
TEST FOR ENGLISH MAJORS (1999)
-GRADE EIGHT-

PART I **Listening Comprehension (40 min)**

In Sections A, B and C you will hear everything ONCE ONLY. Listen carefully and then answer the questions that follow. Mark the correct response to each question on your Coloured Answer Sheet.

SECTION A **TALK**

Questions 1 to 5 refer to the talk in this section. At the end of the talk you will be given 15 seconds to answer each of the following five questions. Now listen to the talk.

1. The technology to make machines quieter _____.
A. has been in use since the 1930's
B. has accelerated industrial production
C. has just been in commercial use
D. has been invented to remove all noises

2. The modern electronic anti-noise devices _____.
A. are an update version of the traditional methods
B. share similarities with the traditional methods
C. are as inefficient as the traditional methods
D. are based on an entirely new working principle

3. The French company is working on anti-noise techniques to be used in **all** EXCEPT _____.
A. streets
B. factories
C. aircraft
D. cars

4. According to the talk, workers in "zones of quiet" can _____.
A. be more affected by noise
B. hear talk from outside the zone
C. work more efficiently
D. be heard outside the zone

5. The main theme of the talk is about _____.

- A. noise-control technology
- B. noise in factories
- C. noise-control regulations
- D. noise-related effects

SECTION B INTERVIEW

*Questions 6 to 10 are based on an interview. At the end of the interview you **will** be given 15 seconds to answer each of the following five questions. Now listen to the interview.*

6. Employees in the US are paid for their time. This means that they are supposed to _____.

- A. work hard while their boss is around
- B. come to work when there is work to be done
- C. work with initiative and willingness
- D. work through their lunch break

7. One of the advantages of flexible working hours is that _____.

- A. pressure from work can be reduced
- B. working women can have more time at home
- C. traffic and commuting problems can be solved
- D. personal relationships in offices can be improved

8. On the issue of working contracts in the US, which statement is NOT **correct**?

- A. Performance at work matters more than anything else.
- B. There are laws protecting employees' working rights.
- C. Good reasons must be provided in order to fire workers.
- D. Working contracts in the US are mostly short-term ones.

9. We can be assumed from the interview that an informal atmosphere might be found in _____.

- A. small firms
- B. major banks

C. big corporations

D. law offices

10. The interview is mainly about _____ in the USA.

A. office hierarchies

B. office conditions

C. office roles

D. office life

SECTION C NEWS BROADCAST

*Question 11 is based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you **will** be given 15 seconds to answer the question. Now listen to the news.*

11. Senator Bob Dole's attitude towards Clinton's anti-crime policy is that of _____.

A. opposition

B. support

C. ambiguity

D. indifference

Questions 12 and 13 are based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given 30 seconds to answer the questions. Now listen to the news.

12. Japan and the United States are now _____.

A. negotiating about photographic material

B. negotiating an automobile agreement

C. facing serious problems in trade

D. on the verge of a large-scale trade war

13. The news item seems to indicate that the agreement _____.

A. will end all other related trade conflicts

B. is unlikely to solve the dispute once and for all

C. is linked to other trade agreements

D. is the last of its kind to be reached

Questions 14 and 15 are based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given 30 seconds to answer the questions. Now listen to the news.

14. According to the news, the ice from Greenland provides information **about** _____.

- A. oxygen
- B. ancient weather
- C. carbon dioxide
- D. temperature

15. Which of the following statements is CORRECT?

- A. Drastic changes in the weather have been common since ancient times.
- B. The change in weather from very cold to very hot lasted over a century.
- C. The scientists have been studying ice to forecast weather in the future.
- D. The past 10,000 years have seen minor changes in the weather.

SECTION D NOTE-TAKING AND GAP-FILLING

In this section you will hear a mini-lecture. You will hear the lecture ONLY ONCE. While listening to the lecture, take notes on the important points. Your notes will not be marked, but you will need them to complete a 15-minute gap-filling task on ANSWER SHEET ONE after the mini lecture. Use the blank sheet for note-taking.

Fill in each of the gaps with ONE word. You may refer to your notes. Make sure the word you fill in is both grammatically and semantically acceptable.

