

**КІРОВОГРАДСЬКИЙ ОБЛАСНИЙ ІНСТИТУТ ПІСЛЯДИПЛОМНОЇ
ПЕДАГОГІЧНОЇ ОСВІТИ ІМЕНІ ВАСИЛЯ СУХОМЛИНСЬКОГО**

**РІЧАРД КОЛЛІНС
АЛЕКСАНДРА КОЛЛІНС
ІРИНА КОСА**

**МАТЕРІАЛИ
ОЛІМПІАДНИХ ЗАВДАНЬ
З АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ ДЛЯ
РОБОТИ З ОБДАРОВАНИМИ
ДІТЬМИ**

**OLYMPIAD MATERIALS
FOR GIFTED STUDENTS' STUDIES**

**КІРОВОГРАД
2010**

A Note to the Teacher/Tutor When Using this Olympiad Study Booklet

This booklet is a collection of reading and listening exercises along with speaking and writing prompts.

The most effective way to use these activities as preparation for Local, Oblast, and National Olympiads is to commit time each week, both in class and at home.

It is recommended that you do timed writings with your students at least once a week in class. Assigning topics for home practice should also be a standard procedure.

For more information please visit:

- www.msu.edu/user/tanhueys/comment.htm
- www.apenglishlanguage.org/paper-timed-writings
- www.bookrags.com/articles/4.html
- homeworktips.about.com/od/essaywriting/a/fiveparagraph.htm

The listening exercises also need to be practiced at least once a week. The instructor needs to ensure that before engaging in a listening activity that they always have a pre-listening objective, a while listening objective, and a post-listening objective.

For more information, please visit:

- <http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/teaching/esl/listening.cfm>
- <http://www.nclrc.org/essentials/listening/liindex.htm>
- http://esl.about.com/od/listeninglessonplans/Listening_Lesson_Plans_for_English_Learners_at_All_Levels.htm

If the Communicative Approach is used in the English classroom, a great deal of speaking opportunities present themselves naturally. The teacher should provide students with the opportunity for formal speaking presentations that are timed. This should also be done at a minimum of once a month.

For more information please visit:

- www.noteworthy.com/PDFs/Impromptu_Strategies.pdf
- <http://www.nclrc.org/essentials/speaking/spindex.htm>
- <http://flankerpress.com/jmoore/2040/guidelines.htm>

Reading exercises easily translate to a host of activities in the English classroom. Again, the teacher/tutor needs to be conscious of providing “timed” reading activities. It is necessary when scoring any reading quiz or test to determine the type of questions the students are missing i.e. recall, inference. This way the teacher can target the type of practice the students need when answering questions about readings.

For more information please visit:

- <http://www.nclrc.org/essentials/reading/reindex.htm>
- http://college.cengage.com/collegesurvival/watkins/learning_companion/1e/students/timed_reading.html
- http://www.philselfsupport.com/reading_approaches.htm
- <http://web2.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/studyzone/410/reading/>

If you commit to using this guide as part of your daily routine, we’re confident that your students will meet with success at the Olympiad competitions. This collective effort should result in significant recognition for your school’s English program.

Listening

Read the selection once and then read the 10 true/false questions. Next, read the selection a second time and then give the pupils the ten multiple choice questions. Remember, this is a listening test. Do not give the pupils the text to read to themselves. They must get all the information from listening.

Listening Comprehension 1:

Suggested for 9th form students. From *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding.

The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way toward the lagoon. Though he had taken off his school sweater and trailed it now from one hand, his grey shirt stuck to him and his hair was plastered to his forehead. All round him the long scar smashed into the jungle was a bath of heat. He was clambering heavily among the creepers and broken trunks when a bird, a vision of red and yellow, flashed upwards with a witch-like cry; and this cry was echoed by another.

"Hi!" it said. "Wait a minute!" The undergrowth at the side of the scar was shaken and a multitude of raindrops fell pattering. "Wait a minute," the voice said. "I got caught up." The fair boy stopped and jerked his stockings with an automatic gesture that made the jungle seem for a moment like the Home Counties. The voice spoke again. "I can hardly move with all these creeper things."

The owner of the voice came backing out of the undergrowth so that twigs scratched on a greasy wind-breaker. The naked crooks of his knees were plump, caught and scratched by thorns. He bent down, removed the thorns carefully, and turned round. He was shorter than the fair boy and very fat. He came forward, searching out safe lodgments for his feet, and then looked up through thick spectacles.

"Where's the man with the megaphone?" The fair boy shook his head. "This is an island. At least I think it's an island. That's a reef out in the sea. Perhaps there aren't any grownups anywhere." The fat boy looked startled. "There was that pilot. But he wasn't in the passenger cabin, he was up in front." The fair boy was peering at the reef through screwed-up eyes. "All the other lads," the fat boy went on, "some of them must have got out. They must have, mustn't they?"

The fair boy began to pick his way as casually as possible toward the water. He tried to be offhand and not too obviously uninterested, but the fat boy hurried after him. "Aren't there any grownups at all?" said the fat boy. "I don't think so." The fair boy said this solemnly; but then the delight of a realized ambition overcame him. In the middle of the scar he stood on his head and grinned at the reversed fat boy. "No grownups!"

The fat boy thought for a moment, then said, "That pilot." The fair boy allowed his feet to come down and sat on the steamy earth. "He must have flown off after he dropped us. He couldn't land here. Not in a plane with wheels." "He'll be back all right," said the fair boy. The fat boy shook his head. "When we were coming down I looked through one of the windows. I saw the other part of the plane. There were flames coming out of it."

He looked up and down the scar. "And this is what the cabin did." The fair boy reached out and touched the jagged end of a trunk. For a moment he looked interested. "What happened to it?" he asked. "Where's it got to now?"

"That storm dragged it out to sea. It wasn't half dangerous with all the tree trunks falling. There must have been some kids still in it." He hesitated for a moment, and then spoke again. "What's your name?" "Ralph," said the fair boy. The fat boy waited to be asked his name in turn but this proffer of acquaintance was not made; the fair boy called Ralph

smiled vaguely, stood up, and began to make his way once more toward the lagoon. The fat boy hung steadily at his shoulder.

"I expect there's a lot more of us scattered about. You haven't seen any others, have you?" Ralph shook his head and increased his speed. Then he tripped over a branch and came down with a crash. The fat boy stood by him, breathing hard. "My auntie told me not to run," he explained, "on account of my asthma."

"Ass-mar?"

"That's right. Can't catch my breath. I was the only boy in our school that had asthma," said the fat boy with a touch of pride. "And I've been wearing glasses since I was three." He took off his glasses and held them out to Ralph, blinking and smiling, and then started to wipe them against his grubby wind-breaker. An expression of pain and inward concentration altered the pale contours of his face. He smeared the sweat from his cheeks and quickly adjusted the spectacles on his nose.

"Those fruit," he said, "I expect—" He put on his glasses, waded away from Ralph, and crouched down among the tangled foliage. "Ill be out again in just a minute—"

Ralph disentangled himself cautiously and stole away through the branches. In a few seconds the fat boy's grunts were behind him and he was hurrying toward the screen that still lay between him and the lagoon. He climbed over a broken trunk and was out of the jungle.

The shore was fledged with palm trees. These stood or leaned or reclined against the light and their green feathers were a hundred feet up in the air. The ground beneath them was a bank covered with coarse grass, torn everywhere by the upheavals of fallen trees, scattered with decaying coconuts and palm saplings. Behind this was the darkness of the forest proper and the open space of the scar. Ralph stood, one hand against a grey trunk, and screwed up his eyes against the shimmering water.

Out there, perhaps a mile away, the white surf flinked on a coral reef, and beyond that the open sea was dark blue. Within the irregular arc of coral the lagoon was still as a mountain lake—blue of all shades and shadowy green and purple. The beach between the palm terrace and the water was a thin stick, endless apparently, for to Ralph's left the perspectives of palm and beach and water drew to a point at infinity; and always, almost visible, was the heat.

True/False

1. This story takes place during the winter.
2. The main character in this story is a girl named Rachel.
3. The children think there are no adults on the island.
4. The island is incredibly easy to navigate.
5. The character we are first introduced to is a boy named Ralph.
6. The plane that the boys were on was not destroyed.
7. Ralph has asthma.
8. Ralph enjoys the large boy's company.
9. The island is green and full of vegetation.
10. From the beach, Ralph could see land.

Multiple Choice

1. Based on the text, how do you think the boys got to the island?
 - a. They went there on a trip
 - b. They swam to the island
 - c. They were in a plane that crashed
 - d. Their parents sent them away

2. The author describes the fat boy as “wearing a grubby windbreaker and scratched by thorns.” Which of these words would be the most accurate in describing him?
 - a. Graceful
 - b. Clumsy
 - c. Artistic
 - d. Well-kept
3. Why can't the fat boy run very fast?
 - a. He has asthma
 - b. He does not like to exercise
 - c. He is afraid of getting hurt
 - d. He doesn't want to beat the other boy in a race
4. When the author mentions spectacles, to what is he referring?
 - a. Glasses
 - b. Shirt
 - c. Head
 - d. Hat
5. Which is another word or phrase for multitude?
 - a. Minimal
 - b. Large amount
 - c. Incredible
 - d. Beautiful
6. Even though they may be stranded, the boys seem to be happy because:
 - a. They will be rescued soon
 - b. They do not have to talk to girls
 - c. They have plenty of food
 - d. There are no grown ups to tell them what to do
7. What happened to the part of the plane that other children were on?
 - a. It crashed in the jungle
 - b. It was dragged out to sea
 - c. It went to get help
 - d. It left the children there
8. Which of the following is the antonym for the word jagged?
 - a. Rough
 - b. Sharp
 - c. Smooth
 - d. Easy
9. Which of the following is NOT an adjective which describes the island?
 - a. Tropical
 - b. Uninhabited
 - c. Lush
 - d. Cool
10. What is the last event that happens in the text?
 - a. The plane comes to save the boys
 - b. The pilot finds the boys
 - c. The larger boy finds a shelter
 - d. Ralph explores more of the island and finds a beach

Listening Comprehension 2:

Suggested for 9th form students. From Evans, Virginia. *Practice Exam Papers: 2.* Newbury: Express Publishing, 1998.

If you could all gather round now, that's right - can everybody see? Good....Well, now we've come to the so called "Nessie" photographs. I'm sure all of you have heard of the Loch Ness monster, or Nessie, as she is more fondly known...but I don't know if any of you know anything about her history, or- to put it more accurately- the history of her sightings.

Well, if you look at the large photo, you'll see Loch Ness. Loch is the Scottish word for lake. Loch Ness is a very large and very deep lake situated in the Scottish highlands.

Since 1830 there have been over 3,000 reported sightings of the water beast. And indeed, despite all this, scientists seem to be no nearer to finding out the truth behind the Nessie mystery.

Well, it was in the nineteen thirties that the hunt for Nessie really reached its peak. And during this period even the British Prime Minister and the Royal Family started to take an active interest in the search. Indeed, to this very day Nessie remains a part of Scotland's national heritage, regardless of whether or not she actually exists.

Since the 1930's the search for Nessie has become more and more scientific and hi-tech. Expensive scientific expeditions have been set up to try and get to the bottom of the mystery. One of the most famous sightings of Nessie was in 1963. A farmer called Hugh Ayton told of a large black creature with a long neck emerging out of a lake, with a head shaped like that of a house, with one large eye placed on the top.

However, despite the photographic evidence and the reported sightings nobody has been able to prove 100 percent that Nessie does exist. It's possible that hunters imagined they saw monsters when in fact they were only boats, birds, or swimming deer. Maybe what they saw was a whale, another sea animal or maybe just a dead tree floating in the water. The more money that is poured into the search, the more uncertainty over the beast's identity seems to arise...

It has to be said that the Scottish highlanders believe that as many as six Scottish lakes are the homes for other monsters. The most famous lake after Loch Ness has to be Loch Morar where another monster has supposedly been sighted. This "new" monster has been named Morag, so that nowadays Nessie has to share the spotlight.

Maybe one day in the future the truth will finally be known, and the deep, dark lake may finally give up its secrets. But for now we must admit that the Highlanders are right when they say that "there's many a strange thing in the loch."

True/False

1. This text is about Westminster Abbey.
2. This text involves a museum guide talking to a tour group.
3. The museum guide is talking about the Loch Ness monster.
4. The Loch Ness monster is more commonly called "Greenie".
5. The Loch Ness monster "lives" in Scotland.
6. Since the 1930s, the search for Nessie has become more high tech.
7. One of the most famous "sightings" of Nessie was in 1963.
8. Scientists have been able to prove that Nessie exists.
9. Another monster other than Nessie has been sighted in Loch Ness.
10. Loch Morar, another lake in Scotland, claims to have a monster as well.

Multiple Choice

1. The Loch Ness monster
 - a. Is nicknamed Nessie
 - b. Has been sighted in London
 - c. Has eaten thousands of people
 - d. Lives in France
2. A “loch” is more commonly referred to as
 - a. A mountain
 - b. A river
 - c. A lake
 - d. A hotel
3. Loch Ness is located
 - a. Outside of London
 - b. Near the English Channel
 - c. In Edinburgh
 - d. In the Scottish Highland
4. During the 1930s
 - a. People stopped looking for Nessie
 - b. Even the Royal Family became involved in the search for Nessie
 - c. Scotland drained Loch Ness
 - d. There was a large reward offered for finding Nessie
5. The tour guide uses the word heritage to mean
 - a. History
 - b. Business
 - c. Routine
 - d. Wealth
6. A farmer named Hugh Ayton
 - a. Bought Loch Ness
 - b. Made fake photographs of the Loch Ness monster
 - c. Claimed to see a large creature coming out of Loch Ness
 - d. Captured the Loch Ness monster
7. Loch Morar is home to a monster named
 - a. Ronald
 - b. Morag
 - c. Nessie
 - d. Hugh
8. What is another word to describe “expedition”?
 - a. Trip
 - b. Duty
 - c. Propel
 - d. Predict
9. According to the text, what are NOT some of the animals or items that people have seen instead of the Loch Ness monster?
 - a. Boats
 - b. Whales
 - c. Dead trees
 - d. Scuba divers

10. The main idea of this test is
- Many Scottish lakes have monsters
 - It will be very hard to prove that the Loch Ness monster actually exists
 - The Scottish are lying about Nessie to make money
 - The Royal Family wants Nessie to be their pet

Listening Comprehension 3:

Suggested for 10th form students. From Evans, Virginia. *Practice Exam Papers: 2. Newbury: Express Publishing, 1998.*

Interviewer:

...And finally, following the death, three weeks ago, of Lady Chesterfield of Berkshire Manor, the details of her will have been made public. According to Blake and Sons, the lawyers who are handling the case, Lady Chesterfield has left her estate and small fortune to her pet cat, Mavis. Mr. Blake informed reporters yesterday, that although it seems to be an unusual move, Lady Chesterfield explained in her will that for the past 7 years Mavis has been her only company. The question on everyone's lips now, of course, is what the richest cat in Britain will do with her new-found wealth.

We have with us today a spokesperson from the RSPCA, the organization which Lady Chesterfield has entrusted with the care of Mavis and, therefore, her estate as well. Welcome.

Mrs. Davis:

Thank you.

Interviewer:

Now, all this strikes me as very strange, an old lady leaving such a lot of money to her cat. Does it happen a lot?

Mr. Davis:

Well, actually, more frequently than you'd imagine. There was the case last year of a woman who owned a donkey sanctuary and she left her house and her money to the donkeys in the care of the RSPCA. And sometimes people leave us quite large donations in their wills. But, what's special about this case is the amount of money that we're dealing with.

Interviewer:

So exactly how much money has been left to Mavis the cat?

Mr. Davis:

Well, it's er...hard to say at the moment, it's such early days. However, er, Berkshire Manor itself is estimated to be worth somewhere in the region of one and a half million pounds. Then there's another couple of million tied up in various investments, from which we'll receive the dividends in the future. Er...I think that's right...Anyway Mavis has really been left with a great deal.

Interviewer:

So she really is one lucky cat!

Mr. Davis:

Yes, absolutely.

Interviewer:

But, what's going to happen to the cat?

Mr. Davis:

Mavis is going to live in a very exclusive cat home in Wiltshire, where she's actually been staying since Lady Chesterfield first went into hospital.

Interviewer:

Right, and the rest of the money?

Mr. Davis:

Well, the RSPCA is working on plans at the moment to build two more rescue centers for stray cats, one near Battersea Dogs Home and the other in Birmingham. And we're also hoping to put some of the money towards a new publicity campaign about the responsibility that keeping pets involves. We may even use Mavis for some of the advertisements.

Interviewer:

Great. So do you think Mavis approves of these plans?

