



Codice del candidato:

Državni izpitni center



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SESSIONE PRIMAVERILE

Livello superiore
I N G L E S E
≡ Prova d'esame 1 ≡

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

Sabato, 2 giugno 2012 / 60 minuti (35 + 25)

*Al candidato è consentito l'uso della penna stilografica o della penna a sfera.
Al candidato viene consegnata una scheda di valutazione.*

MATURITÀ GENERALE

INDICAZIONI PER IL CANDIDATO

Leggete con attenzione le seguenti indicazioni.

Non aprite la prova d'esame e non iniziate a svolgerla prima del via dell'insegnante preposto.

Incollate o scrivete il vostro numero di codice negli spazi appositi su questa pagina in alto a destra e sulla scheda di valutazione.

La prova d'esame si compone di due parti, denominate A e B. Il tempo a disposizione per l'esecuzione dell'intera prova è di 60 minuti: vi consigliamo di dedicare 35 minuti alla risoluzione della parte A, e 25 minuti a quella della parte B.

La prova d'esame contiene 2 esercizi per la parte A e 2 esercizi per la parte B. Potete conseguire fino a un massimo di 20 punti nella parte A e 25 punti nella parte B, per un totale di 45 punti. È prevista l'assegnazione di 1 punto per ciascuna risposta esatta.

Scrivete le vostre risposte negli spazi appositamente previsti **all'interno della prova** utilizzando la penna stilografica o la penna a sfera. Scrivete in modo leggibile e ortograficamente corretto. In caso di errore, tracciate un segno sulla risposta scorretta e scrivete accanto ad essa quella corretta. Alle risposte e alle correzioni scritte in modo illeggibile verranno assegnati 0 punti.

Abbiate fiducia in voi stessi e nelle vostre capacità. Vi auguriamo buon lavoro.

La prova si compone di 8 pagine, di cui 1 vuota.

A) COMPRESIONE DI TESTI SCRITTI

Task 1: Multiple Choice

For questions 1–10, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits according to the text.

There is an example at the beginning (0).

To me, books are literally indispensable

We were staying with a friend last weekend who is "downsizing". One aspect of this is that the possessions he has in his present large house will have to be edited in order to fit in the apartment he is about to move into. As we witnessed this process, I realised that mankind is divided into two sections: those who do throw things away, and those who do not.

5 The process became especially painful to witness when he began sorting out his books. I have over the years heard others talk of having to cull large parts of their libraries, but I had never actually seen it happen. Now, I did. I was just about able to see why he was chucking out the various paperbacks by what I believe are termed "popular novelists", since most people would not buy such things in the first place and would not, therefore, normally have any regrets about being
10 rid of them. But in time we moved on to things that had some merit. Even for him the decision was occasionally difficult, and he displays sound judgement for not ditching serious works of reference or great works of literature.

I dread this ever happening to me. I have no idea how many books I have, but it is several thousand. The largest room in my house is completely shelved over, and books are piled
15 everywhere a pile can be made. Other rooms have bookcases, to the increasing concern of my wife. In an ideal world I would build an extension purely for books, but Mrs Heffer regards that as a waste of money that we don't in any case have. I fear she is probably right, and we may have to revisit *the issue* once we have finished being drained financially by our children.

I started collecting books when a small boy. I have never thrown a book away. If I ever bought
20 one book from a series and found it useful, I ended up buying the whole series. This can become especially problematical when series are updated. I have a complete run of Pevsner's *Buildings of England*, including all the revised editions. It is only by a whisker that I have avoided buying the *New Dictionary of National Biography* in 60 volumes: I have held off because I can't bear to part with the old one, and would only have room for both if I started putting up shelves in the
25 bathrooms. It is, in any case, available by subscription on the internet. However, if some wall space miraculously appeared for some reason, I would buy one without blinking.

Another friend has simply surrendered to these urges. His rather unconventional town house – it used to be a pub – has its entire ground floor, apart from a small kitchen, given over to books. I think he has 20,000 of them, in cleverly designed cases that maximise the use of space. He
30 regards it as a form of madness to resist buying a book because one doesn't have room for it. I quite agree, though every time a new book is put on one of the piles at home I feel a slight sense of panic.

I have what I think is a good justification for keeping so many books, and for never having thrown one away or sold one to a second-hand book dealer. It is that my library is not for leisure or for ornament, but is a working library. I am a professional writer. When I am researching books,
35 I tend to buy my secondary sources rather than borrow them from libraries; but also because I always suspect that I shall be writing something else 10 or 20 years later, whether a book or simply preparing a newspaper article, and my mind will go back to something I once read in a book on a related subject. It is perfect when one can just rummage through the shelves for five
40 minutes and find what one wants, rather than have to pine that the book is now on someone else's shelves, and unobtainable by me.

