

SECONDARY SCHOOL ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS 2010

Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education
Educational Assessment Unit

FORM 5

ENGLISH
LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Teacher's Paper

Instructions for the conduct of the Listening Comprehension Examination

The teacher should instruct the candidates to answer the questions on the paper provided. The following procedure for reading the Listening Comprehension passage is to be explained to the candidates immediately before proceeding with the examination.

You have been given a sheet containing the Listening Comprehension questions. I shall first read through the questions and then read the passage at normal reading speed. You may take notes on the blank sheet provided during the reading. After this reading there will be a pause of another three minutes to allow you to answer some of the questions. The passage will be read a second time and you may take further notes and answer the rest of the questions. After this second reading you will be given a further three minutes for a final revision of answers.

- a. 3 minutes - Teacher reads out the questions
- b. 3 minutes - First reading aloud of passage while students take notes
- c. 3 minutes - Students may answer questions
- d. 3 minutes - Second reading of passage and possibility of answering questions
- e. 3 minutes - Final revision

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TIME: 15 minutes

A century of Tea Bags.

If you look inside any kitchen cupboard in Britain, you will find a supply of teabags. Indeed, many British people are unable to imagine life without this basic food. Tea bags are the simplest way of making a cup of tea. Without the convenience of a tea bag, you would have to measure out the amount of tea you need, then brew it and strain it before you can settle down to enjoy your drink. Nowadays that would involve too much work to be worthwhile! Tea drinkers everywhere agree that tea bags are an essential invention that now we all take for granted. This has not always been so. This year tea drinkers around the world have a real reason to celebrate. Tea bags are 100 years old.

While the British like to think that they set world standards in terms of all things that have to do with tea, they cannot claim that they invented the tea bag. This claim belongs to an American tea merchant called Thomas Sullivan, who made his name in New York City. In 1910 Sullivan began to send samples of tea leaves to interested customers, in small silk pouches. His reason for this was simple – he wanted to cut costs by reducing the amount of tea he sent out for individuals to sample. However, Sullivan failed to explain this to his customers. Most of those who received the silk pouches were very puzzled. Some cut the pouches open to inspect the tea inside. The majority, however, simply dropped the pouches into hot water to discover if they liked the taste of the tea inside. Some then wrote to Sullivan to complain that the silk material of the pouches was too fine to let the tea taste out. Following this show of interest, Sullivan experimented with different types of material. He soon found something that delighted his most demanding customers. Sullivan's sales boomed. More importantly, Sullivan invented what we now call the tea bag along the way!

Today, tea bags are big business. They even come in different sizes to appeal to individual tea drinkers and those who like to share a pot with their friends! There are even differences between British tea bags and those sold in Europe. The average British tea bag contains 3 grams of tea while a European tea bag contains only 2.5 grams!

Total

FORM 5

ENGLISH
LISTENING COMPREHENSION

TIME: 15 minutes

Name: _____ Index No: _____ Class: _____

In questions 1 and 2 tick the correct answer.

(1 mark)

1.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | a) Not many kitchen cupboards in Britain have tea bags. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | b) British people do not like tea. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | c) Tea bags are convenient. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | d) Tea bags are an unimportant invention. |

2.

(1 mark)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | a) Thomas Sullivan was an English tea merchant. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | b) He introduced tea bags 50 years ago. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | c) He sent tea samples to all the customers he knew. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | d) He made the first tea bags from silk. |

3. State whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F)

(4 marks)

- a) People do not think much about the invention of the tea bag.
- b) In 1910 Sullivan sent bigger tea samples to his customers.
- c) Sullivan's customers didn't know what to do with the new tea pouches.
- d) In the long run Sullivan's sales of tea pouches increased enormously.

4. Fill in each blank space with one word from the text.

(4 marks)

Nowadays tea bags mean _____ business. You can buy them in different _____ . A British tea bag is different from that sold in _____ because it _____ more tea.

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FORM 5

ENGLISH

TIME: 2 hours

Name: _____

Class: _____

MARKS			
Listening Compr.	Oral Assessment	Written Paper	Total

Section A – Language.

