Livello di base

INGLESE

Prova d'esame 1

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

Sabato, 1 giugno 2019 / 60 minuti (35 + 25)

Materiali e sussidi consentiti:
Al candidato è consentito l'uso della penna stilografica o della penna a sfera.

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.

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 27 punti nella parte B, per un totale di 47 punti. È prevista l'assegnazione di 1 punto per ciascuna risposta esatta.

Scrivete le vostre risposte all'interno della prova, nei riquadri appositamente previsti, 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 12 pagine, di cui 3 vuote.
The Orient Express – Research notes

History

• Entered service in (0) 1883 __________________________;
• first train service to connect one end of (1) __________________________ with the other;
• during the first years of service, the journey from Paris to Istanbul involved travelling
  (2) __________________________ in its final stage;
• after World War I, the original route (3) __________________________;
• after 1919, the service was named after (4) __________________________;
• no service during World War II, but reintroduced in 1947;
• stopped running in 1977 because of (5) __________________________;
• also appeared in different (6) __________________________.

James Sherwood

• An American businessman who decided to revive the old train service;
• the first step was the purchase of two original train cars at an auction;
• Sherwood’s Orient Express is a combination of cars from different
  (7) __________________________ and different (8) __________________________;
• Sherwood’s Orient Express was first considered a bad imitation because it was more stylish than
  the original;
• the public, however, were prepared to believe it was (9) __________________________.

Venice-Simplon Orient Express

• The service does not run from November to March;
• a newly-wed couple, going on a romantic trip from London to Venice, would have to pay
  (10) __________________________ for a return ticket;
• to be in Venice on 21 May, the traveller from London, wanting to travel by the VSOE, should take
  (11) __________________________ at the latest.
Orient Express: Train

The Orient Express, also called Simplon Orient Express (1919–77), was a luxury train that ran from Paris to Istanbul for more than 80 years (1883–1977). Europe’s first transcontinental express, it initially covered a route of more than 1,700 miles (about 2,740 km) that included brief stopovers in such cities as Munich, Vienna, Budapest, and Bucharest. The Orient Express was developed by the Belgian businessman Georges Nagelmackers and made its inaugural run in 1883. During its first journey the passengers travelled from Paris to the Bulgarian port of Varna via train and were then ferried by steamship across the Black Sea to Constantinople. By 1889, however, the entire trip was by rail.

Its service was stopped by World War I but resumed in 1919, with the route running from Calais and Paris to Lausanne, then via the Simplon Pass to Milan, Venice, Zagreb, Belgrade and Sofia, and was accordingly advertised as the Simplon Orient Express. The service was interrupted again during World War II, but it was resumed in 1947. The Orient Express was discontinued in 1977 after several decades of steadily declining ridership. In 1982, an American, James Sherwood, revived the train as the Venice-Simplon Orient Express, with several routes between London and Venice.

The train, which had sleeping, restaurant, and salon cars that housed smoking compartments and ladies’ drawing rooms was originally furnished by Nagelmackers’ Belgian firm, the Wagon-Lits Company. With its Oriental rugs, velvet draperies, mahogany panelling, deep armchairs covered in soft Spanish leather, and fine cuisine, the Orient Express was unmatched in luxuriousness and comfort. For years it attracted the elite of Europe’s society, including royalty. The glamour of the train also caught the imagination of numerous writers, among them Graham Greene and Agatha Christie, whose works helped to make it world-famous.

Travel special 2014: Recalling murderous fun on the Orient Express

But Christie’s Murder on the Orient Express wasn’t set on the original train but on the Simplon Orient Express, which started life in 1919 and went from Calais to Istanbul. Greene’s Stamboul Train is set on something called the Oostende-Vienna Orient Express. World War II and the fall of the Iron Curtain badly affected the luxury train services and by the 1960s the Orient Express had been dispersed into several minor services not worthy of the grand old name. From 1971, the Wagons-Lits Company didn’t own or run the train any longer, they just supplied the catering, the linen and the uniforms. In 1977, they withdrew from the Orient Express completely.

