



Codice del candidato:

Državni izpitni center



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SESSIONE AUTUNNALE

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

Martedì, 28 agosto 2012 / 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.*

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 25 punti nella parte B, per un totale di 45 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. 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 8 pagine, di cui 1 vuota.

A) COMPRESIONE DI TESTI SCRITTI**Task 1: Short answers**

Answer in note form in the spaces below. Use 1–5 words for each answer.

Example:

0. What is Yakutsk known as?

The coldest city on earth.

1. Why have the Yakuts been so attentive to nature?

2. What makes the coldness in Yakutsk bearable?

3. What modern household appliance do the buildings in Yakutsk lack?

4. What pesters Yakutsk residents during hot summers?

5. What is the inhabitants' main preoccupation during the summer?

6. Which factor makes building in Yakutsk difficult?

7. Which process threatens the stability of buildings?

8. What determines the length of the stilts?

9. Why do Siberian cities have a wasteful effect on the Russian economy?

10. According to Gaddy, how do the Russians understand land ownership?

Yakutsk: Journey to the coldest city on earth

Think our winter's been a bit grim? Try visiting Yakutsk – the coldest city on earth, where 'a bit nippy' means minus 50C, and a quick dash to the corner shop could end in frostbite.

I ask Vasily Illarionov, the head of the Yakut Language and Culture Department at the local university, what role the weather played in folklore. "The Yakuts have always had a tremendous respect for the world around them and for nature, because they know how powerful it can be," he says. "But cold itself doesn't play a huge part in our traditions. Anyway, it's nice cold we have here because we don't have wind. When it gets down to minus 40C I like to walk to work. I like our weather, but I don't think I could live somewhere windy."

"For us, the winter is like the working week and the summer is like the weekend," says Bolot Bochkarev, a local blogger and former journalist. But the summers sound even worse than the winters – short and sticky, with two or three weeks when the temperature hits 30C or 35C. None of the buildings is equipped with air conditioning, and the air is filled with midges and mosquitoes in swarms of biblical proportions. One tale tells of reindeer dying because they were unable to breathe, so thick were the clouds of insects.

The short summer is also a time when gargantuan efforts are made to ensure that the region is ready for the onset of winter. The Lena river, more than 10 miles wide at Yakutsk, is not bridged anywhere for hundreds of miles, so villages on the other side have to be stocked up for the months when the river isn't navigable but the ice hasn't thickened enough for a road to be built across it. Heating pipes are examined and repaired – if they fail, as they did in Artyk and Markha just before New Year, those stuck without warmth risk death. The whole region suffers harsh winters.

The conditions are also a nightmare for building. Yakutsk is the largest city in the world built on permafrost – soil that remains permanently frozen year round. Permafrost covers 15 per cent of the earth's land mass, and 65 per cent of Russia's, says Mark Shats, a researcher at Yakutsk's Permafrost Institute. "But other countries try to avoid building cities on permafrost," the scientist says.

Shats took me on a tour of the underground research laboratory the institute set up to investigate the frozen soil. In the bunker, where

ice crystals have formed on the ceiling in perfect geometric squares, it quickly becomes apparent why it's so difficult to build on permafrost. The soil, which is a combination of sand and ice, is as hard as concrete. But at the edges, where the ice has had a chance to melt, all that's left is powdery sand. If a building is erected in these conditions, the warmth that emanates from the building melts the ice and destroys the stability of the foundations.

For this reason, every single building in Yakutsk is built on underground stilts, varying in depth depending on the size of the building. For a small cottage, Shats says, the stilts should be six to eight metres deep, while for buildings such as power stations, they can reach down as far as 25 metres into the earth.

Some Western academics have said that the very existence of places like Yakutsk, built in terrain that simply isn't meant for human habitation, is absurd. "If you compare Siberia with Alaska and parts of Northern Canada, where there are also natural resources, you can see it's vastly overpopulated," says Clifford Gaddy of the Brookings Institution. In 2003, Gaddy co-authored a book called *The Siberian Curse* arguing that Russia's huge territory was, in fact, a weakness and not something to be proud of. "The system is staggering in its inefficiency. With all the oil wealth that Russia has, they can theoretically make any place liveable," he adds. "The question is what you could do if that money was used more wisely."

The book's authors estimated that emergency fuel deliveries to Siberian towns alone cost about £350m per year, and say it would be more efficient to fly people in to extract the oil, gas, nickel, gold and diamonds in Siberia rather than have fully functioning cities in such conditions. If the Soviet Union had worked according to the market, cities such as Yakutsk would never have appeared. Gaddy accuses today's Russia, which has launched a series of programmes to maintain and rejuvenate Siberian cities, of suffering from a "crazy 19th-century ideology that you don't really possess land unless you have people there".

But most Yakutsk residents don't plan on going anywhere soon – and don't much want to, either. For the ethnic Yakuts, it has been their home for centuries.

