

**МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ОБРАЗОВАНИЕТО И НАУКАТА**

**REGIONAL OLYMPIAD IN ENGLISH**

**7<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

**Group Five**

**Part One**

**Dictation**

Language comes so naturally to us / that it is easy to forget / what a strange and miraculous gift it is. // All over the world / members of our species / fashion their breath into hisses / and hums and squeaks and pops / and listen to others do the same. // We do this, of course, / not only because we like the sounds / but because details of the sounds / contain information about the intentions / of the person making them. // We humans / are fitted with a means / of sharing our ideas, / in all their immense diversity. //

Language has fascinated people / for thousands of years, / and linguists have studied / its every detail. // Yet to me / the first and deepest challenge / in understanding language / is accounting for its boundless / expressive power. // What is the trick / behind our ability / to fill one another's heads / with so many ideas? //

People do not just blurt out / isolated words / but rather combine them / into phrases and sentences, / in which the meaning of the combination / can be inferred / from the meanings of the words / and the way they are arranged. //

Perhaps the most vivid description / of the staggering power / of a combinatorial system / is in Jorge Luis Borges's story / "The Library of Babel". // The library is a vast network of galleries / with books composed of all the combinations / of twenty-two letters, / the comma, / the period, / and the space. // Somewhere in the library / is a book that contains / a true history of the future, / a book of prophecy / that justifies the acts of every man / in the universe, / and a book containing the clarification / of the mysteries of humanity. // People roamed the galleries / in a futile search for those texts / from among the untold number / of books with false versions, / the millions of copies / of a given book / differing by a character, / and, of course, / the miles and miles of gibberish. // The narrator notes / that even when the human species goes extinct, / the library, / that space of combinatorial possibilities, / will endure: / "illuminated, solitary, //

infinite, perfectly motionless, / equipped with precious volumes, / useless, incorruptible, secret.”

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*Преди първия прочит на диктовката на дъската в съответната зала се изписват:*

**Jorge Luis Borges** ['dʒɔ:dʒ 'lu:is 'bɔ:ges] и **Babel** ['beibl].

*Приема се британски и американски правопис.*

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## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

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### REGIONAL OLYMPIAD IN ENGLISH

7<sup>th</sup> March 2009

#### Group Five

#### Part Two

#### Reading Comprehension

**Directions:** *Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question – A, B, C or D, marking it on your **Answer Sheet**.*

Joe Valery got along by watching and listening and, as he said himself, not sticking his head out. He had built his hatreds little by little – beginning with a mother who neglected him, a father who alternately whipped and slobbered over him. It had been easy to transfer his developing hatred to the teacher who disciplined him and the policeman who chased him and the priest who lectured him. Even before the first magistrate looked down on him, Joe had developed a fine stable of hates towards the whole world he knew.

Hate cannot live alone. It must have love as a trigger or a stimulant. Joe early developed a gentle protective love for Joe. He comforted and flattered and cherished Joe. He set up walls to save Joe from a hostile world. And gradually Joe became proof against wrong. If Joe got into trouble, it was because the world was in angry conspiracy against him. And if Joe attacked the world, it was revenge and they deserved it - the sons of bitches. Joe lavished every care on his love, and he perfected a lonely set of rules which might have gone like this:

1. Don't believe nobody. The bastards are after you.
2. Keep your mouth shut. Don't stick your neck out.
3. Keep your ears open. When they make a slip, grab onto it and wait.
4. Go at everything roundabout.
5. Don't never trust no dame about nothing.
6. Put your faith in money. Everybody wants it. Everybody will sell out for it.

There were other rules, but they were refinements. His system worked, and since he knew no other, Joe had no basis of comparison with other systems. He knew it was necessary to be smart and he considered himself smart. If he pulled something off, that was smart; if he failed, that was bad luck. Joe was not very successful but he got by with the minimum of effort. Kate kept him because she knew that he would do anything in the world if he were paid to do it or was afraid not to do it. She had no illusions about him. In her business Joe was necessary.

When he first got the job with Kate, Joe looked for the weaknesses on which he lived – vanity, anxiety or conscience, greed, hysteria. He knew they were there because she was a woman. It was a matter of considerable shock to him to learn that, if they were there, he couldn't find them. This dame thought and acted like a man – only tougher, quicker, and more clever. Joe made a few mistakes and Kate rubbed his nose in them. He developed an admiration for her based on fear.

