Livello di base

INGLES

Prova d'esame 1

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

Sabato, 30 maggio 2015 / 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.
A) COMPRENSIONE DI TESTI SCRITTI

Task 1: Sentence completion

Read the text and complete the sentences below. Use 1–3 words in each gap.

Example:

0. Jill Insley took her daughter, Imogen, on a volunteering holiday to the Sunderbans in India.

1. Above all, Jill was most concerned about Imogen's emotional reaction to the obvious ________________ in India.

2. Imogen's fears remained even after reading about ________________ deaths caused by tigers.

3. The large part of the Sunderbans is actually ________________.

4. Jill's description of Calcutta contained a critical remark about ________________ there.

5. The 20 Help Tourism camps differ from other holiday destinations as the locals ________________.

6. Owing to the Sunderbans Jungle Camp, the local children on Bali Island ________________.

7. Neither the river nor ________________ can make Bali Island safe from tigers.

8. ________________ that they took was rewarding but also discouraging due to the guide's story about a tiger.

9. On one of their boat trips, they were ________________ seeing a tiger until they found the creature's footprints.

10. The local respect for tigers was manifested during the musical event which presented the animal ________________.
Mum, this is going to get messy

A new breed of volunteering holiday suits parents and kids as Jill Insley and Imogen discover in India.

The day before I took my daughter to the Sunderbans in north east India, the Times of India reported: ‘A 21-year-old resident of Patharpratima was killed and partly eaten by a tiger in the Sunderbans.’ I discreetly tore the article out of the paper and hid it. Imogen, who is 11, was already alarmed enough about going to an area where the local wildlife regarded mankind as supper. I was more worried about getting Delhi belly and whether Imogen would be overwhelmed by the poverty she would definitely see once in India.

We were going on a volunteering and wildlife holiday in the Sunderbans to test whether children and conservation work mix. Very few travel companies allow children to do volunteering work. However, Hands Up Holidays aims to blend sightseeing with ‘meaningful volunteering experiences’, and tailors trips to suit the traveller, so children can be included in the plan. I had been lured by the picture of a gorgeous tiger walking out of a forest towards water on the Hands Up Holidays website, although it stressed that seeing this elusive animal was pretty unlikely. In addition, Lonely Planet India claims: ‘Thanks to strategic perimeter fences near villages, the number of human deaths attributed to tigers has dropped significantly.’ Even so, Imogen still had concerns about the journey to the Sunderbans.

The Sunderbans form the biggest area of tidal mangrove forest in the world, spreading from West Bengal in India to Bangladesh. The Indian part of the Sunderbans covers 4,262 sq km, with 2,585 sq km given over to a national park. It is only about 90km from Calcutta, where we had spent the first three days of our holiday taking in markets, temples and exhaust fumes. But the journey to the Sunderbans Jungle Camp on Bali Island where we were staying takes two hours by car and another two by boat.

Bali Island has some 25,000 people, but no mains water, electricity, roads or cars. People live in homes built from sticks, mud and straw, they burn dried-out cow pats on their fires, and the cows, goats and chickens live in the front yard. After Calcutta, it’s heaven. The Sunderbans Jungle Camp is one of 20 run by Help Tourism, a Calcutta-based organisation that channels at least 75 per cent of its profits to the local people, who share ownership and help run its projects in the north east and east of India.

The Bali Island camp employs 19 people, provides a water pump for people who previously had to walk a couple of kilometres to collect clean water, helps fund the local school and supplies a medical service. Solar electricity is supplemented by a generator in the evening, and if you want a bath, you ask for two buckets of hot water instead of one. But the food is amazing.

The camp faces Gomdi Khal, part of the Saznerkhali Wild Life Sanctuary – an area of reserved forest. Our guide, Tanmoy Ghosh, took us there on a small rowing boat, along the river separating the two islands. The river looked about 1km in width, yet Tanmoy told us that a tiger had swum from Gomdi Khal to Bali just a few months earlier. The 2.5m tall fence that runs along the bank, dipping down into the water where creeks led into the island, acts more as a psychological barrier than a physical one to the tigers, which can easily scale the wire.