Mr. Davis:

She's not actually on the board of directors as yet, but if she were, I'm sure she'd be behind us all the way.

Interviewer:

Thank you very, very much for coming to talk to us about this unusual situation. And the best of luck with Mavis. And now, it's time to catch up with the weather in your region...

True/False

1. This text is an interview between three people.
2. The interviewer is talking to a representative from the RSPCA.
3. Lady Chesterfield is a poor woman.
4. In this text, the cat's name is Mavis.
5. According to the representative, people leave money to animals frequently.
6. Lady Chesterfield left all of her money to a shelter.
7. Mavis is on the board of directors.
8. The RSPCA is going to steal money to give to other animal shelters.
9. Mavis will continue to live in a very exclusive home for cats.
10. The RSPCA plans on using the donated money for campaigns about the responsibilities involved with having a pet.

Multiple Choice

1. In this text, what is the name of the woman who died?
 - a. Mrs. Havisham
 - b. Lady Chesterfield
 - c. Anna Windsor
 - d. Lady Boddington
2. Lady Chesterfield left all of her money to her:
 - a. Butler
 - b. Maid
 - c. Horse
 - d. Cat
3. What is a synonym for the word "donation"?
 - a. Gift
 - b. Souvenir
 - c. Talent
 - d. Skill
4. The other example of a large donation given to the RSPCA was from a woman who owned:
 - a. A dairy farm
 - b. A llama farm
 - c. A donkey sanctuary
 - d. Show dogs for breeding
5. Based on your understanding of this text, an appropriate adjective to describe Lady Chesterfield would be:

- a. Sensible
 - b. Destitute
 - c. Unusual
 - d. Sarcastic
6. What is an antonym for the word “exclusive”?
- a. Fashionable
 - b. Broad
 - c. Elite
 - d. Restrictive
7. The RSPCA is planning on using Mavis:
- a. As a spokesperson to get more donations
 - b. For some of their new advertisements
 - c. As their new magazine editor
 - d. For the new board of directors
8. The best word to describe Mavis would be:
- a. Friendly
 - b. Lucky
 - c. Intelligent
 - d. Aggressive
9. What is the meaning of the phrase “behind us all the way”?
- a. To fully support something
 - b. To ignore someone
 - c. To not support something
 - d. To ruin something
10. What would be an appropriate title for this text?
- a. “The Richest Cat in Britain”
 - b. “Wealthy Women Hate Animals”
 - c. “The RSPCA Needs Your Money”
 - d. “Animals Are A Huge Responsibility”

Listening Comprehension 4:

Suggested for 10th form students. From 1984 by George Orwell.

It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen. Winston Smith, his chin nuzzled into his breast in an effort to escape the vile wind, slipped quickly through the glass doors of Victory Mansions, though not quickly enough to prevent a swirl of gritty dust from entering along with him.

The hallway smelt of boiled cabbage and old rag mats. At one end of it a colored poster, too large for indoor display, had been tacked to the wall. It depicted simply an enormous face, more than a meter wide: the face of a man of about forty-five, with a heavy black moustache and ruggedly handsome features. Winston made for the stairs. It was no use trying the lift. Even at the best of times it was seldom working, and at present the electric current was cut off during daylight hours. It was part of the economy drive in preparation for Hate Week. The flat was seven flights up, and Winston, who was thirty-nine and had a varicose ulcer above his right ankle, went slowly, resting several times on the way. On each landing, opposite the lift shaft, the poster with the enormous face gazed from the wall. It was one of those pictures which are so contrived that the eyes follow you about when you move. **BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU**, the caption beneath it ran.

Inside the flat a fruity voice was reading out a list of figures which had something to do with the production of pig-iron. The voice came from an oblong metal plaque like a

dulled mirror which formed part of the surface of the right-hand wall. Winston turned a switch and the voice sank somewhat, though the words were still distinguishable. The instrument (the telescreen, it was called) could be dimmed, but there was no way of shutting it off completely. He moved over to the window: a smallish, frail figure, the meagerness of his body merely emphasized by the blue overalls which were the uniform of the party. His hair was very fair, his face naturally optimistic, his skin roughened by coarse soap and blunt razor blades and the cold of the winter that had just ended.

Outside, even through the shut windowpane, the world looked cold. Down in the street little eddies of wind were whirling dust and torn paper into spirals, and though the sun was shining and the sky a harsh blue, there seemed to be no color in anything, except the posters that were plastered everywhere. The black moustachio'd face gazed down from every commanding corner. There was one on the house—front immediately opposite. **BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU**, the caption said, while the dark eyes looked deep into Winston's own. In the far distance a helicopter skimmed down between the roofs, hovered for an instant like a bluebottle, and darted away again with a curving flight. It was the police patrol, snooping into people's windows. The patrols did not matter, however. Only the Thought Police mattered.

Behind Winston's back the voice from the telescreen was still babbling away about pig-iron and the overfulfilment of the Ninth Three-Year Plan. The telescreen received and transmitted simultaneously. Any sound that Winston made, above the level of a very low whisper, would be picked up by it, moreover, so long as he remained within the field of vision which the metal plaque commanded, he could be seen as well as heard. There was of course no way of knowing whether you were being watched at any given moment. How often, or on what system, the Thought Police plugged in on any individual wire was guesswork. It was even conceivable that they watched everybody all the time. But at any rate they could plug in your wire whenever they wanted to. You had to live, did live, from habit that became instinct in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and, except in darkness, every movement scrutinized.

Winston kept his back turned to the telescreen. It was safer, though, as he well knew, even a back can be revealing. A kilometer away the Ministry of Truth, his place of work, towered vast and white above the grimy landscape. This, he thought with a sort of vague distaste, this was London, chief city of Airstrip One, itself the third most populous of the provinces of Oceania. He tried to squeeze out some childhood memory that should tell him whether London had always been quite like this. Were there always these vistas of rotting nineteenth century houses, their sides shored up with baulks of timber, their windows patched with cardboard and their roofs with corrugated iron, their crazy garden walls sagging in all directions? And the bombed sites where the plaster dust swirled in the air and the willow herb straggled over the heaps of rubble; and the places where the bombs had cleared a larger patch and there had sprung up sordid colonies of wooden dwellings like chicken houses? But it was no use, he could not remember: nothing remained of his childhood except a series of bright lit tableaux occurring against no background and mostly unintelligible.

The Ministry of Truth, Minitrue, in Newspeak was startlingly different from any other object in sight. It was an enormous pyramidal structure of glittering white concrete, soaring up, terrace after terrace, 300 meters into the air. From where Winston stood it was just possible to read, picked out on its white face in elegant lettering, the three slogans of the Party:

WAR IS PEACE
FREEDOM IS SLAVERY
IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH

The Ministry of Truth contained, it was said, three thousand rooms above ground level, and corresponding ramifications below. Scattered about London there were just three other buildings of similar appearance and size. So completely did they dwarf the surrounding architecture that from the roof of Victory Mansions you could see all four of them simultaneously. They were the homes of the four Ministries between which the entire apparatus of government was divided. The Ministry of Truth, which concerned itself with news, entertainment, education, and the fine arts. The Ministry of Peace, which concerned itself with war. The Ministry of Love, which maintained law and order. And the Ministry of Plenty, which was responsible for economic affairs.

The Ministry of Love was the really frightening one. There were no windows in it at all. Winston had never been inside the Ministry of Love, nor within half a kilometer of it. It was a place impossible to enter except on official business. Even the streets leading up to its outer barriers were roamed by gorilla faced guards in black uniforms, armed with guns.

Winston turned round abruptly. He had set his features into the expression of quiet optimism which it was advisable to wear when facing the telescreen. He crossed the room into the tiny kitchen. By leaving the Ministry at this time of day he had sacrificed his lunch in the canteen, and he was aware that there was no food in the kitchen except a hunk of dark coloured bread which had got to be saved for tomorrow's breakfast. He took down from the shelf a bottle of colorless liquid with a plain white label marked VICTORY GIN. It gave off a sickly, oily smell, as of Chinese rice spirit. Winston poured out nearly a teacupful, nerved himself for a shock, and gulped it down like a dose of medicine.

True/False

1. The beginning of this story takes place in the month of June.
2. The main character lives in Victory Mansions.
3. The main character's name is Winston Churchill.
4. Winston lives in a luxury apartment.
5. The poster in Winston's apartment building depicts a happy family.
6. Winston is required to wear a uniform.
7. Winston lives in Amsterdam.
8. It is very difficult to enter the Ministry of Love, except on official business.
9. In this story, the government is divided into three ministries.
10. Winston lives in a province called Oceania.

Multiple Choice

1. The slogan on the poster in Winston's apartment building reads:
 - a. Freedom is Slavery
 - b. Big Brother is Watching You
 - c. War is Evil
 - d. Ignorance is Bliss
2. How old is Winston?
 - a. Thirty-nine
 - b. Twenty-one
 - c. Thirty
 - d. Forty-five

3. What is the name of the instrument which can never be turned off in Winston's apartment?
 - a. Radio
 - b. Weather alert
 - c. Telescreen
 - d. Computer
4. Which word could best be used in place of the word oblong?
 - a. Rectangle
 - b. Circle
 - c. Beautiful
 - d. Old
5. Of what is Winston the most afraid in this story?
 - a. The government
 - b. The Thought Police
 - c. Crime
 - d. Not having enough money
6. The building where Winston works is called:
 - a. The Ministry of Truth
 - b. The Internal Revenue Service
 - c. The Ministry of Information
 - d. The Ministry of Finance
7. Which statement best describes the Thought Police?
 - a. They do not care about their citizens
 - b. Their only purpose is to watch everyone
 - c. They collect taxes for the government
 - d. They arrest people for being out at night
8. In this story, what adjective best describes the city of London?
 - a. New
 - b. Old-fashioned
 - c. Dilapidated
 - d. Modern
9. Which of the following is NOT one of the governmental ministries in this story?
 - a. The Ministry of Love
 - b. The ministry of Truth
 - c. The Ministry of Peace
 - d. The Ministry of Finance
10. Which word or phrase is a synonym for simultaneously?
 - a. Separately
 - b. Greatly
 - c. At the same time
 - d. Poorly

Listening Comprehension 5:

Suggested for 11th form students. From *Mnemonics* by Kurt Vonnegut.

Alfred Moorhead dropped the report into his *Out* basket, and smiled to think that he had been able to check something for facts without referring to records and notes. Six weeks before, he couldn't have done it. Now, since he had attended the company's two-day Memory Clinic, names, facts, and numbers clung to his memory. The clinic had, in fact,

indirectly cleared up just about every major problem in his uncomplicated life, save one-his inability to break the ice with his secretary, Ellen, whom he had silently adored for two years.

"Mnemonics is the art of improving the memory," the clinic's instructor had begun. "It makes use of two elementary psychological facts: You remember things that interest you longer than things that don't, and pictures stick in your mind better than isolate facts do. I'll show you what I mean. We'll use Mr. Moorhead for our guinea pig."

Alfred had shifted uncomfortably as the man read off a nonsensical list and told him to memorize it. "Smoke, oak tree, sedan, bottle, oriole." The instructor had talked about something else, then pointed to Alfred. "Mr. Moorhead, the list."

"Smoke, oriole, uh" Alfred had shrugged.

"Don't be discouraged. You're perfectly normal," the instructor had said. "But let's see if we can't help you do a little better. Let's build an image, something pleasant, something we'd like to remember. Smoke, oak tree, sedan-I see a man relaxing under a leafy oak tree. He is smoking a pipe, and in the background is his car, a yellow sedan. See it, Mr. Moorhead?"

"Uh-huh." Alfred *had* seen it.

"Good. Now for 'bottle' and 'oriole'. By the man's side is a vacuum bottle of iced coffee, and an oriole is singing on a branch overhead. There, we can remember the happy picture without any trouble, eh?" Alfred had nodded uncertainly. The instructor had gone on to other matters, then challenged him again.

"Smoke, sedan, bottle, uh-," Alfred had avoided the instructor's eyes.

When the snickering of the class had subsided, the instructor had said, "I suppose you think Mr. Moorhead has proved that mnemonics is bunk. Not at all. He has helped me to make another important point. The images used to help memory vary from person to person. Mr. Moorhead's personality is clearly different from mine. I shouldn't have forced my images on him. I'll repeat the list, Mr. Moorhead, and this time I want you to build a picture of your own."

At the end of the class, the instructor had called on Alfred again. Alfred had rattled the list off as though it were the alphabet.

The technique was so good, Alfred had reflected, that he would be able to recall the meaningless list for the rest of his life. He could still see himself and Rita Hayworth sharing a cigarette beneath a giant oak. He filled her glass from a bottle of excellent wine, and as she drank, an oriole brushed her cheek with its wing. Then Alfred kissed her. As for "sedan", he had lent it to Aly Khan.

Rewards for his new faculty had been splendid and immediate. The promotion had unquestionably come from his filing cabinet command of business details. His boss, Ralph L. Thriller, had said, "Moorhead, I didn't know it was possible for a man to change as much as you have in a few weeks. Wonderful!"

His happiness was unbroken-except by his melancholy relationship with his secretary. While his memory worked like a mousetrap, paralysis still gripped him whenever he thought of mentioning love to the serene brunette.

Alfred sighed and picked up a sheaf of invoices. The first was addressed to the Davenport Spot Welding Company. He closed his eyes and a shimmering tableau appeared. He had composed it two days previous, when Mr. Thriller had given him special instructions. Two davenports faced each other. Lana Turner, sheathed in a tight fitting leopard skin, lay on one. On the other was Jane Russell, in a sarong made of telegrams. Both of them blew kisses to Alfred, who contemplated them for a moment, then reluctantly let them fade.

He scribbled a note to Ellen: *Please make sure Davenport Spot-welding Company and Davenport Wire and Cable Company have not been confused in our billing.* Six weeks

before, the matter certainly would have slipped his mind. *I love you*, he added, and then carefully crossed it out with a long black rectangle of ink.

In one way, his good memory was a curse. By freeing him from hours of searching through filing cabinets, it gave him that much more time to worry about Ellen. The richest moments in his life were and had been—even before the Memory Clinic—his daydreams. The most delicious of these featured Ellen. Were he to give her the opportunity to turn him down, and she almost certainly would, she could never appear in his fantasies again. Alfred couldn't bring himself to risk that.

The telephone rang. "It's Mr. Thriller," said Ellen. "Moorhead," said Mr. Thriller, "I've got a lot of little stuff piled up on me. Could you take some of it over? I'd feel better if you wrote this down. There's an awful lot of stuff."

Alfred's pen had gone dry, and he couldn't lay his hands on a pencil without getting up, so he lied. "Okay, got one. Shoot."

"First of all, we're getting a lot of subcontracts on big defense jobs, and a new series of code numbers is going to be used for these jobs. Any number beginning with Sixteen A will designate that it's one of them. Better wire all our plants about it."

In Alfred's mind, Ava Gardener executed a smart manual of arms with a rifle. Emblazoned on her sweater was a large 16A. "Right, chief."

"And I've got a memo from.."

Fifteen minutes later, Alfred, perspiring freely, said, "Right, chief," for the forty-third time and hung up. Before his mind's eye was a pageant to belittle the most flamboyant dreams of Cecil B. DeMille. Ranged about Alfred was every woman motion picture star he had ever seen, and each brandished or wore or carried or sat astride something Alfred could be fired for forgetting. The image was colossal, and the slightest disturbance might knock it to smithereens. He had to get to pencil and paper before tragedy struck. He crossed the room like a gamestalker, hunched, noiselessly.

"Mr. Moorhead, are you all right?" said Ellen, alarmed.

"Mmm. Mmm!" said Alfred, frowning.

He reached the pencil and pad, and exhaled. The picture was fogging, but it was still there. Alfred considered the ladies one by one, wrote down their messages, and allowed them to dissolve.

As their numbers decreased, he began to slow their exits in order to savor them. Now Ann Sheridan, the next-to-last in line, astride a western pony, tapped him on the forehead with a light bulb to remind him of the name of an important contact at General Electric—Mr. Bronk. She blushed under his gaze, dismounted, and dissolved.

The last stood before him, clutching a sheaf of papers. Alfred was stumped. The papers seemed to be the only clue, and they recalled nothing. He reached out and clasped her to him. "Now baby," he murmured, "what's on *your* mind?"

"Oh, Mr. Moorhead," sighed Ellen.

"Oh gosh!" said Alfred, freeing her. "Ellen—I'm sorry, I forgot myself.

"Well praise be, you finally remembered *me*."

True/False

1. The main character's name is Alfred Moorhead.
2. The main character attended a two day clinic on writing.
3. The secretary's name is Ellen.
4. The main character dislikes his secretary.
5. At the clinic, the first word the man told the main character to say was smoke.
6. The main character remembered everything the man said the first time.
7. After the main character went to the clinic, he received a promotion.

