

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ & ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ, ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ & ΑΘΛΗΤΙΣΜΟΥ
ΚΡΑΤΙΚΟ ΠΙΣΤΟΠΟΙΗΤΙΚΟ ΓΛΩΣΣΟΜΑΘΕΙΑΣ

Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs, Culture & Sports
English Language Certification

LEVEL

B1& B2

on the scale set by the Council of Europe

MODULE

1

Reading comprehension and language awareness

Period

November 2012

ATTENTION

- Do not open this booklet until the exam begins.
- Try to answer all the questions.
- Mark your answers on Answer Sheet 1 [ΑΠΑΝΤΗΤΙΚΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1].
- Provide ONE answer for each item.
- You have **85 minutes** to complete this exam.

ACTIVITY 1

1.1 Read the text and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 1-2.

1. This text focuses on Lincoln's
 - A. childhood.
 - B. influence after death.
 - C. adult life.
2. The writer's attitude to Lincoln tends to be
 - A. positive.
 - B. critical.
 - C. indifferent.

Abraham Lincoln is one of America's great national heroes. The remarkable story of a man who rose from poverty to the highest office in the land and then, a sudden and tragic death at a time when his country needed him most to complete the work he had started.

He was the son of a farmer from Kentucky. Although his parents could hardly read, and he himself spent only one year at school as a child, he had a passion for reading. As a young man, Lincoln worked as a storekeeper in New Salem, but he soon began to take an interest in politics. So, he studied to become a lawyer and, in order to find work, he moved from his home town to Springfield, Illinois.

In 1844, Lincoln formed a partnership with another lawyer, by the name of William Herndon. The two men worked well together and had similar political views. It was around that time that Lincoln began to speak against slavery. His position upset not only Southern slave owners, but also poor whites, who thought the slaves should not have the same rights as they had.

When Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860, he fought to unite the country and passed a law abolishing slavery. Known for his great powers as a speaker, Lincoln is remembered for giving one of the most famous speeches in American history: the Gettysburg Address. It expresses his belief in equal rights, liberty and democracy.

Just six days after the end of the civil war, this great politician was assassinated in Washington by an actor, who somehow thought he was helping the South. The opposite happened. The possibility of peace died along with Lincoln.

1.2 Read the text about Abraham Lincoln again, and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 3-6.

3. When he was a child, Lincoln
 - A. could not read.
 - B. was a bad pupil.
 - C. read a lot.
4. Why did Lincoln move to Springfield?
 - A. To find a job.
 - B. To train as a lawyer.
 - C. To study.
5. What is Lincoln famous for?
 - A. His power of speech.
 - B. His sense of freedom.
 - C. His dislike of the South.
6. How did Lincoln die?
 - A. He was killed.
 - B. He was in a tragic accident.
 - C. Crying out for freedom.


ACTIVITY 2

Read the text below and match the meaning of each underlined expression (7-11) with options A-F. There is one option you do not need.

A.	study	B.	understand	C.	solve	D.	think of	E.	earn	F.	hit
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Advice Column | **ASK Aunt Agatha**

**ASK
Aunt
Agatha**



Dear Aunt Agatha,

Help!! I am 18 years old and have just graduated from high school. I'm trying (7) to deal with this major problem, and I desperately need some advice. I really don't know where else to turn to. You are my last resort because you always seem (8) to come up with good ideas when people have problems. That's why I chose you.

Well, anyway, here it goes! I have just been admitted to the school of my dreams, so one would normally expect me to be thrilled. But that's not the case at all! The problem is that I want (9) to do English and French at University but I am not sure what kind of jobs I could get afterwards. I'm confused. I want to do what I like but I also want (10) to make a living as well. Do you (11) see what I mean? Any tips?



-Confused

ACTIVITY 3

Read the text below and for each gap (12-16) choose the best option (A-F). Use each option only once. There is one option you do not need.

A.	party	B.	freedom	C.	birth	D.	philosophy	E.	family	F.	care
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B I O G R A P H Y

A brave woman

Aung San Suu Kyi is a Burmese politician. In 1972, she married Michael Aris in Britain. The following year she gave (12) _____ to their first son, Alexander, in London.

She returned to Burma in 1988 to take (13) _____ of her mother. Two years later, her (14) _____ won the 1990 general election in Burma. Just before the result of these elections, she was placed under house arrest. She remained under house arrest in Burma for almost 15 of the 21 years she spent there. Aung San Suu Kyi was influenced by the non-violent (15) _____ of Mahatma Gandhi: she said in one of her most famous speeches that it is not power that corrupts, but fear. She was offered (16) _____ if she left the country but she refused. She was finally set free in 2010.

