Livello superiore

INGLESE

≡ Prova d'esame 1 ≡

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

Sabato, 26 agosto 2017 / 60 minuti (35 + 25)

Materiali e sussidi consentiti:
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 29 punti nella parte B, per un totale di 49 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. Alte 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) COMPRENSIONE DI TESTI SCRITTI

Task 1: Multiple choice

For questions 1–9, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits according to the text. There is an example at the beginning: Answer 0.

Devil’s Brood

1 Early June 1183
Martel, Limousin, Kingdom of France

Henry the Young King had been blessed with good health as well as beauty and had only vague memories of childhood illnesses. He was dimly aware now that he was very sick. He’d drifted far from familiar shores, his dreams full of red-hot colours and undefined fears and premonitions. He wanted only to sleep, yet people would not let him alone. They kept poking and prodding him, swathing his body in cold compresses, trying to get him swallow bitter-tasting liquids that he did not want to drink. He’d tossed and turned in his bed, seeking to escape these unwelcome attendants, but they persevered and he was too weak to resist.

Delirium was not unlike drowning, for he was caught up in a whirlpool carrying him farther and farther from reality. And when he finally regained consciousness, he had to fight his way back to the surface, gasping for breath as he broke free of the feverish currents dragging him down. The light was unbearably bright, even after he filtered it through his lashes. Gradually the room came into focus. Two of his friends, Robert and Peter, were slumped on a bench by the bed, and his servant Thomas was seated cross-legged on the floor; he wondered why they all looked so miserable. When he opened his mouth to ask them, though, the words that emerged from his throat were so slurred that even he could not understand them.

The sound was enough to jerk their heads up, and the next moment, they were gathered by the bed, all talking at once. They were not making much sense to Henry. Thomas kept mumuring ‘God’s Grace’ as if he had no other words, and Peter seemed to be blinking back tears. But Robert was acting the most strangely, wanting to know if Henry could recognize him. Henry thought that was a very odd question, for he’d known the Norman knight for most of his life. He opened his mouth again, meaning to assure Robert that he was too ugly to forget, but he was surprised to discover that speaking demanded more energy than he could gather. When he moved his head away from the sunlight flooding the bed, one of them hurried to close the shutters, and the chamber was soon a scene of utter confusion as other men crowded in.

Henry felt a great relief at the sight of his friend William Marshal, sure all would be well now that Marshal was here. He was not as pleased to see the doctor, looming over the bed like an avenging angel, for he recognized the man as his chief tormentor, the one who’d kept pouring vile potions down his throat, who would not go away.

‘God be praised, the fever is down,’ the doctor announced, but he sounded so triumphant that Henry thought he was claiming more credit than the Almighty for the change in Henry’s condition. Doctors were like that, he knew. It was always their doing when a patient recovered, and God’s will when he did not. He could not find enough strength to tease the physician, though; since when did talking exhaust a man so much? He was finding it hard to stay awake, but he was afraid of slipping back into those restless dreams, and when his eyes met William’s, he silently begged him to keep vigil. When William brought a stool close to the bed and sat down, he smiled. Will had understood. Bless him, Will always understood.

When Henry awoke hours later, he was disappointed that he was still as weak as a new-born cub. He must have been at death’s door, for certain. He was astonished to learn that this was Sunday; he’d lost three full days of his life! He remembered some of it now – the sharp pains in his belly, the endless bouts of diarrhoea, the nausea. No wonder he felt as flat as a loaf of unleavened bread. He’d have to be patient as he got his strength back, and patience came no easier to him than it did to the rest of his family.

(Adapted from Devil’s Brood by Sharon Kay Penman)
Example:

0. The first paragraph informs the reader that Henry
   A had many fears as he had endured a sickly childhood.
   B was in a state of semi-consciousness and hallucination.
   C sailed on a ship that drifted from the familiar shores.
   D was too weak to resist the temptations of beauty.

1. Henry compares his current situation to
   A drowning in unbearably bright light.
   B swimming in a pool of water.
   C struggling in turbulent waters.
   D riding favourable currents.

2. When opening his eyes, Henry was unable to
   A understand the gloomy atmosphere in the room.
   B emit a single sound, let alone say a word.
   C comprehend Robert’s question.
   D hold back his tears.