8. The boss's name is Ralph L. Thriller.
9. After his promotion, the main character had no problem talking to his secretary.
10. The main character thought his good memory was a curse.

Multiple Choice

1. Mnemonics is:
 - a. The art of improving the memory
 - b. The process of writing a novel
 - c. Building relationships with people
 - d. Getting along with your boss
2. What of the following describes the phrase "guinea pig" in context?
 - a. An animal from South America
 - b. Someone to experiment on
 - c. A person whom no one likes
 - d. The most popular person in the room
3. At the clinic, who was the woman Alfred was sitting with in his first memory?
 - a. Rita Hayworth
 - b. Britney Spears
 - c. Ann Sheridan
 - d. Ava Gardener
4. What is a synonym for the world uncomfortably?
 - a. Awkwardly
 - b. Easily
 - c. Happily
 - d. Sadly
5. When Alfred failed to remember the list of words the first time, what did the man tell him?
 - a. The clinic could not help him.
 - b. Mnemonics works differently for different people
 - c. He would be fired from his job
 - d. His secretary would be disappointed in him.
6. Why was Alfred still unhappy, even after being promoted at work?
 - a. Because the clinic didn't really help him
 - b. Because he had to fire his friend
 - c. He still couldn't talk to his secretary
 - d. He made a mistake with an order for the company
7. What is an antonym for melancholy?
 - a. Gloomy
 - b. Certain
 - c. Dejected
 - d. Cheerful
8. The richest moments in Alfred's life were:
 - a. His daydreams.
 - b. When he talked to his boss.
 - c. When he remembered difficult things.
 - d. When he attended clinics.

9. Why was Alfred unhappy, even though his memory had greatly improved?
 - a. He forgot about his family.
 - b. He had more time to play sports.
 - c. He had more time to think about his secretary
 - d. He was not happy with his job.
10. Which word most closely describes flamboyant?
 - a. Quiet
 - b. Colorful
 - c. Funny
 - d. Modest

Listening Comprehension 6:

Suggested for 11th form students. From Obee, Bob. *Practice Tests for the Revised CPE*. Newbury: Express Publishing, 2001.

Presenter:

Making a very welcome return to the program today is Radio Four's own science correspondent, Claire Peters. Claire, welcome back.

Claire:

It's very nice to be invited again, John.

Presenter:

The week's big science news seems to be in the potential breakthrough made this week in America in the race to find a remedy for male baldness. How close are the scientists getting?

Claire:

Well, it's hard to say both how close the scientists are, and exactly what it is they have stumbled onto this week. It seems that scientists at the Howard Hughes University in Chicago, in the course of breeding genetically-engineered mice for other purposes, have produced a group of mice that are exceptionally hairy. And because so much research investment is being put into lifestyle drugs, you can bet that they're going to be following up on this.

Presenter:

How many people do you think would actually use a drug to combat baldness?

Claire:

The potential for any company that actually makes this breakthrough is huge. It is estimated that 20% of men in their twenties and 30% of men in their thirties suffer from significant hair recession, usually above the temples or around the crown. Because hair is associated with attractiveness and virility, there are few who would probably not be prepared to pay to keep it.

Presenter:

But isn't the market already flooded with hair-restoring products?

Claire:

Of course, in the U.S. alone, it's estimated that men are already spending as much as \$7 billion a year on a bizarre range of concoctions and remedies with ingredients varying from curry paste to cow's saliva, few of which have any effect other than to clear out the wallets of the vain, the desperate and the hairless. And because of the extent to which other lifestyle drugs have caught on, what has become known as the race for hair has now been taken up by some of the wealthiest and most reputable corporations on the planet.

Presenter:

So what exactly are the scientists looking at?

Claire:

Researchers have established that genetic baldness is connected with a type of the male hormone testosterone, called DHT. DHT gradually reverses the hair cycle so that each new hair is thinner and smaller than the one it is replacing, and eventually the growing new hair is of such poor quality that it becomes invisible to the naked eye. For the scientists involved, the holy grail is to find a therapy which would modify the gene causing some men's follicles to react in this way to DHT, but so far no one has been able to isolate this gene. So, for the time being, companies are investing fortunes in finding a product that will block the two enzymes producing DHT.

Presenter:

So has anyone managed to produce anything based on this research that actually helps?

Claire:

Well, last year a drug called Propecia was launched in a 90 million dollar advertising blitz, claiming to prevent hair loss in over 80% of men. The drug did actually work by blocking one of the DHT enzymes, but the pill seems to be failing to live up to the initial hype and its sales have also been affected by a widely-publicized review in a scientific journal of its potential side effects. In the U.K., the only licensed treatment for hair loss, called Regaine, was stumbled upon when a pharmaceutical company found that a drug it was selling for men with high blood pressure also helped hair growth. Regaine comes in a lotion that is rubbed into the scalp but its critics claim that its effects are minimal.

Presenter:

So for baldness sufferers the news is not that good?

Claire:

In the short term, maybe not, but in five to ten years time there probably will be one or two prescription products that could make a real difference.

Presenter:

On that optimistic note, we'll take a break.

True/False

1. The science correspondent, Claire Peters, has appeared on the program before.
2. The scientists at Howard Hughes University were not intending to study baldness.
3. Claire feels that although many men experience baldness, few would be willing to pay for a remedy for it.
4. According to Claire, about 25% of men in their twenties have baldness.
5. According to Claire, American men spend money on hair products that do nothing.
6. Genetic baldness is unrelated to hormones.
7. The new drug for male baldness was called "DHT."
8. There is only one product in the U.K. licensed for hair loss.
9. The British product Regaine was discovered accidentally.
10. Regaine comes in the form of a small tablet that is taken with meals.

Multiple Choice

1. The scientific breakthrough regarding male baldness was made in:
 - a. The U.K.
 - b. Canada
 - c. France
 - d. America

2. The genetically engineered mice mentioned in the experiment:
 - a. Grew a lot of teeth
 - b. Grew a lot of hair
 - c. Lost their hair
 - d. Lost a great deal of weight
3. The term “lifestyle drugs” implies that:
 - a. The drugs contribute to a longer life
 - b. The drugs have a long shelf life
 - c. The drugs can improve the quality of life
 - d. The drugs have nutritional benefits
4. Claire believes that a drug for male baldness:
 - a. Can be widely sold
 - b. Will appeal to men who want to look good
 - c. Could be sold to men as young as 20
 - d. All of the above
5. Claire uses the word “bizarre” to mean:
 - a. A place where hair products might be sold
 - b. Unusual
 - c. Sweet-smelling
 - d. Expensive
6. Genetic baldness is associated with:
 - a. A gene inherited from one’s father
 - b. A virus
 - c. Bacteria
 - d. A hormone
7. DHT affects the hair cycle so that:
 - a. New hair is thicker than before
 - b. New hair is thinner than before
 - c. New hair is straighter than before
 - d. New hair does not grow at all
8. In research regarding male baldness, so far scientists:
 - a. Have discovered many products that are effective in preventing baldness
 - b. Have discovered many products that can reverse baldness
 - c. Have induced baldness in lab experiments
 - d. Have not been able to isolate the gene responsible for baldness
9. Claire uses the word “blitz” to mean:
 - a. An advertising campaign conducted during the winter months
 - b. A television advertising campaign
 - c. A wide-scale and expensive advertising campaign
 - d. None of the above
10. One of the problems mentioned regarding the product Propecia was that:
 - a. It was not effective
 - b. It was reported to cause side effects
 - c. It was so effective that men grew very hairy
 - d. It was very expensive

Reading

On your answer sheet write the letter of the best choice. Read the questions before reading the texts. (If you choose to read these texts aloud, they can be used as listening practices.)

Reading Comprehension 1: Winter Olympics

Suggested for 9th form students. From Evans, Virginia. *Practice Exam Papers: 3*. Newbury: Express Publishing, 1998.

In a break with Olympic tradition, the organizers decided to split the Summer and Winter Games. By bringing forward the Winter Games by two years, the difficulty of organizing the two events can now be spread more equally over a period of four years.

It was the small town of Lillehammer in Norway that was chosen to host the 1994 Winter Games. The Norwegians took their responsibilities very seriously, and created a magnificent setting for the games. The highlight was the building of an Ice Stadium actually built into the side of a mountain at a nearby town. In the event of a permanent home being found for the games, this will ensure that Lillehammer will be high on the list of possible sites.

There were some problems in the month leading up to the games, but the opening ceremony was so well-planned and so exciting that everyone felt optimistic about them. The Olympic Flame arrived in the arena carried by a skier coming down the ski-jump, and was then handed to the Crown Prince of Norway, who officially opened the games. The optimism felt was in many ways justified as the games produced many good sporting moments. Several Olympic records were broken and there was generally a wonderful atmosphere, which was mostly due to the friendliness and warmth of the Norwegians.

Unfortunately, these games may well be remembered for the wrong reasons, as disputes about the judges' decisions in some of the main events would create bad feelings. It was believed that the British Ice Dance champions were victims of unfair judging when they only placed third. The sport of Ice Dancing had already been under attack; certain critics thought it should not be an Olympic sport, and this row over medals did not help its image.

In the speed skating competitions, the British again felt as though they were being unfairly judged. One skater was disqualified for touching another skater after it seemed he had won a silver medal in the 1,000 meters event. Another speed skater was forced to race with a broken skate and did very poorly as a result. In spite of these unfortunate events, the British still had their highest count of medals since 1948.

One story, though, dominated the entire games. This was the very ugly dispute between two American ice skaters. Their arguments became almost a soap opera, the result being that a record American television audience watched the competition.

Multiple Choice

1. What decision was made about the Summer and Winter Games?
 - a. To hold them every four years
 - b. To separate them
 - c. To spend more time organizing them
 - d. To stretch them over five years

2. What was it that the hosts took seriously?
 - a. Their town
 - b. The setting
 - c. Their country
 - d. Their responsibilities
3. What will ensure that Lillehammer may be a permanent site for the Olympic Games?
 - a. The Ice Stadium
 - b. The Norwegian Crown Prince
 - c. The mountains
 - d. The ski-jump
4. What do people think produced the wonderful atmosphere in Norway?
 - a. The opening ceremony
 - b. The sporting events
 - c. New Olympic records
 - d. The personalities of the Norwegians
5. What did some British competitors think?
 - a. They weren't good enough to compete
 - b. They were being disqualified too often
 - c. They weren't being judged fairly
 - d. They were under attack
6. What was the reason for more Americans watching the Games?
 - a. An unpleasant argument
 - b. The disqualification of a skater
 - c. The speed-skating
 - d. The Ice Dancing

Reading Comprehension 2: Koba the Hunter Who Stopped Hunting

Suggested for 9th form students. From Tarasova, Olena. *Develop Your Reading Skills*. Kyiv, 2009.

There was once a man called Koba, a hunter. One day he left his house and went off to hunt in a place which was far away.

When Koba reached a certain locust-bean tree, he made his camp under it. Every day he went out hunting, and every night also, resting only for necessity, to eat and to sleep.

One day when he was out hunting, he suddenly heard the mighty roar of a lion very close to him. Never had he heard such a roar before. Greatly alarmed, Koba turned and ran as fast as he could towards his camp. He was carrying a bow and some arrows. On the way his bow caught in the low branches of a tree. He pulled but could not release the bow, and he thought it was the lion, who had caught it, but he was too frightened to turn his head to look.

"Please, King of Animals," cried Koba, "let go of my bow. I have not come to hunt you. You are the king not only of animals but also of human beings, who are your Majesty's subjects."

Koba never turned his head. He waited for an answer from the lion, but as it was branches of a tree holding his bow, there was no answer.

"If you are angry with me because of other hunters," Koba continued, "I promise to tell them no longer to hunt you. If you are too angry to release my bow, keep it. Only let me go free to tell other hunters not to hunt lions."

Again there was no answer. Koba left his bow and ran his camp by the locust-bean tree. Quickly he packed his belongings, then made the journey back to his house with all possible speed.

“My brothers!” Koba cried when he reached his house and found two of his friends, “I have a terrible story to tell you of my escape from a lion whose roar is greater than any thunder.” After he told them his story, the two friends said, “Lead us to the place where the lion caught your bow.”

Koba led the two friends all the way back to the place. When they arrived, they saw the bow in the low branches of a tree.

“See,” said Koba, “the lion must have given my bow to this tree in order to return it to me. The lion is not only the king of animals, but he is also the king of trees.”

The two friends said that it was the branches of the tree which had caught the bow, not a lion.

“No, no,” Koba declared. “It was certainly a lion. He pulled the bow and I pulled the bow, but the lion, being stronger than me, forced me to leave the bow with him.”

From that day onwards, for the rest of his life, Koba never dared go far into the forest or the bush from his home. However much his two friends might laugh, he feared that he would meet a lion, and that the lion would remember his promise to tell all other hunters never to hunt lions again. Koba himself never hunted again; he became a farmer.

Multiple Choice

1. Koba hunted:
 - a. Only at night
 - b. Only during the day
 - c. For necessity
 - d. Both day and night
2. Hearing the roar of a lion, Koba started to run because he:
 - a. Wanted to kill it
 - b. Was frightened
 - c. Had lost his bow
 - d. Became angry at it
3. Koba’s bow was caught by:
 - a. The arrow
 - b. A tree branch
 - c. A hungry lion
 - d. An unknown subject
4. The incident with the bow made Koba:
 - a. Very angry at the lion
 - b. Leave the camp quickly
 - c. Throw his arrows away
 - d. Cut down the locust-bean tree
5. Koba told his story to:
 - a. His brothers
 - b. Some strangers
 - c. His friends
 - d. The two farmers

6. Which came last?
 - a. Koba started to earn his living differently
 - b. Koba told his friends about the accident
 - c. Koba heard the angry lion roaring
 - d. Koba brought his belongings back home

Reading Comprehension 3: Watch that Handshake

Suggested for 9th form students. From Evans, Virginia. *Practice Exam Papers: 3*. Newbury: Express Publishing, 1998.

One of the most important aspects of doing business internationally is being able to speak other languages. For this reason, there is a current boom in language learning for business people. But unless they can speak a foreign language really well, it is best to save it for socializing. But actions speak louder than words, and psychologists say that your body language is much more important than what you say. Doing the wrong thing, making eye contact, touching, using people's first names, even how you eat and drink- can all be hazardous for people who are unfamiliar with certain cultures.

Cultures are divided into "low context" and "high context". In low context cultures such as North America, Britain, Sweden, and Germany, people say things very plainly, and rely on clear verbal communication. High context cultures such as France, Japan, Spain, Saudi Arabia, China, and South Korea often use silence or hand signals to communicate, and this can sometimes be as important as speaking.

Shaking hands is often the most common form of greeting people, but even this can create problems. In Japan, people bow to each other. In England, people shake hands firmly- but not very often- while in places like Italy and France people shake hands all the time but not as firmly as the English. The Germans and the Danish nod their heads while they shake hands, as a mark of respect, while people in Mediterranean countries sometimes lean their heads backwards while doing the same thing.

People from "low context" cultures tend to look into other peoples eyes, but in "high context" cultures such as China and Japan, this can be interpreted as aggressive behavior. As a rule, though, close physical greetings such as kissing are not a good idea. For example, the British kiss each other once, on the right cheek, the French kiss each other twice, first on the left cheek then on the right, but in some cultures, especially in the Middle East, they kiss up to four times and still shake hands!

Trying to make people from other cultures feel comfortable can be confusing as well. Americans often use first names as a way of making instant friends, but this does not always work, especially with the Germans and the English. For although all three are "low context" cultures, the British and Germans are not quite as "open" as the North Americans.

One thing that the British and Americans do share when meeting each other, however, is the desire to break the ice by making a joke. Some cultures, especially the "high context" ones, could find this rude or disrespectful. Cultures and peoples vary so much, though, that it is impossible to please all of the people all of the time. The best thing you can do under these confusing circumstances is to be polite to everyone you meet.

Multiple Choice

1. "Low Context" cultures:
 - a. Say what they don't mean
 - b. Use body language to express most ideas
 - c. Don't involve a lot of touching
 - d. Say things plainly

2. Most cultures use what act as a form of greeting?
 - a. Bowing
 - b. Shaking hands
 - c. Nodding heads
 - d. Saying "Hello"
3. Which two countries would consider looking into someone's eyes aggressive?
 - a. America and Britain
 - b. Spain and Portugal
 - c. China and Japan
 - d. Japan and Germany
4. The main point of this article is:
 - a. "High context" and "low context" cultures are different
 - b. Hand shaking can be a risky cultural practice
 - c. All cultures have different practices
 - d. Business is harder to conduct in a global world
5. In the first sentence of the last paragraph, what does "break the ice" refer to?
 - a. Make a toast
 - b. Make a first meeting less awkward
 - c. Tell a joke to establish dominance
 - d. Shake hands while holding ice cubes
6. In the Middle East, some cultures:
 - a. Kiss four times, as well as shaking hands
 - b. Kiss on the left cheek
 - c. Kiss on the right cheek
 - d. Kiss each other's hands

Reading Comprehension 4: A Teenage Tale with Bite

Suggested for 9th form students. From Walker, Michael R. *A Teenage Tale With Bite*.

