

MODEL 1

I. Written examination – 90 minutes

A. Reading comprehension

Example 1

Read the text below. Are the sentences 1-7 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't say' (C).

Mark A, B, or C on your exam sheet.

Constructing the "Chunnel": Two attempts to build a tunnel between England and the Continent were called off before the successful construction of the "Chunnel". In the 1850s, Queen Victoria viewed a route beneath the Channel as a particularly good way to strengthen ties with Napoleon III's France, as well as a way to avoid her own tendency toward seasickness. But when relations with France chilled, Victoria lost her enthusiasm. The first actual attempt to build a tunnel in the 1880s was abandoned after three years, because of British military concern that the French would use the tunnel as an invasion route. In the decades to follow, several other schemes were also rejected for security reasons. A special committee of five former prime ministers took forty minutes in 1924 to vote against a tunnel. Winston Churchill, who was a tunnel advocate, described the special committee's decision as a "spasm of mental concentration that had brought unanimity from five men who had spent their lives proving each other incapable and misguided on every subject."

It was not until 1955 that the British finally dropped their defense objections to the project, and in 1957, the Channel Tunnel Study group, an Anglo-French consortium, was formed. Actual work did not begin until the 1970s. But, once again, the effort was called off by the British, for what they said were financial reasons, but which, in part, may have reflected a continuing reluctance to give up being an island. Many Britons did not want to be linked to the Continent. Opposition to the tunnel continued in Britain for a long time. Safety arguments raised by opponents about the hazards of a tunnel fire, and the risk of the tunnel becoming a target for terrorists, were blunted when a British North Sea ferry capsized at Zeebrugge, in March 1987, with a loss of 200 lives.

2

The project was a complex, private enterprise handled by Eurotunnel, an Anglo-French consortium of fifteen banks and construction companies, whose plan was selected in January 1986 over three competing concepts. A French-British treaty authorizing the privately funded operation was granted in July 1987. To make the two-century-old dream come true, Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel British co-chairman, had to convince the world's financial markets that the tunnel could be built for the \$7.5 billion budgeted (with another \$1.5 billion in reserve for contingencies) and that enough people would use the tunnel to make the investment pay off over a 55-year span following its opening.

Eurotunnel was granted a 55-year concession by both countries to operate the tunnel according to the company's own commercial policies. The consortium will earn money from three sources: fares paid for vehicles (cars, vans, trucks) that will be carried on Eurotunnel shuttle trains between Folkestone, England, and Calais, France; charges paid by the national railways of other countries to run their passenger and freight trains through the tunnel; and revenues from the facilities built to accommodate customers such as shops, restaurants, gas stations, etc. The choice of a train tunnel rather than a "drive through" one was made because there were doubts about the design feasibility of a ventilation system for exhaust fumes. There were also doubts about whether drivers could cope with such a long tunnel.

(From *Young Students Learning Library, Science Yearbook*)

1. The author of the fragment seems to be a fiction writer.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
2. Queen Victoria prohibited starting work on the tunnel.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
3. Winston Churchill was a supporter of the project.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
4. People who favoured travelling by ferryboat were among those who opposed the project.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
5. The original sum budgeted proved insufficient.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
6. The Anglo-French consortium comprised fifty organizations.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
7. The train tunnel option was made because of fear of the smoke that cars produce
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

Example 2

Read the text below. For questions 1-10, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Tourism in Romania: Although virtually all the official presentations of Romanian tourism posted on the Internet (the articles provided by *Wikipedia*, for instance) vaunt the many wonders of Romania's natural scenery, saying that it focuses on the country's natural landscapes and its impressive historical monuments, and although the number of visitors, which the same sources usually put up at 6-7 million per annum, may sound encouraging, the reality seems to be altogether different. Instead of being a fundamental, growing source for the country's GDP, Romanian tourism is unfortunately far from thriving. Six millions foreign guests having set foot on the Romanian soil (or sand) in 2006 is definitely nothing to write home about, though it is true that Romania's economy is characterized by a huge potential for tourism. Having risen from as few as 4.8 million in 2002 to 6.6 million in 2004, the number of tourists positively scored a quasi-spectacular feat in terms of economic re-launch, after the sorry plight of tourism in the early nineties, with tourism revenues growing from €400 million in 2002 to €607 in 2004, and as much as €880 million in investments in 2005. Official figures indicate 14,122,798 who vacationed in Romania in 2006. On the other hand, in spite of the heavy promotion of skiing in the Romanian Carpathians by the government back in the 1990s, winter sports failed to become a boom industry in this country.