Enter James Sherwood, an entrepreneur who owned the Sea Containers Ltd. company, which dealt with leasing containers and shipping. At auction, he bought two of the original Wagon-Lits train carriages, and over the next five years he bought 35 more. He found elderly British sleeping cars from the 1920s and 1930s, and Pullman cars from the 1950s. He kitted out the English Pullmans in cosy brown-and-cream livery, and restored the interiors. In addition, he redecorated the old cars by the Wagons-Lits company in shiny midnight blue. And on 25 May, 1982, Sherwood’s Orient Express, officially named the Venice-Simplon Orient Express, made its first trip from London to Venice, 100 years after G Nagelmackers had started the whole thing. Of course it was a luxurious fake, a mock-up, a fairground forgery of an original that hadn’t been half as stylish. But in the early 1980s, the travel-trade world and the public collectively agreed to pretend this super-luxurious train was the old Orient Express.

What is the Venice-Simplon Orient Express (VSOE)

The VSOE is a privately-run train, providing a 5-star luxury train experience between London, Paris, Innsbruck, Verona and Venice, running roughly once a week from March to November. The journey from London to Venice takes 24 hours and costs £2,000 per person one way, including meals. If you can afford it, the VSOE is the most romantic and luxurious way to reach Venice, and its vintage carriages are a piece of history in themselves. The food and on-board service are truly world class.

Departure dates southbound, London to Venice:


Departure dates northbound, Venice to London:


(Adapted from various sources)
Task 2: Gapped sentences

In the following extract, nine sentence parts have been removed. Choose from sentence parts A–J the one which fits each gap (1–9). There is one extra sentence part which you do not need to use. Write your answers in the table below. There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0 (K).

Guardians of a vast lake

Thousands of years ago, every lake was like Great Bear Lake. So pure you could lower a cup into the water and drink it. So beautiful [0]. So mysterious that many believed it was alive. Today, of the ten largest lakes in the world, it is the last one that remains essentially primeval.

Great Bear Lake straddles the Arctic Circle in the remote Northwest Territories of Canada. At just over 12,000 square miles, the lake is the eighth largest in the world. It is bigger than Belgium and deeper than Lake Superior, and it is covered in ice and snow most of the year. The surrounding area is wilderness too – [1].

The only human settlement on its shores is the town of Deline, population 503. This isolated community is mostly Sahtuto'ine, meaning the Bear Lake People. They are as connected to the lake as the name implies, they are determined to keep it pristine. To the Sahtuto'ine, Great Bear Lake is not just a body of water; it’s fundamental to their culture. The people in Deline consider the lake to be a living thing. It is the last great lake of its size and quality on the planet. It’s like the Mona Lisa – a world treasure.

Their efforts paid off in 2016. In March, the Great Bear Lake watershed was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Called the Tsá Tué Biosphere Reserve, it is the largest in North America, and the first in the world to be led by an indigenous community. A few months later, the Canadian government granted Deline self-government, [2]. It is the first time that an aboriginal government in Canada will represent everyone in the community, aboriginal and non-aboriginal alike. Taken together, the UNESCO and self-government announcements reinforce Deline’s ability to control what happens to Great Bear Lake.

This past November, I returned to Deline to learn more about the community’s relationship with the lake, to witness the interplay of culture, language, wilderness and isolation [3]. It was late afternoon when the small plane dipped through a thick, low-lying cloud layer and I saw boreal forest – part of a vast biome that stretches across northern North America and Eurasia – as far as the eye could see. The plane descended toward a slender strip covered in white, Deline’s single runway. It was a short drive from the airport to the hotel where I was staying, the community-owned Grey Goose Lodge. For such a tiny community, [4], including a small handicrafts store in the hotel and an ambition to welcome the growing number of tourists who travel to Canada’s north for a winter and wilderness experience.

The evening I arrived, I met Morris Neyelle, a member of the new governing council. Mr Neyelle, 65, tall and soft-spoken, switches easily between English and North Slavey. He said self-government allowed the residents of Deline to preserve their way of life [5]. In the past, people would look only to the national and provincial government for help. Now, Deline would decide what was best for its people.

