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## Level 6

### Cambridge University may end handwritten exams

13th September, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

The world-renowned Cambridge University is considering abolishing handwritten exams after 800 years. University officials may ask students to type their exam answers on a computer rather than use a pen. The move follows complaints from examination markers who say they are finding test papers increasingly illegible due to poor handwriting. Academics say today's students primarily use laptops in lectures and tutorials instead of pens. Students are losing the ability to write by hand. One academic said asking students to hand-write exams actually causes them physical difficulties. The muscles in their hand are not used to writing extensively for prolonged periods of two to three hours.

A Cambridge University lecturer, Dr Sarah Pearsall, told Britain's 'Daily Telegraph' newspaper that handwriting was becoming a "lost art". She said: "Twenty years ago, students routinely [wrote] by hand several hours a day, but now they write virtually nothing by hand, except exams." She added: "We have been concerned for years about the declining handwriting problem. There has definitely been a downward trend. It is difficult for both the students and the examiners as it is harder and harder to read these [exam] scripts." Dr Pearsall says some students' handwriting is so illegible that they had to return to the university over the summer to read their answers out loud to examiners who could not read their writing.

Sources: <http://www.newshub.co.nz/home/world/2017/09/students-unreadable-handwriting-could-mean-laptops-in-exams.html>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/sep/09/cambridge-considers-typed-exams-as-handwriting-worsens>  
[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-09/09/c\\_136597258.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-09/09/c_136597258.htm)

# WARM-UPS

**1. HANDWRITING:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about handwriting. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

world-renowned / handwriting / exams / answers / illegible / lectures / muscles / a lost art / twenty years ago / problem / trend / examiners / harder / university

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. WRITE BY HAND:** Students A **strongly** believe it is no longer necessary to write by hand in today's digital world; Students B **strongly** believe writing by hand is essential. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. WRITING:** Is it better to write these things by hand or type them on a keyboard? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	By Hand (Using a Pen)	On a Smartphone / Computer Keyboard
Essays		
Shopping list		
Birthday cards		
Exams		
Poems		
Diary / Journal		

**5. EXAMS:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "exams". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. LEGIBLE:** Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things to be legible at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- exam
- signature
- doctor's prescription
- shopping list
- love letter
- birthday card
- directions
- apologies

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Cambridge University has had hand written exams for 800 years. **T / F**
- b. Exam markers complained they could not read exam papers. **T / F**
- c. Students still use pens more than computers in lectures. **T / F**
- d. Cambridge University students have stronger hand muscles. **T / F**
- e. A Cambridge University lecturer called handwriting a fine art. **T / F**
- f. She said students used keyboards a lot 20 years ago. **T / F**
- g. The lecturer said there was an upward trend in legibility. **T / F**
- h. Students had to read their exam scripts out loud to examiners. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>abolishing</b>   | a. grumbles       |
| 2. <b>rather than</b>  | b. regularly      |
| 3. <b>complaints</b>   | c. worried        |
| 4. <b>primarily</b>    | d. instead of     |
| 5. <b>prolonged</b>    | e. penmanship     |
| 6. <b>routinely</b>    | f. getting rid of |
| 7. <b>virtually</b>    | g. unreadable     |
| 8. <b>concerned</b>    | h. lengthy        |
| 9. <b>illegible</b>    | i. mainly         |
| 10. <b>handwriting</b> | j. almost         |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Cambridge University is considering  | a. wrote by hand                |
| 2. students primarily                   | b. writing extensively          |
| 3. causes them physical                 | c. illegible                    |
| 4. not used to                          | d. "lost art"                   |
| 5. prolonged periods                    | e. difficulties                 |
| 6. handwriting was becoming a           | f. abolishing handwritten exams |
| 7. Twenty years ago, students routinely | g. out loud                     |
| 8. There has definitely been a downward | h. of two to three hours        |
| 9. students' handwriting is so          | i. trend                        |
| 10. read their answers                  | j. use laptops in lectures      |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

The world-renowned Cambridge University is considering (1) \_\_\_\_\_ handwritten exams after 800 years. University (2) \_\_\_\_\_ may ask students to type their exam answers on a computer (3) \_\_\_\_\_ than use a pen. The move follows complaints from examination markers who say they are finding test papers increasingly (4) \_\_\_\_\_ due to poor handwriting. Academics say today's students (5) \_\_\_\_\_ use laptops in lectures and tutorials instead of pens. Students are (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the ability to write by hand. One academic said asking students to hand-write exams actually causes them (7) \_\_\_\_\_ difficulties. The muscles in their hand are not used to writing extensively for prolonged (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of two to three hours.