One need not be fanatically patriotic to acknowledge that anyone in their right mind could be hopeful about such an abundant display of tourist attractions as the ones listed below:

- ☉ The Danube Delta, the second largest river delta in Europe, after the Volga Delta, and the best preserved on the continent.
- ☉ The amazingly rich region of Maramureş, a valley totally enclosed by mountains, where folklore and traditions are still kicking and alive; here lived the last Romanian *wisent* (or European bison), hunted to extinction as late as 1852. Other indisputable musts are the wooden churches and the Merry Cemetery, famous for its colourful tombstones with artless paintings describing, in an original, naively poetic manner, the people buried there or scenes from their lives; it became an open-air museum and a national tourist attraction.
- ☉ The Romanian Black Sea Riviera, stretching from the Danube Delta in the north down to the Bulgarian Riviera in the south, along 275 km of coastline, with the lively, bustling Black Sea Romanian resorts.
- ☉ Camping and hiking in the Carpathian Mountains, skiing in the mountain resorts on the Prahova Valley: Sinaia, Buşteni, Predeal, Poiana Braşov.
- ☉ The magnificently spectacular Iron Gate, with the gorge separating the southern Carpathian Mountains from the north-western foothills of the Balkans.
- ☉ The mediaeval churches and monasteries of Moldavia and Bucovina (especially the famous painted churches of Northern Moldavia).
- ☉ The Berca Mud Volcanoes, a geological and botanical reservation located in the county of Buzău. The mud volcanoes there create.
- ☉ The Scărișoara Cave, one of the biggest ice caves in the Apuseni Mountains, 105 m deep and 720 m long, sheltering a 75,000 cubic metre, 26 metre-high glacier.
- ☉ The Transfăgărășan, the highest and most dramatic paved

4
road in Romania, originally built as a strategic military route, 90 km of twists and turns running North to South across the tallest sections of the Carpathians. ☉ The mediaeval castles and fortresses of Transylvania, the town of Sighișoara with its mediaeval festival, the cultural cities of Brașov, Iași, Timișoara, Cluj-Napoca, Bucharest, and Alba-Iulia. ☉ Spas and health resorts such as Herculane, Felix, Sovata. ☉ The Palace of the Parliament in Bucharest, which is, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, the world's largest and most expensive administrative building, and heaviest building. ☉ And, last but not least, rural tourism – which unfortunately is anything but successful these days.

Now, if you take a comparative glimpse at tourism in neighbouring countries like Bulgaria and Croatia in recent times, you cannot help feeling a bitter taste. Sad to say, nowadays Romania, who was once perceived as a popular tourist destination for many Europeans, often competing with Greece, Italy and Spain, can hardly be said to be up to the intensity of today's competition in the domain, with its rather obsolete tourism infrastructure, and services.

(Adapted from Wikipedia)

1. Romanian tourism boasts...
 - A a variety of natural scenery, and excellent infrastructure.
 - B only very good infrastructure.
 - C a variety of natural scenery and grand historical monuments.
 - D only impressive historical monuments.
2. Between 2002 and 2004, Romanian tourism attracted...
 - A more than 2 million foreign tourists.
 - B about 1.8 million additional foreign tourists.
 - C less than 1 million additional foreign tourists.
 - D about 4.8 million foreign tourists.
3. Winter sports ____ after being heavily promoted.
 - A thrived
 - B saw a comparative decrease
 - C failed to pick up
 - D came to be famous all over Europe.
4. The unique sights and monuments in Romania can...
 - A make one hopeful as far as the future of tourism is concerned.
 - B make one hopeless as far as the future of tourism is concerned.
 - C attract huge crowds of mountaineers and bike-riders.
 - D attract huge foreign investment.