Aung San Suu Kyi received the *Rafto Prize* and the *Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought* in 1990 and the *Nobel Peace Prize* in 1991.

ACTIVITY 4

4.1 Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 17-19.

17. The text is a film
 A. announcement. B. programme. C. review.
18. The author thinks that the film is
 A. a horror movie. B. a comedy. C. science fiction.
19. The title of the text is incomplete. The best way to complete it is...
 A. ...a good try. B. ...a triumph. C. ...a hilarious comedy.

Dogtooth: _____

In Giorgos Lanthimos' *Dogtooth*, a father, who dislikes the evil ways of modern society, persuades his three children to live as prisoners in their country home. There, they live in a series of lies. The story is interesting, but the characters are not very realistic. From beginning to end there are sudden changes of behaviour which are not explained.

Dogtooth has moments of genius; it gets our attention but the final impression is disappointing. The film asks a lot of questions but it gives no answers.

The first part of the film shows us the family's comic routine: the children accidentally hear about something that has to do with the horrible outside world and the parents have to change its meaning. Finally, the children are convinced a toy aeroplane and the jet passing overhead are basically the same thing. A cat is a terrifying wild animal from the outside world that's sure to eat them if they leave the garden, and so on.

But the narrative never seems to hang together and the plot is obvious. We can guess what's going to come next.

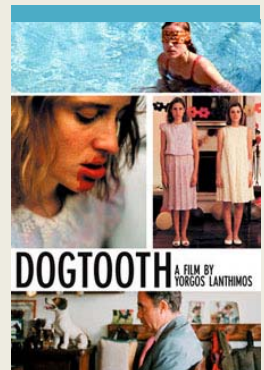
At times, *Dogtooth* is quite amusing –yes, comedy is about laughing at someone else's bad luck, and so on; but the father is unconvincing– he is so obviously a monster, why has no-one ever been suspicious of him before?

Giorgos Lanthimos' third film comes close to greatness and it may win an award next month, but *Dogtooth* is nothing more than an interesting experiment. If you're looking for an unusual, creative piece of modern cinema, don't miss it.

Director:
 Giorgos Lanthimos

Writers:
 Giorgos Lanthimos,
 Efthymis Filippou

Starring:
 Christos Stergioglou,
 Michele Valley
 and Aggeliki Papoulia



4.2 Read the text again, and decide if statements 20-25 are True (A), False (B), or Not Stated (C).

STATEMENTS		A	B	C
		TRUE	FALSE	NOT STATED
20.	The father in the film objects to the habits of the contemporary world.			
21.	The text says the characters in the story are believable.			
22.	The first part of the film is very funny.			
23.	The story is based on a novel.			
24.	The film director plays the role of the father.			
25.	The film has already won an award.			

ACTIVITY 5**5.1** Read the text and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 26-27.

26. The aim of this text is to

A. give information about job vacancies.

B. tell an inspiring story.

C. explain the effects of unemployment.

27. An appropriate title for this text is:

A. Every cloud has a silver lining.

B. Back to square one.

C. Many hands make light work.

Kirsty Brown

When 52-year old Kirsty Brown was made redundant from her job as a hotel manager, she did not lose confidence in herself. She didn't allow the blow to get her down. She was determined to do something about it. She would hunt high and low for a job, knowing from her own father the pain that being jobless for long periods can cause.



Things began to change when she received a particularly beautiful birthday present. Her daughter, Julia, had been on holiday in Venice and had brought back a pair of ear-rings for her birthday: small, sapphire blue cubes made of enchanting Murano glass. Murano is an island in a lagoon off the coast of Venice.

Until then, Kirsty had always preferred gold when it came to jewellery; but she really fell for the Murano earrings and seized every opportunity to show them off. She liked them so much that she decided to visit Venice, not only to visit an Italian friend, but to use the opportunity to shop around for other examples of glass jewellery.

When she actually saw them, she was stunned. "I was dazzled by the colours of the glass and the price was too good to be true" she said. This meant that she could afford to buy lots of it.

It was then that Kirsty had her moment of inspiration: surely she could learn to do what they were doing in Venice and do it right in her home town, in Devon.

There was a catch, however. Kirsty had no idea how to make jewellery and she knew no Italian. However, these minor obstacles did not put her off. She was determined to get round them. So she borrowed money from the bank (a success in itself, nowadays!) which allowed her to start learning Italian and to enroll in classes on how to make jewellery.

Her jewellery business, *Bright Sparks*, was launched two years ago and now her pieces are sold throughout Europe. The fact that Kirsty had studied business and management may have helped. But it was her determination that changed her life.

"I was nervous after my first visit to Italy, but I knew the product was right. Now wild horses wouldn't drag me away from what I'm doing."