3. The name of the Norman knight referred to in line 25 is
   A Peter.
   B Thomas.
   C Robert.
   D Henry.

4. After reading Paragraph 3, the reader can conclude that Henry, despite being gravely ill
   A was still able to speak with his friends.
   B still hadn’t lost his sense of humour.
   C liked being surrounded by a crowd of men.
   D didn’t disapprove of lying in a well-lit chamber.

5. Seeing the doctor, Henry
   A thought of him as his guardian angel.
   B wanted to become his chief tormentor.
   C announced that his fever had come down.
   D was reminded of his feverish sleep.

6. Henry believed that all doctors
   A lacked a sense of modesty upon the patient’s recovery.
   B understood the patient’s recovery as a sign of God’s will.
   C were insufficiently trained for treating patients.
   D hated being teased about their profession.

7. It can be determined from the context that to keep vigil in line 41 means
   A to spend nights praying instead of sleeping.
   B to interpret the person’s restless dreams.
   C to examine the patient’s stool medically.
   D to stay awake at the patient’s bedside.

8. During the three full days, Henry
   A ate a loaf of unleavened bread only.
   B had digestive problems.
   C felt as if he were a new-born cub.
   D regained much of his strength.

9. It was typical of Henry’s family to act
   A patiently.
   B strongly.
   C hastily.
   D easily.
Task 2: Gapped text

In the following extract, 11 sentences have been removed. Choose from sentences A–L the one which fits each gap (1–11). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Write your answers in the spaces next to the numbers. There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0 (M).

Travel: Life and Seoul

The first totems we drive past are the Garbage Mountains. 0  M  They are green, rolling, lightly wooded and crisscrossed by trails on which Seoul weary citizens might wander. The South Koreans are proud of having transformed their terrible trash problems into parkland. 1  They also collect methane to heat civic amenities. We are on Freedom Motorway. It is called so, they say, because one day it will reconnect the communist North with the capitalist South. I am with my translator, Kwon, and a photographer and we are on the 35-mile journey out of Seoul towards the world’s most heavily militarised border, which divides the two countries.

The Han River runs beside us deep and wide and glinting in metallic shades of blue-grey. The road turns north. As we move outside the precincts of Seoul, we begin to pass pale clusters of tower blocks. 2  And here live the ever-expanding metropolitan overspill in thousands upon thousands of new apartments linked by malls and walkways that light up at night with an ethereal charm. Another few miles and Kwon points towards an industrial complex, the place where LG, the vast electronics company, is developing its ‘eighth generation’ technology. He jokes, it is so sharp and real that they don’t dare bring it out for fear of people walking straight through the screens. 3  

So far so good on Freedom Highway. But now, some 15 miles in, the tone of our trip begins to change. Besides the billboards, we begin passing under several bridges daubed in cheaper fly posters. 4  Kwon’s face becomes more sombre. They are anti-tank devices, he explains, dummy bridges, heavy concrete structures primed with explosives, ready to be detonated in the event of an invasion. To the South Koreans, this is not idle talk. 5  Not a year goes by without some dangerous border skirmish or serious naval incident; they consider invasion a real and present danger. By most conventional military measures, the South would eventually overwhelm the North, but the capital’s proximity to the border weighs heavily – decisively – in the balance of such grim calculations. 6  

Twenty-five miles out of central Seoul, the Han River on our left is mingling with the murkier waters of the Imjin River, which the South Koreans call ‘the river of the dead’ because of the number of bodies that (they claim) floated down from the North during the rumoured famines of the 1990s. 7  And no less so for the English ear since it was during the Korean War that the Imjin also witnessed the legendary last stand of the 400 men of the Gloucestershire Regiment who, cut off and surrounded, defended the crest of a single hill against the relentless Chinese attack (eight times their number) for 24 crucial hours. 8  

We begin to pass pillboxes, troops, sentry posts and artillery. Our journey slows. The last few miles are clogged with checkpoints, and both sides of the road have stark warning signs: ‘Danger of Death – DMZ’ – ‘the scariest place on earth’, as Bill Clinton once said. 9  And there’s a funfair and candyfloss and fast-food restaurants and people selling baseball caps and yoyos, and somehow the whole thing is wrong.