(Adapted from an article in *The Independent*, 21 January 2008, by Shaun Walker)

Task 2: Gapped Sentences

In the following extract, 10 sentence parts have been removed.

Choose from the sentence parts A–K the one which fits each gap (1–10). There is one extra sentence part 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.

Saving the elephants of Botswana

Dr Kate Evans was just seven years old when she decided she'd rather work with elephants than people. She spent much of her childhood being moved from one country to another, and first saw an elephant up close and personal at a centre in Sri Lanka. "Nobody ever believes me because it sounds so unusual, but from that moment on, (0 L)." After studying zoology at Swansea University, and gaining experience volunteering on various projects throughout southern Africa, she ended up in Botswana's Okavango delta. Here, she started to study elephant behaviour for a PhD, but says she always had a long-term vision for the project.

"I soon realized that establishing a permanent charity would get the elephants of this region much more attention, and much-needed support from donors," remembers Evans. "So in 2008, after completing my PhD, I founded *Elephants for Africa* – and have stayed ever since."

Botswana is home to the largest remaining elephant population in the world, (1) by the *World Wildlife Fund* and the *African Elephants Specialist Group*. Evans's work is dedicated to researching ways for humans to live alongside and conserve the species.

"Our tagline is conservation through research and education," she says. "What we look into is understanding their ecological and social requirements, (2). In addition, we are investigating ways we may be able to mitigate human-elephant conflict."

The rather ominous-sounding "human-elephant conflict" immediately brings to mind poaching, (3). "Crop raiding is a huge socio-economic problem throughout Africa and Asia and easily the biggest cause of ill-will towards elephants here. Electric fences don't keep them out of farmers' crops, (4).

"What we need to do is look at ideas like using certain smells and sounds to drive them off, like the buzzing of bees, or the smell of chillies, (5). We're also studying elephant vocalization, so we can start communicating with the animals about where and where not to go."

The *Elephants For Africa* research camp is over 100 kilometres – and a six hour drive through thick bush – from the nearest large town. Evans and her husband live in a tent near the centre. Dry food is flown in once a month, fresh once a week, and life revolves largely around work. It is, she admits, a little antisocial, (6).

"People always ask me what it's like living in a tent, but I find it exhilarating," she says cheerfully. "I've lived on and off in a tent for a decade now, and when I tried going back to the UK, I found it hard. The UK is all closed doors and closed windows, whereas living out here, (7). I love hearing the elephants and other animals moving around."

The charity focuses mainly on male adolescent elephants, (8 ____). "Most elephant research is done on females, or adults, but the adolescent period is very protracted in male elephants – from the age of 12 up to their early 30s."

"Male elephants are the main crop raiders, and if we are going to actively mitigate raiding, then we need a deeper understanding of male elephant ecology and sociality. We have over 650 male elephants that we know that use the study area and detailed data on these individuals gives really valuable information on their behavioural patterns."

Evans is also keen to educate people about the importance of elephant research. She has a PhD, (9 ____). In 2011 *Elephants For Africa* will start an education program, which Evans has wanted to do for some time. This program will bring children from rural areas to see the animals in a peaceful setting, to challenge their impression of elephants as destroyers of their families' crops and cattle.

"Lots of them have never seen elephants in a wild situation," she says, "and you can't underestimate how important it is to teach children to value and appreciate nature. It's about giving the population the tools and opportunities to take care of their wildlife and their wilderness, (10 ____). This way, they can become the ones who are the future conservationists and managers of this beautiful area."

It all sounds very convincing. But somehow, I don't imagine that Dr Kate Evans will ever be persuaded to pack up her tent.

(Adapted from an article in *The Telegraph*, 23 September 2010, by Leah Hyslop)

- A but she can't imagine living anywhere else
- B so the areas we deem suitable for wildlife conservation meet their needs
- C rather than just coming in and doing everything ourselves
- D you're so in touch with nature
- E about whose lives relatively little is known
- F why she can't imagine doing anything else
- G but Evans says this is not the most serious problem in Botswana
- H and has been highlighted as a priority area for the elephant conservation
- I both of which they hate
- J and gives seminars to the local population
- K because they quickly learn that their tusks won't conduct electricity
- ✗ I knew I wanted to make them my life

B) CONOSCENZA E USO DELLA LINGUA

TASK 1: GAP FILL

For gaps 1–15, write one missing word in the spaces on the right.

There is ONE word missing in each gap.

There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0.

Not every airport tale is bad

There are a number of reasons 0 spending some time in Amsterdam: the shimmering beauty of the city; the remarkable range of its music and theatre; and not least, 1 open friendliness of its inhabitants towards visitors – something quite unlike other European capitals one could mention.