The next day we were on the water by 6am. We passed kingfishers, fish eagles, monkeys, a lesser adjutant stork, the occasional wild boar and spotted Chittal deer, immense saltwater crocodiles and lizards. After dinner, Tanmoy offered to take us on a night walk. ‘Hold the torch up at your eye level and shine it along the edge of the field,’ he said. We did, and were rewarded with myriad luminous green jewels twinkling in the undergrowth. ‘Spiders’ eyes,’ he explained. On our way back he pointed out a spot where a tiger had been seen a few weeks ago; Imogen slipped her hand into mine and we edged a bit closer to Tanmoy.

The next day, just after we had started out, the captain of the boat peered through the mist at a beach about 500m away and said ‘Tiger!’ Everyone jumped up and started arguing in ferocious whispers about whether it was a tiger or a wild boar. ‘It’s too fat and dark to be a tiger,’ said one of the boat hands. By the time we had reached the beach, the wild boar-like tiger had melted back into the forest, but left clear tracks in the mud. It was definitely a tiger.

That evening villagers staged a folk musical celebrating the forest goddess Bonobibi and the tiger god Dakshin Roy. Afterwards one of the actors told how he had been fishing at night with two friends. He had been sitting in the middle of the boat, and when he looked round, the friend who had been behind him had disappeared. There had been no noise, no struggle. It seems every family has been touched by such a loss.

(Adapted from an article in The Observer, 9 November 2008, by Jill Insley)
**Task 2: Matching**

You are going to read four advertisements for different types of alternative medicine. For questions 1–10 choose from the advertisements (A–D). Some advertisements may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, they may be given in any order.

There are three examples at the beginning (0), (00), and (000).

Which therapy(ies)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>question</th>
<th>answer(s)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>uses plants and herbs to treat people?</td>
<td><strong>0 D</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have been used since ancient times?</td>
<td><strong>00 C</strong> and <strong>000 D</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>has an instant effect?</td>
<td>1 ___</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>offers sessions that can be tailored to suit the clients' timetable?</td>
<td>2 ___</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>might be dangerous if not carried out properly?</td>
<td>3 ___</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>can serve as an additional treatment to another therapy?</td>
<td>4 ___</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may dig up forgotten memories?</td>
<td>5 ___</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>has a more distinguished equivalent?</td>
<td>6 ___</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>used to be favoured over other therapies in the distant past?</td>
<td>7 ___</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>is becoming increasingly popular?</td>
<td>8 ___</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>can help people cope with sleep deprivation?</td>
<td>9 ___ and 10 ___</td>
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</table>
Alternative medicine

A Auricular therapy is actually an alternative to other, more conventional forms of medicine that is used by people who do not trust the idea of using modern medicine because they believe it can be rather invasive and unhealthy. Like acupuncture and massage therapy, auricular therapy focuses on various pressure points around the body and how they can be manipulated to achieve certain desired results. The nerve endings on the end of the ears are particularly important because they are connected directly to the brain. People who use this kind of treatment look at auricular methodology as a way to massage the brain and prepare it for regular strenuous activities. There are many different things that can be achieved by targeting these specific areas on your body, and one of the main functions of this treatment is helping people slow down the desire to consume too much food. These exercises are known to speed up your overall metabolic rate, which will eventually lead to a lower weight level. You will be able to schedule treatments on your own time because most facilities like to try and work their schedules around the patients rather than the other way around.

B Hypnotherapy could be a solution for depressed individuals who have tried other treatment options which have not worked. Hypnotherapy can work as an adjunct to therapy or as a standalone treatment for those who wish not to make pharmaceuticals part of their treatment. Most often hypnotherapy is used as a supplement to psychotherapy. Hypnotherapists use exercises that bring about deep relaxation and an altered state of consciousness, also known as a trance. The depressed individual is able to explore painful emotions, traumatic occurrences while in the hypnotic state. The person will be able to dredge up feelings and stories that lie buried or dormant and work through them. Hypnotherapy could also resolve sleep disorders and help people overcome eating disorders. It can help a person come to terms with bereavement, grief or loss and could also help manage post trauma anxiety. Hypnosis as we know it today was first associated with the work of an Austrian physician named Franz Mesmer. In the 1700s, he used magnets and other hypnotic techniques to treat people. But the medical community was not convinced. Mesmer was accused of fraud, and his techniques were called unscientific. Hypnotherapy regained popularity when, in 1958, the American Medical Association recognized hypnotherapy as a valid medical procedure.

