesses. More than 50 major retailers have asked to review business rates and make them fairer. Retailers make up five per cent of the British economy but pay about ten per cent of all business taxes. These companies hope a change in the way retailers are taxed will help to revive high street business.

But the British government has already stepped up efforts to help the high street. Their Future High Street Fund has recently been increased to £1 billion by the government. Money to benefit city centres will go to 100 towns around Britain trying to help communities by funding projects like new bus services.

Some, however, are not sorry about the death of the high street. They argue that former retail spaces should be used for much needed housing. Here they are supported by the government. It has created a High Street Task Force which will provide expert knowledge and training to help rebuild town centres as meeting places and support local authorities in applying for money from the Future High Street Fund. One of their goals is to turn empty shops into housing.

**Tick the best answer – A, B or C.****1. Fewer people ...**

- A  lost their retail jobs in 2019.  
B  add to the life in the city centres.  
C  buy on the Internet nowadays.

**2. High streets ...**

- A  have been important for local communities for a long time.  
B  didn't provide enough space to get together.  
C  were places to just do shopping.

**3. During the last few years ...**

- A  small shops have disappeared from city centres.  
B  chain stores have made ever greater profit.  
C  online business has spent more money on rent in the city.

**4. Retailers ...**

- A  are not satisfied with the tax rates.  
B  contribute twice as much to the economy as they pay taxes.  
C  hope that taxes will be invested in high street stores.

**5. The government ...**

- A  will not help the local businesses.  
B  has increased tax revenues to £1 billion.  
C  will finance new bus services.

**6. Some people ...**

- A  disagree with the government about the future use of empty shops.  
B  criticise the lack of support by the government.  
C  plan to change former shops into new homes.

**B** (8 POINTS)



Read the article below. Choose the best expression (A, B or C) to fill each gap. For each answer, put the correct letter on the line on the right.

## Very hungry plastic eating caterpillars

In Eric Carle’s classic children’s book “The Very Hungry Caterpillar”, that caterpillar eats a leaf, an apple, strawberries, and ... a piece of chocolate cake. Chocolate cake – that is a strange thing for a caterpillar to eat, isn’t it? As it turns out, in real life, ❶ caterpillars have an appetite for something even stranger: plastic. Scientists have found that the caterpillars of the greater wax moth can eat and digest polyethylene, breaking it down in the process. Scientists think learning ❷ this process could help fight plastic pollution. Polyethylene is the ❸ common form of plastic and is used for shopping bags, packaging, and food wrappers. Polyethylene normally takes hundreds of years to disappear, but the wax moth caterpillar can make holes in a plastic bag in under an hour. The caterpillar is one of the more than 50 species that eat plastic. Most of these “plastivores” are bacteria and fungi.

The caterpillars can digest polyethylene because it is similar to their natural food, the wax that bees make their honeycomb with. They break down the plastic in the same way they digest the beeswax. They also have bacteria in their stomachs that help them break down plastic. Scientists ❹ taken the bacteria from the caterpillars’ stomachs and grown them outside the caterpillars. They found that one species of bacteria could survive on nothing but plastic. On the other hand, the bacteria living outside the caterpillars needed more time to break down plastic. So, scientists now know that bacteria living inside a caterpillar’s stomach help the plastic degradation process.

However, having these caterpillars eat all our plastic waste is not really a practical solution, and it could create new problems. In an experiment, 60 caterpillars ❺ 30 cm<sup>2</sup> of a plastic shopping bag in a week, which means that the world would need a lot of very hungry caterpillars to fight plastic pollution. This type of caterpillar gets ❻ natural food by invading beehives and eating the beeswax. Bees are already under stress. If there were more of these beeswax eating caterpillars, it ❼ be disastrous for bee colonies. Another problem is the poisonous substance that is ❽ when caterpillars eat plastic.

Nevertheless, understanding how the caterpillars digest plastic still helps scientists. They hope they can learn from this natural degradation process to find new ways of managing plastic waste. For now, reducing the amount of plastic we use is still the best option we have in our fight against plastic pollution.

