

		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
		PeriodNovember 2009
ATTENTION		<ul style="list-style-type: none">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 option (A, B, or C) for items 1-2.

1. The aim of this text is
A. to express the writer's opinion. B. to report on research. C. to review new books.
2. Another title for this text might be:
A. Our search for happiness. B. Life without happiness. C. Money and happiness.

Happiness

By Annalee Newman

I took a five-question happiness quiz, and it turns out I'm very satisfied. No, I wasn't reading *Cosmopolitan* or OKCupid.com. The quiz was part of a study by happiness researcher Ed Diener, a professor of psychology at the University of Illinois.

Everybody, from well-known British economists to philosophers, has been investigating what happiness is. While neuro-scientists try to solve the mystery of which parts of the brain are active when people say they are happy, social science has an easy answer. Just ask!

Most studies on happiness are based on simple quizzes. Like many psychologists, Diener supposes that people are honest when they tell us what makes them happy. It turns out that these subjective tests are quite informative.

Economist T.J. Layard published a book last year called *Happiness*, in which he discusses one of the surprising results of these tests: money doesn't make people happier. The only time people's feeling of well-being rises, as a result of money, is when it takes them out of poverty. Middle-class people who become wealthier don't report feeling any happier.



If money doesn't make us happy, Layard argues, we should be rethinking our priorities. Most people value happiness above all else, but they live in nations where progress and social welfare are connected with money. Why not value other things that might make us genuinely happy?

You'd think there would be a lot of disagreement among scientists about what makes people happy, but in fact there are a few basic things that everyone agrees upon regarding what leads to happiness. Strong relationships with others and self-esteem are among the most important. On the contrary, one of the biggest happiness 'killers' is 'keeping up with the Joneses', which means comparing yourself to other people who are somehow better off than you.

Philosopher Joel Kupperman points out in his recent book *Six Myths about the Good Life*, that happiness isn't always the nice thing it is said to be. There are clearly immoral kinds of happiness, like causing pain or taking revenge. Then there's the problem of mistaking pleasure for happiness. Pleasure doesn't last long and it is based on objects external to us (like good food, a good film or winning the lottery). It doesn't contribute to a sense of being happy with who you are. What is more likely to lead to the kind of happiness that builds self-reliance is taking pleasure in our successes.

Step 2: Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 3-10.

3. Who wrote the quiz mentioned at the beginning of the text?
 A. A psychologist. B. A journalist. C. A philosopher.
4. Research into happiness is usually based on
 A. questionnaires. B. statistics. C. reading books.
5. What people say about happiness
 A. tells us nothing. B. is very unreliable. C. can tell us a lot.
6. According to the article, the discovery that money doesn't make people happier was
 A. astonishing. B. unexpected. C. disturbing.
7. Money is linked to happiness only in the case of
 A. great wealth. B. real poverty. C. one having earned it.
8. According to the text, which of the following usually brings happiness?
 A. Having friends. B. Having a well-paid job. C. Keeping up with the Joneses.
9. Which of the following is connected to real happiness?
 A. Simple things like good food. B. Succeeding in your job. C. Feeling good about yourself.
10. Researchers say that happiness
 A. doesn't last very long. B. helps our self esteem. C. is not the same as pleasure.

ACTIVITY 2

Step 1: Read the text below and choose the best option (A-H) for items 11-17. There is one option you do not need.

A. around	B. every	C. others	D. their
E. until	F. no	G. most	H. more



Getting started

The Greek Islands are easy to hop around with good public transport and a range of accommodation to suit (11)____ budget, from the back-packer to the five-star traveller. For some, planning involves no (12)____ than heading out and buying a ticket; for (13)____, planning the trip is half the fun and there is certainly (14)____ shortage of information to help them on their way.



When to go

Spring and summer are the best times to visit Greece. In winter, (15)____ of the tourist infrastructure goes into hibernation, particularly on the islands. Some of the smaller islands close completely, and islanders head off to (16)____ homes in Athens. Many hotels, along with cafés and restaurants, close their doors from the end of November (17)____ the beginning of April.