C Anyone who wants to learn about reflexology is going to be rather interested in this alternative treatment because there is actually a lot of information to take in on the topic. In reflexology, pressure is applied to certain areas of the body that are able to release stress and allow energy to flow freely throughout the body. The process of reflexology is rather similar to the more notable type of treatment known as acupuncture. The main reason that someone would want to use reflexology is to allow stress to be removed from their body and to improve their overall blood circulation. These two perks of reflexology really go hand in hand because you are usually going to be able to relieve some stress when you are improving your blood circulation. The treatment known as reflexology has been around for centuries, and different versions of this treatment have been used in places such as China, Egypt and India. There is evidence that reflexology was rather prevalent in the ancient world, so this is definitely something that has worked wonders for individuals for many years. There are many different types of problems that reflexology can handle. Insomnia, migraines and toothaches are just some of the many problems that can be countered with reflexology. You should at least give this kind of treatment a try if you are really going to try and get your health back in order.

D Aromatherapy is a form of alternative medicine, which is getting trendier every day. It uses the medicinal properties of the essential oils of plants and herbs to enhance psychological and physical well-being. The use of plant essential oils dates back to the ancient times in Egypt, Italy, India, and China. French chemist Rene-Maurice Gattefosse coined the term aromatherapy in 1937, when he witnessed first-hand the healing power of lavender oil on healing skin burns. Essential oils can affect almost every organ system in the body. Each essential oil has a unique pharmacological effect, such as anti-bacterial, antiviral, diuretic, tranquilizing, and adrenal stimulating. When an essential oil is inhaled, the molecules enter the nasal cavity and stimulate the limbic system in the brain. The limbic system is a region that influences emotions and is directly linked to the parts of the body that regulate heart rate, blood pressure, stress, hormone balance, and breathing. This makes the effects of essential oils immediate in bringing about emotional and physiological balance. Essential oils can be toxic when taken internally so they should only be taken orally under the guidance of a qualified professional.

(Adapted from various sources)
B) CONOSCENZA E USO DELLA LINGUA

Task 1: Multiple choice

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

There is an example at the beginning (0).

Eleanor of Aquitaine

Eleanor of Aquitaine (1122–1204) was a __0__ figure in the Middle Ages and a prominent figure in women's history. Born the Duchess of Aquitaine, she would eventually become Queen of England, the wife of Henry II. Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine remained heavily involved in the ruling of King Henry II's vast empire. __1__ from the Pyrenees in the south to the English-Scottish border in the north, their empire was indeed vast. Their __2__ would rule England and parts of the Continent for the next 330 years, a period of greedy royal ambition, family jealousies and territorial overreach.

Blessed with intelligence, creative energy and a remarkably long life, Eleanor of Aquitaine played a major role in the 12th century, an impressive achievement given that medieval women were considered nothing more than property. Assets of brains and enterprise served her well in the chaos of the time: continuing __3__ between the English and the French, crusades and struggle between church and state. They equipped her to advance culture in a ruthless era by promoting the songs of troubadours and the ideals of courtly love.

During a stormy marriage of nearly 40 years, Eleanor and Henry II produced seven children that survived to adulthood, four of __4__ were sons. The oldest surviving son, known as the Young King Henry, __5__ of dysentery at age 28 while leading troops in rebellion against his father. __6__ disloyal son, Geoffrey, died a mysterious death in Paris, also at age 28. Eleanor's favourite son, Richard the Lionheart, and Henry's favourite, John Lackland, would __7__ in turn inherit the crown of England. Throughout her childbearing years, Eleanor participated in the administration of the realm.

