



ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΘΝΙΚΗΣ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ  
ΚΡΑΤΙΚΟ ΠΙΣΤΟΠΟΙΗΤΙΚΟ ΓΛΩΣΣΟΜΑΘΕΙΑΣ

Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs

**English Language Certification**

**LEVEL**

**B2**

on the scale set by the Council of Europe

**MODULE**

**1**

Reading comprehension and language awareness

**Period**

**May 2008**

**ATTENTION**

- Do not open this booklet until the exam begins.
- Mark your answers on Answer Sheet 1 [ΑΠΑΝΤΗΤΙΚΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1].
- Provide a single answer for each item.
- You have **65 minutes** to complete this part of the exam.

## ACTIVITY 1

**Step 1: Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 1-3.**

1. The article is written for  
 A. history teachers.                      B. business leaders.                      C. the general public.
2. According to the text, a common European approach to teaching history would be  
 A. simple to introduce.                      B. difficult to agree on.                      C. expensive to develop.
3. The article mainly seems to be  
 A. highlighting problems.                      B. explaining advantages.                      C. suggesting alternatives.

### INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

EU education ministers recently announced that they were looking at the idea of developing a new kind of school history book for all 27 countries of the EU. At the meeting in Heidelberg, the German Minister of Education Annette Schavan called on her colleagues in EU nations and neighbouring countries to stress the shared values and cultural perspectives among Europeans.

The proposals met with a very mixed response. Author Adolf Muschg told the gathering in Heidelberg that such a project was "a fantastic idea" but that it needed time to develop. Others were less enthusiastic: the Poles, Danes and Czechs were worried about the idea of re-writing history, and the British were also very sceptical.

The problem with history is that it is not like other school subjects. A European chemistry book or an EU physics book would be easier to develop and would probably not arouse such strong feelings. But history is different –it is political, it is personal, and plays an important part in our identity.

History is selective. History books tell us about the past, but



## *A common history?*

they do not include everything that happened, only what historians have selected. Choices have to be made. Some people argue that schools should look at the history of the nation –at the important events that helped to shape the country. Others argue that great global events are far more important, and we should concentrate on those to get a better picture of the world as it is today.

The *kind* of history that we want to pass on to the next generation is also controversial. Should we teach the history of powerful people –the rulers, leaders and legislators, soldiers and statesmen? Or should we –as is becoming increasingly common–

focus on the history of peasants, slaves, workers and women –the powerless, the unnamed and forgotten majority, those who were on the receiving end of everything the powerful group decided to do?

The final problem is one of interpretation, of how we look at historical events or facts. If we take a battle, for example, there are winners and losers, and each side writes its own story. Over the years, the stories are repeated and we finally believe they are facts. But the things that one side believes and what the other side believes are almost always very different –and it is difficult for both sides to agree on what really happened.

Given the problems involved with the teaching of history, it seems unlikely that there will ever be a common European history book –and certainly there will never be one that everyone agrees on. On the other hand, a move away from narrow national histories would be a move in the right direction, and it might lead to better understanding of the other nations of Europe.

**Step 2: Read the text again and choose the best answers (A, B, or C) for items 4-10.**

4. The main aim of the approach suggested by Annette Schavan is best described as  
 A. socio-cultural. B. economic. C. ethical.
5. Adolf Muschg's comment on the proposal shows that he was  
 A. worried about it. B. cynical about it. C. in favour of it.
6. According to the text, history teaching is  
 A. unlike science teaching. B. more interesting than science. C. less important than chemistry.
7. According to the text, all history books  
 A. focus on national events. B. discuss global events. C. present past events selectively.
8. The text suggests that more and more historians prefer to concentrate on  
 A. important economic events. B. the lives of ordinary people. C. world wars.
9. According to the text, historical events are  
 A. easy to agree upon. B. interpreted in different ways. C. mainly untrue.
10. The writer suggests that history teaching should ideally  
 A. be the same in every country. B. focus on national events. C. have a European dimension.

**ACTIVITY 2**

**Step 1: Read the leaflet below and choose the best option (A-H) for items 11-16. Use each option once. There are two options you do not need.**

<b>A.</b> cause	<b>B.</b> test	<b>C.</b> placed	<b>D.</b> developing
<b>E.</b> care	<b>F.</b> escape	<b>G.</b> stubbed	<b>H.</b> closing

**FOR FIRE SAFETY MAKE A FIRE PROOF HOME**



**TIP 1.** Fit smoke alarms on each level in your home. Keep them free from dust and (11) \_\_\_\_\_ them once a week.

**TIP 2.** Make a fire action plan so that everyone in your home knows how to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ if there is a fire.