5. In ____, the last ____ was hunted in Maramureș.
A 1850 --- European buffalo ---
B 1852 --- European aurochs ---
C 1850 --- European ox ---
D 1852 --- European bison ---
6. The Romanian Black Sea coastline extends for ...
A more than 270 kilometres.
B more than 170 kilometres.
C more than 270 miles.
D more than 170 kilometres.
7. The paintings and inscriptions in the Merry Cemetery are...
A preposterous.
B unaffected
C enticing
D sophisticated.
8. Inside the Scărișoara Cave there is...
A a cubic glacier.
B a huge mass of volcanic rock
C a huge deposit of volcanic rock
D a huge mass of ice.
9. The original reason for building the Transfăgărășan road was...
A primarily strategic.
B primarily political.
C primarily economic.
D neither strategic, nor economic.
10. The infrastructure and touristic facilities in this country are...
A rather old and unattractive.
B modern and attractive.
C state-of-the-art.
D rather antiquated yet attractive.

MODEL 2

I. Written examination

A. Reading comprehension

Example 1

Read the text below. Are the sentences 1-7 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't say' (C).

Mark A, B, or C on your exam sheet.

Immigration and British society: From the mid-eighteenth century until at least 1947, the British Empire covered a large proportion of the globe and at its peak over a third of the world's people lived under British rule. Both during this time, and following the granting of independence to most colonies after Second World War, the vast majority of immigrants to the UK were from either current or former colonies, most notably those in the Indian subcontinent and the Caribbean. Following the end of the Second World War, the British Nationality Act of 1948 was passed to allow the 800 million subjects in the British Empire to live and work in the United Kingdom without needing a visa. These people filled a gap in the UK labour market for unskilled jobs.

Immigration to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland since 1922 has been substantial, in particular from Ireland and the former colonies of the British Empire – such as India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Caribbean, South Africa, Kenya and Hong Kong – under British nationality law. Others have come as asylum seekers, seeking protection as refugees, under the United Nations 1951 Refugee Convention, or from the European Union (EU) member states, exercising one of the EU's Four Freedoms. Indians began arriving in the UK in large numbers shortly after their country had gained independence in 1947. More than 60,000 arrived before 1955, many of whom drove buses, or worked in foundries or textile factories. Later arrivals opened corner shops or ran post offices. The flow of Indian immigrants peaked between 1965 and 1972.

Commonwealth immigration, made up largely of economic migrants, rose from 3,000 per year in 1953 to 46,800 in 1956 and 136,400 in 1961. The Commonwealth Immigrants Act was passed in 1962 as a response to public sentiment that the new arrivals "should return to their own countries" and that "no more of them come to this

8

country". About half the population increase between the 1991 and 2001 censuses was due to foreign-born immigration. Meanwhile, migration to and from Central and Eastern Europe has increased since 2004 with the accession to the European Union of eight Central and Eastern European states, since there is free movement of labour within the EU.

The latest official figures show that in 2008, 590,000 people arrived to live in the UK whilst 427,000 left, meaning that net inward migration was 163,000. The UK government is currently phasing in a new points-based immigration system for people from outside of the European Economic Area. This scheme is the means of regulating immigration to the United Kingdom from outside the European Economic Area (EEA). It is composed of five "tiers", which replaced all the previous work permits and entry scheme.

Enoch Powell, a Conservative MP, gave the famous "Rivers of Blood" speech on 20 April 1968, in which he warned his audience of what he believed would be the consequences of continued unchecked immigration from the Commonwealth to Britain. Powell received almost 120,000 (predominantly positive) letters and a Gallup poll at the end of April showed that 74% of those asked agreed with his speech. After the speech, Powell was transformed into a national public figure and won huge support across Britain.

(Adapted from Wikipedia)

1. The author of this fragment has certainly attended a course in political science.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

2. The late 18th century was the absolute peak of the British colonial empire.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

3. Most post-World-War-Two immigrants came from the West Indies.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

4. The post-war immigrants were welcome substitutes for skilled workers in Britain.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

5. The single most notable law concerning immigration was the British Nationality Act of 1949.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

6. Asylum seekers coming in the early 50s formed a significant majority.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

7. The most recent immigration scheme comprises five levels.

A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

2/7

Example 2

Read the text below. For questions 1-10, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Roald Amundsen's Conquest of the South Pole: "The North Pole is reached!" was the news that flashed all over the world. It was September 1909 when the news reached Amundsen². The original plan of the Fram's third voyage – the exploration of the North Polar basin – was quickly called off. In order to save the expedition, Amundsen immediately turned his attention to the South simultaneously emphasizing to his financial contributors that the Fram's Arctic voyage would be, in every way, a scientific expedition and would have nothing to do with record-breaking. Since he was so heavily in debt, Amundsen felt his change in plans to head south and capture the South Pole should be kept a secret. He knew that his best chance of raising money was to bring off a spectacular triumph.