Two star-crossed teens stand in a wood-encircled meadow, talking intensely, obviously in love. While she is average in appearance, he seems without flaw, the sun sparkling on his perfect skin. It could be a dramatic moment plucked straight from *Romeo and Juliet*. But in this case the Romeo is a noble-minded vampire named Edward who struggles to resist the urge to sample the blood pulsing through Bella, the human girl he loves.

When Stephenie Morgan Meyer woke up on a June morning in 2003, she didn't want to forget this vivid dream. But it was the first day of swimming lessons for her three young boys, and she needed to make breakfast, find swimsuits, and tend to other motherly duties. Nevertheless, she stole a moment to think about the two characters that had just emerged from her creative slumber. Meyer said, "I was so interested in the characters that for the first time since having my oldest son, I sat down at the computer and started writing."

And she found she couldn't stop. "I started out just so I wouldn't forget the story, but I kept going. I really feel like it was a situation where I had a talent I was not using; I had buried it. And that was my kick-start. I was supposed to be doing something with this talent," she says. "It sounds a little odd to say that you were inspired to write a vampire novel."

But that's what she did. The young couple in the meadow became chapter 13 of *Twilight*, a novel Meyer wrote over the next three months, mostly at night, when her boys were in bed. Only six months after her dream, *Twilight* was accepted for publication by Little, Brown and Company. When it hit bookstores in October 2005, *Twilight* enjoyed

supernatural success, landing on the New York Times bestseller list for children's chapter books in hardback and paperback. It has been translated into more than 20 languages and optioned for a movie by MTV and Paramount.

Meyer, who lives in Phoenix, began writing her characters' stories for herself with no intention of publishing. "At the time I wasn't doing any writing," she says. "I was a stay-at-home mom. I had no plans for a career change." She still has her first career as wife and mother, and now she believes, "A true writer is someone who writes whether or not anyone else is going to read it." Expect more stories from this prolific author. After writing three epilogues to *Twilight*, each more than a hundred pages long, Meyer realized she wasn't close to being done with her characters. "When you create a world like that—when you create Edward and Bella—if you stop writing, it's like you're killing them," she says. "I couldn't do that. I had to let them go on and see what was going to happen.

Multiple Choice

1. Who is the author of the novel *Twilight*?
 - a. Stephenie Meyer
 - b. Stephen King
 - c. J.K. Rowling
 - d. Leo Tolstoy
2. In the first paragraph, to what book is *Twilight* compared?
 - a. War and Peace
 - b. Pride and Prejudice
 - c. Romeo and Juliet
 - d. Master and Margarita
3. After Meyer woke up from her vivid dream, later that day:
 - a. She forgot about the characters completely
 - b. She sat down at the computer and started writing
 - c. She went to the supermarket
 - d. She went swimming
4. According to this article, *Twilight* will be made into a movie by:
 - a. Universal and Paramount
 - b. New Line and Disney
 - c. Warner Brothers
 - d. MTV and Paramount
5. In the last paragraph, it is clear that Meyer feels:
 - a. That she will never write a sequel to *Twilight*
 - b. That she thinks she is a bad writer
 - c. That she has to write more books starring her characters
 - d. That her family does not enjoy her books
6. The main idea of this article is:
 - a. If you believe in what you are doing, you can succeed
 - b. It is very hard to get books published
 - c. People love to read about vampires
 - d. Books should be made into movies

Reading Comprehension 5: Experience the Glories of Galicia in Ukraine's Lovely Lviv
Suggested for 9th form students. From *Experience the Glories of Galicia in Ukraine's Lovely Lviv*. The Moscow Times: November 22, 2002.

I had always wanted to see Lviv, that island of West European style in the center of Eastern Europe. Everyone I knew who had been there said that the experience was unforgettable.

Lviv's unique atmosphere attracts thousands of tourists every year. The city is named after the son of Prince Danilo Galitsky (Daniel of Galicia), who founded the city in the mid-13th century and named it for his son, Prince Lev. The city's mix of European architecture and tradition with the day-to-day reality of life in Eastern Europe gives it a special charm. The historic center of Lviv was added to UNESCO's world heritage list in 1998.

Lviv is located in Western Ukraine. Historically, it has been the center of Galicia, a region now divided between Ukraine and Poland. Lviv is an important automobile and rail link between Central and Eastern Europe. The city occupies 155 square kilometres and is home to 830,000 people. Every day more than 200,000 commute in from the suburbs or arrive from abroad. Most of the city's residents are ethnic Ukrainians, but the diverse population also includes Poles, Germans, Russians, Armenians, Czechs and Jews. Russians called the city Lvov, while in Ukrainian it is called Lviv.

Lviv first appears in historical chronicles in the year 1256. The old town is a unique potpourri of architectural masterpieces from various periods and traditions -- Baroque to Renaissance, neoclassicism to Empire. The city's buildings are the work of Polish, Austrian, German and Ukrainian architects. Lviv is also a famous center of Slavic culture. It is where in 1554 Ivan Fyodorov, the first Russian printer, produced his "Books of the Apostles" --one of the first Old Church Slavonic books using the Cyrillic alphabet.

The city contains more than 2,000 historical, architectural and cultural monuments. You won't be able to take them all in during a weekend visit, but a couple of days are more than enough time to soak up the city's grandeur.

Lviv is particularly beautiful in the fall. Its moderate continental climate and location on the boundary of Europe's main watersheds --the Baltic and Black seas --means that the city enjoys more than its fair share of warm, sunny days.

Multiple Choice

1. Lviv is named after:
 - a. Prince Danilo Galitsky (Daniel of Galicia)
 - b. Prince Lev
 - c. Prince Unesco
 - d. Prince Lenny
2. Galicia is divided between which two countries?
 - a. Ukraine and Russia
 - b. Ukraine and Poland
 - c. Ukraine and Germany
 - d. Ukraine and America
3. In paragraph 4, the word "potpourri" means:
 - a. Pattern
 - b. Area
 - c. Style
 - d. Mixture

4. The main point of this article is:
 - a. Lviv has important architecture
 - b. Lviv was important in the Middle Ages
 - c. Lviv should become the capital of Ukraine
 - d. Lviv is a unique city that bridges cultures
5. When does Lviv first appear in recorded history?
 - a. 1554
 - b. 1256
 - c. 1145
 - d. 1053
6. Lviv has works by Polish, Austrian, Ukrainian, and German:
 - a. Authors
 - b. Architects
 - c. Painters
 - d. Sculptors

Reading Comprehension 6: Chinese Art

Suggested for 9th form students. From Evans, Virginia. *Practice Exam Papers: 2. Newbury: Express Publishing, 1998.*

The papers had forecast a temperature of four degrees above normal for the time of year, yet Beijing was still grey and icy. The temperature was only a fraction higher in the studio of Liu Wei, who is a painter in his twenties.

He was born in Beijing in 1965, which makes him too young to remember the Cultural Revolution. He graduated from the Central Institute of Fine Arts with a degree in metal painting and lithography.

To get to this studio you have to go down an alley full of cars and turn into a courtyard surrounded by damaged buildings, then pick your way between planks and debris to an old staircase. This is where he works. The other third of the place is taken up by a sofa, a television set, a white garden chair, two telephones that never stop ringing, bottles, jars of paint, and piles of magazines.

My visit had been arranged the previous day, after a brief conversation through an interpreter. He tried hard to explain that the only thing he and his colleagues shared was the studio. They did not form a group or a movement and they shared no common doctrine.

As for trying to define his painting, he was right to refuse to do it because it is impossible to explain what it is like. His work as a whole has a certain sense of satire.

In the Chinese context his subjects are blasphemous, anti-religious, rude, and depressing. For example, a life-size young woman wearing Western clothes grimaces against a background of the Niagara Falls dotted with red roses.

Liu Wei's answers are short and sometimes evasive, possibly because of the presence of an interpreter. All he gave away were details of his career.

His shows have been either half secret or tolerated by the authorities. Collectors and gallery owners from Hong Kong and Europe have become enthusiastic about his pictures.

Outside China, Liu Wei is one of the most highly regarded contemporary Chinese painters.

Multiple Choice

1. According to the text, what event would the artist not remember because of when he was born?
 - a. World War Two
 - b. The Cultural Revolution
 - c. The Russian Revolution
 - d. The Cold War
2. What is another term for the word “satire”?
 - a. Tragedy
 - b. Drama
 - c. Comedy
 - d. Action
3. Based on the text, an accurate word to describe the setting of Liu Wei’s studio would be:
 - a. Modern
 - b. Neglected
 - c. Dangerous
 - d. Beautiful
4. In his interview, Liu Wei states that the only thing he shares with the artists in his studio is:
 - a. Common beliefs
 - b. Similar doctrine
 - c. The studio itself
 - d. The same degree from the Institute of Fine Arts
5. In Hong Kong and Europe, collectors are ____ about Liu Wei’s paintings.
 - a. Horrified
 - b. Enthusiastic
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Upset
6. What is the main idea of this text?
 - a. Artists are sometimes misunderstood in their own countries
 - b. The Chinese only like traditional paintings of the countryside
 - c. Europeans like artists from different countries
 - d. Art is expensive

Reading Comprehension 7: Where “Hot” Goods Hit the Market

Suggested for 10th form students. From Evans, Virginia. *Practice Exam Papers: 2. Newbury: Express Publishing, 1998.*

Pubs, street markets and car boot sales are where thieves go to sell stolen goods. While the British police try to monitor such illegal activities, they admit it is a tough battle. Owners unknowingly assist the burglars. Most households don’t mark property or note down serial numbers, so even when stolen goods are recognized by owners or police, it can be almost impossible to prove whose they are.

For most burglars, the threat of a short stay in prison comes with the territory. But for them it’s worth the risk, since they can make excellent profits from a single night’s work, even though stolen goods are usually passed on at amazingly reduced prices as they cannot be sold openly on the market.

A DVD player which might sell for £200 in the shops can be picked up for as little as £40 if it’s “hot”. Televisions which cost anything from £300 to £500 in the stores may be

sold for less than £100. A good quality late model camera such as a Canon or an Olympus, selling for £200 in a shop, can be found in some markets for as little as £35.

Stolen items are sold cheap because burglars need to move goods fast. Few have the space to store the stuff. They can't risk keeping much at home. Three DVD players under the bed would be hard to explain to the police.

Much of the business is done in pubs. Although signs on the wall forbid drug dealing, when it comes to passing on stolen goods, many landlords turn a blind eye.

Portobello Road and Bermondsey (markets which by ancient traditions the buyer is guaranteed ownership of the goods, regardless of their origins, providing they are bought in "good faith" and in daylight) are two London markets with a reputation for occasionally passing on high quality stolen artwork and antiques. However, victims of ordinary household, factory, and office thefts are more likely to find missing goods at suburban markets or car boot sales rather than at these high profile tourist markets.

At markets such as Hackney Wick and Brick Lane in East London, high quality household and office goods such as fridges, photocopiers, faxes, and cameras can be found buried among worthless items and bric-a-brac. If you have been burgled, you may re-discover your missing goods at markets. Some victims have been able to identify goods and, with the help of the police, managed to get them handed back. If you can't, you might decide to cut your losses and buy back your stolen property. It will probably go strongly against your instincts, but at these reduced prices it might be worth it.

Multiple Choice

1. Portobello Road and Bermondsey are:
 - a. Low quality markets
 - b. Common areas where goods have been recovered
 - c. High crime neighborhoods
 - d. Markets where stolen goods can be somewhat legally purchased
2. In order to help the police find stolen goods, people should:
 - a. Mark down serial numbers and tag property
 - b. Avoid buying high-end items at the market
 - c. Lock their windows
 - d. Keep an eye out for suspicious strangers
3. Normally, stolen goods are:
 - a. Higher in price than normal goods so thieves can make a profit
 - b. Lower in price than normal goods so thieves can move their items
 - c. Sold out of private residences
 - d. Sold on the open market
4. The main point of this article is:
 - a. To show that there are many steps citizens can take to avoid theft
 - b. To show that many markets in Britain have stolen goods
 - c. To point out good deals people can get on stolen goods
 - d. To show the complex nature of thieving
5. In paragraph 5 why would drug dealing be mentioned alongside selling stolen property?
 - a. Because both involve selling products
 - b. To show the different reactions between two illegal activities
 - c. To suggest that pub owners are drug dealers
 - d. Because drug dealing is a problem

6. Why would you want to buy back your own stolen property?
 - a. Because the police can't ever help you get it back
 - b. Because it would be cheaper than buying a new replacement
 - c. So as not to further anger the thieves
 - d. Because it's cool to buy stolen property

Reading Comprehension 8: Shyness

Suggested for 10th form students. From Evans, Virginia. *Practice Exam Papers: 2. Newbury: Express Publishing, 1998.*

Recent research in America has shown that shyness is determined by our genes; some people are simply born that way. Strangely enough, it's often those people who look as if they should be most confident (tall people, for example) who are most insecure. The 13-year research has now identified the gene that causes shyness, and the scientists believe that in fact we are *all* born more or less shy. It's just that some people are able to deal with it better than others. Personal circumstances have an influence as well.

Shyness may not seem to be a serious complaint, but for some who suffer from it, it can become unbearable. Even talking to a small group of people you know can seem like an ordeal- it can feel as if you've been asked to give a speech on a topic you know very little about to a number of experts. You start to feel hot and shaky, your heart beats faster, your knees feel weak, you begin to stutter and the whole experience seems to last forever.

The fact of the matter is that shyness is something we often recognize in others: blushing (turning red) is one of the more visible signs, for example. Yet we don't judge someone harshly because of this. But shyness does mean you're harder to approach, so you become more isolated. As one shy person put it, "It's like being in a prison, and it's very hard to break out."

Experts on the subject have come up with various possible solutions, and one has been singled out as being the key to success- namely, finding an interest in common with other people. Spending a lot of time on the sidelines watching other people and envying them because they are much more outgoing doesn't help; remembering that some of the people you most envy are probably shy themselves, does. The secret is how you deal with it. And experts have come up with four things you can do today to help:

Firstly, you can start by listening to other people. You will find yourself getting interested in what they're talking about and asking questions- and before you know it, you'll be having a conversation.

Secondly, you could try asking neighbors if you can walk their dog. Like children, pets can be excellent icebreakers for conversations with passers-by.

Thirdly, try joining a class to learn something like tap-dancing or flamenco, where people are likely to laugh a lot. You'll feel relaxed, and also you'll be much too busy concentrating on what you're doing to feel shy.

Lastly, try telling yourself that it doesn't matter if you say or do something silly. Most people make a fool of themselves every so often- and it's not the end of the world if you do!

Multiple Choice

1. What do scientists believe?
 - a. Only a few people possess the shyness gene
 - b. Shyness depends on height
 - c. Everybody is shy
 - d. People can learn to manage stress

2. What happens to shy people in a stressful situation?
 - a. They keep talking for a long time
 - b. Their heart rate increases
 - c. Their legs can no longer support them
 - d. They start talking about difficult subjects
3. Why do shy people become more reserved?
 - a. Their social unease makes them more difficult to talk to
 - b. They see others are shy too
 - c. Other people lack the patience to talk to them
 - d. Other people judge them
4. What do experts believe is the answer to overcoming shyness?
 - a. Studying others in social situations to see how they act
 - b. Discovering shared interests with others
 - c. Comparing yourself to other people
 - d. Finding out what makes other people shy
5. What should shy people remember to give themselves more confidence?
 - a. Everybody says stupid things sometimes
 - b. Everybody makes jokes sometimes
 - c. Everybody is foolish
 - d. Everybody is self-conscious
6. The main point of the article is:
 - a. Shyness is a genetic disorder
 - b. Shyness is serious, but an issue that can be overcome
 - c. Society is too critical of shy people
 - d. There are four steps to relieving shyness

Reading Comprehension 9: Stealing History

Suggested for 10th form students. From Evans, Virginia. *Practice Exam Papers: 2. Newbury: Express Publishing, 1998.*

Some of the great paintings which disappeared during World War II were recently found to have been kept in secret in the Soviet Union. They had been concealed in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg by order of the Soviet government. Their existence has only come to light with the opening up of the former Soviet Union.