When he found that he couldn't get away with some things, he began to believe he couldn't get away with anything. Kate made a slave of him, clothed him, gave him orders, punished him.

Once Joe recognized her as more clever than himself, it was a short step to the belief that she was more clever than anybody. He thought that she possessed the two great gifts: she was smart and she got the breaks – and you couldn't want no better than that. He was glad to do her dirty work – and afraid not to. Kate don't make no mistakes, Joe said. And if you

played along with her, Kate took care of you. This went beyond thought and became a habit pattern.

Kate did not sleep well when the arthritic pains were bad. She could almost feel her joints thicken and knot. Sometimes she tried to think other things, even unpleasant ones, to drive the pain and the distorted fingers from her mind.

As her hands and her mind grew more crooked, she began to rely more and more on Joe Valery as her assistant-in-chief, as her go-between, and as her executioner. She had a basic fear of the girls in the house – not that they were more untrustworthy than Joe but that the hysteria which lay very close to the surface might at any time crack through their caution and shatter their sense of self-preservation and tear down not only themselves but their surroundings. Kate had always been able to handle this ever-present danger, but now the slow-depositing calcium and the slow growth of apprehension caused her to need help and to look for it from Joe.

She felt that she could trust him, because she had in her files a notation relating to one Joseph Venuta who had walked away from a San Quentin road gang in the fourth year of a five-year sentence for robbery. Kate had never mentioned this to Joe Valery, but she thought it might have a soothing influence on him if he got out of hand.

Joe brought the breakfast tray every morning – Green China tea and cream and toast. When he had set it on her bedside table he made his report and got his orders for the day. He knew that she was depending on him more and more. And Joe was very slowly and quietly exploring the possibility of taking over entirely. If she got sick enough there might be a chance. But very profoundly Joe was afraid of her.

(adapted from “*East of Eden*” by **John Steinbeck**)

**1. Joe Valery hated the whole world he knew because**

- A. he had been chased by the police all his life.
- B. his teachers had disciplined him harshly.
- C. he’d had a traumatic childhood.
- D. he had to keep a low profile.

**2. In the second paragraph the author describes**

- A. Joe’s efforts to protect himself from a hostile world.
- B. two namesakes who had declared their love for each other.
- C. a conspiracy being organized against Joe.
- D. the loving cares Joe lavished on his sweetheart.

**3. Joe’s rules, as presented by the author, reveal that**

- A. he has a lot of deadly enemies.
- B. he is an uneducated man.
- C. he never trusts anyone about anything.
- D. he is rolling in money.

**4. Joe helped Kate with her business because**

- A. he was smart enough to get away with anything.
- B. he succeeded with the minimum of effort.
- C. he admired and feared her.
- D. his system of rules worked smoothly.

**5. Which of the following statements is true?**

- A. Joe got the job with Kate because he was aware of her weaknesses.
- B. Joe was shocked that Kate was as clever as a man.
- C. Like any woman, Kate was vain and voluptuous.
- D. Joe admired Kate even though she punished him for his mistakes.

**6. The phrase “dirty work” suggests that**

- A. Joe is a cleaner.
- B. Joe was employed to do the manual work.
- C. Joe’s job is to keep the house in repair.
- D. Joe is to keep Kate’s illegal affairs in order.

**7. To take her mind off the pain**

- A. Kate kept thinking about her future prospects.
- B. Kate avoided thinking unpleasant things.
- C. Kate relied on Joe as she did on her assistant-in-chief.
- D. Kate put up with the thickening of her joints and fingers.

**8. Kate was convinced that**

- A. a mass hysteria had gripped the girls.
- B. she was incapable of coping with the situation on her own any longer.
- C. the girls were as untrustworthy as Joe.
- D. her sense of self-preservation was about to shatter.

**9. Kate was going to tell Joe about his criminal record when**

- A. she wanted to soothe him.
- B. she opened her files.
- C. she suspected she couldn’t trust him.
- D. he handed in his notice.

**10. Joe was aware that**

- A. he was already in charge of Kate’s business.
- B. Kate enjoyed his company at breakfast.
- C. Kate was as dependent on him as before.
- D. One day he might take over her business entirely.

