

Ministry of Education and Science

Regional Olympiad in English

7 March 2009

Group Three

Part One

Dictation

I found myself out into the street. // Two more lorries had drawn up. // I began to walk along the road / parallel to the river. // When I was level with the last lorry, / one of the ones that had been there / when I arrived, / something inside it caught my eye. // I paused and came closer. // Then I was filled by a strange emotion. // What the lorry contained / was the contents of Anna's room. // Inside this enormous box, / only just held in / by the high tail-board, / were piled in a great disorder / all the treasures that I remembered. // I took a quick look round. // No one was watching. // And in a moment / I had clambered over the tail-board / and slipped flowers and all, / amid a rain of falling petals, / into a yielding mass of toys and textiles. // I looked about me. // All my old friends were there: / the rocking horse, the stuffed snake, the masks. // I looked at them / and I was filled with sorrow. // As the harsh sunlight blazed in upon them / they seemed but a soiled and broken chaos. // The mysterious order / which had reigned over their confusion / in the theatre room, / and which had flowed so gently and naturally / from the presence of Anna in their midst, / had been withdrawn. // They lay now awkwardly / one against another, / lengthwise and cornerwise, / and their magic had departed. //

I was looking at them / when there was a sudden jolt / and the lorry started. // I was pitched forward, / bruising my cheek upon something hard, / while a cascade of miscellaneous objects / nearly buried me in the belly of the vehicle.

*Преди първия прочит на диктовката на дъската в съответната зала се изписват собствените имена от текста: **Anna**.*

Приема се британски и американски правопис.

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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 or C, marking your answer on your **answer sheet**.*

Secrets of talking your way to the top

You could be one of those lucky people who seem to be naturally good at public speaking. It is unlikely that you were born with this ability. Great speakers are instinctive and inspired. They also prepare well, learn performance technique and draw heavily on experience to develop their skills.

What passes for a natural ease and **rapport** with an audience is often down to technique – the speaker using learned skills so well that we can't see the "seams".

You can learn to speak effectively in public by going on courses and reading manuals. But there is no substitute for getting out and doing it. If you dislike speaking in public, then take every opportunity to do so – even if you only start off by asking questions at a meeting.

When you speak in public, almost all the aspects that make up your total image come under careful examination. Your posture, body language, facial expression, use of voice and appearance all matter. The focus of attention is such that it can feel as though your presentation skills are observed through a microscope.

The situation is often stressful, because the speaker is being observed and judged by others. Small peculiarities of behaviour, like speaking too quietly or wriggling, which are not particularly noticeable in everyday communication, become intrusive and exaggerated in front of an audience.

It is hardly surprising, then, that some of us feel it is easier to pretend to be somebody else when we are speaking in public. We assume a "public speaking image" that has nothing to do with our real selves.

We sense that speaking in public is connected to acting and so we portray stereotypical roles like "the infallible authority", "the super-smooth sales person", "the successful superwoman". Unfortunately, if we don't really feel like these types, then we will look as though we are striving for effect.

For instance, you could decide that you want to play the life and soul of a party when you speak, although, in actuality, you are a rather quiet person who rarely uses humour. You read that humour works well in public speaking so you decide to tell a few jokes. You look ill at ease when you do so and your timing leaves a lot to be desired. Your talk misfires badly. You will not have been true to yourself and your audience will have been reluctant to trust you. You need to find your own style.

The most skilled actors use their own feelings and experiences to help them inhabit character. As a public speaker, you have more scope than most actors – you have your own script, direction and interpretation to follow. You can even rearrange the set and choose the costume you like.

The most successful speakers are obviously projecting an image but one that rings true. They project the best aspects of themselves – “edited highlight”. The serious quiet person will project calmness and consideration for others. The outrageous extrovert will use humour and shock tactics. Speaking in public is a performance and one in which you present a heightened version of your personality.

To speak well, there needs to be a balance of impact between speaker, message and audience. If one of these elements overpowers the other two, say if speaker is over-concerned to project personality, or the message is **rammed home** without due regard for the type of audience, or the speaker allows him or herself to be thrown by a noisy crowd – then the performance will suffer.

Your image helps maintain this balance. If you get up to speak dressed like a Christmas tree then your appearance will be overpowering. Delivering your message in an over-stressed and, therefore, over-significant tone of voice, will encourage your audience to switch off. When you start to speak, if your body language and facial expression remind the audience of a frightened rabbit, then you won’t gain its confidence.

Both in planning and in presentation, the speaker’s main consideration should be the audience. When we are in an audience we make two important decisions about speakers (Do we trust them? Have they authority? Do we respect them?) and can we identify with them (Do they understand our problems? Do we have any experiences in common? Do we have any similar values?).