To this conventional list of accolades I can now add a new one: if you are going to lose your passport, this is the place to do it. As my daughter and I got 2 the taxi to take us to Schiphol airport, the driver, a large bearded man of North African appearance, asked us if we had got our passports. She had. I hadn't.

After over 3 hour of frantic and fruitless exploration of my suitcase and of the room we had just vacated, I decided we should go to the airport, so at least my daughter could take the flight we 4 booked. "No need to panic," I told her as we sped towards Schiphol. "Why should I 5 panicking?" she replied with her usual calmness. "I've got my passport."

When we got to the airport, the driver, Farid, insisted 6 abandoning his vehicle and accompanying us to the British Airways check-in. Then, after my daughter got through a minute before the flight's close, Farid escorted me to the airport's police station, to report the passport's loss. Naturally, being Dutch, the duty officer spoke English, but it was reassuring to have a local person 7 a sort of an ally in misfortune.

Then Farid took me up to the British Airways emergency and information desk, continuing to offer his assistance with any negotiations. For a brief unworthy moment, I wondered if this large bearded Muslim was an ideal guarantor: only the previous day two Yemenis had been arrested and held at Schiphol, on suspicions about the contents of their luggage. But the Dutchwoman at the BA counter was all smiles and sympathy, and called the representative of the UK Border Agency.

Most unusually, 8 is such a person permanently based at Schiphol; in other countries, one would have to travel to the British consulate, which in the Netherlands would 9 meant a trip to The Hague, and – it was already evening – goodbye to any chance of leaving that day. Fortunately, I was able to give the man from the UK Border Agency the number of my missing passport, 10 he fed into his computer, and after asking various questions 11 test my knowledge of my own claimed identity, he told me he was prepared to escort me through passport control.

At this point, I noticed Farid looking 12 his watch; he had been with me for about two hours. I apologised, and asked how much I owed him. To my amazement, he just quoted the standard fare to the airport; I handed him 13 the remaining euros in my wallet, which was about twice that. Farid looked at me almost reproachfully: "I was not doing this for money," he said. "It 14 make me feel much better if you accepted this," I replied, and to my relief he smiled.

"We 15 managed to reserve you a seat on the last flight of the day to Heathrow," said the lady from British Airways, after Farid had waved goodbye to us. I began to pull out my credit card: "And how much do I owe you for the new ticket?" I asked. "Nothing," she said. "Don't worry about it."

- | | |
|-----|------------|
| 0. | <u>for</u> |
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| 2. | _____ |
| 3. | _____ |
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| 10. | _____ |
| 11. | _____ |
| 12. | _____ |
| 13. | _____ |
| 14. | _____ |
| 15. | _____ |

Task 2: Gap Fill (Word formation)

For gaps 1–10, write the correct form of the word in brackets in the spaces on the right.

There is an example at the beginning: Gap 0.

I took my kids offline

"It's weird when you have to text your kids to come to the __0__ (DINE) table," says Susan Maushart. At the end of 2008, she was __1__ (ANXIETY) about the amount of time her three teenagers spent transfixed by technology.

All she usually saw of her 15-year-old son, Bill, was the back of his head as he played on his games console. Her elder daughter, Anni, 18, binged on social-networking sites and 14-year-old Sussy seemed __2__ (PHYSICAL) attached to her laptop, often staying logged on to the internet through the night. Over a period of months, Maushart, a single mother, had a dawning __3__ (AWARE) that something was not right. But when she watched Sussy receive video clips of her friends streamed live over the internet, her worries became profound panic.

"My concern," she says, "was that we had ceased to function as a family. We were just a __4__ (COLLECT) of individuals who were very connected outwards – to friends, business, school and sources of entertainment and information. But we simply weren't connecting with one another in real space and time in any sort of __5__ (AUTHENTICITY) way."

Maushart, now 52, decided to take __6__ (ACT). She initiated what she describes as an experiment in living and banned all technology at home for six months.

During their half-year of technological __7__ (DEPRIVE), the family did eat together more __8__ (REGULAR). They talked more. They played board games. They went on outings to the cinema and restaurants. Anni took to studying in the university library. She cooked lasagne. Bill rediscovered his saxophone and got into reading novels by the Japanese author Haruki Murakami. Sussy, as the youngest and most technologically __9__ (LITERACY), struggled more. To her mother's dismay, she moved to her dad's house for the first six weeks. Eventually, however, she succumbed to the idea of a night not lit up by the glow of the computer and found her erratic sleep patterns eradicated.

Anni, Bill and Sussy confronted boredom – something that they were previously __10__ (FAMILIAR) with because of their endless access to online entertainment. They found out that it made them resourceful. Indeed, their mother thinks boredom is fundamentally important in terms of creativity: "If nothing's wrong, you're never motivated to change, to move out of that comfort zone."

(Adapted from an article in *The Guardian*, 1 January 2011, by Melissa McClements)

0. dinner
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Pagina vuota