The DMZ was originally created as a buffer zone. Running for 160 miles across the Korean Peninsula, it is 2.5 miles wide – two on either side of the actual border. The idea is that neither side deploys military hardware inside its confines. When you watch the video as part of the ‘DMZ experience’, they make the case (after the scenes of orphans and slaughter) for it becoming a wonderful nature reserve. But the DMZ is no more the place for a funfair than Alton Towers is for testing missiles. Putting aside the history of the actual war – families severed; 3 million slaughtered – there has been a steady recurrence of shootings, stand-offs, murders and maiming in and around the border every year since. Despite the propaganda on both sides, we can be fairly sure that the ordinary folk of North Korea are no more bent on military aggression than ordinary folk anywhere in the world. Kwon has travelled there several times. 10  Indeed there is also a cynical line of thinking that the only people at the table who unequivocally want reunification are, perversely, the North Korean people. Except, of course, they are not at the table. 11  The Chinese and the Russians want the buffer zone of a communist North. The Japanese don’t much like the idea of a greater Korea. The Kim dynasty can only lose through unification. What they need most of all for their internal politics is a big and highly visible enemy muscling up and down their border day and night.

(Adapted from an article in The Observer, 21 November 2010, by Edward Docx)
A They seem unnecessarily frequent and yet they carry neither traffic nor pedestrians.
B Their sacrifice allowed the rest of the UN troops to regroup.
C They do it carefully, stabilising the vast mounds and planting skilfully.
D He says they want what we all want: decent food, security, healthcare, and shelter.
E The Americans seek to retain reasons for their heavy military presence in South Korea.
F It's a macabre name for a macabre place.
G Seoul would be horribly vulnerable long before any such conflict could be 'won'.
H These are further evidence of the economic miracle: the satellite cities.
I While negotiating above ground, the North dug a series of secret tunnels under the DMZ.
J We find that it is packed with giggling children in bright yellow tracksuits.
K His pride, several decades into the job, is characteristic of South Koreans.
L The Seoul subway has signs telling passengers what to do in the event of an attack.
M And, contrary to the name, they are almost beautiful.
B) CONOSCENZA E USO DELLA LINGUA

Task 1: Gap fill

There is ONE word missing in each gap. Write the missing words in the spaces on the right. There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0.

Fury, film review: Brad Pitt is intriguing as unsympathetic war hero

The _0_ American director Sam Fuller famously observed that "a war film’s objective, no matter _1_ personal and emotional, is to make a viewer feel war."

Fuller’s films were macho, lowish budget affairs that occasionally had very creaky production values but they always had a ring of truth. _2_ all, as a former soldier, he had been there on Omaha Beach on D-Day. He knew war at first hand.

David Ayer’s Fury, set in April 1945 and following the battle hardened crew of a Sherman tank as the Allies make _3_ final push to defeat the Nazis, owes a very obvious debt to Fuller. _4_ Fuller’s The Big Red One (1980), it is also an epic with a warped and delirious feel. Just as Fuller once did, Ayer tries throughout to combine a grunt eye view of combat _5_ poetic symbolism. Right at the outset, a German officer on _6_ white horse is seen riding through a corpse strewn battlefield. It is a scene of utter devastation, dark and muddy, against _7_ the horse looks like something from a fairy tale. We all know that the eerie quiet is just a prelude to an act of extreme violence.

Brad Pitt’s character, the tank commander Sgt. Don ‘Wardaddy’ Collier, is the type of gnarled veteran you could imagine Lee Marvin or Robert Ryan playing in a previous generation. Pitt’s face is well-nigh permanently caked in dirt. He still gets to _8_ off his torso at one stage, but although he _9_ still have the body of a male model, Collier also reveals the scars of battle.

Pitt’s performance is untypical _10_ he is prepared to be so unsympathetic, at least initially. With his appetite for violence and his cynicism, he is the utter antithesis of the all American GI-type celebrated in Ernie Pyle’s wonderful wartime journalism. Inevitably, as the film progresses, the characterization of Collier softens. By the final reel, he has become a far more conventional, but unfortunately a _11_ interesting figure: a hero with a sense of sacrifice. _12_ is a jarring uncertainty of tone throughout Fury. On the one hand, Ayer emphasizes the pity and squalor of war. At the film’s London Film Festival premiere, Pitt was keen to tell younger viewers that this was _13_ video game. There is huge suffering and casualties remain _14_ – you can’t press reboot to bring them back to life. The film underlines the psychic trauma its protagonists faced. At the same time, Ayer is serving up a riproaring old fashioned boy’s own adventure _15_ which Collier and his tank crew use the kind of terse, macho language found in old Victor comics. “We’re going to skin you alive,” a German officer shrieks at Collier during one battle scene. “Shut up and send me more pigs to kill,” the American shouts back.

