

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ, ΔΙΑ ΒΙΟΥ ΜΑΘΗΣΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ  
ΚΡΑΤΙΚΟ ΠΙΣΤΟΠΟΙΗΤΙΚΟ ΓΛΩΣΣΟΜΑΘΕΙΑΣ

Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs  
**English Language Certification**

**LEVEL**

**C1**

on the scale set by the Council of Europe

**MODULE**

**1**

Reading comprehension and language awareness

**Period**

**MAY 2010**

**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 **80 minutes** to complete this part of the exam.

## ACTIVITY 1

Read the text below and do tasks 1.1 and 1.2.

Sofia is the capital of the Republic of Bulgaria, with a population of 1,395,568. It is the largest city in the country and the administrative, cultural, economic, and educational centre.

The history of Sofia can be traced back some 7,000 years. Prehistoric settlements were excavated in the centre of the present city, near the royal palace, as well as in outer districts such as Slatina and Obelia. The well preserved town walls date back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC, when Thracians established their city next to the most important mineral spring, still functioning today. Sofia has had several names during different periods of its existence, and remnants of the city's history can still be seen today alongside modern landmarks.

Sofia 'grows but does not age' as its people say as a tribute to the mushrooming suburbs occupied by one-tenth of Bulgaria's population, and a reference to its ancient origins. Although various Byzantine ruins and a couple of mosques attest to a long and colourful history, little else in the city is of any real antiquity. Sofia's finest architecture post-dates Bulgaria's liberation in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the capital of the infant state was laid out in imitation of Western capitals.

The disarray which characterizes Sofia's ways makes it unwelcoming for first-time visitors. However, once you've settled in and begun to explore, you'll find Sofia surprisingly laid back for a capital city. Hardly a great European metropolis brimming with fine sights, the place comes into its own on fine spring and summer days, when the downtown streets and their pavement cafés begin to buzz with life.

The close historical relationship between Bulgaria and Russia reveals itself in the capital's public buildings, foremost of which is the Alexander Nevski church. The neighbouring streets harbour a modest collection of museums and galleries – enough to justify a day or two of sightseeing, no more. More tempting are the outdoor recreational possibilities offered by verdant Mount Vitosha, just 12km south of the centre. Also on the fringes of the city, the medieval frescos at the Boyana Church and Kremikovtsi monastery make essential viewing for anyone interested in Orthodox art.

Sightseeing apart, things can seem low-key here for those with sophisticated cosmopolitan tastes: entertainment for many in Sofia still revolves around an evening promenade in one of the city's parks, followed by a coffee in a nearby café while haute cuisine has never been one of Bulgaria's fortes. Nightlife is improving, however, with a host of new bars and clubs giving the city a raw, pleasure-seeking edge, at least on warm evenings in summer.

**1.1 Read the information on the website and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 1-3.**

1. The main aim of the text is to
  - A. criticize Sofia.
  - B. inform readers about Sofia.
  - C. record Sofia's history.
2. A possible title for the text would be
  - A. Sofia: old and new.
  - B. Sofia: city of the future.
  - C. Sofia: exploring antiquity.
3. The text says that Sofia
  - A. is experiencing a sudden population explosion.
  - B. is not like Western metropolitan capitals.
  - C. has an increasing number of visitors.

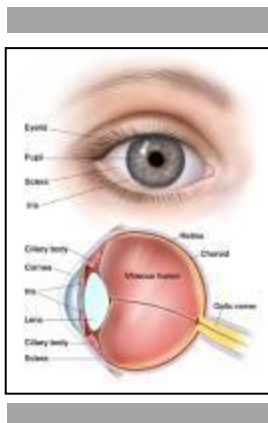
**1.2 Read the article again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 4-10.**