Nowadays, Kirsty always looks forward to going to Venice to purchase the beads herself, choosing the colours and designs; a little embarrassed by her imperfect but useful Italian.

Her *Bright Sparks* website has thousands of hits everyday. Fantastic customer feedback and the gentle Devon landscape will keep Kirsty's morale high in the hard times ahead.

5.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 28-35.

28. How did Kirsty react to losing her job?
 A. It didn't affect her. B. It made her fight back. C. She felt depressed.
29. When Kirsty saw the earrings,
 A. she wished they were gold. B. she decided to visit Italy. C. she wore them on special occasions.
30. What was surprising to Kirsty about the Murano glass?
 A. It was cheaper than she expected. B. It was not easy to find. C. It's similar to glass made in the UK.
31. What problem was Kirsty facing when she decided to start making jewellery?
 A. She didn't have the skill needed. B. She had no degree. C. She could not move to Italy.
32. Before Kirsty began her jewellery business
 A. she had a lot of obstacles. B. she was just a housewife. C. she took classes.
33. When Kirsty travels to Italy now, she
 A. improves her Italian. B. sells her designs. C. goes on business.
34. What does the expression 'wild horses wouldn't drag me away' tell us about Katie?
 A. She is a passionate woman. B. She is a hard worker. C. She is a determined person.
35. Overall, the text implies that
 A. one can turn misfortune into an opportunity. B. unemployment can bring out the worst in people. C. you can be happy even if you have no job.

ACTIVITY 6

Read the film review extracts (items 36-41) and decide what type of movie each refers to (options A-H). There are two options you do not need.

A.	romance	B.	western movie	C.	comedy	D.	horror movie
E.	documentary movie	F.	science fiction	G.	animation movie	H.	action movie

36.	Filled with outstanding special effects, <i>Battleship</i> tells the story of a fleet of international ships that stumble upon an armada of aliens during Naval war games exercise. Before you know it, the greatest battle in Earth's history erupts over the sea and spills in the air and onto the land.	
37.	It includes lots of real footage in Afghanistan during latest U.S.A. campaign and also features numerous interviews with soldiers just after the battle. You can see all realities of war without any political agenda. Only pure reality of modern warfare and nothing more.	
38.	Selene is back and she's pretty upset to find out that during her 12 year nap, the humans have gone on a rampage and killed off almost everyone of the underworld -- vampires and werewolves both. The humans are keeping up and surpassing them and they are out to kill off whatever vampires and werewolves are left.	
39.	This 2012 rendition of 21 Jump Street is absolutely one of the top 10 movies of the year. I positively enjoyed the fresh and hilarious dialogue. Filled with great comedic timing on the parts of both Channing Tatum and Jonah Hill, you are left only wanting more.	
40.	The people in the movie can be a little crazy at times. It has an honesty to it that is refreshing, despite the complications of relationships. There are many characters in this movie and they are all going through their relationship issues. Divorce, new love, unexpected love, and long time love are all parts of this crazy little movie.	
41.	It tells the story of a young girl named Mei that has a special code in her memory that everyone wants. Not only does she have to worry about the Triads, hot on her trail, but corrupt cops and the Russian mob are also after her. She crosses paths with an ex-cage fighter whose world was ruined by the same bad guys chasing her.	

ACTIVITY 7

7.1 Read the text below and answer items 42-50.

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a travel blog. The browser's address bar shows 'tripandtravelblog.com/'. The blog's header includes a logo for 'trip & travel blog', navigation links like 'HOME', 'CONNECT ON FACEBOOK', 'FOLLOW ON TWITTER', 'RSS FOR ENTRIES', and 'LOG IN'. There are buttons for 'Submit your Experience' and 'Read an Experience', and a search bar. A dark navigation bar contains links: 'Home', 'Best Reviews', 'Where & When', 'Travel Infographics', 'Travel Pet', 'Travel Gadgets', 'Travel Art', 'See More', and 'About'.

The main content area features a purple banner that says 'Added by Editor on October 2012'. Below this is the article title 'Suffering, Italian style' in a large, bold font. To the right of the title are social media sharing icons for Twitter, Facebook, and others, with a 'Liked it?' label. The article text follows, discussing winter illnesses in Italy and the author's experience. On the right side of the page, there is a 'Google Ads' section with a banner for 'PREMIER GASTRONOMY' and a 'Best Travel Articles' list.

Added by Editor on October 2012

Suffering, Italian style

Many Italians, it seems, are prone to a particularly wide range of winter illnesses helped apparently by a special knowledge of human anatomy. More than a decade living in this country has led me to a shocking conclusion: being Italian is bad for your health.