There are literally hundreds of paintings, 74 of which are masterpieces. Among the artists represented are Degas, Van Gogh, Cezanne and Picasso. The paintings were taken from German homes at the end of the Second World War by the Red Army and secretly transported to Russia, where they were deposited at the Hermitage. Other treasures were stolen from German museums at the same time and, although these were also taken to the Soviet Union, they were given back 13 years after the end of the War. The existence of the works still in Russia was only revealed two years ago.

The value of these works of art is enormous. Although no official amount has been given, experts believe they are worth about £200 million. However, valuing paintings such as these is extremely difficult because the market changes so much from year to year.

It is the impressionist works which are of greatest value, the most outstanding being Degas' "Place de la Concorde". This work is particularly special because of the balance between the scenery in the background and the figures in the foreground. There are also excellent examples of the work of Gauguin, one of which had never been seen in public before.

However, not all the paintings are the masterpieces the Russians first thought they were. Several of the works have been discovered to be fakes. One Toulouse-Lautrec was almost put into an exhibition at the Hermitage before an expert worked out that it was an excellent, but valueless, copy.

Descendants of the original owners are of course trying to get the paintings returned to them. Establishing the exact rights of the owners is difficult. In theory the paintings were stolen, but property taken during a war can be subject to laws which are different to those concerning loss of property in normal circumstances. Under pressure from Germany, the Russian parliament is being urged to make a decision, a process which could take years.

So just who do the paintings belong to? Well over 75% of the impressionist paintings came from a collection which belonged to a German industrialist, Otto Krebs. He died childless, but in his will he left everything to a medical foundation who are now trying to get his works returned. Some paintings remain unclaimed, but no doubt the German government will try and get them back for their own museums.

Multiple Choice

1. In what city were hundreds of famous paintings concealed after World War II?
 - a. Moscow
 - b. St. Petersburg
 - c. Kyiv
 - d. Warsaw
2. In which museum were these paintings stored?
 - a. The Louvre
 - b. The Prado
 - c. The Metropolitan Museum of Art
 - d. The Hermitage
3. What genre of painting from this collection is worth the most money?
 - a. Impressionism
 - b. Surrealism
 - c. Cubism
 - d. Realism
4. Who painted the extremely valuable "Place de la Concorde"?
 - a. Monet
 - b. Picasso
 - c. Van Gogh
 - d. Degas
5. Which work of art, almost displayed in a Hermitage exhibit, was later discovered to be a fake?
 - a. A sculpture by Rodin
 - b. A painting by Toulouse Lautrec
 - c. A painting by Monet
 - d. A sculpture by Picasso
6. Paintings taken during a time of war:
 - a. Are the property of the original owner
 - b. Are not subject to the same laws as regular stolen property
 - c. Are the property of the Hermitage
 - d. Are the property of the Russian government

Reading Comprehension 10: One Man Show

Suggested for 10th form students. From Wittler, Wendell. *One Man Show*.
MSNBC: October 12, 2007.

Let's get it over with: There's a new doctor in the House, and though he never makes house calls, he's seen in millions of homes each week, and his creators insist they didn't come up with the name for its punning possibilities. Officially, the name of Dr. Gregory House, on Fox's Tuesday medical drama "House," is an indirect homage to Sherlock Holmes, a diagnostic detective with at least as colorful a personality as the fictional sleuth.

"House, M.D." (its official title) is all about this guy named House. There are other characters on the show, including a trio of young doctors on House's team, but don't expect any of them to become his mentor and end up stealing the show. They, along with everyone else surrounding Dr. House, spend most of their time responding to him, and the rest of their time responding to the Impossible-to-Diagnose Sick Person of the Week, who usually is too ill to do very much acting. The show pulls off a kind of dramatic sleight-of-hand that makes it feel like Dr. House is in every scene when he actually has less face time than most title characters.

Of course, a little bit of Dr. House goes a long way. Anti-social, misanthropic, cynical, abrasive, abusive, smug, there aren't many negative adjectives you could not use to describe him. At least his disdain for the people behind the illnesses keeps him a safe distance from them for much of the show. One of the show's developing clichés is the moment in the last half hour when the patient or next-of-kin asks the show's star "Who are you?"

The talented actor playing Dr. House, Hugh Laurie, is best known (if he is known at all in the U.S.) for playing upper-class twits in British TV comedies like Bertie in "Jeeves and Wooster" or Prince George in "Black Adder". But Laurie has been a hard-working actor on both sides of the Atlantic for more than a decade. He came to "House" straight from playing the eighth lead in "Flight of the Phoenix."

After so many roles that were either totally silly or generically bland, Laurie dives into the Dr. House character with the bravado of a Shakespearean actor with none of the British accent. His physical presence — rumpled, unshaven, one side of his body held up by a cane, his perpetual pain unevenly relieved by his little white pills— plants the needed seed of sympathy.

Upon close inspection, "House, M.D." is a well-designed package of seemingly unrelated dramatic devices. The "who are you" scenes and comical clinic scenes. The inevitable early misses in diagnosis, most often caused by patients keeping secrets, confirming Dr. House's cynicism. And House's meddling into the personal lives of everyone around him, for the apparent purpose of pushing them a safe distance away; there's a revelation about at least one character in each episode, and it usually isn't Gregory House.

Multiple Choice

1. The name of the show "House" comes from what historical work?
 - a. House M.D.
 - b. Fox
 - c. Sherlock Holmes
 - d. Hugh Laurie
2. Compared to the other characters:
 - a. Dr. House is in more of the scenes
 - b. Dr. House is in less of the scenes
 - c. Dr. House is optimistic
 - d. Dr. House is a student

3. Prior to “House M.D.” Hugh Laurie was on:
 - a. "Flight of the Phoenix” and “Fox”
 - b. "Jeeves and Wooster" and "Black Adder"
 - c. “Bertie” and “Prince George”
 - d. “Shakespeare” and “Atlantic”
4. Dr. House would best be described as:
 - a. Optimistic
 - b. Elderly
 - c. Kind
 - d. Cynical
5. A common theme on the show is:
 - a. A revelation about House’s life
 - b. A “Black Adder” reference
 - c. Hugh Laurie speaks with a British accent
 - d. Someone asks “Who are you?”
6. The final paragraph tries to:
 - a. Sum up the television show
 - b. Dismiss the plot of the show
 - c. Support the choices Dr. House makes
 - d. Detail what makes a good television show

Reading Comprehension 11: The Many Layers of Kiev

Suggested for 10th form students. From Pancake, John. *The Many Layers of Kiev: In Post-Soviet Ukraine, Rediscovering the Heart of an Ancient City*. The Washington Post: January 3, 2010.

Some cities are love at first sight. People fall for Paris in the taxi from the airport. Others take you slowly. Kiev is like that.

I’ve walked the streets of this Ukrainian capital almost every day for a year. I’ve watched white-tailed eagles on a vast swampy island in the middle of the Dnieper River, listened as unseen nuns filled a vaulted church with their harmonies, marvelled at the parade of tall women in stilettos clicking confidently down icy sidewalks and suffered a mild concussion myself when my feet shot out from under me in a frozen alley.

I’ve passed markers commemorating millions of murders. I’ve negotiated for a baggie of turmeric with a man from Samarkand. I’ve lost my bearings in candlelit catacombs, felt the sting of the winter wind on the city’s high bluffs, watched twilight envelop golden-domed churches and talked to the genius behind the city’s strangest museum. (And I’m not talking about the toilet museum, either.)

I’ve discovered wooden windmills, taxi-driver poets, gilded icons, robed monks, blues singers, cheap river cruises, horseradish vodka and a few new things about myself. Perhaps the only thing I haven’t encountered in Kiev is a dull day. It is an unsung capital, full of surprises. During the day, you may be startled by the sudden cascade of sound that tumbles out of churches on religious holidays –the “raspberry bells,” it’s called. By night, you may flinch at the concussion of the boisterous fireworks that Ukrainians send arcing over the city four or five nights a month.

Sixteen months ago, I walked away from my desk at The Washington Post. Shortly afterward, my wife landed an 18- month job in Ukraine.

We arrived on a fall day as the sun was setting and had our first meal at Oscar’s Place, a three-table restaurant on the street where we’d be living. My wife, who speaks Russian, told the barmaid that it was my first night in Ukraine. Don’t order, she replied. I’ll bring you real

Ukrainian food. She did. And it was great, though the first dish –salo, slices of raw pork fat served on black bread –is best if washed down with vodka.

Since then, I've been spending the afternoons writing and exploring the city and the mornings studying Russian. (Almost everybody in Kiev speaks both Russian and Ukrainian. I picked Russian because I've always dreamed of reading Chekhov in his native tongue.)

I began with a seven-phrase vocabulary: Yes, no, please, thank you, hello, goodbye and beer. That was enough to get started. People I met were happy to communicate. Gestures and pantomime worked wonders when words failed.

To my chagrin, I found that people sometimes addressed me in English before I opened my mouth. Was it my clothes? No, I was usually wearing black jeans and pullover, like every other man in town. Shoes? My low black boots were exactly what many Ukrainians had on. Finally I asked. Turned out, it was my face. Most people here have better cheekbones than Tom Cruise. I don't.

Multiple Choice

1. What injury did the author suffer:
 - a. A broken leg
 - b. A concussion
 - c. A sprained ankle
 - d. A broken nose
2. What job did the author just leave?
 - a. Writer for a newspaper
 - b. Pilot for an airline
 - c. Waiter at a restaurant
 - d. Professional Poet
3. Why did the author choose to learn Russian?
 - a. Because a lot of people in Ukraine speak it
 - b. He thought it was a beautiful language
 - c. His wife spoke it
 - d. He wanted to read a Russian poet in his native language
4. What marked the author as an American?
 - a. His clothes
 - b. His accent
 - c. His face
 - d. His hair
5. In the last paragraph, the word "chagrin" means:
 - a. Surprise
 - b. Disappointment
 - c. Contentment
 - d. Arrangement
6. What is the name of the restaurant where the author eats?
 - a. Raspberry Bells
 - b. Oscar's Place
 - c. Chekhov's
 - d. The Washington Post

Reading Comprehension 12: Ice Cream

Suggested for 10th form students. From Evans, Virginia. *Practice Exam Papers: 3. Newbury: Express Publishing, 1998.*

Next time you lick a smooth, cool ice-cream on a hot summer's day, stop to think about the minor miracle you're enjoying. There is more to that texture than meets the eye. It's really not surprising it took mankind more than 2,000 years to develop it.

Ice-cream ingredients could hardly be simpler: air, water, milk or cream, and sugar. But it's the way they come together that makes ice-cream special. The process is seemingly straightforward: mix the ingredients in appropriate proportions, place it in an ice cream churn, then chill. But that's where you are wrong.

The human tongue is a very sensitive one- crystals any bigger than about a twentieth of a millimeter feel coarse and grainy. So constantly turning the paddles of the ice-cream making machine steadily ensures that the ice crystals in the finished product stay small.

The beating action also folds in plenty of air and it is the air in ice-cream that makes it light, fluffy and soft. Some complain that air in ice-cream is just a way for manufacturers to sell you nothing for something. But it serves a very important function: air stops ice-cream from feeling unbearably cold.

In the freezer, ice-cream has a relatively long shelf life. If you've prepared yours at home with natural ingredients, then you probably won't have to worry about it going off- it's bound to be eaten well before its expiry date. Most ice-cream produced in Britain is a factory creation destined for long-term refrigeration without a trace of real cream or real anything- it's often made from highly processed vegetable fats.

Industrialized ice-cream accounts for over 95 percent of global consumption. However, the days of cheap ingredients and chemicals may be coming to an end. Today the trend is towards increasing sophistication and luxury, using cream rather than vegetable fats and more chocolate and real fruit.

Other manufacturers are looking towards providing the low fat/no-fat alternatives that consumers are demanding. But it is proving hard to make a fat substitute that releases flavor in the same way real fat does. Even after extensive research, it seems it will be a long time before these products come anywhere near the flavor, texture and style of good old-fashioned ice-cream.

Multiple Choice

1. According to the text, ice cream is a miracle because:
 - a. Everyone enjoys ice cream
 - b. Its texture is very complicated
 - c. The ingredients spoil quickly
 - d. It comes in a variety of flavors
2. Why is air such an important addition to ice cream?
 - a. It keeps the ice cream from getting too cold
 - b. That's how many manufacturers make money
 - c. It must be added first otherwise the ice cream will be ruined
 - d. The air makes the ice cream have a better flavor
3. Which of the following is NOT one of the common ingredients in ice cream?
 - a. Air
 - b. Sugar
 - c. Water
 - d. Yogurt

4. In the fifth paragraph, what is meant by the phrase “you won’t have to worry about it going off”?
 - a. You won’t have to worry about the ice cream spoiling
 - b. The ice cream will explode if not eaten quickly
 - c. If too much air is let in, the ice cream will melt
 - d. Someone else will eat your ice cream
5. In this text, what is the best definition of the word consumption?
 - a. Eating
 - b. Conserving
 - c. Buying
 - d. Using
6. Why is it hard for ice cream manufacturers to find a low fat or no fat substitute to regular ice cream?
 - a. Real fat makes for better flavor and texture
 - b. Customers will not eat the ice cream
 - c. There would not be as many flavors of ice cream
 - d. The ice cream would not last as long

Reading Comprehension 13: Art Forgeries

Suggested for 10th form students. From Evans, Virginia. *Practice Exam Papers: 2. Newbury: Express Publishing, 1998.*

The market for art forgeries is booming as never before, and much of it is legal. You can now buy a perfect copy of a painting by, say, Modigliani or Renoir, Rembrandt, or Picasso, executed by one of the world’s greatest forgers.

However, Daniele Ermes Donde, 43, the man who developed the concept of the “legal forgery” ten years ago, is convinced that some of his creations will one day circulate as illegal forgeries. “I am positive,” he said, “that the greatest museums will contain my art works in the next few years.”

Donde, a former shoe shop owner from the northern Italian town of Cremona, invented the idea of “legal fakes” after being swindled by a forger. “I had just spent a lot of money on a painting by the modern Italian painter Renato Guttuso, but it turned out to be an extremely clever fake.”

Donde sold his shop and spent a year traveling around Italy in search of the finest forgers and copiers.

The master forgers were delighted to work for him. Soon forgers and artists from all over the world were asking to work for the Museo Immaginario. Most were rejected, but some, because of the brilliance of their work, were recruited, and Donde now has more than forty master forgers and copiers working regularly for him.

The fame of the gallery spread and Gianni Agnelli, the president of Fiat, bought 14 authenticated fakes. There are many reasons why the rich and famous, who can afford original items, become Donde’s customers. One reason is to cut down on the huge insurance premiums which must be paid for valuable paintings kept in private houses or offices.

However, many ordinary people buy his paintings because they could not even remotely afford to buy originals.

Training the artist is a very serious matter at the museum. Edi Zambelli, the coordinator of the teams of painters said, “If a particularly difficult painting is commissioned or in demand, we send the artist- abroad if necessary- to study the painting in the museum where it is kept. And this can be very expensive.” He then added that “the identity of the artist is a closely kept secret.”

In this way, the artists are left to work in peace, producing paintings which are guaranteed to be the best fakes on the market today.

Multiple Choice

1. Another term for the word “forgery” is:
 - a. Fake
 - b. Original
 - c. Classification
 - d. Innovative
2. Ten years ago, Daniel Donde:
 - a. Started stealing priceless paintings
 - b. Developed the concept of legal forgery
 - c. Started selling people fake paintings
 - d. Started painting his own original work
3. Why did Daniel Donde start a new career?
 - a. He was tired of owning a shop
 - b. He hated living in Italy
 - c. He wanted to work in a famous museum
 - d. He spent a fortune on a painting, only to find out that it was a fake.
4. Based on your understanding of the text, an appropriate adjective to describe Daniel Donde would be:
 - a. Angry
 - b. Clever
 - c. Dense
 - d. Social
5. Why does Daniel Donde have so many customers?
 - a. Rich people do not want to pay as much for original paintings.
 - b. People want to trick their friends.
 - c. Because most people could not afford original paintings.
 - d. His paintings make nice Christmas gifts.
6. If Donde is commissioned to paint a difficult work of art, he will often:
 - a. Send the artist to study the real painting
 - b. Make a plan to steal the original
 - c. Hire more artists to work on the painting
 - d. Paint the picture himself

Reading Comprehension 14: Spanish Fashion

Suggested for 10th form students. From Evans, Virginia. *Practice Exam Papers: 3. Newbury: Express Publishing, 1998.*

Fashion has always been important to the Spanish, but until recently they haven't had a home-grown fashion industry and have imported most of their clothing. All that is changing now, however. The Spanish government is busily promoting the clothing and fashion sectors of the textile industry. Their ultimate goal is to make their fashion products so well regarded on the international market because of their quality, that this success will spread to other product areas and export markets.