4. The ancient walls of Sofia
  - A. have disappeared.
  - B. are still visible.
  - C. have been rebuilt.
5. The population of Sofia
  - A. is increasing.
  - B. is growing older.
  - C. is perishing.
6. A first time visitor to Sofia may
  - A. feel unwelcome by the people.
  - B. initially feel put off.
  - C. be positively impressed.
7. One of the things that attracts you to Sofia is
  - A. its exciting nightlife.
  - B. its open-air recreation.
  - C. its numerous art galleries.
8. What can visitors enjoy outside the city centre?
  - A. Good food.
  - B. Lakes and forests.
  - C. Old works of art.
9. The text says: "*You'll find Sofia surprisingly laid back for a capital city.*". The expression '**laid back**' here means
  - A. calm and stress-free.
  - B. exciting and interesting.
  - C. unusual and conservative.
10. The text also says: "The neighbouring streets harbour a modest collection of museums." The word '**harbour**' here means
  - A. protect.
  - B. shelter.
  - C. contain.

**ACTIVITY 2**

- 2.1** Read the text and match the meaning of the underlined words (11-17) with options A-H. There is one option you do not need.

<b>A.</b>	provided with particular features	<b>B.</b>	relating to the outside of something
<b>C.</b>	reacting strongly to something	<b>D.</b>	different and diverse
<b>E.</b>	caused by unknown factors	<b>F.</b>	relating to the way we use our muscles
<b>G.</b>	not happening often	<b>H.</b>	very tired

**SCIENCE SUPPLEMENT****5 May 2010****YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES****HOW MANY COLOURS ARE THERE IN A RAINBOW?**

Humans perceive colour through three types of cells called 'cones'; these cells are (11) sensitive to colour: they 'receive' the colours from the (12) external world. Some people have four types of receptors. (13) Equipped with four receptors instead of three, Myriam –an English social worker, and the first known 'tetrachromat'– sees (14) rare subtleties of colour. Looking at a rainbow she can see ten (15) distinct colours. Most of us see only five. She was the first to be discovered as having this ability, in 1993, and a study in 2004 found that two out of 80 subjects were tetrachromats.

**WHY YOUR EYES ARE NEVER STILL**

If our eyes did not move –if they simply 'drank in' the view before them– we would go blind. Our retinas can only process contrast, and soon become (16) exhausted looking at the same thing for too long. They must tremble constantly in order to bring objects into view.

**A VISION OF THE FUTURE**

Our eyes are several steps ahead of us, whatever we happen to be doing. When negotiating a turn in the road for example, a driver's eye will provide (17) motor information to his or her arms almost a second before he or she makes any movement. By then the eyes will already be looking elsewhere.

- 2.2** The statements below are from texts about eyes and vision. Match statements 18-20 with headings A-D. There is one heading you do not need.

<b>A.</b>	THE WHITES IN ANIMALS' EYES	<b>B.</b>	COMPUTERS MAY CAUSE SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS
<b>C.</b>	CRYING CAN GIVE YOU AWAY	<b>D.</b>	INTERPRETATIONS OF MYTHS

<b>18.</b>	The Cyclops, the one-eyed giant of Greek legend, has inspired many explanations, but the most likely is the saddest.	
<b>19.</b>	Unlike all of the other emotional expressions, shedding tears is the only one that leaves a physical trace.	
<b>20.</b>	The Singapore National Eye Centre estimates that more than 80% of the country's 18-year old men are myopic.	

**ACTIVITY 3**

Read the following extracts (21-27) and decide where these might appear. Use each of the options below (A-H) only once. There is one option you do not need.


<b>A.</b>	A newspaper	<b>B.</b>	The government's website
<b>C.</b>	An income tax booklet	<b>D.</b>	A book
<b>E.</b>	A University prospectus	<b>F.</b>	A manual
<b>G.</b>	A travel guide	<b>H.</b>	A toy package