The Norwegians left Oslo (or Christiania) on August 9, 1910, eight weeks after Scott's Terra Nova expedition³ had departed Cardiff. On board were 97 Greenland dogs, the key to Amundsen's success, along with a hut and provisions for two years in the Antarctic. A month later, on September 6, the Fram arrived at Madeira where fresh water and other provisions were taken on board. On the evening of the 9th, some three hours before departing for Antarctica, Amundsen called the crew to his attention. As they came on deck, Amundsen was standing next to a map of Antarctica pinned to the mainmast. Amundsen spoke, "...it is my intention to sail southwards, land a party on the Southern continent and try to reach the South Pole". Gjertsen wrote, "Most stood there with mouths agape staring at the Chief like so many question marks". Scott, on board the Terra Nova, arrived in Melbourne on the evening of October 12, 1910. Among the mail waiting for him was Amundsen's telegram, sent from Madeira, which came as a complete surprise: "Beg leave inform you proceeding Antarctic. Amundsen." Whatever the rights and wrongs of the matter, the general view among those involved in Scott's expedition was that Amundsen's behavior was underhanded.

It took the Fram four months to reach the Ross Ice Shelf, on January 14, 1911. Amundsen chose the Bay of Whales as winter headquarters for a number of reasons. First, they could sail a whole degree farther south than Scott could hope to get in McMurdo Sound, putting them 60 miles closer to the Pole; secondly, they could set up their headquarters right on top of their field of work; thirdly, animal life in the Bay of Whales was extraordinarily rich and offered all the fresh meat the men required in the form of seals, penguins, etc. Besides, it offered a favorable site for an investigation of the meteorological conditions in all directions and was very easy to reach by ship. For

² The Norwegian explorer and navigator Roald Amundsen (1872-1928) was the first man to reach the South Pole (1911). He left his mark on the "heroic era" as one of the most successful polar explorers ever born. His career of adventure began at the age of fifteen; after studying medicine, he dropped out to go to sea.

³ Captain Robert (Falcon) Scott (1868-1912) was a British naval officer and explorer of the Antarctic. He commanded two Antarctic expeditions (1901-1904; 1910-1912) and reached the South Pole on January 18, 1912, shortly after Amundsen; he and the rest of his party died on the return journey.

the next three weeks, five sledges, 46 dogs and five men transferred some 10 tons of supplies daily to base camp. Meanwhile, the carpenter, Jorgen Stubberud, supervised the assembly of the prefabricated hut. After a visit from Scott's Terra Nova, the base camp was christened Framheim – "The home of Fram" – and the depot-laying journeys began. Within a three-week period, depots were established at 80°S, 81°S and 82°S. More than a ton and a half of supplies had been stored within 480 miles of the Pole. On April 21 the sun finally sank and the long winter night began. A great deal of work had to be done over the next four months. Amundsen was well aware of potential problems brought by nine men cramped into close quarters over the long winter nights so a strict routine was quickly introduced. Six days a week the men would rise at 7:30 am, have breakfast, start work at 9:00 and have lunch at noon. They would return to their work at 2:00 pm and end at 5:15, with the balance of the day to be used as they pleased.

Over the winter, every man had specific chores. The men actually enjoyed getting together each evening over supper. Since they had worked in different parts of the camp during the day, rarely was there a lack of conversation come evening time. By August 24 the sun had reappeared and the packed sledges were ready to be taken out from their underground storage. But two long, frustrating months would pass before the weather was warm enough for them to start the journey to the Pole. Tensions increased as each day passed. Amundsen would have the men and dogs prepared for departure only to cancel at the last moment due to inclement weather. The weather had to be clear for their first run to the 80°S depot, or there was a real risk of missing it. Finally, on Friday, September 8, 1911, they sped off across the snow – eight men with sledges pulled by 86 dogs. They covered 31 miles over the next three days. However, on the morning of the 11th they awoke to frigid temperatures nearing -70°F. By the next day, conditions were even worse. That evening a decision was made to make a run for the depot, weather permitting, unload their sledges and race back to Framheim. The weather co-operated and they arrived at the depot on Thursday. At 7:00 the next morning they set off for Framheim.