(20 marks)

A. Fill in the blank spaces with the correct form of the verb in brackets. The first one has been done for you. (5 marks)

James Brown (0) **was born** (bear) in Chicago in June 1959 and (1) _____ (give) his father's name. As a young boy he (2) _____ (attend) a prominent school where he (3) _____ (know) as Jack. At the age of 22, Brown (4) _____ (accept) at Harvard University. After (5) _____ (graduate) with great honours in law, he (6) _____ (become) president of the Harvard Law Review, the youngest lawyer (7) _____ (hold) the post. When he later decided (8) _____ (stand) for election to the Illinois State Senate, he said that if people (9) _____ (choose) him, he (10) _____ (dedicate) himself only to politics.

marks

B. Fill in each blank space with ONE suitable word.

(5 marks)

In 1950 the world's (1) _____ was 2.5 billion. Today it stands (2) _____ six billion. Scientists have warned that by the year 2025 there could be nine billion people on earth, an (3) _____ of fifty percent. By the year 2050 there could be twelve billion, double (4) _____ we are today. (5) _____ people find these figures alarming, but others believe that the world can produce (6) _____ food for all these people. However, the fact remains (7) _____ in a number of poor countries the problem (8) _____ hunger will not go away as these do not have the (9) _____ to buy the extra food which they cannot

produce. To make matters (10) _____ we are already taking more fish from the seas than we should.

marks

C. Work out the following exercise by forming a word from the one in brackets. The first one has been worked out for you. (5 marks)

Internet (addict) (0) **addiction** is a problem that is spreading around the world. Around ten percent of Americans are (probable) (1) _____ affected and the problem may be even (great) (2) _____ elsewhere. In China, where the internet is more (people) (3) _____ thirty percent of the people may be addicted. Many college (study) (4) _____ there have confessed that they spend up to fourteen hours a day online. No real medical (treat) (5) _____ exists for internet addiction. Online gaming is also growing (rapid) (6) _____ among young people. Some (entertain) (7) _____ agencies offer a huge (vary) (8) _____ of free games online through Facebook, the most recent (society) (9) _____ networking website, which young people, in particular, find most (attract) (10) _____.

marks

D. Finish each of the following sentences in such a way that it means the same as the sentence above it. The first sentence has been worked out for you. (5 marks)

0. That storm was caused by cold air arriving from Russia.
The reason **for that storm was cold air arriving from Russia.**

1. Although the weather was hot, she still went to school.
In spite of _____

2. The teacher told his students, "Tomorrow I will speak to your parents."
The teacher told his students that _____

3. We knew nothing about the ugly traffic accident.
We didn't _____

4. The police finally caught the professional thief.
The professional thief _____

5. John is better than Tom in English.
Tom _____

marks

Section B

E. Comprehension.

(30marks)

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions below.

Dimming Down

Bright teenagers in Britain are becoming fewer, a new study has shown. The intellectual ability of the country's cleverest youngsters has declined radically, almost certainly due to the popularity of TV and computer games, and over-testing in schools.

5 The thinking skills of the most intelligent 14-year-olds are now similar to **those** of the brightest 12-year-olds in 1976. However, the findings contradict national results, **which** have shown a growth in top grades in national school-leaving examinations.

10 But Michael Shayer, the professor of applied psychology who led the study, believes that is the result of exam standards going down. His team of researchers at London's King's College tested 800 students who were thirteen or fourteen years old and compared the results with a similar exercise in 1976.

15 Two standard tests were carried out, one in Science and another in Mathematics. The first task in the Science test asked pupils to study a pendulum swinging on a string and investigate the factors that cause it to change speed. A **second** involved weights on a beam. The proportion of teenagers reaching top grades – demanding a 'higher level of thinking' – went down dramatically. Just over one in ten were at that level, down from one in four in 1976.

20 When it came to the Mathematics test, just one in twenty pupils was achieving high grades – down from one in five in 1976. Professor Shayer believes much of the fall in standards occurred over the last ten to fifteen years. One of the reasons for this situation could be the introduction of the National Curriculum testing and targets system. This may not have left enough time for that kind of teaching which develops more advanced skills. Critics say schools are now concentrating more on training children for tests.