*illegible*  
*officials*  
*physical*  
*primarily*  
*abolishing*  
*periods*  
*rather*  
*losing*

A Cambridge University lecturer, Dr Sarah Pearsall, told Britain's 'Daily Telegraph' newspaper that handwriting was becoming a "lost (9) \_\_\_\_\_". She said: "Twenty years ago, students routinely [wrote] by hand (10) \_\_\_\_\_ hours a day, but now they write virtually nothing by hand, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ exams." She added: "We have been concerned for years about the (12) \_\_\_\_\_ handwriting problem. There has definitely been a downward (13) \_\_\_\_\_. It is difficult for both the students and the examiners as it is harder and harder to read these [exam] (14) \_\_\_\_\_." Dr Pearsall says some students' handwriting is so illegible that they had to (15) \_\_\_\_\_ to the university over the summer to read their answers out (16) \_\_\_\_\_ to examiners who could not read their writing.

*trend*  
*several*  
*loud*  
*art*  
*declining*  
*return*  
*except*  
*scripts*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

- 1) The world-renowned Cambridge University is considering \_\_\_\_\_ exams
  - a. abolish in handwritten
  - b. and polishing handwritten
  - c. abolishing handwritten
  - d. abolition handwritten
- 2) ask students to type their exam answers on a computer \_\_\_\_\_ a pen
  - a. rather than use
  - b. lather than use
  - c. father than use
  - d. farther than use
- 3) examination markers who say they are finding test papers \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. increasingly ill ledge able
  - b. increasingly illegibly
  - c. increasingly ill eligible
  - d. increasingly illegible
- 4) Academics say today's students primarily use laptops in lectures and tutorials \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. in stead of pen
  - b. instead of pens
  - c. instead off pens
  - d. instead of pen
- 5) The muscles in their hand are not used to writing extensively for \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. prologue periods
  - b. pre longed periods
  - c. prolonged periods
  - d. prolonged period
- 6) Pearsall told Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper that handwriting was becoming \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a "lost art"
  - b. a "loss tart"
  - c. at a "lost art"
  - d. at a "loss tart"
- 7) students routinely wrote by hand several hours a day, but now they write \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. virtually noting
  - b. virtual noting
  - c. virtual anything
  - d. virtually nothing
- 8) She added: "We have been concerned for years about the \_\_\_\_\_ problem"
  - a. decline in handwriting
  - b. declining handwriting
  - c. decline in-hand writing
  - d. declining in-hand written
- 9) both the students and the examiners as it is harder and harder to read \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. these exams scripts
  - b. these exams crypts
  - c. these exams clips
  - d. these exam scripts
- 10) they had to return to the university over the summer to read their \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. answers out loud
  - b. answers out lewd
  - c. answers out laud
  - d. answers out load

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

The (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Cambridge University is considering abolishing handwritten exams after 800 years. University officials may ask students (2) \_\_\_\_\_ exam answers on a computer rather than use a pen. The move (3) \_\_\_\_\_ from examination markers who say they are finding test papers increasingly illegible due to poor handwriting. Academics say today's students (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in lectures and tutorials instead of pens. Students are (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to write by hand. One academic said asking students to hand-write exams actually causes them physical difficulties. The muscles in their hand (6) \_\_\_\_\_ writing extensively for prolonged periods of two to three hours.

A Cambridge University lecturer, Dr Sarah Pearsall, told Britain's 'Daily Telegraph' newspaper that handwriting was (7) \_\_\_\_\_. She said: "Twenty years ago, students (8) \_\_\_\_\_ hand several hours a day, but now they (9) \_\_\_\_\_ by hand, except exams." She added: "We have been concerned for years about the declining handwriting problem. There has definitely been (10) \_\_\_\_\_. It is difficult for both the students and the examiners as it is harder and harder to read (11) \_\_\_\_\_." Dr Pearsall says some students' handwriting is so illegible that they had to return to the university over the summer to read their (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to examiners who could not read their writing.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

1. For how long has Cambridge University had hand written exams?
2. What did exam markers say was becoming increasingly poor?
3. What do students mainly use in lectures and tutorials?
4. What do hand-written exams cause many students?
5. What is not used in students' hands for long periods of time?
6. What did a doctor say handwriting was becoming?
7. What did the doctor say students write by hand today?
8. What kind of trend did the doctor identify with handwriting quality?
9. What is it harder for students and academics to read?
10. Where did some students have to return to over the summer?