<b>21.</b>	Exception for children under age 18. If you are planning to claim a return for your child, who was under 18 at the end of 2009, and certain other conditions apply, you can include your child's income on your form.	
<b>22.</b>	All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reprinted or reproduced or utilised in any form or by any electronic, mechanical, or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying and recording, or any other information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publishers.	
<b>23.</b>	The inn is a little oasis amidst the narrow and bustling cobbled streets at the heart of the historic city.	
<b>24.</b>	The triangles alternate in color and are grouped into four quadrants of six triangles each. The quadrants are referred to as the home board and outer board. Two dice are required.	
<b>25.</b>	If you know the subject area of the course that you are interested in, you should turn first to the Index on page 79. The information is arranged first by faculty, then by department and then, where appropriate, by subject area.	
<b>26.</b>	It is our view that America has responded to the financial turmoil in marked contrast to the UK and, so far, with more success: the dollar has strengthened against the pound and the US has avoided recession.	
<b>27.</b>	Enjoyment of social rights should be secured without discrimination on grounds of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction and social origin.	

**ACTIVITY 4**

Choose the option (A-H) that best accompanies each of the words in bold (28-34). There is one option you do not need.

<b>A.</b>	risky	<b>B.</b>	living	<b>C.</b>	rubbish	<b>D.</b>	silent
<b>E.</b>	advertising	<b>F.</b>	cozy	<b>G.</b>	science	<b>H.</b>	gloomy

WALL-E ★★★★★	
	<p><b>Genre: Family, Animated, Director: Andrew Stanton</b></p> <p>Wall-E is an exciting (28) _____ <b>fiction</b> adventure, a love story, and a moral allegory, but it is at its most ingenious as a (29) _____ <b>movie</b>, during which no human voice is heard. It's set in a nameless city, a desolate, dusty necropolis of trash where (30) _____ <b>billboards</b> flicker uselessly and no (31) _____ <b>thing</b> moves. All is still. This is Earth, 700 years in the future. The human race, having turned the planet into a (32) _____ <b>dump</b> centuries ago, abandoned it and went to live in space.</p> <p>A small robot diligently walks through the (33) _____ <b>streets</b>, sweeping up armfuls of rubbish, compressing it into neat cubes, and stacking them in tall towers. This plucky gizmo is a Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class – Wall-E, for short. Whatever it (or, rather, he) doesn't compact into cubes he takes back to his nice (34) _____ <b>den</b>, a grotto of lovingly preserved junk.</p>

## ACTIVITY 5

Read a published speech by the Nobel prize winner in literature Doris Lessing, and do tasks 5.1 – 5.4.

**WORLD NEWS | 27**

## Doris Lessing

The 2007 Nobel prize winner in literature

I was brought up in what was virtually a mud hut, thatched. It had four rooms, one beside another, and it was full of books. Not only did my parents take books from England to Africa, but my mother ordered books by post from England for her children. Books arrived in great brown paper parcels, and they were the joy of my young life. A mud hut, but full of books.

Even today I get letters from people living in a village that might not have electricity or running water, just like our family in our elongated mud hut. 'I shall be a writer too,' they say, 'because I've the same kind of house you lived in.' But here is the difficulty, no? Writing, writers do not come out of houses without books. There is the gap. There is the difficulty.

I have been looking at the speeches by some of your recent prizewinners. Take the



magnificent Pamuk. He said his father had 500 books. His talent did not come out of thin air. He was connected with the great tradition. Take V.S. Naipaul. He mentions that the Indian Vedas were close behind the memory of his family.

His father encouraged him to write, and when he got to England he would visit the British Library. So he was close to the great tradition. Let us take John Coetzee. He was not only close to the great tradition, he was the tradition: he taught literature in Cape Town. And how sorry I am that I was never in one of his classes, taught by that wonderfully brave, bold mind. In order to write, in order to make literature, there must be a close connection with libraries, books, with the Tradition.

I have a friend from Zimbabwe, a Black writer. He taught himself to read from the labels on jam jars and fruit cans. He was brought up in an area for rural blacks. The earth is grit and gravel, there are low sparse bushes. The huts are poor, nothing like the well cared-for huts of the better off. He found a discarded children's encyclopaedia on a rubbish heap and taught himself from that.

