Livello di base

INGLESE

Prova d’esame 1

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

Martedì, 30 agosto 2011 / 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 4 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. Use 1–5 words for each answer.

Example:
0. How many cruises had the author been on before visiting Papua New Guinea?
   None.

Papua New Guinea: A journey into the unknown

1. What does Orion's luxury clash with?

2. How long has New Britain had a new capital?

3. Which unusual scene accompanies the champagne party?

4. What problem fails to be eased by the ship's luxury?

5. What does Orion provide to take the passengers upstream?

6. What is the maximum number of prices a tourist will get?

7. What do the passengers and the natives fully realise during welcome parties?

8. Why are the people of Dei Dei able to speak English?

9. When did Samarai get the European look?

10. What indicates that Samarai is no longer a commercial centre?
This is my first visit to Papua New Guinea, and also my first cruise. Fellow passenger Yvonne thinks I may have picked the wrong one. "This is as upmarket as cruise ships get. You won't want to travel on an ordinary ship after Orion." She has a point. The "luxury expedition ship" encompasses four decks of staterooms (cabins), bars and lounges, fitted with miles of polished wood and brass. Opulence is one thing, but the point of an expedition ship is where it takes you.

Of the few locations left in the world billed as "the last frontier" for tourists, Papua New Guinea has perhaps the strongest claim. The densely forested core of the main island is hard to penetrate. Remote villages are connected by treacherous roads, muddy tracks and isolated airstrips, so travelling by ship around the coast makes sense, but it brings with it moments where extreme luxury sits in surreal contrast with the most basic kind of village life.

Orion's passengers gather in the port town of Rabaul on the island of New Britain. Here, Mount Tavurvur is putting on a show. Rabaul was one of the country's largest population centres until 1994, when an eruption of nearby volcanoes Tavurvur and Vulcan blanketed the area in volcanic ash, forcing the populace to establish a new provincial capital 12 miles down the road.

Mount Tavurvur has menaced Blanche Bay ever since with clouds of ash big enough to be visible even from our ship, docked more than a mile away. It makes a dramatic background to our champagne launch party.

For two nights and a day we sail north-west to the Papua New Guinea mainland. The rough sea makes things uncomfortable, even when ensconced in an enormous stateroom and gigantic bed. It's a relief when we drop anchor near the entrance to the mighty Sepik river. Expedition ships are designed to get you to places like this, and Orion carries eight inflatable speedboats for the purpose.

We're expected at Watam, a village of 300 people near the mouth of the Sepik, and one of its six clan chiefs leads a band of singers and drummers to meet us. Although dug-out paddle canoes are a common sight on the Sepik, the 40hp motor powering the welcome party's 20ft aluminium runabout more easily keeps pace with our boats as we pull in to shore.

We're welcomed with singing, dancing. Orion is one of two cruise ships that visit the Sepik region once a year, and people travel from villages upriver to sell their woodcarvings, woven bags and baskets, necklaces and ceremonial headdresses. There's no bargaining, items are offered at "first price" with a buyer's option of asking for "second price", which may be a little or a lot less. In any case, it signals the end of negotiations.

Our next mainland stop is Madang, a town that saw heavy fighting during the Second World War. A dive to a wrecked plane is on the ship's tour itinerary, but two fellow passengers suggest we walk into town and organise a dive for ourselves. Within an hour we're zooming off to nearby Pig Island, where we spend an hour drifting along a sloping coral shelf in 29C water. We were travelling late in the rainy season, so underwater visibility was not the best, but there were plenty of brilliantly coloured tropical fish on display, and even a green moray eel.

Papua New Guinea's undersea world is a prime attraction of the Orion cruise. As we approach the tiny cluster of atolls known as the Tami Islands, our expedition guide talks the place up. "The best snorkelling I've ever done is in the Solomon Islands, but the place we're visiting today comes pretty close," he says. Another village welcome is laid on when we land – a group of around 30 men, women and children greet us wearing grass skirts and feather headdresses. These ceremonies can be awkward, with hosts and visitors alike acutely aware of the cultural divide separating them.

