ChatGPT (A2 - Pre-Intermediate)

A – Before you start
Answer the questions with a partner.
1. Do you often use apps that make use of artificial intelligence?
2. If so, which ones? (e.g. search engines, translation apps, virtual assistants, etc.)
3. Do you think chatbots are usually useful? Why (not)?
4. Have you tried ChatGPT? If so, what did you think of it?

B – Listen and answer
Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.
1. ChatGPT can
a) answer questions.   b) generate text.   c) do both.
2. Users interact with ChatGPT by
a) speaking.   b) writing.   c) by speaking or writing.
3. ChatGPT's responses are more natural and coherent than those of other AI tools.
a) True.   b) False.   c) The article doesn't say.
4. The data used to train ChatGPT comes from
a) books and articles.   b) websites.   c) all of these.
5. According to the author of the article, AI technology
a) will soon substitute journalists and writers.   b) may help human writers.
c) will improve the style of written texts.

C – Read and answer
Read the article and answer the questions.
1. What technology does ChatGPT use to understand and generate text?
2. What examples does the article give of areas where ChatGPT can be used?
3. What feature makes it possible for this chatbot to give more natural and coherent responses?
4. What does it look for when it's given an input text?
5. Why is it important for ChatGPT to be trained on high-quality and diverse data?
6. What signs may indicate that a text has not been written by a human?

D – Learn it! Use it!
Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular).
1. How can the ink cartridge in this printer be empty already? We ___ it only ten days ago!
2. The weather may improve later today, but it's _____. Look at those dark clouds!
3. Our neighbours' dog is very noisy. They should _____ it not to bark all the time.
4. This phone is _____ only available in the US. Next month it will be on sale in Europe.
5. The products in this supermarket are cheap, but there isn't a very _____ _____.
6. One useful _____ of some new cars is a night vision system that helps you to drive at night.

E — Ready for the A2 KEY English Test? (Paper 1, Part 4)

Choose the best word for each space.

Many high school teachers and university professors are worried 1_____ (about/for/of) the use of ChatGPT by their students. The chatbot has shown that it 2_____ (has/is able/can) to produce essays that would easily get top 3_____ (marks/pass/votes) in exams. The only solution at present is for teachers to check by 4_____ (use/to use/using) the chatbot themselves, as it will give very similar answers to the same question.

For the moment, 5_____ (somebody/nobody/anybody) can use ChatGPT free of charge during a "feedback" period. If users 6_____ (will give/give/gave) the company useful feedback, it will enable it to improve the final version of the app.

F — Check your pronunciation

Underline the stressed syllable in each of these words.

machine   input   processing   allow   context   analyse
variety   ensure   copywriter   capable   content (noun)

G — Write about it

Write about an app you use regularly. Mention:
- what it does;
- when/where/how often you use it;
- how useful it is;
- how it could be improved.

The Flying Scotsman (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A — Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.
1. Do you enjoy travelling by train? Why (not)?
2. Are there any railway museums in your country?
3. If so, where are they? Have you ever visited them?
4. Have any steam locomotives been preserved in your country?
5. If so, are they still working? Have you ever travelled on one?

B — Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.
1. A daily 10am London to Edinburgh rail service began in
a) 1923   b) 1862   c) 1823
2. Nigel Gresley was ... of a new steam locomotive called the Flying Scotsman.
a) the driver   b) the owner   c) the designer
3. By 1928, the journey time from London to Edinburgh on the Flying Scotsman was
a) 8 hours.   b) 18 hours.   c) 9 hours.
4. After being taken out of service, the Flying Scotsman became the first steam locomotive
a) to be taken to the United States.   b) to be restored.   c) to tour the world.
5. Its home is now the National Railway Museum in
a) London.   b) York.   c) Edinburgh.
6. At times, the locomotive still runs on mainline British tracks.
a) True.   b) False.   c) The article doesn't say.

C — Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.
1. How was it possible for the the journey time to be reduced to eight hours by 1928?
2. What record did the Flying Scotsman achieve in 1934?

