

SIMULAZIONE 1

ESAME DI STATO DI ISTRUZIONE SECONDARIA SUPERIORE

Indirizzi: LICEO LINGUISTICO

Prova scritta di: LINGUA E CULTURA STRANIERA 1 (INGLESE)

PART 1 – COMPREHENSION AND INTERPRETATION

TEXT 1

Read the text and answer the questions below.

And after all the weather was ideal. They could not have had a more perfect day for a garden-party if they had ordered it. Windless, warm, the sky without a cloud. Only the blue was veiled with a haze of light gold, as it is sometimes in early summer. The gardener had been up since dawn, mowing the lawns and sweeping them, until the grass and the dark flat rosettes where the daisy plants had been seemed to shine. As for the
5 roses, you could not help feeling they understood that roses are the only flowers that impress people at garden-parties; the only flowers that everybody is certain of knowing. Hundreds, yes, literally hundreds, had come out in a single night; the green bushes bowed down as though they had been visited by archangels.

Breakfast was not yet over before the men came to put up the marquee. "Where do you want the marquee put, mother?"

10 "My dear child, it's no use asking me. I'm determined to leave everything to you children this year. Forget I am your mother. Treat me as an honoured guest."

But Meg could not possibly go and supervise the men. She had washed her hair before breakfast, and she sat drinking her coffee in a green turban, with a dark wet curl stamped on each cheek. Jose, the butterfly, always came down in a silk petticoat and a kimono jacket.

15 "You'll have to go, Laura; you're the artistic one."

Away Laura flew, still holding her piece of bread-and-butter. It's so delicious to have an excuse for eating out of doors, and besides, she loved having to arrange things; she always felt she could do it so much better than anybody else.

20 Four men in their shirt-sleeves stood grouped together on the garden path. They carried staves covered with rolls of canvas, and they had big tool-bags slung on their backs. They looked impressive. Laura wished now that she had not got the bread-and-butter, but there was nowhere to put it, and she couldn't possibly throw it away. She blushed and tried to look severe and even a little bit short-sighted as she came up to them.

"Good morning," she said, copying her mother's voice. But that sounded so fearfully affected that she was ashamed, and stammered like a little girl, "Oh—er—have you come—is it about the marquee?"

25 "That's right, miss," said the tallest of the men, a lanky, freckled fellow, and he shifted his tool-bag, knocked back his straw hat and smiled down at her. "That's about it."

His smile was so easy, so friendly that Laura recovered. What nice eyes he had, small, but such a dark blue! And now she looked at the others, they were smiling too. "Cheer up, we won't bite," their smile seemed to

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30 say. How very nice workmen were! And what a beautiful morning! She mustn't mention the morning; she must be business-like. The marquee.

"Well, what about the lily-lawn? Would that do?"

And she pointed to the lily-lawn with the hand that didn't hold the bread-and-butter. They turned, they stared in the direction. A little fat chap thrust out his under-lip, and the tall fellow frowned.

35 "I don't fancy it," said he. "Not conspicuous enough. You see, with a thing like a marquee," and he turned to Laura in his easy way, "you want to put it somewhere where it'll give you a bang slap in the eye, if you follow me."

Laura's upbringing made her wonder for a moment whether it was quite respectful of a workman to talk to her of bangs slap in the eye. But she did quite follow him.

(609 words)

(From: Katherine Mansfield, *The Garden Party and Other Stories*, Constable & Co., Ltd, 1922)

Read the following statements and say whether each one is True (T), False (F) or Not Stated (NS). Put a cross in the correct box.

1. The scene is set on a summer afternoon.

T F NS

2. The family's gardener manicures the grounds in preparation for the garden-party later that day.

T F NS

3. Meg and Laura are sisters.

T F NS

4. Jose is Laura's brother.

T F NS

5. Laura's birthday is the occasion for the garden party.

T F NS

6. Laura's proposal about where to put the marquee is accepted by the workmen.

T F NS

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7. Laura looked like her mother.

T F NS

Answer the questions below. Use complete sentences and your own words.

1. How would you describe the personality of Laura's mother?
2. What happens when Laura tries to imitate her mother when dealing with the unfamiliar men? What does it suggest to you about Laura's personality?
3. How does the conversation between Laura and the workmen illustrate the theme of class division?

TEXT 2

Read the text and answer the questions below.

As more people live longer lives and fertility rates drop, populations age. This has a ripple effect through healthcare, finance, housing, education and recreation as the older generation, who are living much longer post-retirement, control a greater share of the wealth. In addition, this results in pressures to control age-related entitlements which is in tension with a demand for investments in education, infrastructure and health care. Coupled with aging populations is a rising millennial generation with divergent consumption and work behaviors.

The global economy has passed an important demographic threshold: dependency ratios - the ratio of non-working age population to working age population - have begun to rise after nearly half a century of declines. With labor inputs slowing in advanced economies, the importance of productivity in driving overall growth and policy in boosting labour force participation has increased. This is especially true in the US where prime-aged women and particularly men have been withdrawing from the labor market over a long period.

Countries are coming under fiscal pressure to control age-related entitlements which could draw resources away from education, R&D and infrastructure, especially as older households vote more actively than younger cohorts.

How an aging population chooses to put its purchasing power to work will have a significant impact on the fortunes of different industries and occupations. This is likely to benefit not only healthcare, finance and housing but also recreation and education which have traditionally catered to the young.

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20 Millennials - the cohort born between 1980 and 2000 - are poised to grow in influence as they inherit the assets of their parents. They are the first group to come of age after the arrival of digital technology, bringing with them heightened expectations of immediacy, participation and transparency. At the same time many became economically active in the shadow of the Great Recession which may have tempered attitudes to risk and confidence in major institutions. As a result, this group exhibits quite different consumption and work behaviors compared with previous generations.

(333 words)

(From: <https://futureskills.pearson.com/research/#/trends/demographic-change>)

Read the following statements and say whether each one is **True (T)**, **False (F)** or **Not Stated (NS)**. Put a cross in the correct box.

1. The increase in the number of elderly people in a population is leading to a decrease in the number of people who are working.

T F NS

2. Both boomers and millennials have consumption and work behaviors that differ from those of previous generations.

T F NS

Answer the questions below. Use complete sentences and your own words.

1. How is the rise in dependency ratios affecting the global economy? Why is productivity becoming increasingly important in this context?
2. What factors have contributed to the way Millennials behave as workers and consumers?

PART 2 – WRITTEN PRODUCTION

A. *“Success in creating AI would be the biggest event in human history. Unfortunately, it might also be the last, unless we learn how to avoid the risks.”* – Stephen Hawking

Many people argue that there should be some regulatory controls, at national and international levels, just to make sure we address, individually and collectively, moral and ethical issues raised by cutting-edge research in artificial intelligence. Discuss the quotation in a 300-word essay giving reasons for your answer.

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B. *“The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience”* – Eleanor Roosevelt

You are at the end of an important time in your life. It’s a time when you start planning your own future. Discuss the quotation in a 300-word essay relating it to your personal experience and your vision of the future.