On this occasion, a cheerful song-and-dance recital ends when a fearsomely decorated man misses the finish and launches on his own into a non-existent final verse, prompting embarrassed giggles from his fellow performers – a perfect reminder that it's the gaffes and fumbles that most naturally bind us together.

The most dramatic destination of the next few days is Tufi on Cape Nelson, where long fingers of densely vegetated volcanic lava, known as rias, jut into the ocean. A few of us take a guided walk along a muddy track to the end of one of the rias, where we get a fine view of the bizarre lava landforms fringed by mangroves and dotted with shallow coral reefs.

Our final stops are the isles of Fergusson and Samarai. The former boasts some impressive hot-springs and geysers, and the people of Dei Dei village are adept at speaking English, which is unusual in Papua New Guinea and the result of missionary education over the years. Samarai still has signs of colonial-era commerce in its dilapidated wharves, warehouses, and overgrown but still grand boulevards. Keeping Samarai out of Japanese hands during the war was a close-run thing, and much of its infrastructure was destroyed by Allied forces for fear of it becoming a strategic base for further Japanese expansion into the Pacific.
'Money? You're on your own, Son'
Adapted from an article in The Independent, 14 September 2010, by Chris Wheal

When my 13-year-old son, Joe, said: "You never spend any money on me", I had a sense of déjà vu. I had the audacity at about 14 to accuse my mum of not spending the whole of her child benefit on my sister and me, so she thrust the full £20 my way each month (0 L). I soon learnt my error.

So I set Joe a challenge. I asked him to write down everything (1 __). He added it all up and divided it by 12, making £200 a month. He opened a bank account and I transferred in that much each month. He now has to buy everything from underwear and school uniform to his treasured cricket bat and match fees. He has had an annual "pay rise" and in 18 months he has gone bust only twice.

I've made it sound easy. But logic, facts, evidence – these have no place in teenage brains. Joe's first attempt at compiling a list of what we spent on him was as fictional as the Lehman Brothers' balance sheet. Most of the liabilities run up by the Bank of Mum and Dad did not appear.

Then he needed a bank account (2 __). I didn't want him walking the streets of Deptford and Catford with pockets full of cash. He had already had his mobile phone stolen from him on a bus in daylight. NatWest was the first bank I could find that offered a kids' account that included a solo card – meaning they cannot go overdrawn. The bank says it has now upgraded that to a Visa card (3 __).

I expected Joe to go bust in – as finance people say – Q1 (the first three months). But no. He became a mean, penny-pinching hoarder. Spending fell to the bare minimum he could get away with. When we eventually threw away his hole-riddled underwear and insisted he bought some new, he went to Sports World and (4 __). Having worked out the expenditure by month, he knew that he had to save in the winter for the cricket outgoings in the summer. And he did just that. In fact it wasn't until the end of the summer holidays, when he went to buy his school uniform, (5 __). He was forced to raid the building society account he had had for years, which had been topped up every now and then with money from grandparents. But of course, when you are a teenager, it's never your fault. "Because it was a Bank Holiday, the money hadn't come into my account," Joe says. "I had to get the money out of my building society account. But then I paid it back afterwards."

All discipline then slipped away. Fashion, if that's what it's called, took over. Joe bought more hoodies than even David Cameron could hug. And we soon learned communication between parents and teens is fraught. If you tell them something, they fight you, (6 __), they don't get them. So nothing
we could say or do to express our surprise at how often he returned with shopping had any effect. He was also raiding the building society account.

"I bought myself a new cricket bat using savings. I got £175 from my bank account and the rest – it cost £250 – from my savings account," Joe says. "It was winter and I was buying lots of clothes, not realising I should have been saving for the summer. I would get money out of the savings account. If it was a large amount I'd pay it back, but if it was just £10 I wouldn't. You don't notice it at the time (7 ___)."

Cricket was the saviour. Joe was asked to attend training for the London Schools regional side – 12 weeks of Saturday night indoor nets at the Oval. But he needed £120 for the training (8 __). "I had to ask if I could pay £10 every week instead," remembers Joe. He took his building society card with him the first week in case they insisted on payment up front and he had to find a cashpoint sharpish.