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

- 1) For how long has Cambridge University had hand written exams?
  - a) 700 years
  - b) 600 years
  - c) 800 years
  - d) 900 years
- 2) What did exam markers say was becoming increasingly poor?
  - a) handwriting
  - b) Cambridge University
  - c) students
  - d) education
- 3) What do students mainly use in lectures and tutorials?
  - a) notebooks
  - b) laptops
  - c) tablets
  - d) desktops
- 4) What do hand-written exams cause many students?
  - a) paralysis
  - b) stress
  - c) hand-eye coordination
  - d) physical difficulties
- 5) What is not used in students' hands for long periods of time?
  - a) pens
  - b) pencils
  - c) muscles
  - d) dictionaries
- 6) What did a doctor say handwriting was becoming?
  - a) modern art
  - b) a lost art
  - c) a fine art
  - d) a mainstream art
- 7) What did the doctor say students write by hand today?
  - a) shopping lists
  - b) songs
  - c) poems
  - d) only exams
- 8) What kind of trend did the doctor identify with handwriting quality?
  - a) a Twitter trend
  - b) a downward trend
  - c) a social media trend
  - d) a best trend
- 9) What is it harder for students and academics to read?
  - a) Latin
  - b) exam scripts
  - c) research papers
  - d) newspapers
- 10) Where did some students have to return to over the summer?
  - a) the university
  - b) home
  - c) their place of birth
  - d) London

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

## **Role A – Exams**

You think exams are most important to be written legibly. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): signatures, love letters or directions.

## **Role B – Signatures**

You think signatures are most important to be written legibly. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): exams, love letters or directions.

## **Role C – Love Letters**

You think love letters are most important to be written legibly. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): signatures, exams or directions.

## **Role D – Directions**

You think directions are most important to be written legibly. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): signatures, love letters or exams.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'hand' and 'writing'.

<b>hand</b>	<b>writing</b>
-------------	----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• considering</li><li>• rather</li><li>• follows</li><li>• losing</li><li>• causes</li><li>• three</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• newspaper</li><li>• art</li><li>• nothing</li><li>• trend</li><li>• some</li><li>• loud</li></ul>
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# HANDWRITING SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

Write five GOOD questions about handwriting in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.  
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# HANDWRITING DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'exam'?
3. What do you think of Cambridge University?
4. Should all students use pens to write exams?
5. How important is good handwriting?
6. Do people need to write any more?
7. Should students who can't write legibly get a zero?
8. How good is your handwriting?
9. Do you need muscles to write for a long time?
10. How do you feel about writing for a long period of time?

*Cambridge University may end handwritten exams – 13th September, 2017*  
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# HANDWRITING DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'handwriting'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. To what extent do you think handwriting is an art?
15. How often do you need to use a pen?
16. Is it better to use your smartphone or a pen to write lists?
17. Why is people's handwriting getting worse?
18. Would you like to write more beautifully?
19. Can you tell someone's character from their handwriting?
20. What questions would you like to ask the exam markers?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

The world-renowned Cambridge University is (1) \_\_\_\_ abolishing handwritten exams after 800 years. University officials may ask students to type their exam answers (2) \_\_\_\_ a computer rather than use a pen. The move (3) \_\_\_\_ complaints from examination markers who say they are finding test papers increasingly illegible (4) \_\_\_\_ to poor handwriting. Academics say today's students primarily use laptops in lectures and tutorials (5) \_\_\_\_ of pens. Students are losing the ability to write by hand. One academic said asking students to hand-write exams actually causes them physical difficulties. The muscles in their hand are not used to writing extensively for prolonged (6) \_\_\_\_ of two to three hours.