**TIP 3.** Keep the exits from your home clear so that people can get out if there is a fire. Make sure that everyone in your home can easily find the keys for doors and windows.

**TIP 4.** Take extra (13) \_\_\_\_\_ in the kitchen – accidents here account for over half of fires in homes. Never leave young children alone in the kitchen.

**TIP 5.** Keep candles away from children, and never leave lit candles in rooms that nobody is in.

**TIP 6.** Make sure cigarettes are (14) \_\_\_\_\_ out properly and are disposed of carefully, and never smoke in bed.

**TIP 7.** Get into the habit of (15) \_\_\_\_\_ doors at night. If you want to keep a child's bedroom door open, close the doors to the lounge and kitchen, it may well help save their life if there is a fire.

**TIP 8.** Don't overload electrical sockets. Remember one plug for one socket.

**TIP 9.** Keep matches and lighters where children can't see or reach them.

**TIP 10.** Don't leave the TV or other electrical appliances on standby as this could (16) \_\_\_\_\_ a fire.

**Step 2: Decide which part of the text the following information is linked to. Choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 17-20.**

17. Make sure they are in secure holders and they are away from any material that could burn.  
 A. Tip 1 B. Tip 5 C. Tip 7
18. Remember to change the batteries at least once a year.  
 A. Tip 1 B. Tip 4 C. Tip 9
19. Take extra care when cooking with hot oil.  
 A. Tip 4 B. Tip 8 C. Tip 10
20. Always switch them off and unplug when they're not in use.  
 A. Tip 2 B. Tip 6 C. Tip 10

**ACTIVITY 3**

Choose the best options (titles A-F) for items 21-25 (book extracts). There is one option you do not need.

BOOK EXTRACT		BOOK TITLE	
21.	You have three lines left, one for the mouth and two for the eyebrows. With these lines an extraordinary number of expressions can be made. However, as in real life...	A	CHALLENGE OF A LIBERAL FAITH
22.	Reliable estimates suggest that worry about what might happen to you on the plane is widespread. Fifty percent of the adult population is affected, depending on how rigidly this anxiety is defined.	B	DISCOVERING PUPILS' INDIVIDUAL NEEDS
23.	A person's religion is not the creed that s/he professes, or the things s/he postulates about God. It is the few and elementary convictions by the strength of which s/he lives.	C	TOURIST CITY GUIDE
24.	Assessment may be undertaken by teachers themselves, teaching supervisors or assistants, and this may result in a lack of consensus. Thus, it is wise for all those involved to find areas where compromise is possible.	D	THE MAGNIFICENCE OF ASTROLOGY
25.	The Dutch institute for architecture (NAi) [F-10], Museumpark 25, located in a striking-looking building, is one of the largest centres of architecture in the world.	E	HOW TO DRAW PICTURES
		F	TAKING THE FEAR OUT OF FLYING

**ACTIVITY 4**

Choose the best options (A-F) for items 26-30. Use each option only once. There is one option you do not need.

A.	a great sense of humour	B.	a clue	C.	a soft spot
D.	a nerve	E.	all day	F.	enough

26.	Speaker A	Do you know why he was so cranky today?	
	Speaker B	No, I don't. I haven't got _____.	
27.	Speaker A	Why did you resign?	
	Speaker B	I just felt I'd had _____ of being treated like that, and it was time to move on.	
28.	Speaker A	Come on, hurry up. We haven't got _____.	
	Speaker B	Alright, I'm coming!	
29.	Speaker A	Jason is a lot of fun, isn't he?	
	Speaker B	Yes, he's got _____.	
30.	Speaker A	You're really spoiling your niece, aren't you?	
	Speaker B	Well, yes... I suppose I've got _____ for her.	

**ACTIVITY 5**

Choose the best options (A-F) for items 31-34. Use each option only once. The explanation on the right will help you. There are two options you do not need.

A.	Don't give up	B.	I have no idea	C.	I'm just looking
D.	Just my luck	E.	I take your point	F.	Watch out

31.	Speaker A	Can I help you madam?	Politely refusing assistance.
	Speaker B	No thanks. _____.	
32.	Speaker A	I'm afraid we've sold out.	Expressing disappointment.
	Speaker B	_____! And I really needed a raincoat too.	
33.	Speaker A	I'm feeling so tired of it all.	Expressing encouragement.
	Speaker B	_____ now! You're nearly there.	
34.	Speaker A	_____! There's a car coming.	Giving a warning.
	Speaker B	Gee, you scared me!	

