Prova d’esame 1

A) Comprensione di testi scritti
B) Conoscenza e uso della lingua

INGLÉS

Prova d’esame 1

Sabato, 30 maggio 2009 / 80 minuti (40 + 40)

Al candidato sono consentiti l’uso della penna stilografica o della penna a sfera, della matita HB o B, della gomma e del temperamatite.

Al candidato viene consegnato un foglio per le risposte.

La prova si compone di 12 pagine, di cui 3 bianche.
A) COMPRENSIONE DI TESTI SCRITTI (Tempo consigliato per la risoluzione: 40 minuti)

TASK 1: SHORT ANSWERS
Answer in note form in the spaces below.

Example:
0. What is the island's main attraction for some tourists?
   The duty-free goods

Grand Cayman: A long-haul family adventure

1. How did the author feel when seeing Seven Mile Beach?

2. What encouraged the tourists to tip the driver?

3. How did the area around the author's hotel differ from the Seven Mile Beach area?

4. How did they like their first plunge into the water?

5. What makes the sandbar in Sting Ray City special?

6. Why did rays come to the sandbar?

7. When can rays be dangerous?

8. What makes Hell similar to hell?

9. What demonstrated the strength of Ivan on Cayman?

10. What did they hope to see inland?
Grand Cayman: A long-haul family adventure
Adapted from an article in The Independent, 30 December 2006, by Mick Webb

We arrived in Grand Cayman on a cruise-ship day. Two huge vessels were moored in George Town harbour, dominating the tiny capital while their passengers filled the narrow streets, videoed the wooden houses and queued for the duty-free goods that, for a certain type of visitor, are the Caymans' main attraction. We, for our part, had come for a family holiday, with snorkelling and Caribbean-style relaxation in mind, though initial doubts about the wisdom of the choice surfaced as the transfer minibus took us along the length of Seven Mile Beach, the Caymans' prime tourist asset. Each of those seven miles is lined with luxury hotels, condominiums, shopping malls, smart restaurants not to mention a bar called Fidel O'Neill's, in mocking recognition of the legendary socialist neighbour, 150 miles north in Cuba.

Our larger-than-life driver, whose sunshield sported the no-nonsense message in huge capitals – TIPS ARE WELCOME – pointed out the understated British governor's house in the midst of the overwhelming Marriotts and Hiltons. This is one reminder that, politically, the Cayman Islands comprise a British Crown Colony rather than a holiday annexe of the United States. Within five minutes, though, we'd left the coastal strip and were in the West Beach area of the island. Globalised luxury architecture gave way to small wooden bungalows in shades of orange, green and blue. And, as we turned into the drive of our pink-painted hotel an electric-green iguana sat watching our arrival from a flowerbed. That was more the ticket.

The four of us had booked a week at a smallish all-inclusive hotel at Spanish Bay Reef. This cove lies on the western edge of the island, on the thrashing tail of the sea monster that Grand Cayman vaguely resembles. The coastline here is rugged and tends to take the brunt of the prevailing winds, so our inaugural dip that first afternoon was into disturbed and murky water the same colour as the English Channel. It proved about as good as the Strait of Dover for snorkelling, even if the temperature was more welcoming.

This early disappointment was soon offset by a couple of beachside cocktails which rivalled the glorious sunset in colour and in their impact on the senses. "You just gotta visit Sting Ray City," said our new-found friends from New York. "The boys'll love it." In fact we all did. A fast boat with a Jamaican named Captain Pete at the helm took a group of us in a blur of spray and reggae to the outer edge of the vast North Sound, where a sandbar makes it possible to stand up to your knees and fish for the enormous rays. These fish first learnt to gather here when returning fishermen anchored at the sandbar to gut their catches and throw the nasty bits overboard.

Rays have no teeth but they do have a nasty set of gums and vacuum-cleaner like suction, which lends a bit of an edge to the feeding process. There's also the matter of their long, barbed stings. "Whatever you do," warned Captain Pete, "Don't lift up your feet when you're walking along, just kind of shuffle, you see those rays are tame but don't like being stepped on." At the time it seemed exciting and entertaining, but in the light of the death of Steve Irwin I'm not sure we'd do it again.