**Part Three: Use of English**

**Section One: Cloze Test**

**Directions:** Read the text below and for each numbered gap choose the letter (A, B, C or D) of the word or phrase that best suits each space, marking it on your *Answer Sheet*.

Animals in the wild lead lives of compulsion and necessity within an unforgiving social hierarchy in a(n) **1. A. scenery B. environment C. medium D. condition** where the supply of fear is high and the supply of food low and where territory must constantly be

2. A. reassured B. justified C. defended D. resisted and parasites forever endured. What is the 3. A. point B. message C. meaning D. matter of freedom in such a context?

Animals in the wild are, in practice, free neither in space nor in time, nor in their personal

4. A. associations. B. strings C. relatives D. relations. In theory, an animal could

5. A. pick out B. pick up C. pick off D. pick on and go, flaunting all the social conventions and boundaries proper to its space. But such an event is less likely to happen than for a member of our own 6. A. breed B. descent C. species D. brand.

If a man, boldest and most intelligent of creatures, won't 7. A. step B. wander C. stride D. explore from place to place, why would an animal, which is by temperament far more

conservative? The smallest changes can 8. A. disrupt B. overturn C. upset D. disorder

them. They want things to be just so, day after day, month after month. Surprises are highly

9. A. disagreeable B. dissatisfied C. disobedient D. unfriendly to them. You see this in

their 10. A. spacious B. spatial C. space D. expansive relations. An animal

11. A. inhabits B. accommodates C. resides D. settles down its space in the same way

chess pieces move 12. A. through B. round C. about D. during a chessboard –

significantly. There is no more “freedom” involved in the whereabouts of a bear or a deer than

the 13. A. district B. location C. area D. region of a knight on a chessboard. Both 14. A.

say B. talk C. utter D. speak of pattern and purpose.

In the wild, animals 15. A. persist B. stick to C. stand by D. comply with the same paths for the same pressing reason, season after season. In the zoo, if an animal is not in its normal

place in its regular 16. A. status B. pose C. exposure D. posture at the usual hour, it

means something. It may be the 17. A. reflex B. image C. likeness D. reflection of

nothing more than a minor change in the environment. A coiled hose left out by a keeper has

made a 18. A. risky B. menacing C. dangerous D. cautious impression. A ladder is

making a 19. A. shadow B. shade C. shape D. spot. But it could mean something more.

At its worse, it could be a(n) 20. A. opportunity B. possibility C. target D. reason to summon the vet.

(adapted from “*Life of Pi*” by Yann Martel)

**Directions:** Some of the sentences below contain an error in grammar or usage. Others are correct. The error, if any, is contained in one of the underlined parts of the sentence. For each sentence, circle the letter (**A**, **B** or **C**) of the underlined part that contains the mistake. If there is no error in the sentence, mark answer **D**. Mark the corresponding letters on your **Answer Sheet**.

1. She had taken to leave a piece of pie out on the kitchen table for him, at night, when he left the house after dinner, to wander around the town. *No error*.
2. Boylan sat sunk in a deep chair, his eyes almost closed, concentrated on the music, occasionally taking a sip of brandy. *No error*.
3. The trained would better make sure he always remains socially superior to his young charges or he will pay dearly. *No error*.
4. He had to submit the budget for the next year to the town council and he frowned as he went over the thick booklet which was containing the Comptroller's estimates.
5. When he got Ottman on the phone, Ottman sounded mournfully, but he always sounded as though he needed help.
6. The phone rang. He waited John to pick it up in the other room, but it wasn't ringing in the other room.
7. Once inside the building, the police had lost no time in arresting the thieves. *No error*.
8. They had to give an account how such an amount of money had vanished a week ago.
9. Uncle Harold was not one to underestimate the moral beauties of sending a boy out to earn money on his own.

