



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, 31 maggio 2025 / 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 I CANDIDATI

Leggete con attenzione le seguenti indicazioni.

Non aprire 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 19 punti nella parte A e 30 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 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.

Rip Van Winkle

The tale of Rip Van Winkle was found among the papers of the late Diedrich Knickerbocker, an old gentleman of New York, who was very curious in the Dutch History of the province and the manners of the descendants from its primitive settlers. His historical researches, however, did not lie so much among books as among men; for the former are disappointingly scanty on his favorite topics; whereas he found the old inhabitants, and still more, their wives, rich in folk tales, invaluable to true history. Whenever, therefore, he happened upon a genuine Dutch family, snugly shut up in its low-roofed farm-house, he looked upon it as a little clasped volume of black-letter, and studied it with the enthusiasm of a bookworm.

The result of all these researches was a history of the province, during the reign of the Dutch governors, which he published some years since. There have been various opinions as to the literary character of his work, and, to tell the truth, it is not much better than it should be. Its chief merit is its scrupulous accuracy, which indeed was a little questioned on its first appearance, but has since been completely established; and it is now admitted into all historical collections, as a book of unquestionable authority. Not only is his memory appreciated by critics, it is still held dear among many folks, whose good opinion is well worth having; particularly by certain biscuit-bakers, who have gone so far as to imprint his image on their new-year cakes, and have thus given him a chance for immortality.

Whoever has made a voyage up the Hudson must remember the Kaatskill mountains. They are a dismembered branch of the great Appalachian family, and are seen away to the west of the river, swelling up to a noble height, and lording it over the surrounding country. Every change of season, every change of weather, indeed, every hour of the day produces some change in the magical hues and shapes of these mountains; and they are regarded by all the good wives, far and near, as perfect barometers.

At the foot of these fairy mountains, the voyager may have noticed the light smoke curling up from a Village, whose shingle roofs gleam among the trees, just where the blue tints of the upland melt away into the fresh green of the nearer landscape. It is a little village of great antiquity, having been founded by some of the Dutch colonists, in the early times of the province, just about the beginning of the government of the good Peter Stuyvesant (may he rest in peace!), and there were some of the houses of the original settlers standing within a few years, built of small yellow bricks, brought from Holland, and having typical gable fronts, surmounted with weathercocks.

In that same village, and in one of these very houses (which, to tell the precise truth, was sadly time-worn and weather-beaten), there lived, many years since, while the country was yet a province of Great Britain, a simple, good-natured fellow, of the name of Rip Van Winkle. He was a descendant of the Van Winkles who figured so gallantly in the chivalrous days of Peter Stuyvesant, and accompanied him to the siege of Fort Christina. He inherited, however, but little of the martial character of his ancestors. He was a simple, good-natured man; he was, moreover, a kind neighbor, and an obedient henpecked husband. Indeed, the latter circumstance might be owing to that meekness of spirit which gained him such universal popularity.

Rip Van Winkle had a harsh-tempered wife, which can be in some respects considered a tolerable blessing, and he was more than blessed. Certain it is, that he was a great favorite among all the good wives of the village, who, as usual with the amiable sex, took his part in all family squabbles, and never failed, whenever they talked those matters over in their evening gossipings, to lay all the blame on Dame Van Winkle. The children of the village, too, would shout with joy whenever he approached. He assisted at their sports, made their playthings, taught them to fly kites and shoot marbles, and told them long stories of ghosts, witches, and Indians. Whenever he went dodging about the village, he was surrounded by a troop of them hanging on his skirts, clambering on his back, and playing a thousand tricks on him, getting away with it; and not a dog would bark at him throughout the neighborhood.

The great error in Rip's composition was an aversion to all kinds of profitable labor. It could not be because of his lack of diligence or perseverance; for he would sit on a wet rock, with a rod as long and



heavy as a Tartar's lance, and fish all day without a murmur, even though he was not encouraged by a single nibble. His farm was the most neglected little piece of ground in the whole country and had dwindled away under his management, acre by acre, until there was little more left than a mere patch of Indian corn and potatoes. It was the worst-conditioned farm in the neighbourhood as Rip was ready to attend to anybody's business but his own.

(Adapted from a short story by Washington Irving, www.bartleby.com/195/4.html)

0. What was the late Diedrich Knickerbocker interested in?

Dutch history.

