

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА ОБРАЗОВАНИЕТО И НАУКАТА

REGIONAL OLYMPIAD IN ENGLISH

2009

Group Two

Part One

Dictation

I suppose / that the terrible things / that occur / tend to live / in one's memory / more vividly / than the pleasant happenings, / and so I look back / on the television shows / I have done with animals / rather in the way / that one remembers / a nasty series of accidents. // There is, however, / one incident / on which I look back / with extreme pleasure, / and that was the occasion / when the B.B.C. wanted / our young gorilla N'Pongo / to take part in a programme. // They even went / to the unprecedented lengths / of chartering a small plane / to fly us over to Bristol. // They also sent a cameraman / to cover the trip / – a timid individual / who confessed to me / that he did not like flying, / as it made him sick. // We took off / in brilliant sunshine, / and almost immediately / dived into black cloud / filled to capacity / with air pockets. // N'Pongo, / sitting back in his seat, / like a seasoned traveller, / thoroughly enjoyed everything. // He accepted / six lumps of sugar / to counteract the popping / in his ears, / peered with interest / and excitement / out of the window, / and when the air pockets began, / he fetched out / the sick bag / and put it on his head. // The poor photographer / had become / progressively greener, / while attempting to film / N'Pongo's amusing behaviour / but when he put the bag / on his head / this reminder acted / in a devastating way, / and he dived / for his own bag / and treated it / in the way / for which it was designed.

*Преди първия прочит на текста за диктовка на дъската в съответната зала се изписват: **N'Pongo, Bristol.***

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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**.*

Around 20:00 on the same evening Bromhead was giving Harry Miller his final instructions. They were together in the motel cabin. The dark shades were drawn, and both men were drinking a bottle of spirits with a sticker "Lime".

Harry had shown Bromhead the piano tuner's equipment he had bought which consisted of several tuning forks, a number of piano tuning keys, a selection of piano wire, and so on.

"This is jumping the gun a little, Harry," Bromhead said.

"Mrs. Johnson's regular piano tuner isn't due until next month, but Sheila will fix that," said Bromhead. "She can talk the old lady into anything. You have to be careful of the hall porter, he has a good memory. It wouldn't surprise me if he knows when the piano tuner is due to come, so watch that. You have the card I gave you!"

"Don't make so much of this," Harry said a little irritably. "I can handle any goddamn hall porter."

"I'm just warning you. I don't want a last minute slip-up."

"When I say I'll do something, you can consider it done."

Bromhead nodded.

"Okay, Harry. All the same. I'd like to go over the routine again. You arrive at ten o'clock. You go to the desk, tell the hall porter who you are, show your card and cope with him if he turns tricky. He will call the penthouse. Sheila will answer. She'll say it's okay for you to come up. You go up. The old lady will be around, either on the terrace or in the living-room where the piano is. Sheila will let you in. You knock her out." Bromhead paused and regarded Harry. "You can do this without hurting her? She won't know it is going to happen, but I don't want her hurt."

"That's no problem," Harry said. "A small bruise that'll look good ... she won't know what hit her."

"You strap her with tape and leave her in the vestibule. You then take care of the old lady. You take her jewellery. You wait in the apartment for at least twenty minutes – you're supposed to be fixing the piano – then you leave. You come back here, get rid of your disguise, put the jewels in the box I've given you, and mail it to Solly Marks. You've got his address?"

Harry nodded.

"Unless of course, Harry, you change your mind and want to keep the stuff. I'd like you to keep it."

"I don't want it."

Bromhead shrugged.

"Okay, so you don't want it. You have your return ticket."

“Don’t fuss, Jack. I have the scene. It will be done. You didn’t fuss when you pulled me out of that gang-up.” Harry stared at him. “This makes us quits.”

“Okay, Harry, but it worries me you get nothing out of this.”

“I’m fine as I am.”