10. Rudolph would like to sit down and take his boots off and get the water out, but he knew his socks were darned, and he didn't cherish the idea of displaying the thick patches on them. No error
- A B C D

### Section Three: Error Correction

**Directions:** *In the text below, some of the lines contain an error in grammar or usage. Other lines are correct. For each line, find and underline the part that contains the error, if any, and, then in the dotted space, write the correct form of the underlined part. If there is no error, mark X in the space. No line contains more than one error. Use your **Answer Sheet**.*

- |                                                                             |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 0 Mr. Okamoto and his junior colleague <u>in</u> the time, Mr. Chiba,       | ...at... |
| 00 were near L.A. when they were advised that                               | ...X...  |
|                                                                             |          |
| 1. a lone survivor of a Japanese ship, which vanished without a trace       | .....    |
| 2. in Pacific International waters several months before, was reported      | .....    |
| 3. to have landed nearly the small town of Tomatlan on the coast of Mexico. | .....    |
| 4. They were instructed from their department to contact the survivor       | .....    |
| 5. and see if a light could be shed on the fate of the ship.                | .....    |
| 6. They bought a map of Mexico and looked to see where was Tomatlan.        | .....    |
| 7. They decided to go to Santa Rosalia with a rented car and catch          | .....    |
| 8. the ferry through the Gulf of California. The ferry was late and         | .....    |
| 9. slow. And from the port of call it was other thirteen hundred            | .....    |
| 10. kilometers to Tomatlan. When they finally reached in Tomatlan,          | .....    |
| they had been travelling non-stop for forty-one hour.                       |          |

(adapted from “*Life of Pi*” by **Yann Martel**)

### Section Four: Paraphrase

**Directions:** *Transform the sentences in bold type following the instructions and choosing one of the suggested structures - A, B, C or D, marking the letter on your **Answer Sheet**.*

- 1. A witness reported that the meeting had taken place in the local movie theatre.**  
*Choose the best paraphrase from the following:*
- A. According to a witness, the meeting was taking place in the local movies theatre.
  - B. The meeting was reported to have taken place in the local movie theatre.
  - C. It was reported that there was a meeting in the local movie theatre.
  - D. A witness reported the meeting taking place in the local theatre.



- 2. The home team cracked under the pressure. Some footballers began to play rough.**

*Combine the two sentences, choosing among:*

- A. The home team cracked under the pressure, some footballers had begun to play rough.
- B. The home team cracking under the pressure, some footballers began to play rough.
- C. The home team has cracked under the pressure and some footballers began to play rough.
- D. With the home team cracked under the pressure, some footballers begin to play rough.

- 3. Not for another year did Mary visit her grandparents, who lived in a small hut in the mountains.**

*Choose the best paraphrase from the following:*

- A. Not for another year was Mary to visit her grandparents, who lived in a small hut in the mountains.
- B. Visiting with her grandparents, lived in a small hut in the mountains, took Mary another year.
- C. It was another year before Mary visited her grandparents, who lived in a small hut in the mountains.
- D. Not for another year Mary visited her grandparents, who lived in a small hut in the mountains.

- 4. If they should change their plans and move to the UK, they'll have problems getting a work permit.**

*Transform the sentence, choosing among:*

- A. If it happens that they change their plans and move to the UK, they'll have problems getting a work permit.
- B. Were they to change their plans and move to live in the UK, they'll have problems getting a work permit.
- C. Had they changed their plans to move to the UK, they'll have problems getting a work permit.
- D. Should they have changed their plans and move to the UK, they'll have problems getting a work permit.

- 5. As well as being a singer, Carrie wrote her own lyrics, and even was her own manager.**

*Choose the best paraphrase for the beginning of the sentence from the following:*

- A. Provided that she was a singer, \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. On condition that she was a singer, \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. So long as being a singer, \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. In addition to being a singer, \_\_\_\_\_.

6. **The instructor would wander around the lab, pleased with the progress his students were making.**

*Transform the sentence, choosing among:*

- A. The instructor was accustomed to wander around the lab and be pleased with the progress his students were making.
- B. Pleased with the progress his students were making, the instructor kept wandering around the lab.
- C. The instructor used to wander around the lab, pleased with the progress his students were making
- D. The instructor was used to wander around the lab, pleased with the progress his students were making.

7. **The number of people who go travelling with a large bag on their backs has increased. This shows that they are more confident these days.**

*Combine the sentences, beginning with "You can see ..." and choose among:*

- A. ... more and more people travelling with a large bag on their backs these days and become confident that their number will increase.
- B. ... by the increase in the number of people travelling with a large bag on their backs that people are more confident these days.
- C. ... that the people who go travelling with a large bag on their backs are more confident than other tourists.
- D. ... that most people have become confident enough to travel with a large bag on their backs.