The first two sledges moved so rapidly that the others were soon left behind. Back to Framheim, Johansen angrily accused Amundsen of panicking and displaying poor leadership qualities when the group had been allowed to split up. Amundsen's excuse to the others was that Hanssen was suffering too severely from frostbite to linger behind... He announced to his men a change in plans. Amundsen would lead one party to the Pole while Prestrud – with Johansen – would lead a second party to explore King Edward VII Land. At least there might still be a "first" gained for Norway. And so, on October 20, 1911, Amundsen, Bjaaland, Wisting, Hassel and Hanssen departed on their historic journey to the Pole. Four sledges were used, each pulled with 13 dogs. They made good progress, other than a little trouble with crevasses, and arrived at 80°S depot on the 24th. The next day the party left with all five men on skis. On the way south, they spotted a cairn⁴ still standing as they had built it the prior April. Another 150 similar cairns were built on the journey south, each left with a written record inside stating the distance and bearing to the next cairn.

⁴ A cairn [kɛən] is a mound of stones erected as a memorial or marker.

They arrived at 82°S depot on November 4. Two days later they left. They were accomplishing 20 miles each day, in only five hours, after which they would build their cairn, in an hour and a half, and then rest for the remainder of the day. On November 11 the peaks of mountains were seen in the distance, which Amundsen later named Queen Maud's Range, after the Queen of Norway. On November 17 they started the climb up the Axel Heiberg Glacier. The weather was warm and the climb even better as they covered 11.5 miles before making camp at 2,000 feet. Four days later, on November 21, they found themselves at the summit. They'd managed to carry a ton of supplies to an altitude of 10,000 feet. There the party stayed for four more days before heading off into a raging blizzard. For the next ten days they struggled, five men and 18 dogs, against driving snow in 35 mph winds and thick fog. At last they reached the plateau, only to be confronted by "The Devil's Ballroom", a glacier with a thin crust of snow covering a number of dangerous, deep crevasses.

On December 8, with the sun shining brightly, they found themselves only 95 miles from the South Pole. The dogs were hungry and exhausted, the men had many sores and frostbitten faces, yet still the party pushed on. The closer they came to the Pole, the more Amundsen worried that Scott had already beaten them. At 3:00 p.m., on Friday, December 14, 1911, there was a simultaneous cry of "Halt!" as the sledge meters registered their arrival at the South Pole. They had achieved their goal.

(Adapted from Wikipedia)

1. Amundsen resolved to go on an expedition to the South Pole – instead of the North Pole – because...

- A he was jealous of Peary, the American explorer who conquered the North Pole.
- B of his heavy debts.
- C he was a secretive, devious man.
- D he was a natural-born record-breaker.

2. He let his men know about his plans...

- A before October, 9.
- B on October, 9.
- C after October, 9.
- D on October, 12.

3. The telegram sent to Capt. Scott...

- A was perceived as a challenge.
- B was perceived as a sign of good-will.
- C was seen afterwards as a sign of honest behaviour.
- D was seen afterwards as a sign of deceitful behaviour.

12)

4. The main reasons for choosing the Bay of Whales as headquarters had to do with...

- A location, navigation and scientific research.
- B location, scenery and food.
- C food, location, and scientific research.
- D scientific research, food and scenery.

5. Headquarters organization involved...

- A special jobs for each member of the expedition.
- B joint activities.
- C working hard and eating a lot.
- D a strict routine, in keeping with polar night.

6. The final part of the expedition involved...

- A a change in headquarters organization.
- B a change in transportation.
- C a change in plans.
- D a change in diet.

7. ____ formed the final team.

- A Four sledges pulled by 13 dogs
- B Four sledges pulled by 12 dogs
- C Five sledges pulled by 13 dogs
- D Five sledges pulled by 12 dogs

8. The cairns were...

- A useful as food stores.
- B useful as reminders.
- C not useful as reminders.
- D irrelevant details of the expedition.

