

TEST FOR ENGLISH MAJORS (2001)
-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. Changes in the size of the World Bank's operations refer to _____.
 - A. the expansion of its loan programme
 - B. the inclusion of its hard loans
 - C. the inclusion of its soft loans
 - D. the previous lending policies

2. What actually made the Bank change its overall lending strategy?
 - A. Reluctance of people in poor countries to have small families.
 - B. Lack of basic health services and inequality in income distribution.
 - C. The discovery that a low fertility rate would lead to economic development.
 - D. Poor nutrition and low literacy in many poor countries of the world.

3. The change in emphasis of the Bank's lending policies meant that the Bank would _____.
 - A. be more involved in big infrastructure projects
 - B. adopt similar investment strategies in poor and rich countries
 - C. embark upon a review of the investment in huge dams and steel mills
 - D. invest in projects that would benefit the low-income sector of society

4. Which of the following is NOT a criticism of the bank?
 - A. Colossal travel expenses of its staff.
 - B. Fixed annual loans to certain countries.
 - C. Limited impact of the Bank's projects.
 - D. Role as a financial deal maker.

5. Throughout the talk, the speaker is _____ while introducing the World Bank.

- A. biased
- B. unfriendly
- C. objective
- D. sensational

SECTION B CONVERSATION

Questions 6 to 10 are based on a conversation. At the end of the conversation you will be given 15 seconds to answer the question. Now listen to the conversation.

6. The man sounds surprised at the fact that _____.
- A. many Australians are taking time off to travel
 - B. the woman worked for some time in New Zealand
 - C. the woman raised enough money for travel
 - D. Australians prefer to work in New Zealand.
7. We learn that the woman liked Singapore mainly because of its _____.
- A. cleanness
 - B. multi-ethnicity
 - C. modern characteristics
 - D. shopping opportunities
8. From the conversation we can infer that Kaifeng and Yinchuan impressed the woman with their _____.
- A. respective locations
 - B. historic interests
 - C. ancient tombs
 - D. Jewish descendants.
9. Which of the following words can best describe the woman's feelings about Tibet?
- A. Amusement.
 - B. Disbelief.
 - C. Ecstasy.
 - D. **Delight.**
10. According to the conversation, it was _____ that made the woman ready to stop traveling.

- A. the unsettledness of travel
- B. the difficulties of trekking
- C. the loneliness of travel
- D. the unfamiliar environment

SECTION C NEWS BROADCAST

Questions 11 and 12 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.

11. Mike Tyson was put in prison last August because he _____.

- A. violated the traffic law
- B. illegally attacked a boxer
- C. attacked somebody after a traffic accident
- D. failed to finish his contract

12. The license granted to Tyson to fight will be terminated _____.

- A. by the end of the year
- B. in over a year
- C. in August
- D. in a few weeks

Question 13 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.

13. The Russian documents are expected to draw great attention because _____.

- A. they cover the whole story of the former US president
- B. the assassin used to live in the former Soviet Union
- C. they are the only official documents released about Kennedy
- D. they solved the mystery surrounding Kennedy's assassination

Question 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. In the recent three months, Hong Kong's unemployment rate has _____.

- A. increased slowly
- B. decreased gradually
- C. stayed steady

D. become unpredictable

15. According to the news, which of the following statements is TRUE?

A. Business conditions have worsened in the past three months.

B. The past three months have seen a declining trend in job offers.

C. The rise of unemployment rate in some sectors equals the fall in others.

D. The unemployment rate in all sectors of the economy remains unchanged.

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.

The Press Conference

The press conference has certain advantages. The first advantage lies with the

1 nature of the event itself; public officials are supposed to submit to 1 scrutiny by responding to various questions at a press conference. Secondly,

statements previously made at a press conference can be used as a 2 in 2 judging following statements or policies. Moreover, in case of important events, press conferences are an effective way to break the news to groups of reporters.

However, from the point of view of 3, the press conference possesses 3

some disadvantages, mainly in its 4 and news source. The provider 4 virtually determines the manner in which a press conference proceeds. This,

sometimes, puts news reporters at a (n) 5, as can be seen on live 5 broadcasts of news conferences.

Factors in getting valuable information preparation: a need to keep up to date on journalistic subject matter;

— 6 of the news source: 6

1) news source's 7 to 7 provide information;

2) news-gathering methods.