(Adapted from an article in The Independent, 20 October 2014, by Geoffrey Macnab)
Task 2: Gap fill (verbs)

For gaps 1–14, write the correct form of each verb given in brackets in the spaces on the right. There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0.

“I know the dangers but I want them anyway”: The dark truth about diet pills

Two weeks ago, 21-year-old student Eloise Aimee Parry died after _0_ (TAKE) diet pills she’d bought online.
The drugs contain the highly-toxic substance known as Dinitrophenol or DNP, which is known _1_ (CONTRIBUTE) to the deaths of others using it for weight loss. Eloise’s mother Fiona _2_ (NOW / DECIDE) to speak about the tragedy. She says she wants to warn others not to make the same mistake.

“I didn’t know it at the time, but Ella had bought slimming tablets on the internet. She had taken even more of these ‘slimming tablets’ than recommended on the pack and had no idea just how dangerous they really were. If only I had known what she was doing, I _3_ (MAY BE) able to help her.” The cause of Eloise’s death is still to be confirmed by a coroner, but police _4_ (INVESTIGATE) where she bought the pills.
DNP is not a miracle slimming pill, it is a deadly toxin. It’s similar to TNT in structure. TNT is an explosive. DNP causes your metabolism to run at an explosive level, with potentially fatal consequences. The full scale of the drug’s damage hasn’t been reported yet. But a 2011 study found 62 deaths _5_ (ATTRIBUTE) to the drug. It also found that deaths increased from 2001 to 2010, which may be due to increased availability of DNP over the internet.

There have been repeated warnings from the Food Standards Authority against using it for weight loss. But the problem is that it’s still sold illegally online, and in the UK it is actually available to buy as a pesticide. Eloise’s father has called for DNP _6_ (MAKE) illegal to sell in any format – even if it is not being advertised for weight loss. This has not yet happened, but worryingly, the problem seems _7_ (GROW).
Professor Jayne Lawrence, from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, says: “I think the scale is very large at the moment. You just put ‘weight loss’ into Google and these sites come up.” She explains the particular appeal with DNP is that, unfortunately, it actually works. “The problem is that it’s very effective, because if you _8_ (TAKE) the tablets for eight days, you might lose 12 to 14 pounds of weight. But it’s also very dangerous and toxic. First of all you feel very warm because your metabolism has increased. It’s very uncomfortable and people remember _9_ (FEEL) horrible. They can cause death quite quickly.”
The drug is a fat burner, and works by accelerating the metabolism to a dangerously fast level. It can cause many side effects such as fever, dehydration, fast heartbeat, rapid breathing and possibly death.

At the moment, the only weight loss drug that is classified as a medicine and available on prescription is Orlistat. It is a licensed product that _10_ (TEST). Unlike fat burners, it works by stopping the fat from _11_ (ABSORB) by the body and is known as a ‘fat binder’.

But there are other products available to buy in the UK in health shops and online, which can contain some of the compounds reported to be dangerous. These products _12_ (NOT CATEGORISE) as medicines, so are not regulated by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency. And, as long as they aren’t advertised with the promise to lose weight, they can be legally sold. “It’s a bit of a loophole. But herbal pills can be just as dangerous. People think they’ll be safer if they take herbal pills, but that’s not always the case,” says Lawrence. “There’s an obsession with having a beautiful body,” continues Lawrence. “So serious are their body confidence issues that not even the very real risk of weight loss drugs can put them off.” It’s why Lawrence says she _13_ (NOT BE) averse if a legitimate fat burner without side effects appeared on the market in the UK. “If there’s something proven to be safe that will help, then I’d rather people _14_ (TAKE) that than played Russian roulette with their lives,” concludes Lawrence.

(Adapted from an article in The Telegraph, 21 April 2015, by Radhika Sanghani)
Pagina vuota