At present companies and industries like to sponsor sports events. Two reasons are put forward to explain this phenomenon. The first reason is that they get

_____ 1 _____ throughout the world. _____ 1 _____

The second reason is that companies and industries _____ 2 _____ money, as they get _____ 2 _____ reductions in the tax they owe if they sponsor sports or arts activities.

As sponsorship is _____ 3 _____, careful thinking is required in deciding which events _____ 3 _____ to sponsor.

It is important that the event to be sponsored _____ 4 _____ the product (s) to be _____ 4 _____

promoted. That is, the right _____ 5 _____ and maximum product coverage must be _____ 5 _____ guaranteed in the event.

Points to be considered in sports sponsorship:

Popularity of the event

International sports events are big _____ 6 _____ events, which get extensive coverage _____ 6 _____ on TV and in the press.

Smaller events attract fewer people.

Identification of the potential audience

Aiming at the right audience is most important for smaller events.

The right audience would attract manufacturers of other related products like

_____ 7 _____, etc.	_____ 7 _____
<i>Advantages of sponsorship</i> Advantages are longer-term.	
People are expected to respond _____ 8 _____ to the products promoted. And be more likely to buy them.	_____ 8 _____
Advertising is _____ 9 _____ the mind.	_____ 9 _____
Sponsorship is better than straight advertising: a) less _____ 10 _____ b) tax-free	_____ 10 _____

PART II **Proofreading and Error Correction (15 min)**

The passage contains TEN errors. Each indicated line contains a maximum of ONE error. In each case, only ONE word is involved. You should proofread the passage and correct it in the following way:

For a wrong word, underline the wrong word and write the correct one in the blank provided at the end of the line.

For a missing word, mark the position of the missing word with a "^" sign and write the word you believe to be missing in the blank provided at the end of the line.

For a unnecessary word, cross the unnecessary word with a "/" and put the word in the blank provided at the end of the line.

EXAMPLE

When ^ art museum wants a new exhibit,	_____ 大1家 _____
it never buys things in finished form and hangs	_____ an _____
them on the wall. When a natural history	_____ 大2家 _____
museum wants an <u>exhibition</u> , it must often build it.	_____ never _____
	_____ 大3家 _____
	_____ exhibit _____

The hunter-gatherer tribes that today live as our prehistoric	_____ 1 _____
human ancestors consume primarily a vegetable diet supplementing	_____ 2 _____
with animal foods. An analysis of 58 societies of modern hunter-	
gatherers, including the Kung of southern Africa, revealed that one	
half emphasize gathering plant foods, one-third concentrate on fishing	_____ 3 _____
and only one-sixth are primarily hunters. Overall, two-thirds	
and more of the hunter-gatherer's calories come from plants. Detailed	
studies of the Kung by the food scientists at the University of	
London, showed that gathering is a more productive source of food	_____ 4 _____
than is hunting. An hour of hunting yields in average about 100	_____ 5 _____
edible calories, as an hour of gathering produces 240.	_____ 6 _____
Plant foods provide for 60 percent to 80 percent of the Kung	
diet, and no one goes hungry when the hunt fails. Interestingly, if	
they escape fatal infections or accidents, these contemporary	
aborigines live to old ages despite of the absence of medical care.	
They experience no obesity, no middle-aged spread, little dental	
decay, no high blood pressure, on heart disease, and their blood	
cholesterol levels are very low (about half of the average American	
adult), if no one is suggesting what we return to an aboriginal life	

style, we certainly could use their eating habits as a model for healthier diet.

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PART III

Reading Comprehension (40 min)

SECTION A

READING COMPREHENSION (30 min)

In this section there are four reading passages followed by a total of fifteen multiple-choice questions. Read the passages carefully and then mark your answers on your Coloured Answer Sheet.

TEXT A

Ricci's "Operation Columbus"

Ricci, 45, is now striking out on perhaps his boldest venture yet. He plan's to market an English language edition of his elegant monthly art magazine, FMR, in the United States. Once again the skeptics are murmuring that the successful Ricci has headed for a big fall. And once again Ricci intends to prove them wrong.