Conditions under which news reporters cannot trust the information provided by a news source

—not knowing the required information;

—knowing and willing to share the information, but without 8 skills; 8

—knowing the information, but unwilling to share;

—willing to share, but unable to recall.

9 of questions asked

Ways of improving the questions:

no words with double meanings;

9

no long questions;

—specific time, place, etc.;

— 10 questions;

—clear alternatives, or no alternatives in answers.

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,
it ~~never~~ buys things in finished form and hangs
them on the wall. When a natural history
museum wants an exhibition, it must often build it.

大1家

an

大2家

never

大3家

exhibit

During the early years of this century, wheat was seen as the very lifeblood of Western Canada. People on city streets watched the yields and the price of wheat in almost as much feeling as if they were growers. The marketing of wheat became an increasing favorite topic of conversation.

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2

War set the stage for the most dramatic events in marketing the western crop. For years, farmers mistrusted speculative grain selling as carried on through the Winnipeg Grain Exchange.

Wheat prices were generally low in the autumn, so farmers could not wait for markets to improve. It had happened too often that they sold their wheat soon shortly after harvest when farm debts were coming due, just to see prices rising and speculators getting rich.

3

On various occasions, producer groups, asked firmer control, but the government had no wish to become involving, at least not until wartime when wheat prices threatened to run wild.

4

Anxious to check inflation and rising life costs, the federal government appointed a board of grain supervisors to deal with deliveries from the crops of 1917 and 1918. Grain Exchange trading was suspended, and farmers sold at prices fixed by the board.

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6

To handle with the crop of 1919, the government appointed the first Canadian Wheat Board, with total authority to buy, sell, and set prices.

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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 and then mark answers on your Coloured Answer Sheet.

TEXT A

"Twenty years ago, Blackpool turned its back on the sea and tried to make itself into an entertainment centre." say Robin Wood, a local official. "Now't he thinking is that we should try, to refocus on the sea and make Blackpool a family destination again." To say that Blackpool neglected the sea is to put it mildly. In 1976 the European Community, as it then was called, instructed member nations to make their beaches conform to certain minimum standards of cleanliness within ten years. Britain, rather than complying, took the novel strategy of contending that many of its most popular beaches were not swimming beaches at all. Be cause of Britain's climate the sea-bathing season is short, and most people don ' t go in above their knees anyway-and hence can't really be said to be swimming. By averaging out the number of people actually swimming across 365 days of the year, the government was able to persuade itself, if no one else, that Britain had hardly any real swimming beaches.

As one environmentalist put it to me: "You had the ludicrous situation in which Luxembourg had mere listed public bathing beaches than the whole of the United Kingdom. It was preposterous."

Meanwhile, Blackpool continued to discharge raw sewage straight into the sea. Finally after much pressure from both environmental groups and the European Union, the local water authority built a new waste-treatment facility for the whole of Blackpool and neighbouring communities. The facility came online in June 1 996. For the first time since the industrial revolution Blackpool's waters are safe to swim in.

That done, the town is now turning its attention to making the sea-front more visually attractive. The promenade, once a rather elegant place to stroll, had become increasingly tatty and neglected. "It was built in Victorian times and needed a thorough overhaul anyway," says Wood, "so we decided to make aesthetic improvements at the same time, to try to draw people back to it." Blackpool recently spent about 4 million building new kiosks for vendors and improving seating around the Central Pier and plans to spend a further \$ 15 million on various amenity projects.

The most striking thing about Blackpool these days compared with 20 years ago is how empty its beaches are. When the tide is out, Blackpool's beaches are a vast plain of beckoning sand. They look spacious enough to accommodate comfortably the entire populace of northern England. Ken Welsby remembers days when, as he puts it, "you couldn't lay down a handkerchief on this beach, it was that crowded."

Welsby comes from Preston, 20 miles down the road, and has been visiting Blackpool all his life. Now retired, he had come for the day with his wife, Kitty, and their three young grandchildren who were gravely absorbed in building a sandcastle. "Two hundred thousand people they'd have on this beach sometimes." Welsby said. "You can't imagine it now, can you?"

Indeed I could not. Though it was a bright sunny day in the middle of summer. I counted just 13 people scattered along a half mile or so of open sand. Except for those rare times when hot weather and a public holiday coincide, it is like this nearly always now.

