

USJ – SLU ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST MODEL

The USJ-SLU Placement test is made of 3 parts: listening comprehension (25 minutes), essay writing (45 minutes) and reading comprehension (15 minutes). The total duration of the test is 1h30.

PART 1: LISTENING COMPREHENSION

The listening comprehension consists of 4 sections with about 10 questions in each section. Students are given time to read the questions before listening. Then they listen only once. While they listen, they note their answers on the exam answer sheet. The tasks will be a range of the following types: multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, sentence completion, labelling a diagram with numbered parts; notes/summary/diagram/flowchart/table completion.

Section 1: Two speakers have a discussion in a social situation, e.g. talking about travel arrangements or renting a house.

Section 2: One speaker talks about a non-academic topic, e.g. the benefits of exercise.

Section 3: As many as four speakers have a discussion in an educational or training situation, e.g. a group of students discussing plans for giving a presentation.

Section 4: This is the longest section. One speaker gives a talk or mini lecture about a topic of general or academic interest.

PART 2: ESSAY WRITING

Instructions: You have forty-five minutes to write an essay about the following prompt. You will be scored based on writing and grammar skills. Expected approximate length 1 ½ pages or 300 words.

Prompt: Night mayor is one of the most unique jobs in the world. His job is to balance the needs of a city's economically important nightlife economy with the concerns and rights of the city's permanent residents. In a well-developed descriptive essay, write about a job in which you are interested.

PART 3: READING COMPREHENSION

Instructions: You have fifteen minutes to read article below and answer the questions that follow.

Amsterdam's Night Mayor

¹ Mirik Milan's typical workday begins at around 10 p.m. On one night, Milan visits with hosts of Amsterdam's largest nightclubs to talk about how they handle unruly guests who wander into the late-night streets. Properly handling situations such as this is important in balancing Amsterdam's tourist nightlife economy with the needs of its permanent residents. Milan is Amsterdam's first *nachtburgemeester* – or night mayor – and it's one of the most unique jobs in the world.

² Amsterdam is one of the most visited tourist destinations in Europe and has been for a long time. Although the city of Amsterdam is steeped in rich culture and history, most of its tourists are young and are more interested in partying than visiting museums or admiring architecture. Amsterdam's raucous nightlife is as notorious as its coffee shops and the tourists who come to experience it spend a lot of money to do so. In the past, there was a clear separation between the parts of the city with a lively nightlife and the quieter residential neighborhoods. Recently, however, with the popularity of Airbnb as well as other factors, Amsterdam's nighttime partying has started to spread to all parts of the city. This has become a serious problem for Amsterdam's permanent residents who complain about the nighttime disruptions as well as damage to their property.

³ To deal with this increasingly onerous problem, the city of Amsterdam created the position of night mayor. In 2012, 35-year old Mirik Milan was the first to be elected to this position. The challenge that Milan faced was to balance the needs of Amsterdam's economically important nightlife economy with the concerns and rights of the city's permanent residents. In recent years, Amsterdam's residents have lodged more complaints about the rowdy late-night crowds of foreign tourists who gather outside their residences making noise and even damaging property. Simply shutting down or restricting clubs and bars is not an option given that they play such an important part in Amsterdam's economy. So, the job of night mayor is to find creative solutions to this very difficult problem.

⁴ One of Mirik Milan's first actions was to convince Amsterdam's city council to lift the requirement that all the city's clubs and bars close at 4:00AM. When every club and bar closes at the same time, Milan explained, drunk patrons all over the city gather en masse in the streets at the same time. The party basically moves outside creating the nightly ordeal for residents and police. By allowing clubs and bars to stay open 24 hours a day, patrons leave when they want and the 4:00AM mass exodus of young drunk tourists is averted. This is one example of several solutions and initiatives that Milan has introduced to balance the needs of Amsterdam's citizens and the city's vibrant nightlife economy. How effective has Milan's work been? According to official police statistics, alcohol-related violence is down 25% and other types of anti-social behavior (littering, noise violations, and other forms of disorderly conduct) are down by 30%

⁵ Clearly, the job of night mayor has had a positive effect on how Amsterdam deals with this problem, and other cities are beginning to take notice. New York City, London, Berlin, and other cities are beginning to elect night mayors of their own.

Circle the best answer for questions 1-5. Write one-word answers for questions 6-8. In one to two sentences, write the best answer for questions 9-10.

- 1) This passage is mainly about ____.
 - a) problems related to Amsterdam’s nightlife
 - b) the unique job of night mayor
 - c) the history of the night mayor
 - d) the importance of tourism for Amsterdam
- 2) Which of the following is true about the job of Amsterdam’s night mayor?
 - a) It has improved life in Amsterdam for its permanent residents.
 - b) It is one of the oldest positions in Amsterdam.
 - c) It protects the interests of bar and night club owners.
 - d) It has been in place in Amsterdam for over 10 years.
- 3) According to the passage, what effect has the night mayor had on Amsterdam?
 - a) Amsterdam’s nightlife has spread to all parts of the city.
 - b) Local police have issued 25% more citations for alcohol-related violence.
 - c) All bars now close at 4:00 a.m.
 - d) The city has seen a 30% reduction in anti-social crime.
- 4) The word “they” in the fourth sentence of paragraph 4 refers to ____.
 - a) the bars and clubs
 - b) Amsterdam residents
 - c) the bar and club patrons
 - d) Amsterdam police
- 5) What can be inferred after reading the article?
 - a) Every city in the world will have a night mayor someday.
 - b) The problem of tourist-related nighttime disturbances has increased in other cities.
 - c) The night mayor is unique to Amsterdam.
 - d) Mirik Milan will soon be working in other famous cities around the world.
- 6) Which word in the first half of paragraph 1 is a synonym for “disorderly”?
Your answer: _____
- 7) Which word in the first half of paragraph 2 is a synonym for “well-known”?
Your answer: _____
- 8) Which word in the first half of paragraph 4 is a synonym for “customers”?
Your answer: _____

9) Why does Amsterdam need a night mayor?

10) What skills would be needed to become a successful night mayor?