Spain is starting from scratch when you compare it with fashionable competitors like Italy and France. But there is activity everywhere. The government has set up organizations to support the fashion industry, organizing projects such as combined efforts between fashion designers and people in business. The country holds fashion fairs twice a year, the Cibeles in

Madrid, and the Gaudi in Barcelona. There is also a children's fair in Valencia which further demonstrates the Spaniards' creative progress to international fashion buyers.

The government is trying to create an environment where fashion and textile designers have an opportunity to prosper. Talented companies and designers can succeed in Spain but although there is much creativity, there is a lack of managerial experience. Some people still do not believe enough is being done, and point to Italy where they believe there are far better chances for designers to succeed. One highly regarded Spanish designer is now manufacturing her entire line of clothing in partnership with an Italian company. The problem, as some see it, is that the amount of money being provided by the Spanish government is still not enough. People in the fashion industry know they will not be able to make an impression in foreign countries unless government funding is increased.

Nevertheless, much progress is being made. While the exclusive salons are in the larger cities, studios and boutiques are opening throughout Spain and many Spaniards are already involved in exporting their clothes. Through their own efforts, designers are beginning to open shops in France, Italy and Japan. But most fashion houses are quite small, and they are finding it difficult to create the industrial and financial links needed for growth and expansion.

Many designer products are hard to make, expensive to market and sometimes difficult to sell. But they create a better image for the industry, and you end up with higher quality products in general. One international critic thinks that the relative youth of the Spanish industry could create fresh and lively fashions, well able to compete with the industries in France and Italy.

Multiple Choice

1. What is the Spanish government ultimately trying to achieve?
 - a. All Spanish products being considered high quality
 - b. An increase in imported clothing
 - c. An increase in clothing sales
 - d. A change in the manufacturing ability of the textile industry
2. Who is ahead of the Spanish in fashion design?
 - a. The Spanish government
 - b. Support organizations
 - c. The French and Italians
 - d. Business people everywhere
3. What are the Spanish doing to show their advances in fashion?
 - a. Holding regular fashion exhibits and shows
 - b. Sending designers to work in other countries
 - c. Sending people to other countries to buy clothes
 - d. Teaching business people how to design
4. What is lacking in the Spanish fashion industry?
 - a. Creative talent
 - b. Textile designers
 - c. Support from the French and Italian fashion industries
 - d. Government money
5. What are people involved in fashion afraid of?
 - a. The strong competition
 - b. Not having enough money to expand in other countries
 - c. Not being able to influence foreigners
 - d. Not having any good, new fashion designers

6. What have some fashion designers started to do?
 - a. Open boutiques at home and abroad
 - b. Open small shops in Madrid and Barcelona
 - c. Open big shops in Europe and Japan
 - d. Have the government help them sell their clothes to other countries

Reading Comprehension 15: Chinese Dinosaurs

Suggested for 11th form students. From Stanton, Alan. *CAE Practice Test*. Essex: Longman Publishing, 1999.

Chinese and Canadian scientists working in the Gobi Desert have stumbled across a series of 80-million-year-old dinosaur colonies-including one with a dozen 150 centimeter-long babies, and another with five tiny embryos. These perfectly preserved, uncrushed skeletons are now helping experts study the range of facial and other physical differences displayed by dinosaurs within a single species. Because all the babies are of the same colony, they are certain to be of the same species and must therefore have a common gene pool. Detailed examination is revealing marked differences between individual colony members, with some of them having broader or larger faces than others.

The new data emerging from this and related research have serious implications for dinosaur studies in general. In the past, differences in head size and shape have often led paleontologists to conclude that they had discovered new species. But now that it is known that great physical variations can occur within a single dinosaur colony, experts fear that many of the 500 listed dinosaur species on the fossil record may not be separate species after all.

The Gobi Desert colony discovered this year is of a species of vegetarian armored dinosaur known as an ankylosaur. Finds so far include a large number of eggs, the babies, some adults and a group of embryos-each only 36 centimeters long. Excavations have provided snapshots of daily life in an ankylosaur colony, including what appears to be an attack by a carnivorous dinosaur on the ankylosaur nest full of eggs. The fossilized predator is preserved lying on top of the egg-filled nest, and seems to have perished as a result of a sand storm which buried both the hunter and its prey.

The Sino-Canadian team excavating several Gobi sites has unearthed eggs belonging to numerous dinosaur species. Some appear to have produced the strangest of eggs in the strangest of ways. Ankylosaur eggs, for example, were neither round nor oval, but long and thin-around 180 centimeters long and 60 centimeters in diameter. Ankylosaur females seem to have laid them with great efficiency, two at a time. One extraordinary nest, containing thirty of these eggs, has yielded some clues about laying techniques. The eggs were arranged in the nest in a multi-layer spiral, resembling a pyramid. It seems that the female dug the nest with her hind legs, then laid pairs of eggs as she proceeded around it.

The team has also unearthed the skull and vertebrae of what seems to be the Old World's largest dinosaur. From the remains unearthed, paleontologists have been able to calculate that the creature was 31 meters from head to tail-ten per cent longer than any other Old World dinosaur found so far. Related to a dinosaur called mamenchisaurus-but as yet unnamed in its own right-it lived around 140 million years ago, was vegetarian, weighed up to forty tons and would have probably walked at less than sixteen kilometers per hour.

China's dinosaur discoveries cover the entire epoch of dinosaur prevalence on Earth-from around 225 million to 65 million years ago. In the end they were wiped out by a natural disaster, possibly caused by meteorite impact. Detailed study from fossil material found in

China, and in North America, is helping to prove that many of the later dinosaurs had comparatively large brains, mammal-style binocular vision and more complex behavior than previously thought. There were not, it seems, always the dumb giants they are normally portrayed as being.

Multiple Choice

1. The dinosaur finds mentioned in paragraph one are yielding new information because:
 - a. They contain baby dinosaurs
 - b. The skeletons are undamaged
 - c. They are 80 million years old
 - d. The dinosaurs are exceptionally large
2. According to paragraph two, what are the implications for dinosaur research?
 - a. For the first time head size and shape can be studied
 - b. A new species has been identified
 - c. The estimated number of dinosaur species will be modified
 - d. The idea of how dinosaurs looked is being changed
3. Which of the following is true of the ankylosaur?
 - a. It ate eggs as a basic part of its diet
 - b. It produced eggs of an unusual shape
 - c. Males and females incubated the eggs
 - d. It defended its eggs against attack
4. What did the ankylosaur do when producing its young?
 - a. It improved on a nest already made by other dinosaur species
 - b. It used its back legs to produce a hole in the ground
 - c. It positioned the eggs carefully with the use of its front legs
 - d. It laid eggs in a square-shaped hole
5. The scientists have discovered a large dinosaur which is:
 - a. A previously known species
 - b. The Old World's largest dinosaur
 - c. Complete except for the head and tail
 - d. Related to another Chinese dinosaur
6. What do the recent Chinese discoveries of dinosaurs show?
 - a. They lived for longer than previously thought
 - b. Their eyesight was different from what had been believed
 - c. Their large brains allowed them to move quickly
 - d. They declined gradually over a period of centuries

Reading Comprehension 16: Archaeology

Suggested for 11th form students. From Evans, Virginia. *Entry Tests: for the Revised Cambridge Proficiency Examination 2*. Newbury: Express Publishing, 2002.

Digging up the past isn't always the exhilarating experience people commonly perceive it to be. Contrary to the popular image, and one partly forwarded in the movie realm, archaeologists are not the swashbuckling adventurers who risk life and limb to uncover the mythical and magical remnants of the past- and save the world in the process. In reality, archaeological work is a time consuming task and the process of unearthing a site is slow and often tedious. Conditions on an excavations site are far from ideal. Exposed to the elements for long hours, drenched in the rain, steeped in the mud, or scorched by the sun and

choking on dust, archaeologists patiently sift through the sands of time for evidence of civilizations gone by. While the excavations themselves don't always produce earth-shattering results or draw the widespread attention they so justly deserve, rare discoveries automatically become part of history. But, from time to time, less momentous finds yield unexpected surprises.

A recent archeological find at a site in Essex of what appears to be a Celtic surgeon's tool kit- including scalpels, retractors, and probes- was pretty exciting, even compared to many 'major finds' heralded in the media over the years.

This one was particularly significant, demonstrating a stronger link to our past than people might think. Far from the perception of Celts as creative but warlike people, the find shows there were keen scientific minds at work and emphasizes how much modern society has in common with them.

Finds like this are extremely rare but encourage the idea that when we dig we are looking for something in particular. Visitors to excavation sites are often disappointed when we haven't found anything 'exciting'- they don't realize that many of us will never come across such a find in an entire lifetime of digging. My own 'treasure' count in eleven years of digging is one small Roman gold earring found by someone else on a site where I was working.

What we're actually digging for is to record the whole sequence of human activity on a site. This involves methodical recording of hundreds of layers of soil and remains of buildings long disused and buried under the debris of later occupation. It's the sequence of events which is significant here, and not any single episode.

Many people are also unaware the modern professional archaeology is highly competitive and very much part of the construction industry, as well as being an academic discipline. When land is to be developed, the local government archeological officer will undertake or commission an assessment of the site to decide whether the proposed development threatens to destroy any archeological remains. If it does, they will compile a specification for excavation work to be done to recover as much information as possible about the site. Then, archaeological units operating in a given area will tender for work on the basis of these specs. As the organization developing the site must foot the bill for this work, they usually go for the lowest tender rather than the quality and experience of the units involved.

The legislation and guidelines which protect what is termed the 'archaeological resource' emphasizes protecting archaeology in the ground- using appropriately designed foundations, for example, or only digging if there's no other option. While this would seem good for archaeology, the decreasing numbers of sites available for excavation will be more keenly fought over, and with units cutting costs wherever possible it seems unavoidable that the quality of the work will suffer.

The life of the Celtic surgeon is significant in its own right, but placed within the context of his culture, our understanding of both that individual and the culture is enhanced. It is this wider understanding that could be jeopardized by the loss of the more mundane and less spectacular archaeological sites.

Multiple Choice

1. Archaeology is sometimes portrayed in the cinema as:
 - a. Difficult and laborious work in unpleasant conditions
 - b. Important work but which goes largely unrecognized
 - c. Heroic work involving exciting and hazardous experiences
 - d. Unusual historical work that is now rather outdated

2. It is not widely known that contemporary archaeology:
 - a. Has close links with building and development
 - b. Has lost its previous importance in the academic world
 - c. Is more of a competitive business than an academic discipline
 - d. Is concerned mainly with Celtic culture
3. Why do prospective land developers need to consult local authorities?
 - a. They must recover as much information as possible about the site
 - b. To tender their services for future work on excavation sites
 - c. To check whether their proposal endangers any antiquities
 - d. To decide who is going to pay for the work
4. What is one possible negative side-effect of legislation protecting 'archaeological resources'?
 - a. Excavation will only be carried out as a last resort
 - b. Exploration will be limited to sites with foundations
 - c. There will be no construction allowed on sites
 - d. There will be a reduction in the quality of excavations
5. What does the author say about the significance of the Celtic surgeon?
 - a. His life needs to be regarded in context
 - b. He is an important key to understanding the society he lived in
 - c. Rare discoveries like the surgeon's tools jeopardize future studies
 - d. The discovery of 'ordinary' everyday items is not really important
6. The main theme of this article is:
 - a. What must be changed to protect the integrity of archaeology
 - b. Addressing misconceptions about archaeology
 - c. The problems with the link between archaeology and construction
 - d. Why Hollywood has archeology portrayed improperly

Reading Comprehension 17: Paris: A Cool Place to go Local

Suggested for 11th form students. From Steves, Rick. *Paris: A Cool Place to go Local*. Tribune Media Services, January, 2010.

The City of Light shines year-round, but Paris has a special appeal in winter. Sure, the weather can be cold and rainy (the average high in January is 43 degrees), but if you dress in layers, you'll keep warm and easily deal with temperature changes as you go from cold streets to heated museums and cafes.

Slow down and savor your favorite museums and monuments -- spending one-on-one time with the Mona Lisa and Venus de Milo is worth the extra clothes you had to pack. Attend a cooking demonstration, take a short course in art or architecture, or dabble in a wine-tasting class. Duck into cafes to warm up and enjoy a break from sightseeing or shopping. Get on a first-name basis with the waiter at your corner cafe -- just because now you can.

One of Europe's greatest treats is strolling down the glowing Champs-Elysees in winter. From late November through mid-January, holiday lights adorn city streets, buildings, and monuments, and the Champs-Elysees beams with a dazzling display of lights on the trees that line the long boulevard. The city springs for 1,000 fresh-cut fir trees to put up and decorate around town, 300 of which ring the traffic circle at the lower end of the Champs-Elysees.

Parisians live to window-shop. Do some shopping of your own along the boulevards and view the wild window displays at the grand department stores. The seasonal displays in neighborhood boutiques are more intimate and offer a good contrast to the shows of glitz

around the department stores. If the weather is bad, scurry for cover to the shopping arcades. More than 200 of these covered shopping streets once crisscrossed Paris, providing much-needed shelter from the rain. The various shops sell used books, paper products, trinkets, and snacks.

It's fun to browse through one of Paris' many English-language bookstores, where you can pick up fiction and nonfiction. My favorite is the friendly Red Wheelbarrow Bookstore in the Marais neighborhood. Another is Shakespeare and Company, once a hangout for Ernest Hemingway and Gertrude Stein, across the river from Notre-Dame. If you've worked up your appetite, remember that winter is the season for the hunt. In Paris you'll find game birds and venison on restaurant menus. On street corners you'll hear shouts of "hot chestnuts!" from vendors selling chestnuts roasting on coals. Because sweets are always popular, chocolate makers and pastry shops everywhere do a bang-up business during the winter, serving traditional treats such as Epiphany cakes.

One of Paris' great wintertime pleasures is watching the city bustle by while you linger at an outdoor table with a coffee with cream, a "vin chaud" (hot wine), or best, a hot chocolate. Most cafes fire up the heaters to keep things toasty outside. Or head inside. With the new smoking laws, cafe and restaurant interiors are wonderfully free of smoke. Paris in winter offers so much to do indoors -- museums, restaurants, and stores stay open as usual; the concert and arts season is in full bloom; and Paris belongs to the Parisians. So go local, save money, and skip the museum lines that confront peak-season travelers. There are worse ways to spend a wintry day than enjoying world-class art, architecture, and shopping during the day and lingering over a fine dinner at a cozy corner bistro in the evening.

Multiple Choice

1. What is a nickname for Paris?
 - a. The City of Light
 - b. The Big Apple
 - c. The Eternal City
 - d. The Venice of the North
2. What are two famous works of art one can see while visiting Paris?
 - a. The Last Supper and The Scream
 - b. Monet's Waterlilies and Donatello's David
 - c. The Mona Lisa and the Venus de Milo
 - d. Michelangelo's David and Starry Night
3. Where does the author suggest visitors can go to window shop?
 - a. The bazaar
 - b. Grand department stores
 - c. Notre Dame
 - d. Supermarkets
4. What is the name of the author's favorite English language bookstore in Paris?
 - a. Shakespeare and Company
 - b. The Compass
 - c. The Red Wheelbarrow
 - d. Barnes and Noble
5. In the sentence "Chocolate makers and pastry shops everywhere do a bang-up business during the winter", what does the phrase "bang-up" mean?
 - a. The shops are not successful
 - b. The shops are mean to customers
 - c. The shops have to close early
 - d. The shops make a large amount of money

6. The main goal of this article is to show that:
 - a. Parisians are not nice people
 - b. Paris is incredibly expensive
 - c. Even in the winter, there is plenty to do in Paris
 - d. French food is delicious

Reading Comprehension 18: Great Barrier Reef

Suggested for 11th form students. From Butler, Nicole. *Great Barrier Reef 'Overrun by Weeds.'* Jan 5, 2010

A university professor says the Great Barrier Reef is moving from being dominated by coral to being overrun by seaweed. It is one of the natural wonders of the world, but the Great Barrier Reef is almost constantly at risk. Scientists say chemical run-off from farming is threatening the Reef, which is also battling climate change, coral bleaching and the crown of thorns starfish. Now experts at the Australian Research Council (ARC) say around 43 per cent of the inshore reef is being overrun by seaweed, a claim hotly disputed by local tourism operators.

James Cook University marine biology Professor David Bellwood, who is also an ARC expert, says a shift from a coral-dominated reef to one overrun by weed shows the health of the ecosystem is in decline. "What we can say is at the moment there is a lot more weed than we expected and that this weed does constitute a potential threat," he said. "It certainly rings a few warning bells, the biggest implication is whether this weed starts to expand. So we need to know its history and that's what we're currently trying to find out. Does this constitute a change? Because if it is a change then it is very worrying."