1. Why did Knickerbocker rely more on oral sources than on written records in his study?

2. What did Knickerbocker compare a Dutch family to?

3. What is the most important value of Knickerbocker's book?

4. What can observing the lines and shades of the Kaatskill mountains help the residents to do?

5. What do yellow bricks reveal about the village houses?

6. Which personality trait of his ancestors did Rip Van Winkle himself lack?

7. Which of Rip Van Winkle's characteristics made it possible for his wife to boss him around?

8. What does the dogs not barking at Rip Van Winkle show?

9. What sort of work was Rip Van Winkle unwilling to do?

10. What did not demotivate Rip Van Winkle when he was fishing?



Task 2: Gapped text

Read the text and choose from the sentences below the one that fits each gap. Each sentence can be used only once. There are two extra sentences which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0.

Was the Queen the ultimate feminist?

Her children took her name, she changed succession laws, and for all her studied inscrutability, Elizabeth II had a power beyond words as a female monarch

When Queen Elizabeth II inherited the throne in 1952, at least one person saw it as a watershed for equal rights. "If, as many earnestly pray, the ascension of Elizabeth II can help to remove the last shreds of prejudice against women aspiring to the highest places, then a new era for women will indeed be at hand." [0] Newly married, Thatcher hoped that "we shall see more and more women combining marriage and a career". Twenty-seven years later, Thatcher became Britain's first female prime minister, proving her point: a woman holding power helps other women to advance by example.



So, should we add another garland to Elizabeth's reputation: Queen of the United Kingdom, head of the Commonwealth ... and feminist icon? Emma Barnett, the presenter of *Woman's Hour*, has argued so, and Olivia Colman, who played the Queen in *The Crown*, has called her "the ultimate feminist". [1] Thatcher never seemed to do much to benefit other women once she'd made it to the top; and the Queen was the representative of an ancient system of inherited power that claimed to derive its ultimate authority from God.

The Queen was born before some women were even granted the right to vote. Surely there might, then, have been some anxiety about the prospect of a girl acceding to the throne, particularly since she was placed in the line of succession only by the abdication of her uncle, Edward VIII, when she was ten. Actually, commentary at the time was optimistic. It helped that queens have tended to be associated with eras of national greatness: the first Elizabethan era, the Victorian era. Therefore, in 1936, the prospect of another woman becoming head of state felt less like a threat to the patriarchal order and more like a promise of prosperity.

The young princess was a symbol, and an appropriately feminine one. According to reports on her education in *The Atlantic* magazine, she was well-mannered and not overschooled. [2] Elizabeth devised a way of being Queen that was completely compatible with femininity. She effectively cast herself as mother to a nation (regardless of her demerits on the maternal front).

One of the problems for King Charles III is that the Queen invented a model of monarchy that didn't merely accommodate her femaleness – it was, in large part, defined by it. [3] As an old woman, she acquired the patina of universal grandmotherhood. Despite the demure exterior, the late Queen was clearly capable of asserting herself, as when she insisted on serving as a mechanic in the *Auxiliary Territorial Service* in 1945. But the battles she chose to pick on her own behalf would rarely match up with later feminist principles. [4] She gave her name to her children (leading her husband to complain "I'm nothing but a bloody amoeba") – but here it seems that Elizabeth was bowing to her advisers rather than following her heart.

And since part of being a monarch is to studiously avoid any political opinions, you can sift her speeches in vain for anything like an endorsement of the women's movement. [5] When the Lionesses won the Euro 2022 tournament, the Queen praised the team as "an inspiration for girls and women today, and for future generations". Before that, she gave a speech to the *Women's Institute* in 2015 celebrating the fact that women, "through their own efforts ... now play a much greater part in all areas of public life".

It's also under Queen Elizabeth II that the rules of succession were finally changed in 2011 to mean that her female descendants would no longer be bumped out of line for the throne by their younger brothers. [6] For some, of course, it makes no sense at all. Joan Smith, a republican and a feminist, is deeply sceptical as to whether the Queen had any positive influence on feminism. "In terms of advancing equality, I think not at all, because she was there by an accident of birth," Smith said.



If feminism is about undoing the arbitrary hierarchy of men over women, the Queen can't have been a feminist because the whole system that created her is anti-feminist by definition. If you want to know whether Elizabeth I was a woman's woman, ask Mary Stuart. And Victoria was privately opposed to the women's suffrage movement, which she called a "mad, wicked folly". [7] Whether Victoria wished it or not, the way in which she ruled was an argument for women exercising power.