## ACTIVITY 6

**Step 1: Read the first part of the text and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 35-36.**

35. The opening paragraph of the text contains information about Martin's  
**A.** family. **B.** achievements. **C.** ambitions.
36. To motivate the reader to read the interview, the first part of the text leaves out any details of  
**A.** his character **B.** his nationality. **C.** his plans



## *The fish man*

At the age of 52, you might think Martin Strel, a long distance swimmer from Slovenia, might want to start taking it easy. After all, he has swum all 1,867 miles of the Danube, has been all the way down the Mississippi, and has also covered the 2,488 miles of the Yangtze river in China.

But, clearly, Martin is not the kind of person who enjoys sitting around at home watching TV. Just before he set off for his latest adventure, we caught up with him. Here's what he had to say...

## Tony James talks to Martin Strel about his latest adventure:



**Tony:** Martin, could you tell us exactly what you are planning to do?

**Martin:** I was looking for a new challenge, and I thought the Amazon sounded like a great idea. After all, it is one

of the longest rivers in the world, and it offers a lot of excitement. The plan is to start in Peru and swim all the way down through Brazil to the Atlantic Ocean.

**Tony:** That sounds like a long way.

**Martin:** It is: 3,393 miles to be exact. It's hard to be sure, but I expect it will take two months, maybe more.

**Tony:** It has to be said that a swim down the Amazon sounds like a very dangerous project. Aren't you worried about that?

**Martin:** When people think of the Amazon, they imagine crocodiles, piranhas and snakes, and they will all be there. I can avoid the crocodiles because the support boat will be behind me, and in a real emergency the crew could shoot into the water and

frighten them away. Piranhas only attack if they smell blood, so they can be avoided. The bushmaster snake is deadly, but luckily it comes out mainly at night, and that's when I'll be asleep on the boat. So with a bit of luck I won't come into contact with anything too dangerous.

**Tony:** I'm not sure everyone would agree with that, but the other question on people's minds will be why on earth you are doing it.

**Martin:** I always look for the challenges that seem impossible and the Amazon is going to be the next one. I have previously completed all of my swims, among them the Danube, the Yangtze, the Paraná and the Mississippi River, so I am convinced I will complete this one. But the real purpose is to make people more aware of the environmental problems in the region, and I'm dedicating the Amazon Swim to the preservation of the rainforest.

**Tony:** What are your future plans?

**Martin:** To inspire others to conquer themselves and achieve their goals. The more impossible they seem, the better.











**Step 2: Read the rest of the text and choose the best options (A, B, or C) for items 37-40**

37. How long will Martin's swim take?  
**A.** A fortnight. **B.** Six weeks. **C.** Sixty days or more.
38. He hopes to avoid bushmaster snakes  
**A.** by asking the crew to shoot them. **B.** by swimming during daylight. **C.** by making sure he has no cuts.
39. How does he feel about the challenge ahead?  
**A.** confident. **B.** nervous. **C.** pessimistic.
40. What is the main purpose of swimming down the Amazon?  
**A.** to highlight an environmental problem. **B.** to raise money. **C.** to help local tribespeople.



6.3 Use the correct form of one of the words (A-F) from the text to fill in the gaps in items 41-45. There is one word you do not need.

<b>A.</b>	support	<b>B.</b>	excitement	<b>C.</b>	inspire	<b>D.</b>	challenge	<b>E.</b>	avoid	<b>F.</b>	dangerous
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41.	The book that Professor Benson suggested was good but really  .	
42.	We were so  to see the children. They've really grown!	
43.	The doctors said that he is out of  , but I'm still worried to death!	
44.	My parents have always been very  of me and my efforts to become a painter.	
45.	People who go after their dreams are a(n)  to all of us!	

### ACTIVITY 7

Think of ONE word that can go with BOTH sentences in each set. The first letter of the word is given.

46.	a) He has had a	h _ _ _	life because he has always been poor.
	b) It was a really		exam -I was expecting something much easier.

47.	a) It	t _ _ _ _	a lot of effort to become a doctor.
	b) It		me 25 minutes to get to work.

48.	a) We cancelled the picnic because the rain was so	h _ _ _ _ .
	b) Could you help me with these cases –they're so	

49.	a) I'm driving, so I'd better have a	s _ _ _	drink.
	b) I slept so well last night. I think it was because of that		pillow you bought.

50.	a) I don't think he knows how to	r _ _	a business.
	b) Face your responsibilities. Don't		away from them, unless you want to be a coward.

**ΣΑΣ ΥΠΕΝΘΥΜΙΖΟΥΜΕ ΟΤΙ ΠΡΕΠΕΙ ΝΑ ΜΕΤΑΦΕΡΕΤΕ ΟΛΕΣ ΤΙΣ ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΕΙΣ ΣΤΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1  
ΤΕΛΟΣ ΜΗΝΥΜΑΤΟΣ**