Occasionally people see my house full of books and say: have you read them all? Of course I haven't. Many of them are not designed to be read from cover to cover: they are works of reference that exist for one to look up something specific in. Books on politics, for example, look
45 so boring and dishonest that I do little more with them than peruse the blurb on the dust-wrapper. However, I do read at least one, and sometimes two or three, books a week.

My wife says the collecting gene affects men only, and I think she may be right. I can only think of one or two women I have known who filled their houses with books, and then they displayed extreme ruthlessness when necessary in dispensing with volumes when they had to.
50 Perhaps we men have more heart.

Example:

0. The author's friend is reducing his library's collection of books, because:
- A he wants to throw a party for his friends.
 - B his present house is not large enough.
 - C he is moving to a smaller place.
 - D he is downsizing his apartment.
1. What is the author's opinion on paperbacks by popular novelists?
- A They are far from popular.
 - B They are easy to sell.
 - C They have some merit.
 - D They are typically found in libraries.
2. What do we learn about the author's house in paragraph 3?
- A It has an extension.
 - B It is cramped.
 - C It has rooms for books only.
 - D It is expensive.
3. According to the author, the abundance of books in his house
- A raises the number of bookshelves.
 - B reduces financial funds for his children.
 - C fills his wife with alarm.
 - D makes him concerned.
4. What does *the issue* in line 18 refer to?
- A The building of the extension.
 - B The author's children.
 - C The author's financial problems.
 - D His wife's fear.
5. The author has refrained from buying the *New Dictionary of National Biography*, because:
- A he would have to throw his old edition away.
 - B it is available for subscribers on-line.
 - C his bathroom is too small for shelves to be installed.
 - D it was not up-to-date enough.
6. The main point of paragraph 5 is:
- A that people share the author's urges for buying books.
 - B that collecting books is a sign of madness.
 - C that you need a large house to collect books.
 - D that the purchase of a book should not be limited by space.
7. What is the author's main reason for keeping so many books?
- A He cannot throw things away.
 - B His profession requires an extensive library.
 - C He likes reading for leisure.
 - D Most of his books are no longer obtainable.
8. The books in the author's library
- A were carefully studied by the author.
 - B represent a varied collection.
 - C originate from the early 40s.
 - D are political, and therefore look boring.
9. According to the author's wife,
- A women become ruthless when it comes to collecting.
 - B women lack a biological predisposition for collecting.
 - C women are better at dispensing books than men.
 - D women are affected by the collecting gene.
10. According to the article, what did the author's visit to his friend invoke the author to do?
- A To criticise people buying books.
 - B To ridicule book collectors.
 - C To argue against popular trends about books.
 - D To contemplate reasons for collecting books.

Task 2: Gapped Text

In the following extract, 10 sentences have been removed.

Choose from the sentences A–K the one which fits each gap (1–10). There is one extra sentence.

WRITE your answers in the spaces next to the numbers.

There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0.

Who wants to be a coconut millionaire?

When he was a child, C. Satheesh got used to his father slipping from the family home every morning at dawn to go and pick coconuts. (0 L) With a lungi wrapped around his waist, a loop of fibre rope twisted around his ankles and a sharp knife tucked out of sight, his father would clamber high into the trees and start chopping at the coconuts. Some days he would climb 50 trees for less than 150 rupees (£2). And it was unforgiving on the body; his joints ached, his back constantly hurt. (1) So last year, when the state government of Kerala announced a special competition, Mr Satheesh, a computer engineering graduate who runs his own software company, immediately took notice. The contest was to devise a machine that could ascend a coconut tree and harvest the nuts, thereby doing away with the need for human climbers.

Today, Mr Satheesh's machine, designed with the benefit of practical advice from his father, will be one of eight shortlisted entrants to be tested in a two-day trial overseen by government officials. The organisers received more than 450 entries. Even at this stage people can bring their machines to the finals to compete. Three winners will each receive 1m rupees (£14,000). "The economy of Kerala is very agrarian and many people depend on agriculture and the coconut. It's one of the most important products we have. Every part of the tree is used," said D K Singh, a senior official with the Kerala state government's office in Delhi. "But nowadays, the younger generation does not want to climb trees." (2)

India grows 15 billion coconuts a year. The Coconut Development Board claims that the average Indian family uses 30 coconuts a month. They are eaten, their liquid is drunk, their flesh is used to make oil. In Kerala, coconut is also distilled into a fiery toddy, while the fibre is used for matting. The nuts are worth more than £11bn to the nation's economy.