A Cambridge University lecturer, Dr Sarah Pearsall, told Britain's 'Daily Telegraph' newspaper that handwriting was becoming a "lost (7) \_\_\_\_". She said: "Twenty years ago, students (8) \_\_\_\_ [wrote] by hand several hours a day, but now they write virtually nothing by hand, except exams." She added: "We have been concerned for years about the (9) \_\_\_\_ handwriting problem. There has definitely been a downward (10) \_\_\_\_\_. It is difficult for both the students and the examiners as it is harder and harder to read these [exam] scripts." Dr Pearsall says some students' handwriting is (11) \_\_\_\_ illegible that they had to return to the university over the summer to read their answers (12) \_\_\_\_ loud to examiners who could not read their writing.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |               |                   |                 |                 |
|-----|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) considers | (b) consideration | (c) considerate | (d) considering |
| 2.  | (a) of        | (b) to            | (c) in          | (d) on          |
| 3.  | (a) afters    | (b) follows       | (c) replaces    | (d) succeeds    |
| 4.  | (a) because   | (b) owes          | (c) due         | (d) causes      |
| 5.  | (a) prefer    | (b) rather        | (c) instead     | (d) rely        |
| 6.  | (a) periods   | (b) period        | (c) periodical  | (d) periodicals |
| 7.  | (a) knack     | (b) art           | (c) know-how    | (d) skillful    |
| 8.  | (a) routinely | (b) routines      | (c) routine     | (d) routes      |
| 9.  | (a) reclining | (b) declining     | (c) inclining   | (d) clinging    |
| 10. | (a) blend     | (b) bland         | (c) trend       | (d) gland       |
| 11. | (a) such      | (b) then          | (c) so          | (d) though      |
| 12. | (a) as        | (b) to            | (c) up          | (d) out         |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. glaihoisnb handwritten exams
2. The move follows mntplsacoi from examination markers
3. finding test papers increasingly elgbillei
4. students iyrrlpiam use laptops
5. The ssecuml in their hand
6. for nloopegrd periods

## Paragraph 2

7. students rueotniyl wrote by hand
8. they write uilayrlvt nothing by hand
9. the icnldgein handwriting problem
10. There has ytidefenil been a downward trend
11. read these exam ctrsisp
12. read their answers out loud to eeimxrsna



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) hours a day, but now they write virtually nothing by hand, except exams." She added: "We have been
- ( ) pen. The move follows complaints from examination markers who say they are finding test papers increasingly
- ( ) used to writing extensively for prolonged periods of two to three hours.
- ( ) hand-write exams actually causes them physical difficulties. The muscles in their hand are not
- ( ) trend. It is difficult for both the students and the examiners as it is harder and
- ( **1** ) The world-renowned Cambridge University is considering abolishing handwritten exams after 800
- ( ) to return to the university over the summer to read their answers out loud to examiners who could not read their writing.
- ( ) concerned for years about the declining handwriting problem. There has definitely been a downward
- ( ) years. University officials may ask students to type their exam answers on a computer rather than use a
- ( ) illegible due to poor handwriting. Academics say today's students primarily use laptops in lectures and tutorials instead
- ( ) of pens. Students are losing the ability to write by hand. One academic said asking students to
- ( ) harder to read these [exam] scripts." Dr Pearsall says some students' handwriting is so illegible that they had
- ( ) becoming a "lost art". She said: "Twenty years ago, students routinely [wrote] by hand several
- ( ) A Cambridge University lecturer, Dr Sarah Pearsall, told Britain's 'Daily Telegraph' newspaper that handwriting was

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

1. handwritten Abolishing years 800 after exams .
2. type may their ask exam students answers to Officials .
3. markers move complaints examination The follows from .
4. hand ability Students to are write losing by the .
5. The their not writing in are to muscles hand used .
6. "a said was lost handwriting art" . A lecturer becoming .
7. routinely hours wrote a by day hand Students several .
8. the about years for Concerned problem handwriting declining .
9. lecturer is says too some illegible students' The handwriting .
10. answers to had their loud They read out examiners to .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

The world-renowned Cambridge University is *consideration / considering* abolishing handwritten exams after 800 years. University *officials / official* may ask students to type their exam answers *on / in* a computer rather than use a pen. The move follows *complains / complaints* from examination markers who say they are finding test papers increasingly *illegible / ineligible* due to *poorly / poor* handwriting. Academics say today's students *primarily / primary* use laptops in lectures and tutorials *instead / rather* of pens. Students are losing the *able / ability* to write by hand. One academic said asking students to hand-write exams actually causes them physical difficulties. The muscles in their hand are not used to writing *extensively / extensive* for prolonged periods of two to three hours.