Professor Bellwood says it is critical to protect browsing and grazing fishes and he has written to the Federal Government urging it to develop a national policy. "We've got to protect our herbivorous fishes - that's the only thing that is clear at this point in time that we can do that is a step towards protecting the reef," he said. "And the other thing is, even though the weed is out there, it doesn't mean to say the reef is rotting, what it means is things are different, it's still a beautiful place and if people get a chance they should go out and look at it."

But the Research Council's report has raised the ire of tourism operators who rely on the reef for their livelihoods. Col McKenzie, head of the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators in far north Queensland, says the findings are inaccurate. "For a scientist to come out and say that 40 per cent of the reef has been taken over by seaweed, I just think that he needs to rethink where his control sites are," he said.

"He might have one or two reefs somewhere. For him to pick on those two reefs and say that's indicative of the whole Great Barrier Reef which is 2,500 kilometres long is just absolutely ludicrous." Mr McKenzie says the ARC are exaggerating the figures and using "scare tactics" to try to step up protection of the reef. "The reality is, the reef is not that far gone, we can save the Great Barrier Reef, we've just got to get the water quality right."

Multiple Choice

1. Where is the Great Barrier Reef located?
 - a. New Zealand
 - b. Ghana
 - c. Australia
 - d. Madagascar

2. What are some of the main threats to the Great Barrier Reef?
 - a. Shark attacks and global warming
 - b. Chemical runoff and climate change
 - c. Coral bleaching and sea snakes
 - d. Trash and fish over-breeding
3. In the second paragraph, what is the meaning of the phrase “rings a few warning bells”?
 - a. Causes concern
 - b. The problem is nothing to worry about
 - c. It is a humorous situation
 - d. Indicates a fire
4. According to Professor Bellwood, what is critical to protect in the reef?
 - a. Spreading seaweed
 - b. The breeding grounds of sea turtles
 - c. Scuba divers
 - d. Browsing and grazing fisheries
5. Which word can be used in the place of ire?
 - a. Sympathy
 - b. Anger
 - c. Alarm
 - d. Happiness
6. Who has the Research Council’s report affected the most?
 - a. Tourism operators
 - b. Chemists
 - c. Tourists
 - d. Other scientists

Reading Comprehension 19: Tourist Season Launched in Kamianets-Podilsky
Suggested for 11th form students. From Vasylevsky, Mykhailo . *Tourist Season Launched in Kamianets-Podilsky. The Day. April 2007.*

The city of Kamianets-Podilsky is an ancient Podillian city of stone on the high banks of the Smotrych River. It is famous throughout Ukraine for its beautiful natural surroundings and the talented building skills of our unforgettable ancestors. “Our cherished dream is for travelers to visit Kamianets-Podilsky and leave their money here,” Mayor Oleksandr Mazurchak says, describing the city authorities’ pragmatic approach to 174 preserved or scrupulously restored historic monuments.

The city fathers recently took another step on the way to the golden dream by organizing a large-scale project to mark the opening of the 2007 tourist season. Here is what the city has to offer tourists: hotels, restaurants, entertainment centers, and educational tours. Over the past few years the city has seen an impressive rise in the volume of tourism. In 2001 the city welcomed 95,000 tourists, 125,000 in 2002, 132,000 in 2003, 166,000 in 2004, and 200,000 in 2005.

Repeat visitors to Kamianets-Podilsky, who come two or three years after their first visit, credit citizens’ private initiative, especially local residents, for the rise in tourism. At last, tourists know where to find accommodations. There are several hotels with different price ranges to suit every pocket: the well-heeled can snag a room for 1,100 hryvnias a night, while budget-minded tourists can find economy-class apartments for 214 hryvnias a night. Tourists will return home with unforgettable impressions of hotel interiors and high standards

of restaurant service. No one will miss an opportunity to enjoy the view of the old and contemporary city from their hotel's observation deck.

From the observation deck you can see the walls of the Old Castle. One of the castle towers, built in 1513, used to be called the Pope's Tower because the money for its construction was donated by popes Julius the Second and Leo X. In 19th century, when the fortress was turned into a prison, the famous Podillian *opryshok* (brigand) Ustym Karmaliuk was jailed there. In 1823 Karmaliuk organized his escape from the Pope's Tower, later renamed Karmaliuk's Tower.

A walk around the old city brings visitors to the Polish Market Square, above which towers the City Council building. Beyond Castle Bridge are the Triumphal Arch and SS. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Cathedral. After this bird's eye view of these and other city monuments, visitors will definitely be inspired to examine them more closely and plunge into history, while listening to the tour guide's narration. You will hear that the oldest chronicle of the Old Fortress dates back to 1494, and that you could reach the castle from the city through the gate guarded from the tower. The five-sided New Eastern Tower extends beyond the edge of the walls. A plaque on one of its walls bears the inscription: "1544, To God Alone Be the Glory. Ion Pretvych, architect."

Multiple Choice

1. What is one of the things that the city of Kamianets-Podilsky is famous for?
 - a. Beautiful natural surroundings
 - b. Great shopping
 - c. Fancy hotels
 - d. Nice beaches
2. Why are there so many repeat visitors to Kamianets-Podilsky?
 - a. There are so many great restaurants
 - b. The citizens of the city finally opened more hotels
 - c. The mayor became the city's best tour guide
 - d. Tourists pay less for hotel rooms
3. The city authorities in Kamianets-Podilsky restored 174
 - a. Fountains
 - b. Paintings
 - c. Monuments
 - d. Gardens
4. In paragraph 3, what is meant by the phrase "well-heeled"?
 - a. Poor
 - b. Rude
 - c. Wealthy
 - d. Intelligent
5. One of the castle towers used to be called the Pope's Tower because:
 - a. The money for its construction was donated by Popes Julius the Second and Leo X
 - b. It was built by Alexander Pope
 - c. The builder loved the Catholic Church
 - d. It resembles the Vatican
6. What is a synonym for the word chronicle?
 - a. Church
 - b. Narrative
 - c. Desire
 - d. Report

Reading Comprehension 20: Sample Switzerland

Suggested for 11th form students. From Steves, Rick. *Sample Switzerland's Cities Before Heading for the Hills*. Tribune Media Services. January 2010.

Swiss cities remind me of the kid at high school who's great at sports, has perfect hair, the best girlfriend, and the teachers all love him. He's just too perfect. Sometimes you just want to see him trip or get a pimple.

For me -- and most travelers -- the country's mountains provide more real travel thrills per mile, minute and dollar. But don't neglect Switzerland's pristine urban offerings in Zurich, Luzern and Lausanne. With interesting art, colorful old towns and serene waterfront settings, these cities are worthy stops as you head for the hills.

Zurich, located in the north, is Switzerland's biggest city -- and a major transportation hub. Even though you won't find a hint of Heidi or the Swiss Miss, Zurich makes for an enjoyable quick visit.

Like most Swiss cities, Zurich embraces its resident body of water in a fun-loving way. The lakefront is a springboard for romantic walks, bike rides and cruises. A great way to glide across town is to catch the riverboat, which functions like a city bus, and just enjoy the view.

Its old town is lively night and day with cafes, galleries and a colorful cobbled ambience. Touted as Europe's most "fountainous" city, Zurich has more than 1,200 fun and fresh fountains, spouting water that's as good as the bottled stuff -- a blessing in a town where restaurants charge for a glass of tap water.

An hour south of Zurich, Luzern sprawls along the edge of a lake, with a striking alpine panorama backdrop. Since the 19th-century Romantic era, this charming city has been a regular stop on the "Grand Tour" route of Europe, entertaining visitors from Mark Twain to Queen Victoria.

Luzern's Chapel Bridge -- one of two picture-perfect wooden bridges -- was built at an angle to connect the town's medieval fortifications. Today it serves strollers rather than soldiers. About 100 colorful paintings -- some replicas and some dating from the 17th century -- hang under the bridge's rafters, showing scenes from Luzern and its history. Swans cluster near the bridge. Locals say they arrived in the 17th century as a gift from Louis XIV in appreciation for the protection his Swiss Guards gave him.

If you're arriving in Switzerland at Geneva's airport, a good first stop is Lausanne, perched elegantly above Lake Geneva. Hotels range from moderate to pricey. On my last visit, the tourist board put me up at the Lausanne Palace and Spa Hotel. I wanted to have two shirts and a pair of pants ironed. Room service told me it would cost about \$60. I thought, "For that price, I'll body-iron my clothes."

Known as the Olympic Capital, Lausanne has been home to the International Olympic Committee since 1915. A museum celebrates the colorful history of the games, with a century's worth of ceremonial torches and a look at how medals have changed over the years. Surveying gear from each sport (such as Carl Lewis' track shoes and Sonia Henie's ice skates), you can follow the evolution of equipment that was clearly state of the art -- in its day.

One of Europe's most thought-provoking art galleries is Lausanne's Collection de l'Art Brut, presenting works produced by people "free from artistic culture and free from fashion tendencies" -- many of whom were labeled (and even locked up) by society as criminal or insane. These loners, mavericks, prisoners and mental-ward patients were completely untrained, as free-spirited as artists can be.

Whether presenting unusual modern art or serving up traditional Old World charm, Swiss cities get it right. Most people come to savor the mountains. But there's far more to this

country than towering alpine peaks. No trip to Switzerland is really complete without also sampling its urban treats.

Multiple Choice

1. Which city is the largest in Switzerland?
 - a. Lausanne
 - b. Geneva
 - c. Zurich
 - d. Luzern
2. What is the best definition of the word “neglect”?
 - a. Ignore
 - b. Help
 - c. Attention
 - d. Repair
3. According to the article, which tourist attraction is NOT found in Zurich?
 - a. A riverboat that acts as a bus
 - b. The Chapel Bridge
 - c. A beautiful lakefront
 - d. Many fountains throughout the city
4. What is meant by the phrase “savor the mountains”?
 - a. Eat at a restaurant in the mountains
 - b. Eating snow
 - c. Bringing family with you to the mountains
 - d. Enjoy the mountains
5. Which city is known as the Olympic Capital?
 - a. Turino
 - b. Zurich
 - c. Lausanne
 - d. Geneva
6. What is the main idea of this article?
 - a. One should only visit the mountains in Switzerland
 - b. There is more to Switzerland than its mountains
 - c. Switzerland’s cities are very expensive
 - d. The water in Switzerland is purified naturally

Speaking

Pupils should select a topic, take a short time to prepare and then present an un-memorized speech which fully discusses all aspects of the topic. Minimum length: 2 minutes. Maximum length: 5-6 minutes.

Speaking Comprehension Questions for 9th Form Students

1. Describe your living situation to a friend.

- Where are you living now, and do you like the place you are living in?
- What plans do you have to live in a different place in the future?
- Where would be your ideal place to live?

Possible follow up questions: Do you plan on living abroad? If so, where would you like to live? Would you bring your family members with you?

2. Spare time activities are a valuable use of time outside of school.

- Do you prefer sports or non-sporting activities?
- How much of your spare time do you like to spend alone?
- How have your spare time activities been changed by technology?

Possible follow up questions: Do you think it is better to spend most of your time outside? Why or why not?

3. Some people have argued that students no longer receive a good education in schools.

- Do schools prepare young people for the real world?
- Should schooling be mandatory?
- What aspects of life do schools help develop, aside from academia?

Possible follow up questions: How do you think school helps develop people's interest in subjects? Has a teacher ever inspired you to study a particular subject?

4. Where you live can have an important impact on your life.

- Do you think it's better to live in the city or the country?
- Where have you traveled to?
- Are you basing your opinion on personal experience?

Possible follow up questions: Where are you living currently? Do you want to change your living situation in the future?

5. You have just graduated from high school.

- What would you like to do as a career?
- What type of education would you need to fulfill your goals?
- Where would you like to go to university?

Possible follow up questions: Do you think it will be difficult for you to reach your goals? Why or why not?

6. Imagine that you won a trip around the world.

- Where have you always wanted to travel?
- Would you travel alone, or with friends?
- What would you bring on your trip?

Possible follow up questions: Where would you travel to first? What would be your final stop on your trip around the world? Would you want to come back home?

7. You are an architect who is starting to build your dream house.

- What would your house look like?
- Is it in the city or the countryside?
- Is it in Ukraine or another country?

8. Holidays are significant in almost every culture.

- What is your favorite holiday?
- What traditions are associated with this holiday?
- What makes the holidays in your country unique?

Possible follow up questions: Do you think it is important for families to be together during the holidays? Do you enjoy spending time with your family during the holidays?

9. Food is the foundation of society.

- What is your favorite dish/food?
- Is this dish unique to your family?
- Would you tell your friends about this dish?

Possible follow up questions: Do you think Ukrainian food is good or bad for your health? Do you think Ukrainians are healthier than people in other countries?

10. Families are an important part of all cultures.

- Describe your family.
- Do all of the members of your family live in the same town?
- Do you ever wish that you had a bigger or smaller family?

Possible follow up questions: Do you have a favorite member of your family?

11. It has been said that those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it.

- Do you think it is important for people to know the history of their country?
- Is there anything in the history of your country that you would not tell people?
- What is the most significant event which occurred in your country's history?

Possible follow up questions: What is something that you want people from other countries to know about Ukraine?

12. Good hobbies can improve one's character.

- What are your hobbies?
- What is your favorite thing to do in the summer?
- Do you think it is necessary for people to have hobbies?

Possible follow up questions: Do you think some hobbies are more useful than others? Do you think hobbies can help people in their future careers?

13. It is important to have someone to admire.

- What qualities should a good role model/hero possess?
- Do you possess these qualities?
- Is it healthy for people to try to be perfect?

Possible follow up questions: Who is your hero/role model? Why do you admire this person? Do you think other people admire this person?

14. Imagine you are giving someone a gift.

- Who would you give this gift to?
- What would you buy?
- On which occasion would you choose to give this gift?

Possible follow up questions: Do you think it is important to spend money on a gift for someone? Or, is it better to create something yourself and give it as a gift?

15. Discuss the most memorable event in your life.

- How old were you when this event occurred?
- Do you think this event changed you as a person?
- Would you have done anything differently during this event?

16. List the do's and don'ts for a man during a romantic dinner for two.

- Where should the couple go for dinner?
- Should the man let the woman order whatever she wants?
- Should the man pay for the meal, or should the woman have to pay as well?

Possible follow up questions: Do women ask men to go to dinner in Ukraine? If so, should the woman pay for dinner?

17. A time capsule is a container you fill with important objects, then open many years later.

- What would you put in a time capsule?
- When would you open it?
- Who would you want with you when you opened the time capsule?

Possible follow up questions: Do you think it is important for people to remember past events in their lives? Or should people ignore the past and only think about their future?

18. You choose to live on a beautiful desert island.

- What items would you bring with you?
- If you could only eat one thing on this island, what would it be?
- Would you want any people on the island with you?

Possible follow up questions: Which items would you miss the most if you were on an island? What would you be most afraid of if you lived on an island?

19. You have been granted a special power, to change everything in the world to the same color.

- What color would you choose and why?
- Do you think other people would be happy with your decision?
- What would be the best aspect of everything being the same color? The worst?

20. Respond to the phrase “Dress for Success”.

- Do you think how you look is important?
- Do men or women dress better?
- Do other countries seem to think how one dresses is important?

Possible follow up questions: Do you judge people based on how they are dressed? Do you think that if someone does not dress well, it is impossible for them to become a success?

Speaking Comprehension Questions for 10th Form Students

1. We are living in an increasingly global world. Because of this, many issues that only concerned one country now concern many.

- To what extent are richer countries responsible for third world problems?
- Should powerful countries intervene in times of war or natural disaster?
- What is the best form of aid that richer nations can give?

Possible follow up questions: Do you think that people from wealthier nations should live in other countries to try and help? Should governments require every person in their country to give money to help other people?

2. Telling the truth can be a tricky task to undertake. Sometimes a white lie may be the best option to avoid hurting someone's feelings.

- What is your view on lying?
- Is it always wrong?
- Under what circumstances would you consider lying?

Possible follow up questions: Have you ever told a big lie? Would you rather lie instead of hurting someone's feelings?

3. Do younger people have anything to learn from the older generation?

- Would the older generation only remember good aspects of their past?
- Should we blindly follow all of their advice?
- Does the older generation have anything to learn from the younger?

Possible follow up questions: What advice would you give to older people? What do the older generations need to know about younger generations?

4. The debate on smoking is very prominent across the globe. What is your take on the issue?

- Should smoking cigarettes be made illegal?
- Is it the government's place to tell people how to live?
- How would you address the issue of smoking?

5. Environmentalism is a growing concern. There have been a number of attempts to help save our environment that have only hurt it further.