But for all of India's progress in introducing modern agricultural methods, the growing and harvesting of coconuts today is little changed from how it has been for generations. (3) Traditionally, the harvesting of Kerala's coconuts was a task for members of the lower caste thiyya clan. Now Kerala enjoys literacy rates of more than 90 per cent. There are more educational opportunities there than in most Indian states. (4) Therefore, there is an estimated 15 per cent shortfall in the number of climbers required to harvest the state's annual crop.

By any measure, climbing for coconuts is hard work. Climbers not only have to scale the tree and reach out among the fronds and cut the coconut. (5) "It affects your ligaments, it pulls at you. You have to try and ignore the pain if you want to feed your family," said Mr Satheesh's father, whose father and grandfather before him also worked as coconut harvesters. "I would start work at 6am, work for two hours, stop, work for another two hours at midday, rest, and then do another two hours in the

evening. It is too hard on the body just to keep going. (6 ___) After three or four years, you start to feel much older."

Inspired by the challenge of building a machine that could end the need for the toil of climbers such as his father, Mr Satheesh set his ingenuity to work. (7 ___) It has hooks instead of hands and feet. His 4ft-long contraption is made of aluminium and steel and employs a mechanical arm to cut the coconut. "The machine is alright. (8 ___) When it is cutting the coconut, it takes a long time. So there needs to be some changes," he said.

Not everyone due to take part in the finals opted for a robot. Another entrant, G. Babu, who works at a technical college, spent 16 months working on his machine, which uses ropes and a rotating knife. He would have liked to have used more costly materials. (9 ___) Moreover, he said he believed the winning entry should be affordable so that it could be bought and used by ordinary people. He said he had tested his device on the trees in front of his home and that it had worked successfully at up to 13 metres.

"You have to stand and operate my design. As you pull on the rope it goes up," said Mr Babu, who said his favourite use of coconut was as an ingredient in a chutney, combined with chili and coriander. "It's not too sophisticated. (10 ___) But it has a success rate of 90 per cent."

In the days before the contest, Mr Satheesh has been busy fine-tuning his design, determined to try to win, determined to ensure that Kerala can continue to enjoy the benefits of the coconut without the need for human harvesters.

(Adapted from an article in *The Independent*, 7 October 2010, by Andrew Buncombe)

- A Not to mention a fall that could have been fatal.
- B Even now, every coconut is picked by hand.
- C Not all those competing in the contest are amateurs.
- D The result is a robot that climbs the tree like a human being.
- E Unfortunately, he was limited by his means.
- F Actually, it's rather simple.
- G So the government planned to develop a mechanical device.
- H But there are still some fixes that need to be done to it.
- I They also have to (instinctively) learn which nuts are ripe enough to be harvested.
- J You have to take a break.
- K As a result, a younger generation has grown up less inclined to climb trees.
- ✍ It was tough, arduous work.

B) CONOSCENZA E USO DELLA LINGUA

Task 1: Gap Fill

For gaps 1–15, write one missing word in the spaces on the right.

There is ONE word missing in each gap.

There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0.

Why I adore the night

So the evenings are drawing in? Darkness is the time to think, to ___0___, to love.

It's human to want light and warmth. Our pagan ancestors had a calendar of fire festivals, and God's first recorded words, ___1___ to the Hebrew Bible, were: "Let there be light." Night belongs to the dark side, literally and metaphorically: ghosts, scary monsters, robbers, the unknown. Electricity's triumph over the night keeps us safer as well as busier. But whatever extends the day loses us the dark.

We now live in a fast-moving, fully lit world ___2___ night still happens, but is optional to experience. Our 24/7 culture has phased out the night. In fact, we treat the night like failed daylight. Yet slowness and silence – the different rhythm of the night – are a necessary correction to the day.

I think we should stop being night-resisters, and learn to celebrate the changes of the seasons, and realign ourselves to autumn and winter, ___3___ just turn up the heating, leave the lights on and moan a lot.

Night and dark are good for us. ___4___ the nights lengthen, it's time to reopen the dreaming space. Have you ever spent an evening ___5___ electric light?

It doesn't matter whether you are in the city or the country, as ___6___ as you can control your own little pod. Make it a weekend, get in plenty of candles, and lay the fire if you have one. Prepare dinner ahead, and plan a walk ___7___ that you will be heading for home in that lovely liminal time where light and dark are hinged against ___8___ other.