Step 2: Now read another text about the Greek islands and fill in gaps 18-22 with the appropriate missing sentence (options A-F). There is one option you do not need.

A.	budget would be 45 euros
B.	on the islands and everything is in full swing
C.	you will need 130 euros per day
D.	cheaper outside the high season, particularly on the islands
E.	can get by on less
F.	as claimed by official sources

The Greek Islands: Costs and Money



Greece is no longer a cheap country. Prices have increased since the adoption of the euro. It is hard to believe that inflation is less than 3%, 18, when prices for

many services have risen by more than 50% since 2002.

Greece has seen some quite dramatic price rises, particularly for accommodation and restaurant meals.

A very cheap daily 19. This means hitching, staying in hostels or camping, and rarely eating in restaurants or taking ferries.

Allow at least 90 euros per day if you want your own room and plan to eat out as well as see the sights. If, however, you want comfy rooms and restaurants all the way, 20. These budgets are for individuals travelling alone. Couples sharing a room 21.

During the low season, there are fewer tourists around and you're able to negotiate better deals. Accommodation, for example, is a lot 22. Your money will go further if you travel outside the busy months.

Families can also achieve big savings by looking for rooms with kitchen facilities.

ACTIVITY 3

Read the texts below and decide what kind of publication they come from. Match items 23-28 with options A-H. There are two options you do not need.

A.	a cook book	B.	a detective story	C.	a guide book	D.	an autobiography
E.	a dictionary	F.	a story book	G.	a car manual	H.	a newspaper

23.	China promised 'a new path to industrialisation' this week as it announced its first plan on climate change.	
24.	Lightly grease pan, heat it and place the dough on the surface. Leave it until it becomes crispy.	
25.	I remember the story of my ancestors, who came from the country filled with a strength that was the accumulated result of centuries.	
26.	Now, one day, the merchant mounted his horse and went forth to collect debts that were owed to him in certain towns.	
27.	Mrs Ferrars vanished on September 16 th –a Thursday. I knew nothing of the case then but soon became intensely involved in this mysterious disappearance.	
28.	Beat (Old English bēatan). The first meaning of the word was to strike (to hit). The meaning "to defeat someone" developed later from the word strike.	

ACTIVITY 4

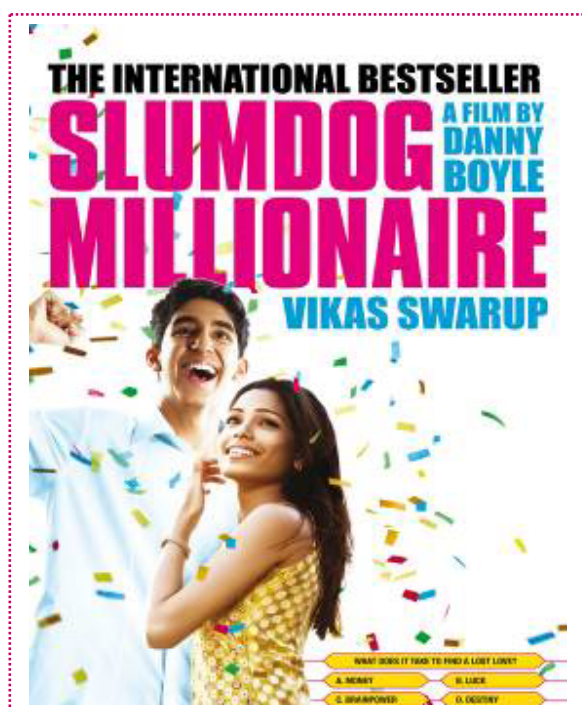
Step 1: Read the first part of the film review below and choose the best option (A, B, or C) for items 29-30.

29. What is the writer's overall view of the film? The film is
 A. very amusing. B. a big hit. C. overwhelming.
30. The writer's personal opinion of the film is
 A. positive. B. negative. C. neutral.