Ricci is so confident that he has christened his quest "Operation Columbus" and has set his sights on discovering an American readership of 300,000. That goal may not be too far-fetched. The Italian edition of FMR – the initials, of course, stand for Franco Maria Ricci—is only 18 months old. But it is already the second largest art magazine in the world, with a circulation of 65,000 and a profit margin of US \$ 500,000. The American edition will be patterned after the Italian version, with each 160-page issue carrying only 40 pages of ads and no more than five articles. But the contents will often differ. The English-language edition will include more American works, Ricci says, to help Americans get over "an inferiority complex about their art." He also hopes that the magazine will become a vehicle for a two-way cultural exchange – what he likes to think of as a marriage of brains, culture and taste from both sides of the Atlantic.

To realize this vision, Ricci is mounting one of the most lavish, enterprising and expensive-promotional campaigns in magazine publishing history. Between November and January, eight jumbo jets will fly 8 million copies of a sample 16-page edition of FMR across the Atlantic. From a warehouse in Michigan, 6.5 million copies will be mailed to American subscribers of various cultural, art and business magazines. Some of the remaining copies will circulate as a special Sunday supplement in the New York Times. The cost of launching Operation Columbus is a staggering US \$ 5 million, but Ricci is hoping that 60% of the price tag will be financed by Italian corporations." To land in America Columbus had to use Spanish sponsors," reads one sentence in his promotional pamphlet. "We would like Italians."

Like Columbus, Ricci cannot know what his reception will be on foreign shores. In Italy he gambled and won on a simple concept: it is more important to show art than to write about it. Hence, one issue of FMR might feature 32 full-colour pages of 17th-century tapestries, followed by 14 pages of outrageous eyeglasses. He is gambling that the concept is exportable. "I don't expect that more than 30% of my reader... will actually read FMR," he says. "The magazine is such a visual delight that they don't have to." Still, he is lining up an impressive stable of writers

and professors for the American edition, including Noam Chomsky, Anthony Burgess, Eric Jong and Norman Mailer. In addition, he seems to be pursuing his won eclectic vision without giving a moment's thought to such established competitors as *Connoisseur* and *Horizon*. "The Americans can do almost everything better than we can," says Ricci, "But we (the Italians) have a 2,000 year edge on them in art."

16. Ricci intends his American edition of FMR to carry more American art works in order to _____.

- A. boost Americans' confidence in their art
- B. follow the pattern set by his Italian edition
- C. help Italians understand American art better
- D. expand the readership of his magazine

17. Ricci is compared to Columbus in the passage mainly because _____.

- A. they both benefited from Italian sponsors
- B. they were explorers in their own ways
- C. they obtained overseas sponsorship
- D. they got a warm reception in America

18. We get the impression that the American edition of FMR will probably _____.

- A. carry many academic articles of high standard
- B. follow the style of some famous existing magazines
- C. be mad by one third of American magazine readers
- D. pursue a distinctive editorial style of its own

TEXT B

My mother's relations were very different from the Mitfords. Her brother, Uncle Geoff, who often came to stay at Swimbrook, was a small spare man with thoughtful blue eyes and a rather silent manner. Compared to Uncle Tommy, he was an intellectual of the highest order, and indeed his satirical pen belied his mild demeanor. He spent most of his waking hours composing letters to *The Times* and other publications in which he outlined his own particular theory of the development of English history. In Uncle Geoff's view, the greatness of England had risen and waned over the centuries in direct proportion to the use of natural manure in fertilizing the soil. The Black Death of 1348 was caused by gradual loss of the humus fertility found under forest trees. The rise of the Elizabethans two centuries later was attributable to the widespread use of sheep manure.

Many of Uncle Geoff's letters-to-the-editor have fortunately been preserved in a privately printed volume called *Writings of a Rebel*. Of the collection, one letter best sums up his views on the relationship between manure and freedom. He wrote:

Collating old records shows that our greatness rises and falls with the living fertility of our soil. And now, many years of exhausted and chemically murdered soil, and of devitalized food from it, has softened our bodies and still worse, softened our national character. It is an actual fact that character is largely a product of the soil. Many years of murdered food from deadened soil has made us too tame. Chemicals have had their poisonous day. It is now the worm's' turn to reform the manhood of England. The only way to regain our punch, our character, our lost virtues, and with them the freedom natural to islanders, is to compost our land so as to allow moulds, bacteria and earthworms to remake living's oil to nourish Englishmen's bodies and spirits.