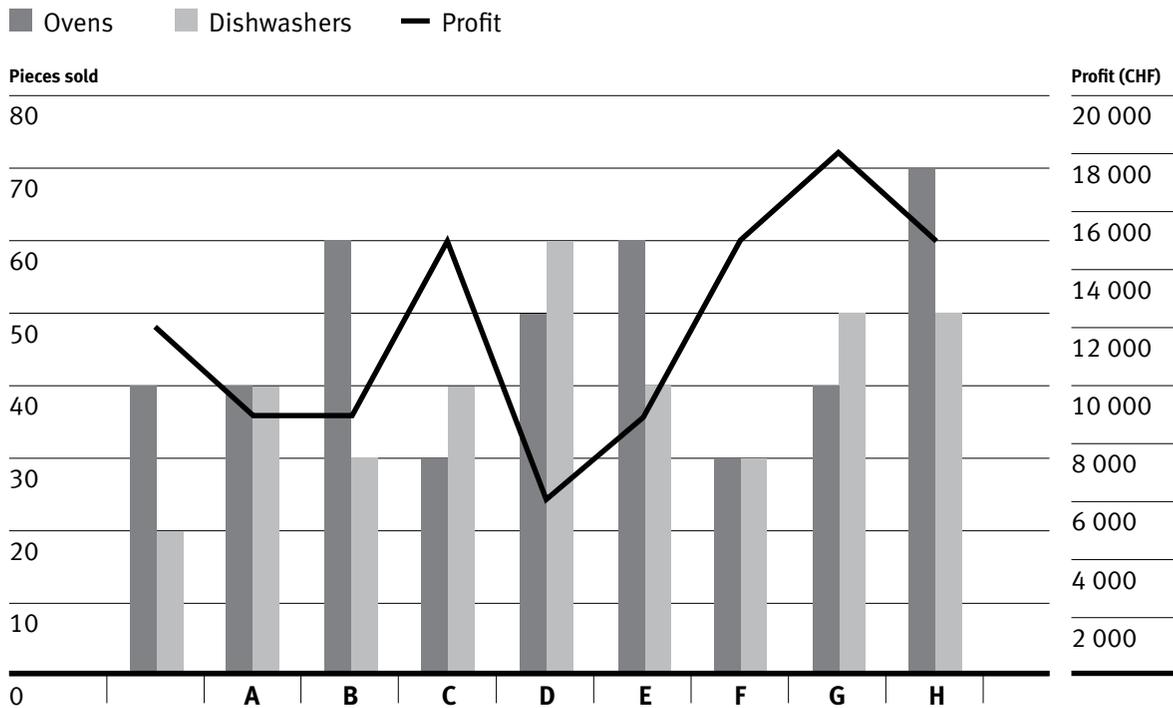
Source: Read On, August 2020

Put your letter here ↓

❶	A no	B some	C any	.....
❷	A about	B of	C on	.....
❸	A more	B much	C most	.....
❹	A have	B has	C did	.....
❺	A eat	B eaten	C ate	.....
❻	A his	B its	C her	.....
❼	A can	B will	C would	.....
❽	A produced	B produce	C producing	.....

**C** (5 POINTS)

Look at the chart below. It shows sales of ovens and dishwashers as well as the profits of a home appliances company over a period of eight months. Which month does each statement (1–5) below describe? Match them with the correct graph (A–H). Do not use any letter more than once.



Put the letter here ↓

1	Sales of both products picked up. This resulted in an increase in profits.	
2	Ovens and dishwashers sold equally well in this month. However, profits decreased slightly.	
3	Profits went up in spite of fewer ovens being sold. Dishwasher sales slowed down as well.	
4	Sales of dishwashers rose sharply. However, profits went down although ovens were in higher demand than in the previous month.	
5	Oven sales grew continually over two months. After a sharp increase, profits fell and sales of dishwashers levelled off.	