A Cambridge University lecturer, Dr Sarah Pearsall, told Britain's 'Daily Telegraph' newspaper that *handwriting / handwritten* was becoming a "lost art". She said: "Twenty years ago, students *routine / routinely* [wrote] by hand several hours *the / a* day, but now they write *virtual / virtually* nothing by hand, *exception / except* exams." She added: "We have been concerned for years about the *declining / declined* handwriting problem. There has definitely been a downward *trendy / trend*. It is difficult for both the students and the examiners *as / has* it is harder and harder to read these [exam] scripts." Dr Pearsall says some students' handwriting is *so / such* illegible that they had to return to the university over the summer to read their answers *out / in* loud to examiners who could not read their writing.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

Th\_ w\_rld-r\_n\_wn\_d C\_mbr\_dg\_ \_n\_v\_rs\_ty \_s  
c\_ns\_d\_r\_ng \_b\_l\_sh\_ng h\_ndwr\_tt\_n \_x\_ms \_ft\_r 800  
y\_\_rs. \_n\_v\_rs\_ty \_ff\_c\_\_ls m\_y \_sk st\_d\_nts t\_ typ\_  
th\_\_r \_x\_m \_nsw\_rs \_n \_c\_mpt\_r r\_th\_r th\_n \_s\_ \_  
p\_n. Th\_ m\_v\_ f\_ll\_ws c\_mpl\_\_nts fr\_m \_x\_m\_n\_t\_n  
m\_rk\_rs wh\_ s\_y th\_y \_r\_ f\_nd\_ng t\_st p\_p\_rs  
\_ncr\_\_s\_ngly \_ll\_g\_bl\_ d\_\_ t\_ p\_\_r h\_ndwr\_t\_ng.  
\_c\_d\_m\_cs s\_y t\_d\_y's st\_d\_nts pr\_m\_r\_ly \_s\_ l\_pt\_ps  
\_n l\_ct\_r\_s \_nd t\_t\_r\_\_ls \_nst\_\_d \_f p\_ns. St\_d\_nts  
\_r\_ l\_s\_ng th\_ \_b\_l\_ty t\_ wr\_t\_ by h\_nd. \_n\_  
\_c\_d\_m\_c\_s\_\_d \_sk\_ng st\_d\_nts t\_ h\_nd-wr\_t\_ \_x\_ms  
\_ct\_\_lly c\_\_s\_s th\_m phys\_c\_l\_d\_ff\_c\_lt\_\_s. Th\_  
m\_scl\_s \_n th\_r h\_nd \_r\_n\_t \_s\_d t\_ wr\_t\_ng  
\_xt\_ns\_v\_ly f\_r pr\_l\_ng\_d p\_r\_\_ds \_f tw\_ t\_ thr\_\_  
h\_\_rs.

\_ C\_mbr\_dg\_ \_n\_v\_rs\_ty l\_ct\_r\_r, Dr S\_r\_h P\_\_rs\_ll,  
t\_ld Br\_t\_\_n's 'D\_\_ly T\_l\_gr\_ph' n\_wsp\_p\_r th\_t  
h\_ndwr\_t\_ng w\_s b\_c\_m\_ng \_ "l\_st \_rt". Sh\_ s\_\_d:  
"Tw\_nty y\_\_rs \_g\_, st\_d\_nts r\_\_t\_n\_ly [wr\_t\_] by h\_nd  
s\_v\_r\_l h\_\_rs \_d\_y, b\_t n\_w th\_y wr\_t\_ v\_r\_t\_\_lly  
n\_th\_ng by h\_nd, \_xc\_pt \_x\_ms." Sh\_ \_dd\_d: "W\_h\_v\_  
b\_\_n c\_nc\_rn\_d f\_r y\_\_rs \_b\_\_t th\_ d\_cl\_n\_ng  
h\_ndwr\_t\_ng pr\_bl\_m. Th\_r\_ h\_s\_d\_f\_n\_t\_ly b\_\_n \_  
d\_wnw\_rd tr\_nd. \_t\_ s\_d\_ff\_c\_lt\_f\_r b\_th th\_ st\_d\_nts  
\_nd th\_ \_x\_m\_n\_rs \_s\_t\_s h\_rd\_r \_nd h\_rd\_r t\_r\_\_d  
th\_s\_ [\_x\_m] scr\_p\_ts." Dr P\_\_rs\_ll s\_ys s\_m\_ st\_d\_nts'  
h\_ndwr\_t\_ng \_s\_s\_ \_ll\_g\_bl\_ th\_t th\_y h\_d t\_r\_t\_rn\_t\_  
th\_ \_n\_v\_rs\_ty \_v\_r th\_ s\_mm\_r\_t\_r\_\_d th\_\_r\_nsw\_rs  
\_\_t\_l\_\_d t\_ \_x\_m\_n\_rs wh\_ c\_\_ld n\_t r\_\_d th\_\_r  
wr\_t\_ng.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