CINEMA CINECRITIC

Slumdog Millionaire

Chei Amlani



It's getting ridiculous. Danny Boyle's film *Slumdog Millionaire* is now so popular that it is even difficult to book a place on a 'slum tour' of Mumbai. That's where concerned westerners get the opportunity to visit a glorious city of contradictions and see the real slumdogs of India. They witness the horrific conditions, the dreadful poverty and the heart-warming optimism of these wonderful little boys and girls making the most of the cards life has dealt them. These are the film's real-life heroes, who have helped Boyle and his team towards the phenomenal success at the Academy Awards. Since its release, every cliché has been used about the plight of these impoverished street dwellers, which is appropriate as this is first and foremost a film of clichés.

Step 2: Read items 31-35, and choose the option (A, B, or C) that is closest in meaning to the underlined words.

31. It's getting ridiculous
 A. absurd B. idiotic C. unreasonable
32. It's difficult to book a place
 A. order B. reserve C. charge
33. Mumbai is a city of contradictions
 A. denials B. oppositions C. ambiguities
34. Westerners witness the horrific conditions
 A. observe B. behold C. attend
35. 'Slumdog Millionaire' is a film of clichés
 A. stereotypical places B. banal people C. commonplace ideas

Step 3: Read the second part of the text and decide if statements 36-40 are True (A), False (B), or Not Stated (C).

STATEMENTS		A	B	C
		TRUE	FALSE	NOT STATED
36.	The child actors in the film have still not been paid.			
37.	Sometimes negative criticism is of benefit to the opposition.			
38.	The characters in the film are very realistic.			
39.	The director has made millions from his millionaire movie.			
40.	It is easy to make Bollywood-type films.			



Slumdog Millionaire continued...

There has been a slow reaction to the film's success in the West: witness the recent predictable stories about how the children in the film were underpaid, a criticism that draws on feelings of western guilt.

There's no doubt some critics of the film have their own agenda. With heated competition for Oscar glory and for the big bucks, it is clear that competitors, in the shape of other films, have a lot to gain from the negative press.

But such concerns are to be expected with anything that gets so much limelight. Where *Slumdog* really fails is not in social commentary but in its own art form. Boyle directs a film that is just not convincing.






The characters are a selection of half-drawn stereotypes, barely sketched notions of criminals and slumdogs far removed from the complexities and heartbreaks of real life. As the hero miraculously transforms from dark rascal of the slums to charming and light-skinned 'chaiwalla' (tea server) in a call centre, we are treated to the idea that everyone in India is a criminal, a fool, a saint or a convenient mix of all three.

Boyle simply wants an uplifting story about the spirit of the gutsy Indian people: they live in slums but still smile and believe in love. And, most obviously, he wants to include a touch of Bollywood –a genre that is kitsch and shallow.






ACTIVITY 5

Words and expressions ☆ Words and expressions ☆ Words and expressions ☆

Step 1: Fill in the sentences 41-45 with a word which combines with the preposition UP, as in the example.

Column A		Column B	
0.	I wish you'd _____ more often. That way people would respect you more!	<i>Speak up</i>	
41.	When I _____ late in the morning I feel lousy all day long.		
42.	Why did you _____ that topic again? I asked you not to, didn't I?		
43.	Why don't you _____ with some ideas for next year's festival?		
44.	I will make dinner, and you will _____ the kitchen afterwards. Ok?		
45.	Before you leave, would you please _____ the house?		

Step 2: Fill in sentences 46-50 with the OPPOSITE of the words in bold (The first letter is given in Column B).

Column A		Column B	
46.	I used to have thick hair but it's quite _____ now.	t	
47.	You don't need to wear a formal dress – you can come in _____ clothes.	c	
48.	One of the twins is quite outgoing but her brother is very _____.	s	
49.	I found the film quite exciting but my wife said it was _____.	b	
50.	We avoid heavy meals before bedtime – a _____ snack is all we have usually.	l	

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