- Can we ever save our environment?
- What is the biggest threat to the environment today?
- Do you think the environment will just work itself out?

Possible follow up questions: What can each person do to make a small change to stop problems in the environment?

6. Imagine you have just won \$1,000,000 in the lottery.

- What would you buy with the money?
- Would you donate it?
- Would you help your friends and family or keep it for yourself?

7. As a Peace Corps volunteer, I'm very interested in Ukrainian opinions on America.

- Would you like to travel to America?
- Why or why not?
- If yes, where would you like to go and what would you like to do?

Possible follow up questions: Would you have any concerns about travelling to America? Is there anywhere that you would not like to go? Why or why not?

8. The legal status of copyrights is a hotly debated topic today.

- Do you think songs and movies should be freely traded?
- What steps should be taken to stop illegal piracy?
- Do you think illegal file sharing really hurts the recording industry?

Possible follow up questions: Do you think people should go to prison for downloading songs and movies? Why or why not? What sort of punishments should people receive for downloading media?

9. Imagine you have made a new friend while at the National Olympiad. Describe your hometown to your new friend.

- What is there to do?
- What does it look like?
- What are the people like?

Possible follow up questions: What is your favorite thing to do in your hometown? What would you like to add to your hometown to make it more fun?

10. Reading is a fantastic way to increase language skills and have fun at the same time.

- What is your favorite book?
- What is the plot of your favorite book?
- Who is your favorite character in the book?

Possible follow up questions: Do you think reading is important? Why or why not? Do you think people will stop reading books because of the internet?

11. Movies are an important part of culture.

- What is your favorite film?
- What is the film's message?
- Why do you like this film?

12. Imagine that you are in charge of planning your school's schedule for next year.

- What subjects do you think are most important to teach in school?
- What subject do you think should be mandatory?
- What is your favorite subject in school?

13. In your travels you have found a device that allows you to talk to the dead.

- If you could meet any historical person, who would it be and why?
- What questions would you ask this person?
- What would you hope to learn from them?

14. Your school is going to institute a policy requiring students to wear uniforms.

- Should students wear uniforms in schools?
- Why or why not?
- If you had to pick a uniform, what would you choose?

Possible follow up questions: Do uniforms help people to be equal (rich vs. poor)?

15. Cell phones have been blamed for many car accidents.

- Do you think the government should ban all cell phone use in cars?
- If using cell phones in cars was illegal, how should people be punished?
- Should people who drive busses and trains be banned from using cell phones as well?

Possible follow up questions: What is the safest way for people to talk on the phone and drive? Or do you think that technology has become too important to people?

16. You have just discovered a formula that will give you any super power you wish.

- If you could have any super power...what would it be and why?
- What would you use your power for?
- Would you share your formula with others?

Possible follow up questions: Would you use your power to control the world? Or would you use the power to make the world a better place?

17. Considering the current flue, N1H1 situation

- Why do you believe it became an epidemic?
- Do you think the quarantine was necessary or politically motivated?
- Do you believe in traditional or non-traditional cures and remedies?

18. Convince us that homework is harmful to your health.

- Why is it harmful?
- What could be done to make it less harmful?
- How can you prove your points?

Possible follow up questions: Do you think that homework is useful? Does homework help you when learning a difficult subject?

19. Imagine you are a famous rock star giving an interview.

- What are the lyrics of your latest hit song and what do they mean?
- Who are your greatest influences?
- Where are you going and what are you doing on your next tour?

Possible follow up questions: What instruments do you play? Which musicians would you like to have in your band?

20. Tell us about the most important lesson you have learned in life so far.

- What is the story behind the lesson?
- How did you learn this lesson?
- How can this lesson help others?

Possible follow up questions: How does this lesson affect your life today? Are you glad that you learned this lesson?

Speaking Comprehension Questions for 11th Form Students

1. In the past twenty years, the world has seen the development of many scientific advances.

- Do advances in science always improve the quality of life?
- Should we stop trying to advance science?
- Should there be safeguards or restrictions on scientific development?

Possible follow up questions: Do you think that countries should share their scientific discoveries with one another? Why or why not?

2. Even though the world is becoming more global, there are still many differences between countries.

- Is the gap between richer and poorer nations narrowing?
- Do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing?
- Will this help or hurt the stability of the world?

Possible follow up questions: Should rich nations be required to help poorer nations? What if the poor nations do not want the richer nations' help?

3. The pros and cons of testing products on animals have been debated for many years.

- To what extent can we justify using animals in experiments?
- What alternatives would you suggest?
- How would you make experiments more humane?

4. It goes without saying that the larger the city, the greater the crime.

- What could the government do to reduce crime in large cities?
- What can citizens do to reduce crime in large cities?
- What about cities makes crime greater there?

5. We live in an increasingly technological age.

- Do you think television and the internet will stop people from reading books?
- Why or why not?
- Is this necessarily a bad thing?

Possible follow up questions: Do you think books will disappear from schools as well? Why or why not?

6. Movies are a normal part of most people's lives.

- Do you think movies make violence acceptable in society?
- Why or why not?
- Should movies be monitored more closely for violence?

Possible follow questions: Do you think people of certain ages should not be allowed to see violent movies? Should the government make these rules, or parents?

7. People are becoming more and more obsessed with celebrities.

- Do you think celebrities should be considered as role models? Why or why not?
- What qualities make a good role model?
- Do you have any celebrity role models?

Possible follow up questions: Who do you think is the best celebrity role model? Who do you think is the worst?

8. Space has been often called “the final frontier.” This is because it is a vast opportunity for new knowledge and ideas.

- Do you think that the global community should increase space exploration?
- What do you think we can learn through space exploration?
- What kind of exploration should we attempt?

Possible follow up questions: Do you think aliens exist? If so, what would you like to learn from them?

9. You are on a council addressing whether school attendance should be mandatory.

- Do you think that school attendance should be voluntary?
- Do you think that not going to school would affect your grades?
- Do you think the teachers would be affected by having no students in their classes?

Possible follow up questions: What are some ways that children could be convinced to go to school? Why should children think that education is important?

10. Video games have been praised as the newest and best form of entertainment. They are interactive and can even feel real.

- Do you like video games?
- Do you think that video games are a bad influence on young children?
- Do you think that violent video games should be banned?

Possible follow up questions: Do you think video games keep people from making friends? Are video games harmful to one’s health?

11. Imagine that you knew that the world was going to end tomorrow.

- What would you do with your last day on Earth?
- Would you try and warn others?
- How would this knowledge affect you?

Possible follow up questions: Should people be able to do anything they want, even if it means harming themselves or others?

12. Respond to the phrase: “The best things in life are free.”

- Do you agree with this phrase?
- What free things do you value most?
- Would you rather be rich or happy? Can you be both? Can you be one and not the other?

Possible follow up questions: Do you think it is possible to buy happiness by owning a lot of possessions? Why or why not?

13. Present a timeline for the history of your country.

- What important events helped shape your history?
- Are there any major periods of interest?
- How do you think your country will change in the future?

Possible follow up questions: Is there one event you think is the most important? Is there anything that you would not want people to know about your history?

14. Imagine you have stumbled upon the plans to a time machine.

- Do you believe inventing a time machine is possible? Why or why not?
- What would your time machine look like?
- Where would you go and what would you do if you had a time machine?

Possible follow up questions: If you went back in time, would you want to bring anyone back with you? If you changed something in the past, would it change the future greatly?

15. Sometimes other people can be annoying. Especially when you have to work with them on a daily basis.

- What are the top five most stupid questions you've heard asked?
- What are the top five most stupid answers you've heard given?
- How can you help communication be more fluid and helpful?

16. You are trapped on the top of a burning building. Use your imagination to develop a complicated way to escape.

- Describe the roof, what is available for you to use?
- How would you escape?
- Are there other people to help?

17. Imagine you are at a really boring party.

- What are the top five ways to make a boring conversation interesting?
- What are the top five ways to keep a boring conversation boring?
- What would you do to make the party exciting again?

Possible follow up questions: Have you been in a situation like this? If so, what did you do to make the party fun?

18. You are a salesperson trying to sell us the shirt you have on.

- What would you say to interest us in the shirt?
- What gimmicks can you use to interest us?
- How would you complete the sale?

Possible follow up questions: What do you think makes a good salesman? Do you think it is alright for salesman to lie to their customers?

19. You are a mad scientist who has just developed his greatest invention yet.

- What is your latest invention?
- How does the invention work?
- Will this invention help you, hurt humanity, or both?

20. Many times people will talk about an "average person."

- Is there such thing as an average person?
- What, in your opinion, would an average person be?
- Is this necessarily bad?

Writing

Pupils may use dictionaries. They should write not less than 20 sentences and not more than about 25 sentences. Usage and spelling errors will cause a lower score. Content and originality will result in a higher score.

- Finish the story: “Natalie turned off the lights and looked out of the window into the dark street...”
- How would you design your own theme park? What would you name it? How would you attract customers?
- Do you think fashion should play a less important role in the world? Should girls worry less about fashion? Should boys worry more? Should fashion be considered a real art form?
- Write an essay describing a traditional festival or event to someone who has never seen it before.
- If you could make a movie about any subject, what would it be and why? Who would star in your film and why?
- What social issue in Ukraine interests you most? Describe both sides of the argument associated with this issue. Which side appeals to you? Why?
- Ukraine has had a rather tumultuous political history. What role do you think the government will play in the future? What role do you think the government should play in the future?
- What do you think the next great invention will be? What invention do you think the world needs most?
- Describe a significant interest or experience that has special meaning for you.
- Do you have any skills that make you unique? How did you develop these attributes?
- What are the reasons for your interests? Analyze your childhood. How were your interests shaped from your upbringing?
- How would your friends characterize you? Look at yourself from the side of other people and analyze your character in such a way.
- Who was the most influential person in your life? How did this person make you want to become better?
- What was the most difficult time in your life? How did you overcome these difficulties?

- Imagine yourself as an actor/actress. Tell about your feelings before the opening night of the performance where you play the title role.
- Identify a person who had a significant influence on you and explain the influence.
- Reveal your personality by naming all the positive and negative features you possess. Which of them you'd like to get rid of and which you'd like to promote and enhance.
- What is your best quality? Do you believe that other people admire this quality?
- Is there anything in your past that you would like to change? How would you change it if you could?
- Have you ever been involved in some serious wrongdoing? What lesson did you learn from the experience?
- All of us learn from our failures as well as successes. What is something you gained from an unsuccessful experience?
- My life would be different if I'd never met...
- What is your best talent?
- Write about the strangest thing that has ever happened to you.
- Which inventions of the past century do you feel are most harmful to people? How would you improve these inventions?
- What is the general attitude toward marriage in Ukraine? What is your personal attitude toward marriage?
- You wake up one day with an unusual super power that seems pretty worthless—until you are caught in a situation that requires that specific "talent." Explain how you use your power.
- You find out you are highly allergic to something you love. Do you give it up (no matter how hard it is) or not (and deal with the consequences of the allergy)?
- Finish the story: "I was walking through the park, when suddenly I heard a terrible sound"
- Write a review of your favorite film, or a movie you have seen recently. Be sure to include a description of the plot and main characters.
- Everyone should learn at least one foreign language. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Homelessness is everyone's problem. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? What can be done to help solve the problem of homelessness?

- You have just been elected president of your country. What are your first orders to the government?
- Every culture has stories. Stories serve different purposes. Some entertain. Others teach history or help people understand their own culture. In many cultures, stories are used to teach the difference between right and wrong behaviours. What kinds of stories are traditional in your culture? Describe a story that teaches a lesson.
- Many cultures have interesting beliefs about good luck and bad luck. For example: In Japan, before a match, sumo wrestlers throw salt around the ring to purify it; and, in Brazil, it is common to see people wearing a necklace or bracelet with a thumb pointing up for good luck. Does your culture have good luck/bad luck beliefs? What are they and why do you think they are used?
- In England, Spain, and other parts of Europe, it is unusual in social situations to talk about work. In the Middle East, people who do business together don't usually talk about their families. What are polite topics of conversation? What topics are impolite? What things do strangers talk about in your country?
- What qualities would children like to see in their parents?
- Most people think that higher education should be available only for the most capable students. Others think that everyone should have a higher education. What is your opinion?
- Imagine that you could have a conversation and dinner with a famous person. Whom would you choose and why?
- Someone from another culture has come to live with you and your family for one year. What is the best way to help your visitor adapt to your family and your culture? Would you teach this person about your family and your culture or would you let the visitor find out for himself or herself? If the visitor behaves inappropriately in your home or in public, what would you say or do?
- Select a country that you have read and learned about. Imagine that you have been given a two week trip to that country. You may visit one or two cities. Tell what you already know about the geography, history and important people of this country. Then, describe your plans for travel and which sights you especially wish to visit and why.
- Write a letter to a Kirovograd newspaper and discuss the problems faced by the youth of our oblast, in cities, towns and villages. What are at least two problems for youth that you believe are important? What would you like the government of the oblast to do about these problems? Why is solving these problems important?
- Select two serious environmental problems we are facing in Ukraine. Describe both problems in detail, suggest solutions to the problems and tell why it is important to solve these problems.

- In what ways are the roles of men and women in Ukraine changing? In what ways are they still the same? Do you feel that the roles of men and women should remain the same or should change? Prepare an essay which gives your point of view and give reasons for your opinion. Your reasons should come from what you have learned and also what you have observed in your own experience.
- Describe in detail who, what, where and how you want to be in ten years. What are you doing now to prepare yourself for this successful future? What steps will you need to take in the next ten years in order to be who and where you want to be in ten years?

Answers to Listening and Reading Sections

LISTENING

Listening Comprehension 1

True/False	Multiple Choice
1. False	1. C
2. False	2. B
3. True	3. A
4. False	4. A
5. True	5. B
6. False	6. D
7. False	7. B
8. False	8. C
9. True	9. D
10. False	10. D

Listening Comprehension 2

True/False	Multiple Choice
1. False	1. A
2. True	2. C
3. True	3. D
4. False	4. B
5. True	5. A
6. True	6. C
7. True	7. B
8. False	8. A
9. False	9. D
10. True	10. B

Listening Comprehension 3

True/False	Multiple Choice
1. False	1. B
2. True	2. D
3. False	3. A
4. True	4. C
5. True	5. C
6. False	6. B
7. False	7. B
8. False	8. B
9. True	9. A
10. True	10. A

Listening Comprehension 4

True/False	Multiple Choice
1. False	1. B
2. True	2. A
3. False	3. C
4. False	4. A
5. False	5. B
6. True	6. A
7. False	7. B
8. True	8. C
9. False	9. D
10. True	10. C

Listening Comprehension 5

True/False	Multiple Choice
1. True	1. A
2. False	2. B
3. True	3. A
4. False	4. A
5. True	5. B
6. False	6. C
7. True	7. D
8. True	8. A
9. False	9. C
10. True	10. B

Listening Comprehension 6

True/False	Multiple Choice
1. True	1. D
2. True	2. B
3. False	3. C
4. False	4. D
5. True	5. B
6. False	6. D
7. False	7. B
8. True	8. D
9. True	9. C
10. False	10. B

READING**Reading
Comprehension 1**

1. B
2. D
3. A
4. D
5. C
6. A

**Reading
Comprehension 2**

1. D
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. C
6. A

**Reading
Comprehension 3**

1. D
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. A

**Reading
Comprehension 4**

1. A
2. C
3. B
4. D
5. C
6. A

**Reading
Comprehension 5**

1. B
2. B
3. D
4. D
5. B
6. B

**Reading
Comprehension 6**

1. B
2. C
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. A

**Reading
Comprehension 7**

1. D
2. A
3. B
4. D
5. B
6. B

**Reading
Comprehension 8**

1. C
2. B
3. A
4. B
5. A
6. B

**Reading
Comprehension 9**

1. B
2. D
3. A
4. D
5. B
6. B

**Reading
Comprehension 10**

1. C
2. B
3. B
4. D
5. D
6. A

**Reading
Comprehension 11**

1. B
2. A
3. D
4. C
5. B
6. B

**Reading
Comprehension 12**

1. B
2. A
3. D
4. A
5. A
6. A

**Reading
Comprehension 13**

1. A
2. B
3. D
4. B
5. C
6. A

**Reading
Comprehension 14**

1. A
2. C
3. A
4. D
5. B
6. A

**Reading
Comprehension 15**

1. B
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. B

**Reading
Comprehension 16**

1. C
2. A
3. C
4. D
5. B
6. B

**Reading
Comprehension 17**

1. A
2. C
3. B
4. C
5. D
6. C

**Reading
Comprehension 18**

1. C
2. B
3. A
4. D
5. B
6. A

**Reading
Comprehension 19**

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. A
6. B

**Reading
Comprehension 20**

1. C
2. A
3. B
4. D
5. C
6. B