We went to Hell, which is another must-do Cayman experience. Hell was very different from the one I had been warned about – apart, that is, from the heat, which was made even more intense by our decision to go there by bike. I can reveal that the real Hell consists of a few souvenir shops grouped around a tiny post office, and the idea is to astonish your friends by sending them postcards bearing an infernal postmark. The place owes its name, allegedly, to an English aristocrat who was doing a spot of duck-hunting here in the 1930s and, having fired and missed, exclaimed, "Hell!"

To get a proper look at Grand Cayman we traded in the bikes and rented a car for a day, which is long enough to get to see the whole island. George Town was quiet, with one modest museum and surprisingly little evidence of the 500-plus banks that have made this the world's fifth largest financial institution. The eastern end of the island is much more sparsely populated than the area around George Town, West Beach and Seven Mile Beach. And the number of semi-wrecked buildings here made it easier to appreciate the scale of the damage wrought by Hurricane Ivan, which devastated the island in 2004.

Grand Cayman's eastern end was also the scene of our least successful expedition, a walk along the Mastic trail. This ancient track cuts across the waist of the island through the little bit of its remaining forest, taking in this low-lying island's highest point (65ft) and offering the prospect of sighting rare birds and plants. In the event, it being the middle of the day and also the rainy season, we failed even to make it to the highest point and the only bird we saw at all was in the car-park. We did, though, manage to get drenched, bitten all over by mosquitoes and collect a good few blisters. After this we stuck to snorkelling.

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Independent Appeal: Children in slavery
Adapted from an article in The Independent, 2 January 2007, by Justin Huggler

It is now illegal in India to employ servants younger than 14. But enforcing that law and changing public attitudes to child labour is not proving easy.

Late one night in Madras, a passer-by found two girls huddled together for shelter under a bridge. (0 L). At first the passer-by thought they had run away from home, but when he questioned them, it turned out their story was more sinister.

They were child domestic servants, sent from their home miles away to work in the house of a rich family in Madras. Their employer had beaten them so badly the two sisters had decided to run away. (1 ___) They didn't even speak the local language. But they were desperate. One was 12 years old, the other 14. When they were taken to hospital later, it was discovered they had severe burns on their legs.

They were lucky. (2 ___) It is a non-governmental organisation that rescues child domestic workers and is the local partner of Anti-Slavery International, one of the charities in The Independent's Christmas Appeal this year. Virgil D'Sami, the woman who runs Arunodhaya, immediately went to the authorities and had the children first taken into care, then reunited with their family.

It was one of the first successes under India's new child labour law. Until the law was passed recently, it was legal to employ children of any age as domestic servants in India. (3 ___) Getting the law passed was a victory for Anti-Slavery International which has been campaigning for years to have child domestic labour banned. (4 ___) Although the two girls were rescued, their employer was well connected, and the case against him was quietly dropped by the police – a sign of the difficulties still facing the campaign against child labour in India.

"It was not very easy to succeed. (5 ___) People have traditionally thought that employers are doing these poor children a favour by giving them a job and letting them earn some money. And they tend to think of domestic work as safe for children, as opposed to working in a factory or outdoors. For years, even when we went to government officials this is what they were saying to us," says Ms D'Sami.

But working as a domestic servant is far from safe for a child. The story of another girl rescued by Arunodhaya, who can be named only as D, is ample proof of that. Aged just 12, she was repeatedly sexually abused by her employer. "When his wife found out, she didn't take any action against her husband. (6 ___) She poured boiling water over her and beat her," says Ms D'Sami.
Neighbours heard the girl's cries for help and got her out of the house. She nearly died of her injuries. Today she is well, but badly scarred from the boiling water.

Another girl, Mamimegalai, was not so lucky. Accused of stealing her employers' jewellery, she was beaten to death before anyone could go to her aid. (7 ____) But they came under pressure from the rich employer, and eventually dropped the case.

Domestic servants are still widespread in India. Most middle-income households have a cook. (8 ___) Until the new child labour law was passed, the use of children as domestic servants was also widespread.

"When I was growing up, my family had a child servant, and I never thought there was anything wrong with it. It wasn't until years later, when I got involved in this work, that I began to see the harm it does. Even when they are not physically abused by their employers, the effects on their welfare are severe," says Ms D'Sami. "Aside from the cases of abuse, the worst thing is often that the children are denied an education. They make a few hundred rupees a week – enough to buy food, but nothing else."

Child domestic workers divide into two groups: those who live in their employers' houses, and those who only work there by day and return home at night. (9 ___) When Arunodhaya hears of cases it steps in to rescue them, alongside the Indian government's official child protection agency.