"You can't imagine how exciting it was to come here for the day when we **were** young." Kitty said. "Even from Preston, it was a big treat. Now children don't want the beach. They want arcade games and rides in helicopters and goodness **knows** what else." She stared out over the glittery water. "We'll never see **those** days again. It's sad really."

"But your grandchildren seem to be enjoying it," I pointed out.

"For the moment," Ken said. "For the moment."

Afterward I went for a long walk along the empty beach, then went back to **the** town centre and treated myself to a large portion of fish-and-chips wrapped in paper. The way they **cook** it in Blackpool, it isn't so much a meal as an invitation to a heart attack, but it was delicious. Far out over the sea the sun was **setting** with such splendor that I would almost have sworn I could hear the water **hiss** where it touched.

Behind me the lights of Blackpool Tower were just twinkling on, and the **streets** were beginning to fill with happy evening throngs. In the purply light of **dusk** the town looked peaceful and happy enchanting even and there was an engaging air of expectancy, of fun about to happen. Somewhat to my surprise, I **realized** that this place was beginning to grow on me.

16. At the beginning, the passage seems to suggest that Blackpool _____.

- A. will continue to remain as an entertainment centre
- B. complied with EC's standards of clearliness
- C. had no swimming beaches all along
- D. is planning to revive its former attraction

17. We can learn from the passage that Blackpool used to _____.

- A. have as many beaches as Luxumbourg
- B. have seriously polluted drinking water
- C. boast some imposing seafront sights
- D. attract few domestic holiday makers

18. What Blackpool's beaches strike visitors most is their _____.

- A. emptiness
- B. cleanliness
- C. modernity
- D. monotony

TEXT B

Pundits who want to sound judicious are fond of warning against **generalizing**. Each country is different, they say, and no one story fits all of Asia. This is, of course, silly: all of these economies plunged into economic crisis within a few months of each other, so they must have had something in

common.

In fact, the logic of catastrophe was pretty much the same in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and South Korea. (Japan is a very different story.) In each case investors mainly, but not entirely, foreign banks who had made short-term loans all tried to pull their money out at the same time. The result was a combined banking and currency crisis: a banking crisis because no bank can convert all its assets into cash on short notice; a currency crisis because panicked investors were trying not only to convert long-term assets into cash, but to convert baht or rupiah into dollars. In the face of the stampede, governments had no good options. If they let their currencies plunge inflation would soar and companies that had borrowed in dollars would go bankrupt; if they tried to support their currencies by pushing up interest rates, the same firms would probably go bust from the combination of debt burden and recession. In practice, countries' split the difference and paid a heavy price regardless.

Was the crisis a punishment for bad economic management? Like most clichés, the catchphrase "crony capitalism" has prospered because it gets at something real: excessively cozy relationships between government and business really did lead to a lot of bad investments. The still primitive financial structure of Asian business also made the economies peculiarly vulnerable to a loss of confidence. But the punishment was surely disproportionate to the crime, and many investments that look foolish in retrospect seemed sensible at the time.

Given that there were no good policy options, was the policy response mainly on the right track? There was frantic blame-shifting when everything in Asia seemed to be going wrong: now there is a race to claim credit when some things have started to go right. The international Monetary Fund points to Korea's recovery and more generally to the fact that the sky didn't fall after all as proof that its policy recommendations were right. Never mind that other IMF clients have done far worse, and that the economy of Malaysia which refused IMF help, and horrified respectable opinion by imposing capital controls also seems to be on the mend. Malaysia's prime Minister, by contrast, claims full credit for any good news even though neighbouring economies also seem to have bottomed out.

The truth is that an observer without any axe to grind would probably conclude that none of the policies adopted either on or in defiance of the IMF's advice made much difference either way. Budget policies, interest rate policies, banking reform whatever countries tried, just about all the capital that could flee, did. And when there was no more money to run, the natural recuperative powers of the economies finally began to prevail. At best, the money doctors who purported to offer cures provided a helpful bedside manner; at worst, they were like medieval physicians who prescribed bleeding as a remedy for all ills.

Will the patients stage a full recovery? It depends on exactly what you mean by "full". South Korea's industrial production is already above its pre-crisis level; but in the spring of 1997 anyone who had predicted zero growth in Korean industry over the next two years would have been regarded as a reckless doomsayer. So if by recovery you mean not just a return to growth, but one that brings the region's performance back to something like what people used to regard as the Asian norm, they have a long way to go.

19. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT the writer's opinion?

- A. Countries paid a heavy price for whichever measure taken.
- B. Countries all found themselves in an economic dilemma.
- C. Withdrawal of foreign capital resulted in the crisis.
- D. Most governments chose one of the two options.

20. The writer thinks that those Asian countries _____.

- A. well deserved the punishment
- B. invested in a senseless way at the time
- C. were unduly punished in the crisis
- D. had bad relationships between government and business

21. It can be inferred from the passage that IMF policy recommendations _____.

- A. were far from a panacea in all cases
- B. were feasible in their recipient countries
- C. failed to work in their recipient countries
- D. were rejected unanimously by Asian countries

22. At the end of the passage, the writer seems to think that a full **recovery** of the Asian economy is _____.

- A. due
- B. remote
- C. imaginative
- D. unpredictable

TEXT C

Human migration: the term is vague. What people usually think of is the **permanent** movement of people from one home to another. More broadly, though, **migration** means all the ways from the seasonal drift of agricultural workers within a country to the relocation of refugees from one country to another.

Migration is big, dangerous, compelling. It is 60 million Europeans leaving home from the 16th to the 20th centuries. It is some 15 million Hindus, Sikhs, and Muslims swept up in a tumultuous shuffle of citizens between India and Pakistan after the partition of the subcontinent in 1947.

Migration is the dynamic undertow of population change: everyone's **solution**, everyone's conflict. As the century turns, migration, with its inevitable economic and political turmoil, has been called "one of the greatest challenges of the coming century."

But it is much more than that. It is, as has always been, the great **adventure** of human life. Migration helped create humans, drove us to conquer the planet, shaped our societies, and promises to reshape them again.

"You have a history book written in your genes," said Spencer Wells. The **book** he's trying to read goes back to long before even the first word was written, and it is a story of migration.

Wells, a tall, blond geneticist at Stanford University, spent the summer of 1998 exploring remote parts of Transcaucasia and Central Asia with three **colleagues** in a Land Rover, looking for drops of blood. In the blood, donated by the **people** he met, he will search for the story that genetic markers can tell of the long paths human life has taken across the Earth. Genetic studies are the latest technique in a long effort of modern humans' to find out where they have come from. But however the paths are traced,

the **basic** story is simple: people have been moving since they were people. If early **humans** hadn't moved and intermingled as much as they did, they probably would have **continued** to evolve into different species. From beginnings in Africa, most **researchers** agree, groups of hunter-gatherers spread out, driven to the ends of the **Earth**.

To demographer Kingsley Davis, two things made migration happen. First, human beings, with their tools and language, could adapt to different conditions **without** having to wait for evolution to make them suitable for a new niche. Second, as populations grew, cultures began to differ, and inequalities developed **between** groups. The first factor gave us the keys to the door of any room on the **planet**; the other gave us reasons to use them.

Over the centuries, as agriculture spread across the planet, people moved **toward** places where metal was found and worked and to centres of commerce that then became cities. Those places were, in turn, invaded and overrun by people later generations called barbarians.

In between these storm surges were steadier but similarly profound tides in which people moved out to colonize or were captured and brought in as slaves. For a while the population of Athens, that city of legendary enlightenment was as much as 35 percent slaves.

"What strikes me is how important migration is as a cause and effect in **the** great world events." Mark Miller, co-author of *The Age of Migration* and a **professor** of political science at the University of Delaware, told me recently.

It is difficult to think of any great events that did not involve migration. Religions spawned pilgrims or settlers; wars drove refugees before them and made new land available for the conquerors; political upheavals displaced thousands or millions; economic innovations drew workers and entrepreneurs like magnets; environmental disasters like famine or disease pushed their bedraggled survivors anywhere they could replant hope. "It's part of our nature, this movement," Miller said, "It's just a fact of the human condition."

23. Which of the following statements is INCORRECT?

- A. Migration exerts a great impact on population change.
- B. Migration contributes to Mankind's progress.
- C. Migration brings about desirable and undesirable effects.
- D. Migration may not be accompanied by human conflicts.

24. According to Kingsley Davis, migration occurs as a result of the **following** reasons EXCEPT _____.

- A. human adaptability
- B. human evolution
- C. cultural differences
- D. inter-group inequalities

25. Which of the following groups is NOT mentioned as migrants in the passage?

- A. Farmers.
- B. Workers.

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