As winter approaches, those around me are suffering from a range of Italian ailments that make our British colds and flus sound as boring as our food. As I cycle around the medieval streets of my adoptive home town of Bologna, I smile to myself, marvelling at the fact that I am still wearing a light-weight jacket at this time of year.

My Italian friends are less fortunate. They have their woolly scarves and thick coats on and are rubbing their necks, complaining of my favourite mystery Italian health problem: 'la cervicale': 'Soffro di cervicale (I suffer from cervicale),' they tell me, making it sound particularly serious.

Most people over the age of 30 seem to have the problem, but I am still at a loss as to what exactly it is and how to translate it. I have looked it up in the dictionary and found 'cervical' – an adjective referring to the cervical vertebrae, those little bones in the back of your neck– but as an ailment, there is simply no English translation. We do not have it!

The British also do not seem to have the sort of excellent knowledge of their own anatomy which Italians have. Although I should feel embarrassed about my inability to point out the exact location of my cervical, I am not. Why? Because I think it makes me healthier.

We are a nation that 'mustn't grumble', trained from an early age that the only answer to 'How are you?' is 'Fine, thank you'. Our vocabulary reflects this. Whether we have had a cold or spent six weeks in intensive care, we will tell you we have been 'a bit poorly'.

So after years of first-hand experience of Italian health problems, I have come up with a theory about why we British are so much healthier. If you cannot name it, you cannot suffer from it. If you do not know where it is, it cannot hurt you.

7.1 Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 42-43.

42. The article was written to
A. give advice. B. point out cultural differences C. criticise the Italians.
43. Another title for this text could be
A. Health is wealth. B. Be considerate of others. C. No name – no pain.

7.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 44-46.

44. The writer's Italian friends are less 'fortunate' than she is because they
A. get sick more often. B. feel unwell. C. complain about their health.
45. According to the writer, the Italians differ from the British in that
A. they know more about medicine. B. their language has a greater number of words. C. they fuss more about their health.
- 46 The author of this article is being
A. gravely serious. B. somewhat ironic. C. very sarcastic.

7.3 What do the words *in italics* mean? Choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 47-50.

47. Many Italians, it seems, *are prone to* a particularly wide range of winter illnesses.
A. tend to suffer from B. are afraid of C. know a lot about
48. We are a nation that '*mustn't grumble*', trained from an early age that the only answer to 'How are you?' is 'Fine, thank you'. The phrase '*mustn't grumble*' here means:
A. must not get angry B. must not give up C. must not complain
49. The phrase *I am at a loss as to* in the sentence: 'I am still at a loss as to what exactly it is and how to translate it' means:
A. almost sure B. unable to understand C. looking for
50. I have *come up with* a theory about why we British are so much healthier.
A. read about B. suggested C. invented

ACTIVITY 8

Use the correct form of the words in parentheses to complete items 51-55, as in the example.

A very modern Red Riding Hood

Everyone knows the **(EX)** traditional (tradition) story of Red Riding Hood. I was never very comfortable telling my children this version so I made up a more **(51)** _____ (humour) one.

In my version the little girl goes to visit her grandmother not because it is women's work but because of her human **(52)** _____ (warm) and **(53)** _____ (generous).

Furthermore, her grandmother was not sick, but rather in good health and fully capable of taking care of herself as a mature adult.

So Red Riding Hood set off with her basket through the woods.

On the way to Grandma's house, Red Riding Hood came across a wolf who said 'You know, my dear, it's dangerous for a little girl to walk through these woods alone'.

Red Riding Hood said, 'I find your remark **(54)** _____ (insult) and sexist, but I will ignore it because you are a victim of **(55)** _____ (discriminate). Now, if you'll excuse me, I must be on my way'.

You get the idea?

**ACTIVITY 9**

Fill in the gaps in items 56-60 with ONE word, so that each sentence makes sense, as in the example.



Wedding ceremonies around the world

In most European countries, the bride almost always wears white. The man comes to the house of the bride and gives her a bouquet of **(EX)** flowers, also in white or other bright colours.

In Brazil, the husband-to-be should not see the bride wearing her wedding **(56)** _____ before the ceremony.

In India, the bride traditionally wears red and the **(57)** _____ wears a traditional cream-coloured long coat called an *etchkin* with a red turban.

In a Japanese Shinto wedding, the newly-weds **(58)** _____ rice-wine in front of a priest. Before the man sees the bride, he has to kneel down in front

of the bride's **(59)** _____ and promise them that he will take good care of their daughter.

In Greece, those getting married wear white crowns that are bound with ribbons. The crowns symbolize the fact that the happy **(60)** _____ will be bound together forever.

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