8. **Tourism has expanded hugely without damaging the environment.**

*Transform the sentence, beginning with "There has been ..." and choosing among:*

- A. ... a huge expansion in tourism, which has not damaged the environment
- B. ... no huge expanding of the tourism to cause any damage to the environment.
- C. ... no damage to the environment to be caused by the huge expansion in tourism.
- D. ... little expansion in tourism which has caused any damage to the environment.

9. **Students can get financial help at our university. Sally agreed to write up a leaflet on that.**

*Combine the sentences, beginning with "We thanked Sally ..." and choosing among:*

- A. ... that agreed to write up a leaflet on the financial help that students can get at our university.
- B. ... for agreeing to have a leaflet written on how the students at our university can get financial help.
- C. ... for agreeing to write up a leaflet on the financial help that students can get at our university.
- D. ... that she agreed to write about the students at our university who got financial help.

**10. Please take into consideration the few comments that parents have made about the new curriculum.**

*Transform the sentence, beginning with “**Here are...**” and choosing among:*

- A. ... a few of the parents’ comments on the new curriculum that have to be taken into consideration.
- B. ... few of the comments made by parents on the new curriculum, which need to be taken into consideration.
- C. ... the few comments made by parents about the new curriculum that you are likely to take into consideration.
- D. ... the few comments made by parents on the new curriculum that are to be taken into consideration.

**Part Four: Writing**

**Directions:** *Write an essay (250-300 words) on ONE of the following topics. Comment drawing upon your own experience, observations or reading.*

**1.** Don't part with your illusions. When they are gone you may still exist, but you have ceased to live.

Mark Twain

**2.** The aim of life is self-development. To realize one's nature perfectly - that is what each of us is here for.

Oscar Wilde

**МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ОБРАЗОВАНИЕТО И НАУКАТА**

**REGIONAL OLYMPIAD IN ENGLISH - Group Five, 2009**

**ANSWER SHEET**

**Part Two: Reading Comprehension**

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. A B C D | 6. A B C D  |
| 2. A B C D | 7. A B C D  |
| 3. A B C D | 8. A B C D  |
| 4. A B C D | 9. A B C D  |
| 5. A B C D | 10. A B C D |

**Part Three: Use of English**

**Section One: *Cloze Test***

- |            |             |             |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. A B C D | 8. A B C D  | 15. A B C D |
| 2. A B C D | 9. A B C D  | 16. A B C D |
| 3. A B C D | 10. A B C D | 17. A B C D |
| 4. A B C D | 11. A B C D | 18. A B C D |
| 5. A B C D | 12. A B C D | 19. A B C D |
| 6. A B C D | 13. A B C D | 20. A B C D |
| 7. A B C D | 14. A B C D |             |

**Section Two: *Error Identification***

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. A B C D | 6. A B C D  |
| 2. A B C D | 7. A B C D  |
| 3. A B C D | 8. A B C D  |
| 4. A B C D | 9. A B C D  |
| 5. A B C D | 10. A B C D |

### Section Three: *Error Correction*

- 0 Mr. Okamoto and his junior colleague in the time, Mr. Chiba, ...*at*...  
00 were near L.A. when they were advised that ...*X*...
1. a lone survivor of a Japanese ship, which vanished without a trace .....
  2. in Pacific International waters several months before, was reported .....
  3. to have landed nearly the small town of Tomatlan on the coast of Mexico. ....
  4. They were instructed from their department to contact the survivor .....
  5. and see if a light could be shed on the fate of the ship. ....
  6. They bought a map of Mexico and looked to see where was Tomatlan. ....
  7. They decided to go to Santa Rosalia with a rented car and catch .....
  8. the ferry through the Gulf of California. The ferry was late and .....
  9. slow. And from the port of call it was other thirteen hundred .....
  10. kilometers to Tomatlan. When they finally reached in Tomatlan, .....
- they had been travelling non-stop for forty-one hour.

### Section Three: *Paraphrase*

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. A B C D | 6. A B C D  |
| 2. A B C D | 7. A B C D  |
| 3. A B C D | 8. A B C D  |
| 4. A B C D | 9. A B C D  |
| 5. A B C D | 10. A B C D |