There was a long pause, then Bromhead said, “There is a little problem. I’d like to fill you in about Sheila. Like me, she’s money hungry. When I told her the possibilities she didn’t hesitate, but now, I get the feeling she is hesitating. The trouble is, Harry, the old girl has a way with her. If she was an old bitch like most of the rich old women in this town, it wouldn’t be so tough. You following me?”

Harry sipped his drink.

“Keep talking.” The cold flat note in his voice told Bromhead that Harry had no scruples. That was Okay with Bromhead. This was a job for a man with no scruples.

“Sheila doesn’t know what is going to happen, but she’s no fool. I have an idea she suspects what is going to happen. You must watch this. She could lose her nerve.”

“What does that mean?” Harry asked.

“Possibly a complication.”

(Adapted from *Just a Matter of Time* by **James Hadley Chase**)

1. The men were in the cabin with the shades drawn because

- A. they were reading secret instructions.
- B. they were exchanging sophisticated tools.
- C. they were designing a wicked scheme.

2. The men were drinking

- A. a soft drink.
- B. juice.
- C. a strong alcoholic drink.

3. In context, ‘This is jumping the gun’ means

- A. This is making them act unsuitably soon.
- B. This is giving them an opportunity to take action.
- C. This is putting them in a difficult situation, involving a gun.

4. In context, Sheila “will fix that” means

- A. she will persuade the old lady to have another tuner.
- B. she will convince the tuner to come earlier.
- C. she will deal with the tuner herself.

5. Bromhead advises Harry to watch out because the porter would

- A. recognize who Harry actually is.
- B. remember the tuner’s scheduled arrival.
- C. memorise Harry’s eventual arrival.

6. Harry is irritated because Bromhead

- A. complicates the plot unnecessarily.
- B. is only interested in protecting himself.
- C. causes a fuss about the situation.

7. According to the plan, Harry should
- A. make Sheila unconscious.
 - B. care more about the old lady.
 - C. include the porter in his plan.
8. The reason Harry is involved is that
- A. he is to receive a big share of the profit.
 - B. he wants to return a favour.
 - C. he has thought of the plan himself.
9. The “small problem” that Bromhead mentions is
- A. Sheila’s greed.
 - B. Sheila’s being like him.
 - C. Sheila’s showing signs of uncertainty.
10. Harry is mainly concerned that Sheila
- A. is in a good relationship with the old lady.
 - B. is figuring out what will happen.
 - C. might not be able to control herself.

Part Three

Use of English

Section One: Cloze Test

Directions: Read the sentences below and for each numbered 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 fainted because she couldn’t stand the of blood.
A. vision B. view C. sight
2. If you can’t afford a new sofa, why don’t you try to find one at the street market, which is on Saturdays?
A. held B. run C. carried out
3. The hurricane hit the city and the surrounding
A. area B. territory C. terrain
4. The bullet missed his head only a few inches.
A. within B. by C. in
5. Her explanation somehow conviction in the face of the facts.
A. missed B. lacked C. failed
6. Special measures have been taken to deal with the industrial polluting the district.
A. garbage B. litter C. waste

7. The gossip about her proved to be entirely
A. artificial B. false C. fake
8. When he was a child my son used to go skating at the ice every Sunday.
A. court B. ring C. rink
9. John said that it was a family affair, and Jane
A. agreed B. accepted C. admitted
10. You must not take this attitude as of English people.
A. usual B. typical C. ordinary
11. She was always finding with his manners.
A. fault B. blame C. error
12. Jane stopped to a plant growing by the stream.
A. test B. research C. examine
13. She the best of the confusion that followed and slipped away unnoticed.
A. took B. did C. made
14. To listen attentively to someone is the greatest compliment you can
A. pay B. say C. express
15. The new central heating has made an enormous difference the house.
A. of B. on C. to
16. I took pity him and allowed him to stay.
A. on B. for C. in
17. In her good present she seems likely to win the race.
A. shape B. fitness C. figure
18. Environmentalists tougher control on pesticide levels in food.
A. are calling for B. are calling off C. are calling on
19. Come in and yourself at home while I finish doing the dishes.
A. feel B. welcome C. make
20. There was dirty brown all over the roads and pavements.
A. slush B. mist C. hail
21. The medicine started to effect after a few minutes.
A. make B. take C. bring
22. My parents want me to sit for the French exam but I am in minds about it.
A. two B. several C. different
23. That lack of knowledge I would his inherent laziness.
A. bring all on B. put down to C. take out on