The law requiring pasteurization of milk in England was a particular target of Uncle Geoff's. Fond of alliteration, he dubbed it "Murdered Milk Measure", and established the Liberty Restoration League, with headquarters at his house in London, for the specific purpose of organizing a counteroffensive. "Freedom not Doctordom" was the League's proud slogan. A subsidiary, but nevertheless important, activity of the League was advocacy of a return to the "unsplit, slowly smoked fish" and bread made with "English stone-ground flour, yeast, milk, sea salt and raw cane-sugar."

19. According to Uncle Geoff, national strength could only be regained by _____.

- A. reforming the manhood of England
- B. using natural manure as fertilizer
- C. eating more bacteria-free food
- D. granting more freedom to Englishmen

20. The tone of the passage can most probably be described as _____.

- A. facetious
- B. serious
- C. nostalgic
- D. factual

TEXT C

Interview

So what have they taught you at college about interviews? Some courses go to town on it, others do very little. You may get conflicting advice. Only one thing is certain: the key to success is preparation.

There follow some useful suggestions from a teacher training course coordinator, a head of department and a headteacher. As they appear to be in complete harmony with one another despite never having met, we may take their advice seriously.

Oxford Brookes University's approach to the business of application and interview focuses on research and rehearsal. Training course coordinator Brenda Stevens speaks of the value of getting students "to deconstruct the advertisement, see what they can offer to that school, and that situation, and then write the letter, do their CVs and criticize each other's." Finally, they role play interviewer and interviewee.

This is sterling stuff, and Brookes students spend a couple of weeks on it. "The better prepared students won't be thrown by nerves on the day," says Ms Stevens. "They'll have their strategies and questions worked out." She also says, a trifle disconcertingly, "the better the student, the worse the interviewee." She believes the most capable students are less able to put themselves forward. Even if this were true, says Ms Stevens, you must still make your own case.

"Beware of infernality," she advises. One aspirant teacher, now a head of department at a smart secondary school, failed his first job interview because he took his jacket off while waiting for his appointment. It was hot and everyone in the staffroom was in shirtsleeves but at the end of the day they criticized his casual attitude, which they had deduced from the fact that he took his jacket off in the staffroom, even though he put it back on for the interview.

Incidentally, men really do have to wear a suit to the interview and women really cannot wear jeans, even if men never wear the suit again and women teach most days in jeans. Panels respond instantly to these indicators. But beware: it will not please them any better if you are too smart.

Find out about the people who will talk to you. In the early meetings they are likely to be heads of departments or heads of year. Often they may be concerned with pastoral matters. It makes sense to know their priorities and let them hear the things about you that they want to hear.

During preliminary meetings you may be seen in groups with two or three other applicants and you must demonstrate that you know your stuff without putting your companions down. The interviewers will be watching how you work with a team.

But remember the warning about informality: however friendly and cooperative the other participants are, do not give way to the idea that you are there just to be friends.

Routine questions can be rehearsed, but "don't go on too long," advises the department head. They may well ask: "What have been your worst/best moments when teaching?", or want you to "talk about some good teaching you have done." The experts agree you should recognize your weaknesses and offer a strategy for overcoming them. "I know I've got to work on classroom management. I would hope for some help," perhaps. No one expects a new teacher to know it all, but they hope for an objective appraisal of capabilities.

Be warned against inexpert questioning. You may be asked questions in such a way that it seems impossible to present your best features. Some questions may be plain silly, asked perhaps by people on the panel who are from outside the situation. Do not be thrown, have ways of circumnavigating it, and never, ever let them see that you think they have said something foolish.

You will almost certainly be asked how you see the future and it is important to have a good answer prepared. Some people are put off by being asked what they expect to be doing in five or ten years' time. On your preliminary visit, says the department head, be sure to give them a bit of an interview of your own, to see the direction the department is going and what you could contribute to it.

The headteacher offers his thoughts in a nine-point plan.