The Queen's ideal of service also stands in contrast to another version of feminism: the girl-boss influencer style that dominates social media. If you wanted to be unkind, you could call it the type of feminism represented by Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, who talks about the importance of "knowing your value" and having "vision". [8] That's a long way from the collective ambitions of the 20th-century women's movement: one of women excelling, so that through their own excellence they can further the lot of the nation.

[9] Due to this fact, the institution once again feels more dated and more vulnerable. But perhaps there's a lesson in the Queen's approach for aspiring feminists today. Sometimes the cause – a country, the monarchy, or the good of women as a whole – is bigger than you are.

(Adapted from an article in *The Times*, 17 September 2022, by Sarah Ditum;
source of the photo: www.bbc.com/news/uk-61605149)

- A Numerous feminist movements have developed over the years, with very diverse aims.
- B Still, if she hadn't been such a well-regarded monarch, the suffragists would probably have found it even harder to win their case.
- C Instead, supporters of the Queen-as-feminist theory have to read between the lines.
- D This kind of feminism isn't so much concerned with women's rights as it is about self-realisation.
- E As a young woman, she represented the fertile future of the country.
- F If it makes any sense to speak about equality within a hereditary monarchy, that's what we've got.
- G With the line of succession running through Prince George, few of us will ever live under a Queen again.
- H She might have an unconscious effect, but you have to balance that with the message about privilege.
- I She chose Philip as her husband over the objections of palace insiders – but she also, controversially, fought to keep the word "obey" in her marriage vows.
- J But it's also true that neither Thatcher nor the Queen has ever enjoyed the approval of the feminist movement.
- K She received a training that never threatened to dim the freshness or mar the simplicity of her girlhood.
- X The author was Margaret Thatcher, who was 26 at the time and had recently failed to become MP for Dartford in Kent.

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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.

What Victorian-era seaweed pressings reveal about our changing

On his first day 0 the new science director of the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California in 2016, a giant blue storage locker caught Kyle Van Houtan's eye. 1 locker was obscured by a dead ficus plant and looked as if no one had opened it for years. But the label on it intrigued him: Herbarium.

He opened it and found hundreds of stacked manila envelopes 2. He noticed that each one contained a single piece of seaweed, pressed and preserved on white paper. The collection demonstrated a curator's attention 3 detail, with neat labels in tidy handwriting that documented every seaweed's origin and collector. And it gave Van Houtan and his colleague Emily Miller an idea.

While all the hi-tech underwater drones and sensors monitoring the ocean today can document the present, and hint 4 the future, they have a big blind spot when it 5 to telling the past. Modern record-keeping for ocean conditions began about 80 years ago, 6 might sound like a lot, but "in conservation we need a lot more data than we often have on hand to make an informed assessment of 7 a healthy ocean is," says Van Houtan.

If people 8 pressing seaweed even earlier than 80 years ago, could it be a way to go back in time, and read the history of the sea? "I don't know how many people have contacted me and said 'I found a bunch of seaweed in our attic, do you want them?'" says Kathy Ann Miller, curator of algae at UC Berkeley's University Herbarium (no relation to Emily Miller). "And I always say yes, because there could be treasures."

The practice of pressing seaweed dates 9 to the 18th-century Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus, who founded modern taxonomy, but it exploded during the natural history boom of Victorian Britain. 10 were the days of amateur scientists traipsing around the world, their sketchbooks in hand.

11 the racier pastimes of stuffing tigers or describing plant genitalia were off-limits to the "gentler sex", it was socially acceptable for women to go "seaweeding". Both Queen Victoria and George Eliot pressed seaweed in their day. Some went even 12, publishing field guides with suggestions on proper attire and etiquette.

The collections can be exquisite. "People spend a lot of time pressing seaweed, but also taking tweezers, separating out each beautiful branch, so that it's displayed out nicely," says Emily Miller, who later took over the study from Van Houtan. "They look like lace spread across the paper."

By the 1870s, the fad 13 arrived on the California coastline, transplanted by early American settlers, who, just like their British counterparts, were mostly women, such as JM Weeks, an eagle-eyed collector, who now has a red algae named after her.

