



Codice del candidato:

Državni izpitni center



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SESSIONE PRIMAVERILE

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

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

Sabato, 1 giugno 2024 / 60 minuti (35 + 25)

Materiali e sussidi consentiti:

Al candidato è consentito l'uso della penna stilografica o della penna a sfera.

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.

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 30 punti nella parte B, per un totale di 50 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.



A) COMPrensione DI TESTI SCRITTI

Task 1: Short answers

Read the text and answer the questions in note form in the spaces below. Use 1–5 words for each answer. All contracted forms with the exception of *can't* count as two words. There is an example at the beginning: Answer 0.

The Pre-Party

By Caroline Bond

Line 6 As soon as the date for the prom was confirmed, Dom, Harry's father, stepped up and offered to host the 'pre-party'. No one put in a counter-bid. The other parents were happy to leave him to it. Marcus did jokingly question *since when had a pre-prom party become a thing* – but he got shouted down by Jess and Fran. Fran informed him, semi-seriously, that the high school prom was an important rite of passage, a step over the threshold from childhood to adulthood; and, she confessed, coming closer to the truth, that she was looking forward to seeing them all **in their finery**. Marcus smiled and tuned out the subsequent discussion about the pros and cons of spray-tans and whether 'hair up' or 'hair down' was the way to go.

Five months later they were glad Dom had offered to host the party. The staging was idyllic. There were clusters of silver helium balloons, platters of posh canapés and trays of real champagne in crystal flutes. The weather was just what the girls' dresses demanded, balmy and still. And the sunlight was exactly right, soft and pink-tinged – perfect for the hundreds of selfies that were being taken. It was typical Dom, totally over the top and unnecessarily costly, but at the same time all very, very lovely. As the booze flowed and the kids laughed and shimmered around on the immaculate lawn, the mood was upbeat.

They all looked great. The lads suited and pointy-toe-shoed, the girls transformed by false lashes, fake tan and imitation designer dresses. It was like watching a group of children playing dress-up and pulling it off. Fran found herself surprisingly moved to see them all together, possibly for the last time. Most of them had been friends since primary school; Jess, Harry and Jake went even further back, to nursery and playgroup. They'd shared sleepovers, chicken pox, multiple birthday parties and a seemingly never-ending round of car journeys to out-of-the-way running tracks and football fields. She knew them all, had been part of their growing up. Indeed, it was down to the kids that the adults knew each other at all. The shared experiences and responsibilities of being parents of kids who were similar ages had bred friendships that would otherwise never have flourished.

Line 25 Take Anita and Sal. They were hardly bosom buddies – a world apart in attitude and **volume** – but there they were, standing side-by-side, both smiling, sharing the moment in Dom's sun-dappled back garden. Dom himself was 'circulating', chatting to everyone, orchestrating the mood, topping up drinks; rather too quickly for Fran's liking – they were only fifteen and sixteen, after all. Fran could hear him cracking jokes about prom-night traditions that strayed perilously close to being in very poor taste. This was a side of Dom that Fran was very familiar with, but could do without. The showman who – given an audience, and any audience would do – couldn't stop himself playing to it. It was the Dom that most people saw: brash, loud, confident. It was not the gentler, occasionally vulnerable Dom who had few real friends, but whose friendship, once earned, was fiercely loyal.

Dave, Jake's dad – who was downing champagne like it was beer – laughed raucously at one of Dom's jokes. Another man's man. Through the melee, Fran met Marcus's eye and smiled. It was a moment of marital understanding that made her feel simultaneously mean-spirited and understood. Jake was also laughing, horsing around as usual. He looked resplendent in a dark-red three-piece suit. Jake had always been a little sod, prone to being in the middle of any trouble, but there was such an energy, a lust for life, about him that it was hard not to warm to him. His flashy suit was the perfect choice. Harry also looked sharp, but in a much more understated way. Harry was the cool one in the group. Popular, without having to make an effort. As he drank his beer and lounged in a deckchair listening to one of Jake's stories, Fran tried to marry this version of Harry with the little boy who used to follow her around her house after Harry's mum, Adele, upped and left.

(Adapted from *One Split Second* by Caroline Bond. London: Corvus, 2020)

**Example:**

0. How did the other parents feel about Dom's offer to host the 'pre-party'?

They were happy about it.