- Iron the application form! Then it stands out from everyone else's, which have been folded and battered in the post. It gives an initial impression which may get your application to the top of the pile.
- Ensure that your application is tailored to the particular school. Make the head feel you are writing directly to him or her.

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- Put yourself at ease before you meet the interviewing panel: if you are nervous, you will talk too quickly. Before you enter the room remember that the people are human beings too; take away the mystique of their roles.
 - Listen. There is a danger of not hearing accurately what is being said. Make **eye** contact with the speakers, and with everyone in the room.
 - Allow your warmth and humanity to be seen. A sense of humour is very important.
 - Have a portfolio of your work that can link theory to practice. Many schools **want** you to show work. For a primary appointment, give examples from the range of the curriculum, not just art. (For this reason, taking pictures on your teaching practice is important.)
 - Prepare yourself in case you are asked to give a talk. Have prompt cards ready, and don't waffle.
 - Your speech must be clear and articulate, with correct grammar. This is **important**: they want to hear you and they want to hear how well you can communicate with children. Believe in yourself and have confidence. Some of the people asking the questions don't know much about what you do. Be ready to help them.

Thus armed, you should have no difficulty at all. Good luck and keep your **jacket** on!

21. Ms. Brenda Stevens suggests that before applying job applicants **should** _____.
- A. go through each other's CVs
 - B. rehearse their answers to questions
 - C. understand thoroughly the situations
 - D. go to town to attend training course
22. Is it wise to admit some of your weaknesses relating to work?
- A. Yes, but you should have ideas for improvement in the future.
 - B. Yes, because it is natural to be weak in certain aspects.
 - C. No, admitting weaknesses may put you at a disadvantage.
 - D. No, it will only prompt the interviewees to reject you.
23. The best way to deal with odd questions from the interviewers is to _____.
- A. remain smiling and kindly point out the inaccuracies
 - B. keep calm and try to be tactful in your answers
 - C. say frankly what you think about the issues raised
 - D. suggest something else to get over your nervousness

24. The suggestions offered by the headteacher are _____.

- A. original
- B. ambiguous
- C. practical
- D. controversial

TEXT D

Family Matters

This month Singapore passed a bill that would give legal teeth to the moral obligation to support one's parents. Called the Maintenance of Parents Bill, it received the backing of the Singapore Government.

That does not mean it hasn't generated discussion. Several members of the Parliament opposed the measure as un-Asian. Others who acknowledged the problem of the elderly poor believed it a disproportionate response. Still others believe it will subvert relations within the family: cynics dubbed it the "Sue Your So n" law.

Those who say that the bill does not promote filial responsibility, of course, are right. It has nothing to do with filial responsibility. It kicks in where filial responsibility fails. The law cannot legislate filial responsibility any more than it can legislate love. All the law can do is to provide a safety net where this morality proves insufficient. Singapore needs this bill not to replace morality, but to provide incentives to shore it up.

Like many other developed nations, Singapore faces the problems of an increasing proportion of people over 60 years of age. Demography is inexorable. In 1980, 7.2% of the population was in this bracket. By the end of the century that figure will grow to 11%. By 2030, the proportion is projected to be 26%. The problem is not old age per se. It is that the ratio of economically active people to economically inactive people will decline.

But no amount of government exhortation or paternalism will completely eliminate the problem of old people who have insufficient means to make ends meet. Some people will fall through the holes in any safety net.

Traditionally, a person's insurance against poverty in his old age was his family, lifts is not a revolutionary concept. Nor is it uniquely Asian. Care and support for one's parents is a universal value shared by all civilized societies.

The problem in Singapore is that the moral obligation to look after one's parents is unenforceable. A father can be compelled by law to maintain his children. A husband can be forced to support his wife. But, until now, a son or daughter had no legal obligation to support his or her parents.

In 1989, an Advisory Council was set up to look into the problems of the aged. Its report stated with a tinge of complacency that 95% of those who did not have their own income were receiving cash contributions from relations. But what about the 5% who aren't getting relatives' support? They have several options: (a) get a job and work until they die; (b) apply for public assistance (you have to be destitute to apply); or (c) starve quietly. None of these options is socially acceptable. And what if this 5% figure grows, as it is likely to do, as society ages?

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