But non-resident child workers face problems too, and Ms D'Sami and her organisation have been heavily involved in trying to get them out of work and into school.

Archana is in her late teens. (10 ___) She accompanied her mother to clean houses every day, and had no aspirations beyond earning a subsistence living as a servant for the rest of her life. Now, thanks to Arunodhaya, she has completed secondary school and won a place to study for a degree in lab technology at a teaching hospital.

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A At first, her parents fought for justice for her.
B They knew no one in the city.
C It has taken us a long time to overcome perceptions about child domestic servants in India.
D Those in the first category are most at risk.
E It is a humble affair, a simple one-room hut, but it has changed many girls' lives.
F Now anyone employing a servant younger than 14 faces up to a year in prison.
G The passer-by who found them took them to Arunodhaya.
H Instead she took it out on the girl.
I But wealthy families employ retinues of five or six servants.
J When Ms D'Sami first found her, five years ago, she was a domestic worker.
K Still, the case was not a complete success.
L They had been badly beaten.
Should Everest be closed?
Adapted from an article in *The Observer*, 8 October 2006, by Dan McDougall

It has been described as the highest junkyard in the world. Covered in discarded mountaineering detritus and suffering __0__ thousands of tourists’ boots every year, environmental groups are to launch a push for a radical __1__ – the temporary closure of the world’s highest mountain.

Warnings that __2__ ecological disaster is imminent in the area around the mountain have largely been ignored amid years of turmoil in Nepal. But conservationists think that growing political stability in the Himalayan kingdom means that the time has __3__ and that the damage caused every year by thousands of climbers and tourists can no __4__ be ignored.

Campaigners warn that the price of tourism __5__ discarded rubbish and medical waste and the colonisation of the area by restaurants and internet cafes. Sherpa spelled out the strain being placed on the indigenous population. “Providing enough electricity and water for the small communities surrounding Everest and the __6__ Himalayan mountains becomes very challenging when there are tens of thousands of additional tourists and climbers in the region competing __7__ these same resources,” he said. “Nepal is ravaged by water and air pollution caused by industrialisation and increased tourism. Water __8__ for local villages, delivered through irrigation systems in the mountains, are being critically depleted and urgent action needs to be __9__.”

This year a geological team, sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), found signs that the landscape of Mount Everest has changed significantly __10__ Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay first conquered the peak in 1953. A primary cause is the warming global climate, but the research party concluded that the growing effect of tourism __11__ also critically taxing the region surrounding the planet’s tallest mountain.

__12__ to the survey, the glacier that once came close to Hillary and Norgay’s first base camp has retreated three miles in the __13__ two decades. Hillary himself has become outspoken on a situation he believes is turning into an ecological scandal. “I have suggested to the Nepal __14__ that they should stop giving permission and give the mountain a rest for a __15__ years,” he has said.

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Elizabeth Hawley, a Kathmandu-based patron of The Himalaya Trust, an environmental charity founded and still run by Hillary, said yesterday that the pioneer remained utterly 'appalled' at the levels and standards of tourism around Everest and the Khumba Valley.

"When Sir Edmund has said he wanted the mountain closed or visits limited, the last thing he wants is for the sherpas to lose __16__ livelihoods, but we in the trust strongly believe that __17__ just Everest but the whole of the Khumba Valley needs a sustained rest. These villages have become enormously wealthy by local standards, but along the trail towards Everest __18__ are now restaurants and cyber cafes and bars, and this just __19__ not seem right."

She added: "Climate change and the receding glacial waters are global issues and not within localised control, but we are particularly worried about deforestation of __20__ area, much of it to sustain tourism, and our campaigning has helped improve the situation, but it still isn't enough. We feel that we have to start from the beginning in order for the region to recuperate and recycle __21__ ."

Others have proposed limiting the number of professional expeditions and banning all commercial trips to base camp. Junko Tabei, 66, of Japan, the first woman __22__ reach the summit, said: "Everest has become __23__ crowded. It needs a rest. Only two or three teams should be allowed __24__ a season to climb Everest, and tourist trips to base camp should __25__ banned altogether. Along the trail to the Mount Everest base camp in Nepal, deforestation is getting worse as locals cut down trees to heat meals and to provide hot showers for foreign eco-trekkers. The local environment is in danger and the dignity of the mountain is being undermined."