1. What does the phrase "in their finery" in line 6 refer to?

2. What was the weather particularly suitable for on the day of the party?

3. What aspect of the party reflects Dom's character?

4. Where were the facilities where the children did sports located?

5. What effect did the children being schoolmates have on their parents?

6. What does the difference in "volume" between Anita and Sal in line 25 refer to?

7. What did Fran think of Dom's jokes?

8. What side of Dom were most people unaware of?

9. What does the non-verbal communication between Fran and her husband Marcus reveal?

10. What made Jake likeable?



Task 2: Matching

Read the text and match the statements with the paragraphs. More than one statement may refer to the same paragraph. There is an example at the beginning: Example 0.

The dark, disturbing Roald Dahl stories Netflix wouldn't dare touch

For three years, Netflix has been eyeing up a chunkier slice of the Roald Dahl pie. This week, it went and bought the whole bakery. Netflix, it is understood, now has access to Dahl's entire body of work. So, as Ted Sarandos et al. plunge their hands in the cookie jar, what gems might they find? The possibilities are tantalising. The Dahl canon is full of deliciously dark tales that rarely see the light of day and are crying out for on-screen treatment. Here are Dahl's eight most disturbing creations.

A. *Someone Like You*

This 1953 collection contains some of Dahl's greatest and most grotesque stories. In "Skin", an impoverished tattoo artist resorts to selling the skin off his back; in "Neck", an adulterous wife who manages to get her head stuck in a piece of sculpture cowers in fear as her husband, encouraged by their butler, prepares to "free" her by wielding an axe. The best of the collection is "Lamb to the Slaughter", an ingenious tale in which a pregnant housewife murders her husband with a frozen leg of lamb and then destroys the evidence by roasting it and serving it to the investigating policeman.

B. *Sometime Never: a Fable for Superman*

This apocalyptic fantasy for adults was the first novel to depict nuclear warfare. Dahl's descriptions of London after the blast, particularly a barbecued double-decker bus, are powerful. The book was published in 1948 to tepid reception in the United States and Britain, and Dahl tried to forget all about it. When a new edition was later proposed, Dahl snapped: "Why in God's world anybody should want to paperback that ghastly book I don't know." But as a Cold War curiosity, it has ample merit for a second run.

C. *Kiss Kiss*

This 1960 collection features such grim pleasures as "William and Mary", a sci-fi story about a man with a terminal diagnosis who agrees to let a doctor transplant his brain into a vat of liquid after death and link it up to one of his eyes. After his death, his widow Mary discovers that she prefers the helpless brain to her former abusive husband. The story ends with her blowing cigarette smoke (a habit he hated) into his eye. Other horrifying highlights include "The Landlady", about a boarding house owner who poisons and then stuffs helpless schoolboys, and "Royal Jelly", in which a newborn baby transforms gradually into a bee.

D. *Roald Dahl's Guide to Railway Safety*

Illustrated by Quentin Blake, and written for the British Railway Board, this gruesome 1991 pamphlet is the pinnacle of Dahl's delight in the cautionary tale – children step on railway lines and are zapped black and yellow by the voltage, or lose their heads out of train windows. Disingenuously, Dahl begins by saying that he has never moralised before (what a joke!) but, more believably, that he sympathises with those who misbehave.

E. *Beware of the Dog*

Found in Dahl's first collection, *Over to You: Ten Stories of Flyers and Flying*, published in 1946, this story stands out for its themes amid the slightly bland early Dahl fare. When his plane is shot down during the Second World War, an RAF fighter pilot wakes up in a hospital bed in Brighton. But gradually, there is a creeping realisation that the setting is a sham and he is in fact a prisoner in Vichy France. It's a psychologically disturbing twist.

F. *Revolting Rhymes and Dirty Beasts*

Dahl's largely forgotten comic verses are among his most darkly funny writings. *Revolting Rhymes*, published in 1982, parodies traditional folk and fairy tales: Snow White is a crooked gambler, Goldilocks a filthy squatter who gets into bed with her shoes on, and a street-wise Little Red Riding Hood skins the Big Bad Wolf and wears his pelt as a cloak. *Dirty Beasts* is about farmyard friends: a pig who eats his farmer, rather than be eaten himself, and a crocodile who eats six children each



Saturday, preferably three boys (who he smears with mustard to make them peppery) and three girls (who he dips in butterscotch and caramel for sweetness).

G. Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life

This collection, made up of several of Dahl’s stories published in various magazines in the 1940s and 50s, depicts the exploits of rural cheats and knaves. The stories were inspired by the time Dahl spent at his mother’s house in Great Missenden. They begin with the dark wisdom of a farmer who boasts a fail-safe way to fix the gender of calves. In the introduction, Dahl describes the background of these stories. A bit of a rural cheat and knave himself, he had befriended a local butcher, Claud, and together they embarked on a life of small-time criminality. “We shared a love of trying to acquire something by stealth without paying for it. By this I don’t mean common-or-garden thievery. We would never have robbed a house or stolen a bicycle. Ours was the sporting type of stealing. It was poaching pheasants or tickling trout... There is a delicious element of risk.”

H. My Uncle Oswald

Published in 1979, the year when *Tales of the Unexpected* was first broadcast on television, *My Uncle Oswald* could be dismissed as the puerile fantasy of an old man. It’s all that, but so outrageous, so silly and so brilliant that it’s impossible not to forgive it. The story pretends to be an extract – “word for word as he wrote it” – from the fictional memoir of the narrator’s uncle, Oswald Hendryks Cornelius, “the connoisseur, the bon vivant, the collector of spiders, scorpions and walking sticks, the lover of opera, the expert on Chinese porcelain, the seducer of women, and without much doubt the greatest fornicator of all time.”

(Adapted from an article in *The Telegraph*, 23 September 2021, by Telegraph reporters)

- 0. The murder weapon is disposed of in an unexpected way.
- 1. Dahl admits to having committed petty crimes.
- 2. Dahl re-interprets well-known tales in an amusing way.
- 3. Poverty drives a character to take an extreme measure.
- 4. Dahl can relate to naughty children.
- 5. The protagonist takes revenge on their dead spouse.
- 6. The critics did not think highly of it when it was first published.
- 7. A character uses an imaginary diary to tell the protagonist’s story.
- 8. Among Dahl’s less exciting first stories, this one is an exception.
- 9. A character in this book displays unusual eating habits.
- 10. The environment the character finds themselves in is staged.

0.
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B) CONOSCENZA E USO DELLA LINGUA

Task 1: Gap fill

Read the text below and write the missing words in the spaces provided. There is one word missing in each gap. All contracted forms with the exception of *can't* count as two words. There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0.

Should we stop keeping pets?

Research into animals' emotional lives has cast doubt on the ethics of petkeeping.

It was a Tupperware tub of live baby rats that made Dr Jessica Pierce start to question the idea 0 pet ownership. She was at her local branch of *PetSmart*, a pet store chain in the US, buying crickets for her daughter's gecko. The baby rats, squeaking in their plastic container, 1 brought in by a man she believed was offering to sell them to the store as pets or as food for the resident snakes. She didn't ask. But Pierce, a bioethicist, was troubled.

"Rats have a sense of empathy and there has been a lot of research on 2 happens when you take babies away from a mother rat: 3 surprisingly, they experience profound distress," she says. "It was a slap in the face – how can we do this to animals?"

In 2015, Pierce went on to write *Run, Spot, Run*, which outlines the case against pet ownership. From the animals that become dog and cat food and the puppy farms churning out increasingly unhealthy purebred canines, 4 the goldfish sold by the bag and the crickets by the box, pet ownership is problematic because it denies animals 5 right of self-determination. Ultimately, we bring them into our lives because we want them, then we dictate what they eat, where they live, how they behave, how they look, even 6 they get to keep their sex organs.

Treating animals as commodities isn't new or shocking; humans have 7 meat-eaters and animal-skin-wearers for millennia. However, this is at odds with how we say we feel about our pets. "It is morally problematic, because more and more people are thinking of pets as people. They consider them part of their family, they think of them as their best friends, they wouldn't sell them for a million dollars," says Dr Hal Herzog, a professor of psychology at Western Carolina University and 8 of the founders of the budding field of anthrozoology, the branch of science 9 examines human-animal relations. At the same time, research is revealing that the emotional lives of animals, even relatively "simple" animals 10 as goldfish, are far more complex and rich 11 we once thought. "The logical consequence is that the more we attribute them with these characteristics, the 12 right we have to control every single aspect of their lives," says Herzog.