“The moment you introduce targets, people will find the easiest way out to achieve **them**,” said Professor Shayer. “In the case of education, I'm sure this has had an effect on driving schools away from developing higher levels of understanding.”

25 Professor Shayer also believes the decline in brainpower is also linked to changes in children's leisure activities. The arrival of so many TV channels has encouraged passive viewing while computer games are feared to have substituted the time spent playing with tools, gadgets and other mechanisms. Professor Shayer warned that without the development of sharper thinking skills, the future supply of scientists will fall considerably.

30 His latest findings appear in the British Journal of Educational Psychology, and come after a report by Dr. Eric Sigman, **which** linked the decline in intellectual ability to a shift away from art and craft skills in both schools and home.

35 Dr. Sigman said practical activities such as building models and sandcastles, using tools, playing with building blocks, knitting, sewing and woodwork were being neglected. Activities like these helped students understand better things like measurement, volume and density.

Earlier this month the British Government bowed to criticism and scrapped national tests for fourteen-year-olds. Ministers have also created an independent inspector and promised a return to traditional questions in all national exams.

40 Inspectors said teachers were increasingly guiding pupils to pass exams instead of encouraging **them** to develop Basic Skills. The report said: “It is of vital importance to shift from a narrow emphasis on testing towards a concentration on pupils’ understanding.”

1. Underline the best answer. (1mark)

The passage is about:

- a) Mathematics and Science;
- b) falling standards in Education;
- c) national examinations in Britain;
- d) television and computer addiction.

2. Say whether the following are **True (T)** or **False (F)**. Give a reason for your answer. (3 marks)

- a) Compared to 30 years ago, there are fewer bright teenagers _____
because _____
- b) British students are doing better today in national school-leaving examinations _____
because _____
- c) According to Professor Shayer, examinations have become more difficult now _____
because _____

3. What do the following words refer to in the passage? (3marks)

- a) those (line 4) _____
- b) which (line 5) _____
- c) second (line 13) _____
- d) them (line 22) _____
- e) which (line 31) _____
- f) them (line 39) _____

4. Match the words on the left with the correct meaning on the right. (2 marks)

a) contradict (line 5)		move or change
b) investigate (line 12)		Decrease
c) fall (line 17)		go against
d) shift (line 40)		examine closely

5. What do the following numbers refer to in the passage? (2 marks)

- a) 800 (line 8) _____
- b) one in ten (line14) _____
- c) twenty (line 16) _____
- d) fifteen (line18) _____

6. Continue the following sentences with information from the passage: (4 marks)

- a) Professor Shayer worked with _____

- b) In the first Science task students had to find out _____

- c) In the second Science task students had _____

- d) National Curriculum tests and targets have influenced negatively _____

7. Why does Professor Shayer seem unhappy about the introduction of national targets in British education? (2 marks)

8. List 6 examples of leisure or practical activities mentioned in the passage. (3 marks)

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| a) _____ | d) _____ |
| b) _____ | e) _____ |
| c) _____ | f) _____ |

9. In what way did the Mathematics test carried out by Professor Shayer produce negative results? (2marks)

10. Mention TWO actions taken by the government following criticism of national exams (2marks)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

11. Make a list of SIX factors which, according to the passage, may be leading to negative results in education. (6 marks)

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

marks

F. Composition. (30 marks)

Write between 180 and 200 words on ONE of the following topics.

- 1. Ryan: Going to school is fun. I'll miss it when I finish form five.
Jane: Are you joking?
Continue this dialogue.
- 2. Write about two or three things which, in your opinion, should be done to have a better environment in Malta.
- 3. Write a short story ending with the words "I didn't see him again."
- 4. A new school magazine has just been published. Write a letter to the editor telling him why, after reading the first issue, you think the magazine will be a great success.
- 5. When I finish my studies, I would like to become..... (Write about the job you would like to do, giving reasons for your choice.)

Title: _____ marks