The biggest block to effective public speaking is attitude. If you think you can’t and you never will be able to, you won’t. Speaking in public is something anyone can learn to do. Be positive and accept setbacks as part of the learning process. A much quoted statistic shows that the majority of people fear public more than death.

Written by *Philippa Davies*

1. The author says that the best public speakers

- A. go on learning from the talks they give.
- B. feel naturally at ease with people.
- C. don’t need to plan their talks in advance.

2. Her main advice to beginners is to

- A. attend a course on public speaking.
- B. get as much practice as possible.
- C. study other speakers’ performances.

3. Some speakers pretend to be someone else because

- A. they feel less self-conscious.
- B. they don’t want to be recognized.
- C. they have been advised to.

4. The author doesn’t recommend assuming a public speaking image because

- A. it will make the audience laugh.
- B. it is likely to look false.
- C. the audience will complain.

5. The best speakers

- A. tell stories and jokes.
- B. learn the scripts of their talks by heart.
- C. present their most positive characteristics.

6. The author warns against

- A. being too emphatic in what you say.
- B. making the audience feel nervous.
- C. wearing a colourful stage costume.

7. One thing the audience will judge the speaker by is whether he or she

- A. gets the balance of the talk right.
- B. is someone they can relate to.
- C. is someone with power.

8. Overall, the author's message is that public speaking is

- A. something few people can do.
- B. a talent some people have naturally.
- C. a skill that can be developed.

9. In paragraph 2, "rapport" is closest in meaning to:

- A. a friendly relationship with the audience.
- B. flirtation with the audience.
- C. manipulation of the audience.

10. The idiom "to ram something home" in paragraph 11 means:

- A. to cram as much knowledge as possible into people's heads.
- B. to emphasize a message so as to make sure people understand it.
- C. to use physical force to make people listen to you.

Part Three

Use of English

Section One: Cloze Test

Directions: Read the sentences below and for each gap circle the letter (A, B or C) of the word or phrase that best suits each space. Mark your answers on your **answer sheet**.

1. She resembled her mother in
A. appearance B. likeness C. apparition
2. A problem has about the best way to treat the new virus.
A. risen B. arisen C. aroused
3. Although his knowledge of the language was minimal, the tourist to make himself understood.
A. strained B. plodded C. strove
4. After the accident, he was taken down to the police station and with reckless driving.
A. charged B. accused C. penalized
5. Please accept this gift as a small of my esteem.
A. symbol B. sign C. hint

- ## Section Two: Error Identification

1. Sugar provides man with quick energy, but it has neither vitamins, minerals and other body-building materials.

2. The composer Verdi has written the opera “Aida” to celebrate the opening of the Suez Canal.
- A B C D
3. West of the Missouri River are vast, open grazing lands, an area that receives little rain than the farming region.
- A B C D
4. One of the most distinctive features of humans is surely the ability to do and use sophisticated tools.
- A B C D
5. It has been known for the last two centuries that lightning was a form of electricity.
- A B C D
6. People can lose weight if they weigh themselves regularly and keep track of how many calories do they consume.
- A B C D

10. It's hardly snowed this year, ?
A. isn't it B. hasn't it C. has it

Section Four: Sentence Transformation

Directions: Complete the second sentence so that it is as close as possible in meaning to the first one. Write your answers on your **answer sheet**.

1. She didn't study hard for the test and she failed.
If
2. It was the first time the cave had been entered by human beings.
Never before
3. I must have my suit dry-cleaned before the conference on Monday.
My suit needs
4. Amy was bitten by a dog when she was very young and she still remembers it.
Amy still remembers
5. Jack is still unemployed in spite of applying for about a dozen different jobs.
Though he

Part Four Writing

Directions: Write a composition of about 180 – 200 words on **ONE** of the following topics.

1. Share your opinion about the so-called "reality shows", e.g. "Music Idol", "Big Brother", "Dancing Stars", "Survivor", "Fear Factor" and so on.
2. Can charity be a way out of poverty and suffering. Give your opinion supporting it with arguments and examples.

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ОБРАЗОВАНИЕТО И НАУКАТА
REGIONAL OLYMPIAD IN ENGLISH - Group Three, 2009

ANSWER SHEET

Part Two

READING COMPREHENSION

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

6. A B C
7. A B C
8. A B C
9. A B C
10. A B C

Part Three
Use of English

Section One: Cloze Test

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

9. A B C
10. A B C
11. A B C
12. A B C
13. A B C
14. A B C
15. A B C
16. A B C

17. A B C
18. A B C
19. A B C
20. A B C
21. A B C
22. A B C
23. A B C
24. A B C
25. A B C

Section Two: Error Identification

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

6. A B C D
7. A B C D
8. A B C D
9. A B C D
10. A B C D

Section Three: *Sentence Completion*

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

6. A B C
7. A B C
8. A B C
9. A B C
10. A B C

Section Four: *Sentence Transformation*

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.