Later on in their marriage, Eleanor and Henry became alienated: the 12-year age difference __8__ an obstacle in the marriage. Eleanor resented Henry's infidelities, particularly his unconcealed relationship with the fair Rosamund, a beauty that was much praised by contemporary English poets. Yet more important than Eleanor's resentment was her burning ambition for personal power. She believed that with one of her sons on the throne, she herself would rule England.

In 1202, at age 80, she __9__ to the monastery at Fontevrault in Anjou, where she died in 1204. In the years immediately following her death, historians __10__ Eleanor harshly, spotlighting only her youthful indiscretions and ignoring the political wisdom and tenacity that marked the years of her maturity. The nuns of Fontevrault, however, wrote in their necrology: 'She was beautiful and just, imposing and modest, humble and elegant.'

(Adapted from http://creativitymovement.net)
Task 2: Gap fill (verbs)

For gaps 1–15, write the correct forms of the verbs in brackets in the spaces on the right.

There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0.

Good news for teenagers – exercise can be bad for you

One of the few modern articles of faith __0__ (BE) our belief in exercise. Even if you don’t do it, you know what its powers are. Exercise makes you thinner, sexier, more energetic and happier. We __1__ (CONSTANTLY / URGE) to do more of it – especially our children, who will otherwise spend their whole lives __2__ (LIE) on the sofa.

Quick – send your young out to the playing fields! The National Health Service website __3__ (ADVISE) that children aged five to 18 should do at least an hour a day of mixed-intensity aerobic exercise, as well as muscle-strengthening activities and resistance exercises with exercise bands, weight machines or hand-held weights.

Now, I don’t doubt that a bit of running around is good for children. I dutifully drag mine to the playground most days, for an hour of moaning and shivering and inching down the wet slide in their welly boots. If nothing else, it makes us all doubly happy __4__ (GET) home. But an actual exercise regime? Isn’t that the price you pay for __5__ (BE) a grown-up? Pumping weights seems to me a poor use of the precious currency of childhood: time that __6__ (COULD / SPEND) battling superheroes, drawing on the carpet, trimming the cat’s whiskers, drooling contentedly in front of the telly, or – best by far – reading.

I find it just as weird when friends take their teenage children to the gym. Don’t they have malls to roam, rules to break? Something – anything – more joyful than running on the spot in pursuit of toned thighs? When I was little, in the Seventies, no British person of any age knowingly __7__ (TAKE) exercise. They __8__ (MAY / DO) it unwittingly – while going for a nice walk, say – but the idea of exercise as a virtuous activity in its own right had yet to cross the Atlantic.

The first time I ever saw someone jogging, I __9__ (DRIVE) through Richmond Park with my family. Dad pointed out of the window and said: ‘What’s that man running away from?’ Mum said: ‘Look at his tiny shorts!’ We concluded that he must be either crazy or on the run from the police, so we __10__ (NOT / STOP) to help.

It was another decade or so before madmen in tiny shorts became a common sight on British streets. In the meantime, I had the benefit of a thoroughly indolent childhood. Apart from unavoidable movements and occasional fun ones, I hardly used my body at all. This inactive upbringing doesn’t seem __11__ (DO) much physical damage. And I still believe that the habit of reading was – and is – at least as good for my mental health as any exercise regime.

The good news is, science may be coming round to this view. Indeed, a report __12__ (PUBLISH) by Swiss researchers this week claims that too much exercise can make teenagers miserable. __13__ (BASE) on studies of 1,200 adolescents, it found that a moderate amount of physical activity did make them happier. But those who __14__ (EXERCISE) for two hours a day reported lower levels of emotional wellbeing.

Dr Suris argues that doctors may be putting too much faith in the magic of exercise. ‘As paediatricians, we ask children if they __15__ (PRACTISE) sport. If they say, “Yes, three hours a day,” we think, “Great – this guy has no problems.” Maybe, though, we should ask, “Are you happy? Would you prefer to read a book?”'

Less jogging, more novels: I like this doctor’s orders.

(Adapted from an article in The Telegraph, 21 November 2013, by Jemima Lewis)
Pagina vuota