24. We heard the sound of champagne corks next door.
A. clinking B. cracking C. popping

25. Although the rules can be variously interpreted, we have to obey them, as nobody is the law.
A. beyond B. above C. over

Section Two: Error Identification

Directions: Each sentence below contains an error in grammar or usage. The error 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. Mark your answers on your **answer sheet**.

1. The tendency on the part of children is of blaming their parents for everything.
A B C

2. Invite less people to the party or we won't have enough room.
A B C

3. Her mind went blank with panic and she felt helplessly in the face of the disaster at hand.
A B C

4. His parents were often unaware about the ways in which they influenced their son in his choices.
A B C

5. Federal police, who investigate the plot, has appealed for witnesses to come forward.
A B C

Section Three: Sentence Completion

Directions: For each of the sentences below, choose the word or phrase (A, B or C) that best completes its meaning. Mark your answers on your **answer sheet**.

1. I wonder if you..... after the children for a moment.
A. could mind to look B. will mind to be looking C. would mind looking

2. She simply wouldn't risk her the money.
A. to lend B. lending C. in lending

3. As our final exam is soon, not waste time in idle conversation.
A. you'd rather B. you'd better C. it'd be better

4. While the front door, please use the side entrance.
A. is being repaired B. is repaired C. is repairing

5. I am sorry you but I have to inform you of the changes to the programme.
A. to disturb B. for disturbing C. about disturbing
6. She walked cautiously along the drive slip and fall on the ice.
A. not to B. so that not to C. in order not to
7. He was arrested and confessed
A. the police of his crime B. his crime to the police C. his crime the police
8. It is advisable that travellers find an alternative route during road repairs.
A. should B. could C. would
9. His daughter is thinking of having next week.
A. pierced her ears B. her ears pierced C. her ears piercing
10. It's really very kind of you to bring some cakes with you, but you really ... to.
A. needn't B. needn't have C. didn't need

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. The subtle irony in her new book is scarcely perceptible to the average reader.
Scarcely
2. He was expelled from the council for not withdrawing his critical remarks.
If
3. Rumour has it that he was sacked from his last job for misconduct.
He is
4. Surely, the children had no appreciation of the financial problems we were facing.
The children
5. The story was important enough to make the headlines.
It was
6. She resigned as chief executive but was offered the position of sales manager.
Despite
7. She didn't seek medical advice and faced the risk of a heart attack.
She wishes
8. I don't see the point in arguing if we all agree on this.
What's
9. I prefer thinking positively to forecasting a gloomy future.
I would rather

10. 'Why does she quit after only two weeks at this school?'

They asked

Part Four **Writing**

Directions: *Write a composition of about 120-150 words on ONE of the following topics.*

1. Imagine that you are in a place you have never visited before, e.g. an island, an oasis in the desert, a settlement in Africa or in the Himalayas, etc. Describe your impressions of it and its inhabitants and end your composition with the sentence:
The place is truly a heaven on earth.

2. Write about an episode when you felt ashamed of yourself. When did it happen and what did you do? Why did you do it? Why did you feel ashamed?

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ANSWER SHEET

Part Two
Reading Comprehension

First Passage

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

Second Passage

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 | 9. A B C | 17. A B C |
| 2. A B C | 10. A B C | 18. A B C |
| 3. A B C | 11. A B C | 19. A B C |
| 4. A B C | 12. A B C | 20. A B C |
| 5. A B C | 13. A B C | 21. A B C |
| 6. A B C | 14. A B C | 22. A B C |
| 7. A B C | 15. A B C | 23. A B C |
| 8. A B C | 16. A B C | 24. A B C |
| | | 25. A B C |

Section Two: Error Identification

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

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.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.