On Independence, in 1980, there was a group of good writers in Zimbabwe, truly a nest of singing birds. They were bred in old Southern Rhodesia [now called Zimbabwe], under the whites. Writers are not made in Zimbabwe. Not easily, not under Mugabe.

All the writers travelled a difficult road to literacy, let alone to becoming writers. I would say learning to read from the printed labels was not uncommon. And we are talking about people hungering for standards of education beyond them, living in huts with many children – an overworked mother, a fight for food and clothing.

Yet despite these difficulties, writers came into being. And we should also remember that this was Zimbabwe, conquered less than a hundred years before. The grandparents of these people might have been storytellers working in the oral tradition. In one or two generations there was the transition from stories remembered and passed on, to printed books. What an achievement.

Books, literally wrested from rubbish heaps and the detritus of the white man's world. But a sheaf of paper is one thing, a published book quite another. I have had several accounts sent to me of the publishing scene in Africa. Even in more privileged places like North Africa, with its different tradition, to talk of a publishing scene is a dream of possibilities.

Here I am talking about books never written, writers that could not make it because the publishers are not there. Voices unheard. It is not possible to estimate this great waste of talent, of potential. But even before that stage of a book's creation which demands a publisher, an advance, encouragement, there is something else lacking.

**5.1** Read the first part of the text on p. 6 (the left side column), and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 35-39.

35. This text
- A. is written in an academic register.
  - B. has an impersonal tone.
  - C. is written as a narrative.
36. One aim of this text is to
- A. argue for better housing for poor people.
  - B. describe the writer's family life.
  - C. explain what is needed to become a writer.
37. Which of the following does Lessing say enabled her to be a writer?
- A. Her family.
  - B. Her teachers.
  - C. Literary prizes.
38. Lessing's basic argument here is that in order to write literature
- A. one has to have read literature.
  - B. one has to have gone to university.
  - C. one must possess lots of books.
39. What does Lessing mean by 'the tradition'?
- A. The importance of local customs.
  - B. Previous work in literature.
  - C. High educational standards.

**5.2** Read the second part of the text on p. 6 (the column on the right) and choose the best answer (A, B or C) for items 40-45 below.

40. Lessing suggests her friend from Zimbabwe
- A. was given old books.
  - B. overcame obstacles.
  - C. was a refuse collector.
41. What does Lessing suggest about writers in Zimbabwe?
- A. It is much easier to become a writer today than in the past.
  - B. Writers in the past were influenced by traditional music.
  - C. Today's writers have almost no formal educational opportunities.
42. What is the great 'achievement' of writers in Zimbabwe?
- A. They helped free their country from colonial rule.
  - B. They built on local traditions in their writing.
  - C. They write about how their ancestors overcame poverty.
43. What does the writer say about North Africa?
- A. Publishing there is of a high standard.
  - B. Writers have achieved more freedom there.
  - C. Publishing still has a long way to go there.
44. Why do some African writers remain unknown?
- A. Books are not published.
  - B. They waste their chances.
  - C. Publishers reject their work.
45. According to Lessing, to become a well known author, you need
- A. to have leisure in your life.
  - B. to work very systematically and very hard.
  - C. more than just the support of those around you.

**5.3 Read the last part of Lessing's speech below, and choose the best answer for items 46-50.**

46. Lessing says that often writers
- A. are asked unimportant questions.
  - B. use word processors or electric type writers.
  - C. must come face to face with their emptiness.
47. According to Lessing, writers must find their 'imaginative space',
- A. otherwise, their poems and stories will be flawed.
  - B. and talk about it with each other.
  - C. so that they can be productive.
48. When talented writers first appear on the public scene,
- A. people want to know all about how they started writing.
  - B. they become the centre of attention.
  - C. they don't get as much publicity as they'd like.
49. The publicity that newly acclaimed writers get
- A. becomes a great nuisance to them.
  - B. helps them get carried away.
  - C. is particularly gratifying to them.
50. What Lessing actually says here is that fame
- A. can drive a young writer crazy.
  - B. can kill the writer's creativity.
  - C. can make young writers lose their innocence.