By Christmas, Joe realised that proving how "little" we spent on him had resulted in him not having enough to live on. It was time for financial negotiations. I accepted his first demand (£10 a month extra) and he immediately realised he should have asked for more. Only then did we get started on (9 __).

His £30 increase lasted only two months. Joe got a girlfriend and, despite our warnings that he was spending too much on the phone, he ran up a mobile phone bill of more than £500 in two weeks – luckily I looked up the bill on the Vodafone website before the end of the month. One call was for nearly four hours (10 __). When he split up with her some months later Joe famously said: "We ran out of things to say to each other." That line itself almost made it worth us stumping up for a chunk of that phone bill. Joe emptied his now depleted savings account and is paying back the rest.

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A but kept the no-overdraft settings
B and he didn't have it
C I look at my statements
D how negotiations work
E that he first ran out of cash
F and if you drop hints
G and cost more than £70
H but it all adds up
I picked up a pack of five for a few quid
J that would give a teenager a bank card
K we had spent on him over the past year, month by month
L and refused to spend any more
The A44 Woodstock Road is the type of place for 0 speed cameras were invented. The pretty, tree-lined street serves 1 a busy thoroughfare to Oxford town centre and a bustling residential area, complete with a church and nursery school.

A speed camera in its yellow box still sits on a grass verge at the side of the road, but yesterday drivers took 2 notice of it, zooming past at speeds well 3 the 30mph limit with no fear of a fine or points on their licence.

Earlier this month Oxfordshire council switched off every speed camera in the county and, judging 4 their speeds and the fanfare which accompanied the news, the drivers know 5 .

What they did not know, however, is that the film was left inside two of the speed cameras for 6 five-day test period. During that time the cameras secretly recorded the speed of passing cars.

And, 7 the drivers will face no prosecution, the results of the experiment proved 8 road safety groups feared: with the Gatso cameras out of action, drivers simply ignored the speed limit.

On Woodstock Road, 110 drivers were caught travelling at more than 35mph along the 30mph road in the five-day test period. That’s 18 per cent more than the number of drivers who used to be caught speeding 9 an average week.

It is a law-breaking trend 10 could soon be replicated across the country. And it is a situation which has provoked anger from road safety groups and senior police officers who say lives are being put 11 risk.

Ellen Booth, a spokeswoman for Brake, said: “The government is saying that it is 12 to local councils and that they have not made anyone turn any cameras off. What we are saying is that the cameras will be switched off, 13 the Government cuts road safety funding.”

But, financial motives aside, 14 is safety to consider. Thames Valley Police and senior officers from other forces have reacted angrily to the decision to remove speed cameras.

They point to statistics published by the Department of Transport in 2005 which highlighted the virtues of speed cameras.


It monitored sites before and after cameras were installed and showed that the cameras brought about a 70 percent reduction in speeding. The report also said that fatal accidents were reduced by 42 per cent, and that serious injuries fell by 22 per cent.
Beverley Turner talks about her husband James Cracknell’s recovery from a fractured skull following a road accident while he was attempting to set a new endurance record.

When Beverley Turner walked into the intensive care unit seven days ago and __0__ (SEE) her husband, adventurer and Olympic rowing champion James Cracknell __1__ (BREATHE) with the aid of a ventilator, wired up to bleeping monitors, multiple drips in his arm, her stomach lurched and went into freefall.

"Ironically I’d spent years worrying that James __2__ (COME) a cropper in a reckless, extreme adventure and plunge down an icy crevasse in some remote wilderness, but it was a road traffic accident in the United States that had left him with a fractured skull and damage to his brain," says Turner ruefully, speaking from her hotel in Arizona. "It's the sort of thing that __3__ (COULD/HAPPEN) to any of us, anywhere."

Cracknell, 38, had been attempting to break an endurance record by crossing from Los Angeles to New York in 16 days, and was being filmed by the Discovery Channel as he ran, swam, rowed and cycled across the country.

But early last Tuesday, at around 5.30am, he’d been on his bike just outside the city of Winslow, Arizona, __4__ (COVER) the only stretch of road where the crew weren't able to film. Despite the fact Cracknell had a warning strobe light on the back of his bike __5__ (MAKE) him extra visible to other vehicles, a truck appears to have hit him from behind.