3. What special facilities were there for travellers in the years before World War II?
4. Why was the locomotive retired from service in 1963?
5. Why was it necessary for William Alpine to rescue the Flying Scotsman?
6. How was it possible to raise the £4.2 million needed to restore the locomotive?

D — Learn it! Use it!
Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)
1. In some countries there are government _____ to help towards the cost of solar panels.
2. Kyle borrowed his father's car and _____ it when he crashed into a lamppost.
3. We need to do some shopping. We've _____ _____ of fruit and vegetables.
4. A lot of people have stopped buying a _____ newspaper, as they read the news online.
5. If Uncle Fred continues to drink so much whisky, he'll _____ _____ an alcoholic!
6. I chose these red cushions for the sofa because they _____ the curtains.

E — Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 3)
Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits in the space given.
1. A new locomotive, the Flying Scotsman, was _____ (VEIL) on 24th February, 1923.
2. It was designed by railway _____ (ENGINE) Sir Nigel Gresley.
3. The train featured in a 1929 film, in which a heroic _____ (FIRE) saved it from destruction.
4. After its removal from service, it went to the US with Alan Pegler, its new _____ (OWN).
5. A campaign to save the train received _____ (SIGNIFY) public support
6. The locomotive has received _____ (ENHANCE) so that it can operate in the 21st century.
7. The restored locomotive was presented to _____ (ENTHUSE) crowds in 2016.
8. It is now the oldest mainline _____ (WORK) locomotive on Britain's tracks.

F — Write about it
Write about a memorable railway journey you once made. Mention:
- when it took place;
- where you were travelling from/to;
- who you were travelling with;
- what (if any) services were available on the train;
- why the journey was memorable.

Goblin Mode — the Word of the Year (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A — Before you start
Answer the questions with a partner.
1. Can you think of any words in your native language that suddenly became popular in 2022?
2. Have you ever heard the following English expressions? If so, do you know what they mean? If not, can you guess?
• goblin mode
• metaverse
• #IStandWith
• permacrisis
• gaslighting

B — Listen and answer
Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).
1. This year, the Oxford English Dictionary asked the public to decide on the Word of the Year.
2. Some people thought that 'goblin mode' was already too well-known to be Word of the Year.

3. The expression was used for the first time by Julia Fox on Twitter.
4. 'Metaverse' first appeared in a work of fiction in the late 20th century.
5. The word 'permacrisis' was chosen by Collins Dictionary.
6. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary's choice 'gaslighting', comes from the title of a 1938 film.

C — Read and answer
Read the article and answer the questions.
1. What example does the article give of goblin mode behaviour?
2. Why is it seen as a reaction to much of the social media content posted during the pandemic?
3. If a Metaverse existed, how would people interact with each other in it?
4. What event caused the word 'metaverse' to be used more often?
5. What is #IStandWithUkraine an example of?
6. What recent events have made 'permacrisis' a popular word?
7. What other effect has the war in Ukraine had on the English language?
8. Who was the original gaslighter?

D — Learn it! Use it!
Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense.)
1. The information they gave us was very _____. We all interpreted it in a different way.
2. If you really want to _____ _____, you should join a gym or take up a sport.
3. Ann's aunt is a very good cook. Last April she _____ a wonderful birthday cake for her.
4. _____ are small, imaginary creatures who appear in the folklore of many European countries.
5. Many children find fast food tastier and more fun than the _____ meals they get at home.
6. My younger brothers are always fighting. I'm _____ of hearing them shouting at each other.

E — Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 1)
Read the text and decide which word in brackets best fits each gap.
The original 1938 thriller play Gas Light was written by the British novelist and playwright Patrick Hamilton. It is 1_____ (placed/centred/set/shot) in London in 1880.
In the story, Jack Manningham does all 2_____ (that/what/how/of) he can to convince his wife Bella that she is 3_____ (coming/being/getting/going) mad. For example, when she notices that the gas light in their home 4_____ (becomes/keeps/takes/does) dimming, Jack assures her it is nothing 5_____ (but/besides/over/other) her imagination. The same happens when she tells him she has heard 6_____ (walks/paces/footprints/footsteps) in the empty flat upstairs,
Bella is helped by a police detective who is investigating a mysterious 7_____ (dying/death/dead/died). A woman had been found murdered in the flat above the Manninghams' 8_____ (few/plenty/more/several) years before. Gradually Bella begins to realise that her husband is not what he seems to be.