At 8 the next morning, I awoke to darkness. From November until January, Deline gets less than five hours of sun each day, although it makes up for that between May and July, when it gets over...

Deline is predominantly Roman Catholic. Inside the church, I witnessed the community’s focus on preserving North Slavey. An elder was leading the congregation in the rosary. His call was in North Slavey, and the response was in a mix of Slavey and English. During the Mass, the Gospel and the homily were in English, followed by an on-the-spot translation into North Slavey. The language is spoken everywhere – in church, on the streets and at home – [7]. The 2011 Canadian census counted only 225 people who identified the language as their mother tongue. But North Slavey is an official language of the Deline Got’ine Government and of the Northwest Territories.

After Mass, we drove to Ski Hill, a gathering place for the community perched on top of a cleared rise near town. The sun had been up for three hours, but already it was getting dark. Several pickup trucks were parked close together, next to a recently built hut with a blazing fire pit in the middle. Children were sledding – [8] –, and some of the adults were test-driving a new snowmobile with a powerful engine. Strips of lake trout along with moose meat and hot dogs cooked on top of barrel grills. The atmosphere was festive, perhaps because it seemed as if Great Bear Lake was finally freezing over. This meant access to the entire lake, better fishing and [9].

Or perhaps it was festive because these were friends gathering on a Sunday to enjoy the sunset, grilled food and conversation in North Slavey and in English. It reminded me that despite the ground-breaking nature of Deline’s self-government and UNESCO status, it was still a small town. The type of town where the phone directory is a piece of paper taped to the wall.

(Adapted from an article in The New York Times, 7 February 2017, by Peter Kujawinski)

A and to use their tradition to tackle modern problems
B an ice road that would temporarily connect Deline to the outside world
C a sprawling land of untouched boreal forest and tundra, rivers and mountains
D despite the name of the hill, no one actually skis there
E Deline has more tourist infrastructure than I expected
F ensuring local control in areas like language and education
G but it was not until 10:30 a.m.
H but speaking North Slavey was crucial to preserving the culture
I as part of a concerted effort to keep it alive
J that makes this area so distinct
K that people composed love songs to it

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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. Bear in mind that all contracted forms with the exception of can’t count as two words. There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0.

Cardinals see red over Vatican McDonald's

Opponents of what would be the first McDonald’s restaurant to open _0_ a Vatican building within sight of St Peter’s Square have received support from a group of cardinals living above the proposed site. While local residents have been aghast at the thought of a Golden Arches near the home of the Catholic church, cardinals who live in the apartment building _1_ the fast food chain will be located have more practical concerns, according to Italian media reports. The cardinals have complained that they were _2_ consulted about the new McDonald’s and are worried that they will have to help pay for extra restructuring expenses to adapt the building, including a new flue for the kitchen.

The problems allegedly started when the cardinals were informed this summer by Apsa, the Holy See agency that owns the property and manages the Vatican’s vast real estate holdings, that it _3_ agreed to rent the ground floor space to McDonald’s. The US fast food company was reportedly willing to pay ‘a few tens of thousands of euros _4_ month’ for the property – which faces Borgo Pio and Via del Mascherino – offering much more than any _5_ potential tenants.

The Committee for the Protection of Borgo was the first group _6_ raise the alarm over the proposed restaurant. It said the fast food chain would distort the area _7_ inflict a ‘decisive blow on an already wounded animal’ given the abundance of mini-markets and stands selling religious trinkets in the area.

The new proposed McDonald’s will not _8_ technically be located within the Vatican City walls. But _9_ is at the centre of Vatican life, a spot where many cardinals have lived. Even _9_ senior clergy members would rather not dine on a Big Mac with fries, the chain will likely become an attractive lunch and dinner destination for the young men of the Swiss guard, _10_ barracks are nearby. It is unclear whether the angry cardinals will receive a sympathetic ear from Pope Francis, who has famously opted to live in modest accommodations in Casa Santa Marta and repeatedly pressed clergy to live as simply and frugally as possible.