Crucially, our animals can't tell us whether they are happy 13 pets. "There is an illusion that pets have acquired 14 voice ... but it is maybe us putting words into their mouth," Pierce says, pointing to the abundance of pets on social media plastered with witty projections written by their 'parents'. "Maybe we are humanising them in a way that actually makes them invisible."

15 Pierce thinks that pet ownership is wrong, she has pets: two dogs and a cat. For now, the argument over whether we should own animals is largely theoretical: we do have pets and giving them up might cause even more harm.

(Adapted from an article in *The Guardian*, 1 August 2017, by Linda Rodriguez McRobbie)



Example:

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Task 2: Gap fill (word formation)

Read the text below and change the words in brackets so that they fit in the gaps. Write your answers in the spaces provided. There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0.

A brief history of Boxing Day

It's a day we now associate with sales shopping and the 0 (ENJOY) of Christmas dinner leftovers. But what is Boxing Day, and how was it historically celebrated? We asked Mark Connelly, a professor of modern British history at the University of Kent.

What is Boxing Day?

Boxing Day is also known as St Stephen's Day. Stephen was the first Christian martyr, stoned to death in 34 AD. Being a saint's day, it has 1 (CHARITY) associations. Boxes, collections of money, would have been given out at the church door to the needy.

While the wider 2 (SIGNIFICANT) of St Stephen's Day collapsed in Europe, it held on in Protestant England. "It is an Anglo-Saxon thing," says Connelly. "As England made more and more of Christmas, it began to concentrate its rituals onto just a few days." The English came to believe that they owned Christmas. This was a bit of an exaggeration as, of course, there are plenty of 3 (SOUTH) European Christmas traditions.

By the late 18th century, Boxing Day became a day of outdoor 4 (ACTIVE), such as hiking. While Christmas Day was about being at home with your family, Boxing Day was a time to get outside, to get away from the home. At the beginning, it was a day for 5 (ARISTOCRACY) sports – hunting, horseracing, and shooting. But by the 19th century, as a result of urbanisation, it was mostly about professional football. As British society, particularly English society, became marked by large industrial cities, distinctive working-class leisure pursuits would 6 (EVOLUTION).

When did the humanitarian side of Boxing Day end?

By the early 19th century, humanitarian aims became more focused around Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, "but it was a very slow petering out," says Connelly. "There was a debate about whether inmates should get beer and beef on Christmas Day, for example. Whether they got this depended upon the attitude of local guardians. And by this point, there were enough poor people to be thought of as an entity. Provision for the poor turned into a local government issue, as opposed to something 7 (INDIVIDUAL) organised."

When did Boxing Day 8 (ORIGIN)?

"Boxing Day emerged quite quickly after the 9 (ESTABLISH) of Christmas," says Connelly. "The number of Christmas feast days was getting smaller, largely because of Protestantism and the development of the British 10 (ECONOMIC). A more urbanised, factory-oriented world meant that the machines and methods of production just had to be kept going. This was completely 11 (LIKE) the rhythms of the rural world which, until then, had dominated, and so you ended up having to peg festivities on fewer days."

Historically, has Boxing Day been celebrated 12 (DIFFER) in other parts of the world?

"England, Wales, Australia and New Zealand are 13 (DISTINCT) in making quite a thing of Boxing Day, with similar kinds of outdoor events such as picnics, horse shows, rides and walks," says Connelly.

How did Boxing Day become a bank holiday?

"The 26th December became an 14 (ADD) bank holiday in 1974, but in fact it had been a *de facto* day off for many years," Connelly explains. "This is partly because football made such a big thing of Boxing Day that many people took time off anyway, and gradually during the course of the 20th century more and more 15 (EMPLOY) realised that business would generally slow during this period and so, in effect, turned a blind eye to people taking the time off. Taking the 26th off then became a custom in its own right."

(Adapted from www.historyextra.com/period/victorian/brief-history-boxing-day-christmas-traditions, 26 December 2022)



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Example:

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Pagina vuota



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