City or country, that sundown hour is strange and exhilarating, as ordinary spatial relations are altered: trees rear up in ___9___ own shadows, buildings bulk out, pavements stretch forward, the red wrapper of brake lights turns a road ___10___ a lava flow.

Inside, the ___11___ are going on. Outside, it's getting dark. You, as ___12___ dark shape in a darkening world, want to hold that intimacy, just for one night. Go home. Leave the lights ___13___.

We have all experienced negative darkness – those long stretches of the night when we can't sleep, and worry about everything, and so we know that "dark time" can seem interminably long, ___14___ with daytime. Yet this slowing of time can be the most relaxing and beautiful experience. Spending the evening in candlelight, and maybe by the fire – with no TV – talking, telling stories, letting the lit-up world go by without us, expands the hours, and alters the thoughts and conversations we have.

I have noticed that when all the lights are on, people tend to talk about what they are doing – their outer lives. Sitting round in candlelight or firelight, people start to talk about how they are feeling – their inner lives. They speak subjectively, they argue less, there are longer pauses.

To sit alone without any electric light is curiously creative. I have my best ideas at dawn or at nightfall, but not if I switch on the lights – ___15___ I start thinking about projects, deadlines, demands, and the shadows and shapes of the house become objects, not suggestions, things that need to be done, not a background to thought.

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| 14. | _____ | |
| 15. | _____ | |

Task 2: Gap Fill (Verbs)

For gaps 1–10, write the correct form of the verb in brackets in the spaces on the right.

There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0.

Why the Monte Carlo Rally matters

The Monte Carlo Rally doesn't hold the distinction of being the oldest motorsport event in the world. It's not even the oldest rally; that honour belongs to the Paris-Rouen Rally that 0 (**FIRST/RUN**) in 1894. It is one of the world's oldest motorsport events still to be contested today.

As it prepares to celebrate its centenary later this month, the Monte does rightly lay claim to being the world's most iconic rally. In motoring and motorsport arenas, it's the one rally that transcends discipline to hold appeal for a wider audience, in the same way that the World Cup does for football.

First run in 1911, the Monte Carlo Rally 1 (**NOT/FOUND**) with a sporting agenda. Monaco's ruler, Prince Albert I, was eager to exploit the rapidly growing automotive trade and to steal tourism from the neighbouring French coastal resorts. Gabriel Vialon, one of the early organisers of the Rally, suggested a racing event in which competitors would gather from distant towns and cities. The inaugural event was contested by 23 drivers, with seven of them 2 (**FAIL**) to reach Monte Carlo. Competitors started from Berlin, Boulogne, Brussels, Geneva, Paris and Vienna. As long as they passed a few predetermined passage controls, they 3 (**CAN/SELECT**) their own route. The rules stated that the winner 4 (**CHOOSE**) based on several factors, including total distance driven, the state of presentation of the car upon arrival and the number of people 5 (**CARRY**) in the car.

In the end, the wildly inconsistent organisers declared Frenchman Henri Rougier the winner for having maintained the fastest average speed, ignoring the other stated factors in the process. In the mid-1900s, Monte Carlo with its famous casino and the grand prix 6 (**MUST/SEEM**) a million miles away from the UK.

While rally fans and commentators hold the Monte in the highest esteem today, it's an event that the drivers find particularly frustrating, and often intimidating. It's defined by the state of the road surface. While Monte Carlo itself 7 (**MAY/BATHE**) in 17C sunshine, the temperature on the timed Special Stages high up in the mountains could be -5C. The road surface, then, will often be covered in snow and ice.

The stages are typically lined on one side by a rock face, with a sheer drop on the other. These dangers would be manageable if the surface 8 (**COVER**) consistently with snow and ice. A quirk of this rally is that each stage features dry sections: a section on the north face of the mountain could be treacherous, while the section on the south face could be perfectly safe. The only helpful factor in this instance is experience. The wise drivers know that ice is likely 9 (**FORM**) where the stage passes over a bridge, because cool air sits directly beneath the road surface. They also know that each stage has one telltale corner where, for such features as altitude and aspect, ice will gather first. If this corner 10 (**HAVE**) no ice, the rest of the stage will not have it, either.

(Adapted from an article in *The Telegraph*, 31 December 2010, by Dan Prosser)

- | | |
|-----|----------------------|
| 0. | <i>was first run</i> |
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Pagina vuota