Two controversial books released last year by Italian journalists Gianluigi Nuzzi and Emiliano Fittipaldi described _11_ many cardinals live in the lap of luxury in apartments owned by the Vatican, with one former high-ranking official, Tarcisio Bertone, living in _12_ was described as a ‘princely dwelling’, at very modest prices. Instead of rent, the cardinals usually only pay for utilities and, once _13_ retire, are charged a monthly rental fee of €7 to €10 per sq metre.

The Vatican denied that cardinals were being forced to shoulder any of the costs, and said that the cardinals had simply been notified that a secondary lift in the building _14_ be removed to accommodate part of the planned renovation.

Opponents are looking to the example set by Florence for inspiration, pointing to the decision by the Renaissance city to reject the proposed opening of a McDonald’s within walking distance of Porta Sant’Anna in order to protect the cultural heritage of the historic centre.

(Adapted from an article in The Guardian, 14 October 2016, by Stephanie Kirchgaessner)
Example:
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13. \text{________} \\
14. \text{________}
Task 2: Gap fill (verbs)

For gaps 1–13, write the correct form of the verbs in brackets in the spaces on the right. There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0.

**Former world’s richest man Nelson Bunker Hunt dies in modest circumstances in US after losing his fortune**

Once _0_ (CONSIDER) to be the richest man in the world, Texas oil magnate Nelson Bunker Hunt has died at the age of 88 in modest circumstances at an old people’s home.

At the peak of his riches, Hunt _1_ (ESTIMATE) to be worth up to $16 billion dollars, owning eight million acres of oil fields in Libya, cattle, thoroughbred race horses and real estate across the globe.

He was born into the ‘first family’ of H. L. Hunt, one of Texas’s original oil barons, who eventually had 14 children with three different women. Yet Hunt’s story is one of boom and bust on a spectacular scale, _2_ (TRIGGER) by the ambitions of Muammar Gaddafi. The Libyan dictator came to power in 1969, and by 1973 he _3_ (CLAIM) Hunt’s oil holdings as national property. Denied a huge chunk of his fortune, Hunt turned to an investment which he felt sure _4_ (REMAIN) stable for a longer period of time, pumping billions into the silver market and at one point controlled up to half of the world’s deliverable supply.

Then came what _5_ (CALL) Silver Thursday ever since. In 1980, the price of the metal tumbled to around a fifth of what it had been before. Bunker, along with his brothers Herbert and Lamar, at that point owned so much of the world’s silver that if he had started selling off, it _6_ (ONLY / MAKE) prices fall more.

The silver collapse was only one stage in Hunt’s downfall, with oil prices also _7_ (FALL) and his real estate and sugar businesses suffering. Lawsuits, bankruptcy proceedings, massive loan payments, tax bills and regulatory fines also ate away at the Hunt brothers’ fortune, which had dwindled to $1 billion by 1988. While his financial empire _8_ (COLLAPSE), Hunt was quoted as sighing when he said: “A billion dollars isn’t what it used to be.” With creditors closing in, the Hunts agreed to pay $90 million in back taxes over 15 years and $10 million each in fines.

In 1989, Hunt _10_ (EMERGE) from bankruptcy with assets worth as little as $5 million and far-reaching debts. Despite all that was owed, lawyers were able to protect the healthy trust funds, which _11_ (SET UP) for Hunt and his siblings by his father, meaning he was still far from poor as he entered old age. In 2001, even according to Forbes magazine, Hunt _12_ (CAN / NOT / BE) poor as he had recently bought racehorses worth an estimated $2.5 million. According to The New York Times, after the silver market had collapsed and the family fortune had been diminished by billions, the oldest Hunt sister Margaret made her brother _13_ (TELL) her what he had hoped to achieve. He replied: “I have been just trying to make some money all my life.”

Hunt and his wife, Caroline, with whom he had four children, lived in modest house in Dallas. Due to progressive Alzheimer’s disease, he was moved into a nursing home to be taken care of by professional staff.

(Adapted from an article in The Independent, 22 October 2014, by Adam Withnall)
Example:

0. considered

1. _______________________________________

2. _______________________________________

3. _______________________________________

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