F — Write about it
In pairs or groups.
1. If you had to choose a Word of the Year in your own language, what word would you choose?
2. Why would you choose it?
3. Are there any words in your own language that you don't like? If so, what are they? Why don't you like them?
4. Can you think of any words your parents or grandparents used that are now used more rarely?
5. Why, in your opinion, do some words disappear from daily usage?

The Psychology of Weather (C1 - Advanced)

A — Before you start
Answer the questions with a partner.
1. What kind of weather do you prefer? Why?
2. Do you believe that a country's climate can influence the character of its inhabitants?
3. If so, in what way?

B — Listen and answer
Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).
1. Trevor Harley is Professor of Psychology at Edinburgh University.
2. He became interested in the weather when he finished his degree course.
3. He has observed higher temperatures and lower rainful in Dundee in recent years.
4. He claims that each type of weather has its own psychological effect on people.
5. Exposure to sunshine improves your mental health but not your physical health.
6. Harley denies that the climate of a country affects the personality of its inhabitants.
7. He dislikes windy weather.
8. Windy weather was appreciated in Britain more in the past than it is at present.

C — Read and answer
Read the article and answer the questions.
1. Why is it difficult to relate precise meteorological conditions to people's moods?
2. How does Trevor Harley differentiate between the terms "climate" and "weather"? Why?
3. What are the physiological effects of extreme weather described by Harley?
4. How does sunshine affect the brain?
5. What reasons does Harley give for a higher incidence of rioting during hot weather?
6. What other negative occurrences are connected to hot weather?
7. What example does Harley give of the effects the climate can have on a country's economy?
8. What weather conditions gave rise to smog in Britain's industrial cities in the 1940s and 1950s?

D — Listen to the interview (Optional)
Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)
1. The investigators had all the available facts but they _____ the wrong conclusions!
2. The local supermarket is giving out _____ of a new brand of breakfast cereal.
3. Our manager's clever but she's very moody. Some people can't _____ working with her.
4. People with broken _____ are a common sight on flights back home from ski resorts.
5. The traffic jam on the motorway was _____ _____ an accident involving two lorries.
6. When it's very hot, I go and sit by the lake. There's usually a light _____ there.

E — Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test? (Reading and Use of English, Part 4)
Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between 3 and 6 words including the word given.
Example: There is general agreement that our mood can change with the weather.
AFFECT   Most people would agree that the weather can affect our mood.

1.   People can be made to feel gloomy and even depressed by dark clouds.
ON   Dark clouds can _____ and even depression.
2.   Harley began monitoring Dundee weather 27 years ago.
MONITORING Harley _____ 27 years.
3.   It doesn't always happen that people are happier when it's sunny.
CASE   It _____ that people are happier when it's sunny.

4.   As it gets hotter, violent crimes become more likely.
MORE   The _____ violent crimes become.
5.   Sometimes people can't do anything because it's too hot.
BE   Sometimes people are just too hot _____ anything.
6.   The sort of weather that Harley dislikes most is wind.
LEAST   Wind _____ sort of weather.

F — Learn it! Use it!

Write about an event or situation in your country that was caused by extreme weather. Mention:
- when/where it happened;
- what it was caused by;
- how long it lasted;
- what the effects were.

