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## **Level 4**

### **Cambridge University may end handwritten exams**

**13th September, 2017**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting-4.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting-4.html>

Cambridge University may end handwritten exams after 800 years. Students may soon type their answers on a computer rather than use a pen. Exam markers are complaining that exams are becoming more difficult to read because of poor handwriting. Today's students mainly use laptops in lectures. They are losing the ability to write by hand because writing causes students physical difficulties. Their hand muscles are not used to writing for three hours at a time.

A Cambridge lecturer said handwriting is 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 said handwriting has been on "a downward trend" for years. The lecturer said some students' handwriting is so illegible that students had to return to the university to read out their answers to examiners who could not read the 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)

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. type their answers          | a. to write by hand    |
| 2. exams are becoming more     | b. handwriting         |
| 3. poor                        | c. used to writing     |
| 4. students mainly use         | d. on a computer       |
| 5. They are losing the ability | e. at a time           |
| 6. physical                    | f. laptops in lectures |
| 7. Their hand muscles are not  | g. difficult to read   |
| 8. for three hours             | h. difficulties        |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. handwriting is a lost              | a. trend for years  |
| 2. students routinely wrote           | b. their answers    |
| 3. several                            | c. art              |
| 4. now they write virtually           | d. read the writing |
| 5. handwriting has been on a downward | e. by hand          |
| 6. some students' handwriting         | f. nothing by hand  |
| 7. read out                           | g. is so illegible  |
| 8. examiners who could not            | h. hours a day      |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting-4.html>

Cambridge University (1) \_\_\_\_\_ handwritten exams after 800 years. Students may (2) \_\_\_\_\_ answers on a computer rather (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Exam markers are complaining that exams are becoming more difficult to read (4) \_\_\_\_\_ handwriting. Today's students mainly use laptops in lectures. They are losing (5) \_\_\_\_\_ write by hand because writing causes students physical difficulties. Their (6) \_\_\_\_\_ not used to writing for three hours at a time.

A Cambridge lecturer said handwriting (7) \_\_\_\_\_. She said: "Twenty years ago, students routinely [wrote] (8) \_\_\_\_\_ hours a day, but now they (9) \_\_\_\_\_ nothing by hand, except exams." She said handwriting (10) \_\_\_\_\_ downward trend" for years. The lecturer said some students' handwriting (11) \_\_\_\_\_ that students had to return to the university to read out their answers (12) \_\_\_\_\_ could not read the writing.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting-4.html>

CambridgeUniversitymayendhandwrittenexamsafter800years.Studentsmaysoontypetheiranswersonacomputerratherthanuseapen.Exammarkersarecomplainingthatexamsarebecomingmoredifficulttoreadbecauseofpoorhandwriting.Today'sstudentsmainlyuselaptopsinlectures.Theyarelosingtheabilitytowritebyhandbecausewritingcausesstudentsphysicaldifficulties.Theirhandmusclesarenottusedtowritingforthreehoursatatime.ACambridgelecturersaidhandwritingis"loststart".Shesaid:"Twentyyearsago,studentsroutinely[wrote]byhandseveralhoursaday,butnowtheywritevirtuallynothingbyhand,exceptexams."Shesaidhandwritinghasbeenon"adownwardtrend"foryears.Thelecturersaidsomestudents'handwritingissoillegiblethatstudentshadtoreturntotheuniversitytoreadouttheiranswerstoexaminerswhocouldnotreadthewriting.

# HANDWRITING SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170913-handwriting-4.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.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

*Cambridge University may end handwritten exams – 13th September, 2017*  
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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