"The doctors say his cycling helmet – which was shorn in two with the impact – saved his life and that it was a miracle he didn't fracture his spine or any other bone, although the bruising is horrendous," says Telegraph writer Turner, 36.

Her husband was taken by ambulance to a local hospital and then airlifted to a main hospital in Phoenix where he __6__ (ADMIT) to intensive care and heavily sedated.

"Luckily, I had been out supporting James a couple of days previously and was in Las Vegas, getting ready to fly back to Britain, when the phone __7__ (RING) in my hotel. Before I'd even picked up the receiver, I knew something __8__ (BE) wrong," recalls Turner.

"One of James's trainers told me he'd been in an accident and I needed to get to the hospital immediately."

Turner went into autopilot, packing her bags, getting into her hire car and heading to the airport where she __9__ (CATCH) a flight to Phoenix. "I really can't remember the journey because I was concentrating on trying __10__ (NOT/THINK) of the worst case scenario, namely that I would arrive at the hospital and have to make a nightmare life-or-death decision about James's quality of life and whether any machines keeping him alive would need __11__ (TURN) off," she says.

"But by the time I arrived at James's bedside, numerous Cat and MRSI scans had been carried out and the doctors had assessed his condition. Only God knows what I would have done, if the prognosis __12__ (NOT/BE) so good."

Cracknell was – and remains – very poorly. Although not medically unconscious, he appeared to be; his eyes were closed and when he wasn't heavily sedated he was either very agitated or in a deep sleep.
China celebrates 60th anniversary but the public isn't invited

Adapted from an article in The Telegraph, 30 September 2010, by Peter Foster

It has been billed as a "national __0__ (CELEBRATE)" of China's rising power on the world stage as the Communist Party celebrates 60 years in power.

But ordinary Chinese people have been warned to stay away from the __1__ (MASS) military parade on Thursday over fears of public disorder.

Any thoughts that a __2__ (SPONTANEITY), flag-waving crowd might be allowed to cheer on the 180,000 marchers as they processed through Beijing's Tiananmen Square were scotched by security restricting the 'crowd' to carefully vetted VIPs.

China's authorities, ever __3__ (FEAR) of the threat of public disorder, have left nothing to chance, mobilising more than 950,000 volunteers to help seal off large sections of the capital 24 hours in advance of the parade. The flying of kites and pigeons has also been banned.

China's state media reported that the authorities would deploy the full might of the country's "artificial weather __4__ (MANIPULATE)" apparatus in an attempt to disperse the murk.

A report by Beijing's __5__ (METEOROLOGY) bureau said that 18 modified transport aircraft were on standby to spray rain-catalyst into the atmosphere shortly before daybreak in an attempt to clear the skies before the parade began.

In the evening Tiananmen Square, which at 100 acres is the largest public space in the world and capable of holding several hundred thousand people __6__ (COMFORT), will host a night-time firework and laser light-show attended by 60,000 carefully vetted people and __7__ (PERFORM).

The spectacular show, designed by Zhang Yimou the director behind the lavish Olympic opening ceremony, will use more than double the amount of fireworks used last August, including three firework 'paintings' whose subject remain a closely guarded secret.

The lack of __8__ (PARTICIPATE) from ordinary people has echoes of the opening night of last year's Olympic Games where the streets of Beijing were left deserted after similar orders were issued for people to stay at home and watch on television.

Even those lucky enough to have windows or balconies overlooking the parade as it progresses down Chang'an Avenue – or The Way of Heavenly Peace – have received official letters warning them not to open windows, step onto their balconies or invite friends over for parties.

Most Chinese seemed resigned to the __9__ (DECIDE) not to invite the public to participate in the parade, apparently accepting that security concerns were paramount, __10__ (PARTICULAR) following the outbreaks of violence in Xinjiang and Tibet in the last two years.

"There is definitely more security than at the last parade [in 1999]," said 75-year-old Wang Ming, a retired telecoms engineer as he hurried home to beat impending road closures, "but I can understand the government's fear as the splittist [separatist] forces have caused more trouble in the past ten years."
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