There are four tasks in this pre-test. All of the material used comes from DECV courses. It will help establish which English course is best for you.

**Task 1: Changing a story from the present to the past tense.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present tense</th>
<th>Past tense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The paragraph below is written in the present tense. The verbs have been highlighted.</td>
<td>Change the paragraph into the past tense, by writing the past tense in the spaces provided. <em>(The first two sentences have been done for you.)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I get up at 10 o’clock and go down to the shop to buy a paper. Then I make some tea and toast and listen to the sport on the radio. In the afternoon I go to the match with my mates. We meet at the café in town at one o’clock. We have a drink and then we walk to the ground. Everybody is in a good mood and looking forward to the game. After the match I go to my girlfriend’s house for dinner. Later on we watch a video.</td>
<td>I got up at 10 o’clock and went down to the shop to buy a paper. Then I made some tea and toast and listened to the sport on the radio. In the afternoon I _____ to the match with my mates. We ____ at the café in town at one o’clock. We ____ a drink and then we _______ to the ground. Everybody ____ in a good mood and looking forward to the game. After the match I _____ to my girlfriend’s house for dinner. Later on we ______ a video.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Task 2: Looking at TV sports gambling.**

The following is a short selection from a longer piece of writing published in a daily paper. Read it carefully and answer the questions that follow it.

**All Men are Liars** written in 2013 by Sam de Brito

Tom Waterhouse is a grub. He wants your rent money, your savings, and he seemingly doesn't give a damn if he tears apart your life and family in the process.

I'm tired of reading "Tom Waterhouse is a nice, polite, well-dressed fellow", and that objections to TV-sports betting can be separated from any personal attack on the bookmaker. You are what you do, and he's chosen to be the smiling face of this plague. The way he and his ilk make money offends decency, it threatens people around me, it's as personal as it gets.

He's a grinning leech whose advertising doesn't even question the morality of what he's doing.

There are up to 500,000 problem gamblers in this country, affecting up to 5 million family members and friends. "Children with parents who are problem gamblers are up to 10 times more likely to become problem gamblers themselves," the government's problem-gambling website says.

We don't need a debate about the merits of TV-sports gambling. We need to ban it. Now.

1. Which of the following best describes the type of writing:
   a. It is a piece of creative writing, designed to entertain [ ]
   b. It is an opinion piece, designed to persuade the reader [ ]
   c. It is an news piece, providing information for the reader [ ]

2. Describe Sam de Brito’s opinion of Tom Waterhouse providing at least two words that Sam de Brito uses to describe him.

3. What information does the piece provide about problem gambling?


4. Which of the following persuasive language techniques does Sam de Brito use:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technique</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Yes= ✓</th>
<th>No = ✗</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive Language</td>
<td>(The use of “us” or “we” to make the reader feel included)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of language which ‘attacks’ someone</td>
<td>To reduce the opinion the reader may have of a person or group (E.G. “His views are ideas are stupid”)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of a rhetorical question</td>
<td>The use of a question which does not require an answer to make the reader think (E.G. “How long must we put up with this?”)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. What is really the most important point (or contention) of the piece? Is it:
   a. That Tom Waterhouse is not a good person [  ]
   b. That there are too many people addicted to gambling [  ]
   c. That TV sports gambling should be banned [  ]

Task 3: Read the following passage.

Dear Grandson,

It is without regret that I leave this world that has been both fair and hard to me. I had hoped to one day watch the waves reach the sky, but now this dusty camp will be my last memory. This dusty camp where I met you. If you have the courage and the inspiration for the journey to the waves, it is one you should make. Everyone deserves a chance at freedom, a chance at forever.

The journey will be difficult and dangerous, but there is one part I can help you with. The rest will be up to you, but I have confidence in you. You are strong and you have a fire inside you. Do not be afraid of your words. They are everything. There is money. Below my seat is your chance at forever.

With great affection,

Your Grandfather

Questions. Pick the best answer in each case

1. It is clear from the passage that his grandfather:
   a. Does not want to go on a long journey [  ]
   b. Does not have much confidence in his grandson [  ]
   c. Knows that his grandson will be given the letter after his death [  ]

2. The grandfather in this story wants his grandson to have a better future than living in a dusty camp like him. Why does the grandfather want his grandson to undertake the quest?
   a. The journey will be difficult and dangerous [  ]
   b. He knows his grandson has the courage and the strength he needs to succeed. [  ]
   c. His grandson has no other choice [  ]
   d. He knows that his grandson wants to reach a world where he can be free. [  ]

Task 4: Writing a letter to your teacher

Write a letter that gives a clear picture of who you are and what makes you tick.

Here are some things you should include:

- What you hope to gain from an English course at DECV?
- Do you definitely intend to complete VCE at year 12?
- Is your main aim to make sure you have enough English skills for work?
- Describe what you enjoyed and/or disliked about school.
- Describe your memories of being at school. Mention a particular day, you remember well.
- Give an example of your favourite book, music, TV program or movie. Explain briefly why you like it.
- Explain which of the task in this pre-test you felt most comfortable doing.
- Explain which of the tasks in this pre-test you found most difficult to complete.