the world-renowned cambridge university is considering abolishing handwritten exams after 800 years university officials may ask students to type their exam answers on a computer rather than use a pen the move follows complaints from examination markers who say they are finding test papers increasingly illegible due to poor handwriting academics say today's students primarily use laptops in lectures and tutorials instead of pens students are losing the ability to write by hand one academic said asking students to hand-write exams actually causes them physical difficulties the muscles in their hand are not used to writing extensively for prolonged periods of two to three hours

a cambridge university lecturer dr sarah pearsall told britain's 'daily telegraph' newspaper that handwriting was becoming a "lost art" she said "twenty years ago students routinely [wrote] by hand several hours a day but now they write virtually nothing by hand except exams" she added "we have been concerned for years about the declining handwriting problem there has definitely been a downward trend it is difficult for both the students and the examiners as it is harder and harder to read these [exam] scripts" dr pearsall says some students' handwriting is so illegible that they had to return to the university over the summer to read their answers out loud to examiners who could not read their writing

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

The world-renowned Cambridge University is considering abolishing handwritten exams after 800 years. University officials may ask students to type their exam answers on a computer rather than use a pen. The move follows complaints from examination markers who say they are finding test papers increasingly illegible due to poor handwriting. Academics say today's students primarily use laptops in lectures and tutorials instead of pens. Students are losing the ability to write by hand. One academic is asking students to hand-write exams, which actually causes them physical difficulties. The muscles in their hands are not used to writing extensively for prolonged periods of two to three hours. A Cambridge University lecturer, Dr Sarah Pearsall, told Britain's 'Daily Telegraph' newspaper that handwriting was becoming a "lost art". She said: "Twenty years ago, students routinely [wrote] by hand several hours a day, but now they write virtually nothing by hand, except exams." She added: "We have been concerned for years about the declining handwriting problem. There has definitely been a downward trend. It is difficult for both the students and the examiners as it is harder and harder to read these [exam] scripts." Dr Pearsall says some students' handwriting is so illegible that they had to return to the university over the summer to read their answers out loud to examiners who could not read their writing.

# FREE WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting.html>

Write about **handwriting** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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# HOMWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about handwriting. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. HANDWRITING:** Make a poster about handwriting. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. A LOST ART:** Write a magazine article about handwriting becoming a lost art. Include imaginary interviews with people who think young people should learn to write and with people who think handwriting skills are not so important.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on handwriting. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on the importance of handwriting. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T    b T    c F    d F    e F    f F    g F    h T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. abolishing   | a. getting rid of |
| 2. rather than  | b. instead of     |
| 3. complaints   | c. grumbles       |
| 4. primarily    | d. mainly         |
| 5. prolonged    | e. lengthy        |
| 6. routinely    | f. regularly      |
| 7. virtually    | g. almost         |
| 8. concerned    | h. worried        |
| 9. illegible    | i. unreadable     |
| 10. handwriting | j. penmanship     |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. 800 years
2. Handwriting
3. Laptops
4. Physical difficulties
5. Muscles
6. A lost art
7. Only exams
8. A downward trend
9. Exam scripts
10. The university

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c    2. a    3. b    4. d    5. c    6. b    7. d    8. b    9. b    10. a

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)