Answers (**ChatGPT A2 - Pre-Intermediate**)

B — Listen and answer
1. c   2. b   3. a   4. c   5. b
C — Read and answer
1. It uses Natural Language Processing.   2. The examples it gives are customer service, education and entertainment.   3. It's able to remember and keep track of previous conversations.   4. It looks for patterns in the text that it has been trained on.   5. Because the quality of its responses depend on the data it is trained on.   6. The text may lack variability and nuance or it may contain repetitions or unnatural-sounding phrases.
D — Learn it! Use it!
1. replaced   2. unlikely   3. train   4. currently   5. wide range   6. feature
E — Ready for the A2 KEY English Test?
1. about   2. is able   3. marks   4. using   5. anybody   6. give
F — Check your pronunciation
ma<u>chine</u>   <u>i</u>nput   <u>p</u>rocessing   a<u>ll</u>ow   <u>con</u>text   <u>a</u>nalyse
var<u>ie</u>ty   en<u>sure</u>   <u>c</u>opywriter   <u>ca</u>pable   <u>con</u>tent

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Answers (**The Flying Scotsman B2 - Upper Intermediate**)

B — Listen and answer
1. b   2. c   3. a   4. c   5. b   6. a
C — Read and answer
1. The train did the journey non-stop.   2. It became the first locomotive in the UK to reach 100 mph.   3. There was a cinema car, a cocktail bar and a hairdressing salon.   4. Because the age of steam was coming to an end.   5. Because it was stranded in the US.   6. A campaign led by the National Railway Museum obtained great public support. The campaign received a grant and entrepreneur Richard Branson made a donation.
D — Learn it! Use it!
1. grants   2. wrecked   3. run out   4. daily   5. end up   6. match
E — Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?
1. unveiled   2. engineer   3. fireman   4. owner   5. significant   6. enhancements
7. enthusiastic   8. working

Answers (Goblin Mode – the Word of the Year B2 - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer
1. T   2. F – They said it wasn't widely known.   3. F – It first appeared in 2009./Julia Fox said she never used the term.   4. T   5. T   6. F – It comes from a 1938 play.

C – Read and answer
1. It gives the example of someone lying on the sofa, binging on Netflix and eating pizza.
2. Because during the pandemic there were so many social media posts giving advice on how to improve one's work, life or health, that people became tired of them.   3. They would interact through avatars.   4. The change of Facebook's name to Meta in October 2021.   5. It's an example of hashtag activism.   6. The Covid pandemic and the war in Ukraine.   7. The capital of Ukraine is now usually spelt Kyiv and pronounced as it is in Ukrainian, rather than as it is in Russian.   8. The original gaslighter was a character in the 1938 play Gas Light; a husband who used psychological tricks to make his wife think she was going mad.

D – Learn it! Use it!
1. misleading   2. get fit   3. baked   4. goblins   5. wholesome   6. sick

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?
1. set   2. that   3. going   4. keeps   5. but   6. footsteps   7. death   8. several

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Answers (The Psychology of Weather C1 - Advanced)

B – Listen and answer
1. F – He is Professor of Psychology at the University of Dundee.   2. F – He became interested in it in his youth.   3. F – He has observed higher temperatures and higher rainfall.   4. T
5. F – It can also improve aspects of your physical health.   6. F – He thinks it does affect the personality of its inhabitants.   7. T   8. T

C – Read and answer
1. Because individual responses to the weather can vary greatly.   2. He defines climate as the conditions you expect and weather as the conditions you get. He makes this distinction because he claims it's necessary to observe the weather for thirty years in order to gauge the climate.   3. They are heat stroke or heat stress in summer and hypothermia and broken limbs in winter.   4. It has an effect on the chemical serotonin, which is a neurotransmitter in the brain. It also stimulates the pineal gland that produces melatonin, a hormone that is involved in regulating our sleep-wake cycle.   5. He says that in hot weather people drink more alcohol. Hot weather also makes people angrier.   6. In hot weather, violent crimes like murder, robbery, rape and assault are more frequent.   7. He gives the example of the UK, where the abundance of water contributed to making the Industrial Revolution possible.   8. The conditions were fog combined with smoke in areas with high pressure and little wind.

D – Learn it! Use it!
1. drew   2. samples   3. bear   4. limbs   5. due to   6. breeze

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test?
1. bring on gloom   2. has been monitoring Dundee weather for   3. isn't always the case
4. hotter it gets, the more likely   5. to be able to do   6. is Harley's least favourite

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