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He is not old enough to drive a car or buy a drink in a pub. It _0_ (BE) two years before he can get married and four before he can vote. Michael Perham, however, is on the verge of making history: at 14, he is within days of becoming the youngest person _1_ (SAIL) across the Atlantic single handed.

The teenager, from Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, set off from Gibraltar on the 3,500-mile voyage to the Caribbean on November 18. With 670 miles remaining until he _2_ (REACH) his destination on the island of Antigua, he expects to break the world record for the youngest unaided sailor across the ocean, possibly as early as New Year’s Day.

Speaking by satellite phone on his yacht, Cheeky Monkey, he said yesterday that he was “cruising along quite nicely”.

“The weather is gorgeous. The wind’s quite high and I’m getting clear blue skies almost every day. This is the longest trip I _3_ (EVER / DO). I’m coping fine.”

With sponsorship from local companies, Michael has taken three weeks off school to complete the voyage, during which he used the trade winds that _4_ (CARRY) sailors from Europe to the Americas for centuries.

The trip was scheduled to be completed before Christmas but had to _5_ (EXTEND) after satellite equipment on his 28ft (nine metre) boat failed and he _6_ (FORCE) to make a diversion to Lanzarote and the Cape Verde islands. He said that he was missing warm toast, cold drinks and crisps, but his diet of “mainly Tesco tinned food” _7_ (BE) reliable. “You empty the tin and five minutes later – voila!”

Michael’s father, Peter, a chartered surveyor and experienced yachtsman, _8_ (FOLLOW) two miles behind his son and keeps regular radio contact with him.

Mr Perham said his son, who has sailed since the age of seven, first volunteered the idea of breaking the transatlantic record three years ago, after _9_ (WATCH) footage of a previous record attempt.

“Michael said to me: ‘It _10_ (BE) great if I could do that, Dad.’ As a parent I just thought it was a typical boy’s dream. I never thought it _11_ (ACTUALLY / HAPPEN). The poor lad has had no Christmas presents, nothing. And he’s run out of snacks but I can’t give him any because the rules say I can’t help him in any way.”

Over the last five weeks Michael, who _12_ (ATTEND) Chancellor’s School in Brookmans Park, has sailed alongside dolphins and sharks, and battled through 25ft high waves and gale-force winds. ‘Experienced my first experience of squalls,’ he wrote in his travel log on November 25. ‘They really do knock your teeth out.’
TASK 3: WORD FORMATION
Write the correct form of the words in the spaces on the right.

There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0.

**Burning the olive oil in Cadiz**
Adapted from an article in *The Observer*, 23 December 2005, by Jayne Dingley

Teaching English to speakers of other languages? Where is the __0__ in that? I speak English and I have been a teacher for more than 30 years, so, as my pupils say, everything should be easy-peasy. With these thoughts in mind, my only concern was choosing where to take my TEFL course.

It was with happy __1__ that I boarded a flight for Cadiz; a month in Spain was my idea of bliss. I had carried out the pre-course tasks diligently and read the coursebook, and, despite a niggling concern that I did not understand all the grammatical terms and had made educated guesses on several questions, I was still __2__ that the whole course would be a little beneath me. Upon my arrival I was pleased to find the accommodation delightful, and had the added bonus of __3__ delightful flatmates for the month ahead. The language school was in walking distance, as was the beach, the old town was charming, the sun was shining – and I was in blissful __4__ of what lay ahead.

The course introduction gave me my first inkling that this would be no holiday. The mention of the exam component made my stomach turn, and the assignments suddenly became rather more than the trifling little tasks I had imagined. I was comforted by the fact that the actual teaching would not be a big problem for me: oh dear, how wrong can you be?

It is many years since I have burned the midnight oil to prepare lessons, and it was a shock to the system to find out that I could not keep up with the vast amount of work I had to fit in. In __5__ to teaching a class, observing my fellow trainees, and giving and receiving feedback on __6__, I struggled to understand grammar and __7__ rules in the language lectures. At the end of the first week I felt completely de-skilled, and began to doubt my ability to speak English, let alone teach it. The tutors were excellent, and I quickly realised not only that I had a great deal to learn, but also just how __8__ the English language is. I have every admiration for the students in my classes who patiently sat through my early lessons and, amazingly enough, managed to progress as the weeks went on.

It was a frenetic month and our main topics of conversation seemed to revolve around our shared __9__. Our flat became wallpapered with sticky notes showing words and phrases written phonetically to help our __10__.
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