California was a paradise for seaweeders. As well as its vast kelp forests, the region is home to nearly 800 other species. There is the crinkly, electric-green sea lettuce, the ruffled grape tongue, and hundreds of others, many of 14 were first identified for science by amateur seaweeders. The Victorian-era collections are true works of art, with purple, red, brown, and green algae arranged in eye-catching patterns on sturdy white cards and signed in flowing India ink.

The seaweed in the Monterey locker that stood out to Emily Miller, however, was the tough, rather unremarkable gelidium, which turned up across the collection. Gelidium flourishes along the wave-battered west coast shore, and varies from sickly yellow clumps to purple coralline fans. Just 15 all seaweed, gelidium needs nitrogen to grow, and Miller began to wonder if she could trace nitrogen samples back through the decades to see how it had changed over time.

(Adapted from an article in *The Guardian*, 27 October 2020, by Laura Trethewey)



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**Tak 2: Gap fill (verbs)**

Read the text below and write the correct form of the verbs in brackets in the spaces provided. There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0.

Scientists recreate brain of largest carnivorous dinosaur with fossils

Spinosaurus were well-adapted to life in and out of water, palaeontologists 0 (SAY).

Scientists have recreated the brain of the largest carnivorous dinosaur ever known 1 (WALK) the Earth. They used fossils discovered on the Isle of Wight and England's south coast. 2 (GROW) up to 50 feet in length and with the weight of as much as 20 tonnes, *Spinosaurus*, a giant of the Late Cretaceous period, is perhaps the largest predator which has ever lived.

Despite bearing a physical resemblance to the infamous *Tyrannosaurus Rex*, *Spinosaurus* is described as "an enormous river monster" which dominated the waterways of what is now north Africa. Fossilised remains of the "water-loving" predator which 3 (THINK) to have been able to swim fully submerged while hunting have been discovered on the Isle of Wight. *Spinosaurus* had huge bone-crushing jaws with which they were capable of 4 (SNAP) other dinosaurs in half if they were attacked.

For several months now, scientists at the University of Southampton 5 (SEEK) to digitally recreate the brain of a *Spinosaurus*, which was typically encased in a six-foot long skull. In a bid to learn more about how these dinosaurs 6 (INTERACT) with their environment, researchers scanned the remains of two of the oldest *Spinosaurus* whose braincase material had been discovered – a *Baryonyx* from Surrey and *Ceratosuchops* from the Isle of Wight.

Despite the fact that the discovery of *Ceratosuchops* 7 (ANNOUNCE) only three years ago, the scientists have already been able to reconstruct the creatures' brains and inner ears, with "surprising results", given the manner in which they terrorised their prey some 125 million years ago. Typically, soft organs, such as the brain, 8 (NOT SURVIVE) fossilisation, so the team from Southampton used CT scans to peer into perfectly preserved cranial cavities.

In findings due 9 (PUBLISH) in the *Journal of Anatomy*, the researchers discovered that *Spinosaurus*' olfactory bulbs, which process smells, were not particularly developed while the ear was probably attuned to low-frequency sounds. "It seems the brains and senses of these early *Spinosaurus* retained many aspects in common with other large-bodied *Theropods*. There is no evidence that their semi-aquatic lifestyle 10 (REFLECT) the way their brains were organised," said Chris Barker, who led the study. One interpretation of the evidence is that their *Theropod* ancestors already possessed brains and sensory adaptations suited for part-time fish catching, 11 (MEAN) that *Spinosaurus* needed only to evolve an unusual snout and teeth in order to become adapted for a semi-aquatic existence.

"But the results are still significant. It's exciting to get so much information on sensory abilities from British dinosaurs. Using cutting-edge technology, we basically obtained all the brain-related information we possibly could from these fossils," said contributing author Dr Darren Naish, adding that a model of the spinosaur brain 12 (PUT) on display at Dinosaur Isle Museum in Sandown in the following months. "This new research is just the latest in what 13 (AMOUNT) to a revolution in palaeontology, which 14 (NOT BE) possible without advances in CT-based imaging of fossils," said Lawrence M. Witmer, who has been CT scanning dinosaurs, including *Baryonyx*, for a quarter of a century.

Dr Neil Gostling, who leads the University of Southampton's EvoPalaeoLab, said that the new study 15 (HIGHLIGHT) the significant role of British fossils in constantly evolving, fast-moving understanding of dinosaurs.

(Adapted from an article in *The Independent*, 14 February 2023, by Andy Gregory)



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