**28 | SPECIAL FEATURES**

Writers are often asked 'How do you write'? With a word processor, an electric typewriter, a quill, longhand? But the essential question is, 'Have you found a space, that empty space, which should surround you when you write?' Into that space, which is like a form of listening,



words will come; the words your characters will speak, ideas, inspiration. If a writer cannot find this space, then poems and stories may be stillborn. When writers talk to each other, what they discuss is always to do with this imaginative space, this other time. 'Have you found it? Are you holding it fast?'



Let us now jump to an apparently very different scene. We are in London, one of the big cities. There is a new writer. We cynically enquire 'Is she good-looking?' If it's a man 'Is he charismatic, handsome?' We joke but it is not a joke. This new find is acclaimed, possibly given a lot of money. The buzzing of paparazzi begins in their poor ears. They are feted, lauded, whisked about the world. Us old ones, who have seen it all, are sorry for this neophyte, who has no idea of what is really happening. He, she, is flattered, pleased.

But ask in a year's time what he or she is thinking -I've heard them: 'This is the worst thing that could have happened to me,' they say. Some much publicised new writers haven't written again, or haven't written what they wanted to, meant to. And we, the old ones, want to whisper into those innocent ears. 'Have you still got your space? Your soul, your own and necessary place where your own voices may speak to you, you alone, where you may dream. Oh, hold onto it, don't let it go.'

**5.4** Fill in the gaps in 51-55 with the appropriate TWO linking words to complete the statements.

0.	Lessing's writing was informed by her experiences, as [ ] [ ] by her views on social justice.	Lessing's writing was informed by her experiences, as <i>well as</i> by her views on social justice.
51.	[ ] [ ] Lessing grew up in poor living conditions, she became a great writer.	
52.	Pamuk's talent did not come out of the air; on [ ] [ ] , he was connected with the great tradition.	
53.	[ ] [ ] was Coetzee close to the great tradition, but he was the tradition as well.	
54.	[ ] [ ] fact that they had enormous difficulties to face, writers came into being.	
55.	Some writers never find a publisher; as [ ] [ ] their voice is unheard.	

**ACTIVITY 6**

Turn headlines into reported news. Fill in gaps 56-60 with TWO words so that Column B statements make sense, as in the example. The meaning of the underlined word in the headlines of Column A may help you, but you may have to use a different word altogether.

A: News headlines		B: Reported news
0.	PRESIDENT <u>WORRIED</u> ABOUT NEW ECONOMIC CHALLENGES	The President <b>expressed concern</b> about the strikes, because they cost the country millions of euro, and the economy continues to face new 'serious challenges'.
56.	U.S. <u>SET</u> FOR INDIA NUCLEAR TALKS	The US Secretary of State arrived in India yesterday, and [ ] [ ] to begin discussing a civil nuclear co-operation deal.
57.	MILLIONAIRE HEIR <u>GUILTY</u> OF ARMED ROBBERY, SAYS COURT	The son of millionaire Alexander Nabovich will face a jail sentence of up to 3 years, after having been [ ] [ ] of planning a hotel room robbery.
58.	MAYOR J. R. SOROYAN <u>HEADS</u> FOR THIRD TERM IN POWER	Our city's mayor, James Robert Soroyan has caused a major political upheaval by announcing his [ ] [ ] run for a third term in office.
59.	E.U. LEADERS <u>TO CONCERN THEMSELVES</u> WITH BANK CRISIS	European leaders will meet next week [ ] [ ] the global economic crisis at an emergency summit in Paris later this week.
60.	ITALY'S BERLUSCONI LEAVES HOSPITAL AFTER <u>ASSAULT</u>	Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was discharged from hospital on Thursday, four days after having [ ] [ ] , which left him with a fractured nose and broken teeth.

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

**ΤΕΛΟΣ ΜΗΝΥΜΑΤΟΣ**