9. Amundsen ...

- A knew all along that Scott was not able to reach the Pole.
- B did not know whether Scott had made it to the Pole.
- C knew all along that he was ahead of Scott's team.
- D was not in the least interested in Scott's progress.

10. Much of the success of the expedition could be accounted for through...

- A using dogs as food.
- B having plenty of food.
- C using dogs as draught animals.
- D depot-laying and using dogs.

(15)

MODEL 3

I. Written examination – 90 minutes

A. Reading comprehension

Example 1

Read the text below. Are the sentences 1-7 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't say' (C).

Mark A, B, or C on your exam sheet.

Columbus – Hero, or Slave Trader?

Though most Montclair students probably used their Columbus Day holiday to rest and relax, a small group of their peers spent the day urging residents to stop celebrating the man revered centuries-long for discovering the New World. Christopher Columbus is a "slave trader" who committed genocide, the effects of which are still being felt by Native Americans today, according to Isy Abraham-Raveson. "Columbus does not deserve to be honored," she said. "He was not a good person." Abraham-Raveson, 15, a Montclair High School student, led approximately a half-dozen students at the intersection of Church Street and Bloomfield Avenue this past Monday as they asked passers-by and other area pedestrians to sign their petition decrying Columbus Day. The petition, which the students will submit to the Township Council, requests that the federal holiday to be renamed in honor of Native Americans. The petition also expresses support for an Italian-American Heritage Day "to celebrate their rich heritage without honoring a murderer." Abraham-Raveson, said she learned at an early age that the land Columbus discovered was already populated by natives. She always knew the famed explorer was "a bad guy," she said.

But last summer, she read "The People's History of the United States," a revisionist history book by political scientist Howard Zinn. The text confirmed her sentiment that Columbus' arrival in America spelled doom for the natives who lived here, and spurred her to act, she said. "I think it's really sick to honor someone that did so many bad things," she said. Though the first recorded celebration of Columbus occurred in New York City 1792, during a 300th anniversary celebration of his landing in the New World, Columbus Day did not become a federal holiday until 1971, courtesy of President Richard M. Nixon.

(Terrence T. McDonald, *Montclair Times*, October 15, 2008)

16

1. The author of the fragment is a journalist.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

2. The discovery (and conquest) of America by Columbus is considered to be the source of extensive destruction.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

3. Only school girls took part in the rally.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

4. The petition expresses open disapproval of celebrating Columbus Day.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

5. American Italians are being ridiculed by the petitioners.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

6. Howard Zinn's history book treated Columbus very much as the other authors before.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

7. The first nation-wide celebration of Columbus Day took place in 1792.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

Example 2

Read the text below. For questions 1-10, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Dream of a bibliophile

A visit to the annual Montreal Antiquarian Book Fair always promises special intellectual adventures. The organizers can proudly state that the fair is a real paradise for collectors. Montreal has witnessed a steady growth of book trade over the last few years: most alert pedestrians have noticed the growing number of general secondhand book shops, particularly along Ste. Catherine and St. Denis streets offering a wide palette of books of many different languages and cultures. Visitors can detect the intonations of 200 different languages in the streets of Montreal, and this diversity is truly reflected in the offerings of each and every secondhand bookstore. This, however, is just the tip of the iceberg. The city is home to an increasing number of specialized dealers who, rather than having open stores, instead opt to issue catalogues, exhibit at book fairs, or turn towards the ever increasing online marketing. The Montreal book trade has a growing reputation on the international scale.

This year the association of the antiquarians organized the book fair on 29 September – for the 24th time so far. The event took place at Concordia University, in the atrium of the McConnell Building, at the heart of Montreal. The fair lasts for two days, and is a perfect occasion for collectors to meet the traders of the catalogues and

websites. The latter are always glad to share their knowledge and to offer precious pieces of their collections for sale. The association invited more than 30 practiced antiquarians from all over the province of Quebec and Ontario, who ensured the widest possible selection by bringing along almost 20.000 assorted ancient books. Since the prices suited all budgets, the event was popular amongst students as well. For \$25 one could make fairly interesting purchases. Let us see what we can usually find on the stands: there are children's books, travel books, military history, mysteries, Canadiana, ancient maps, photo archives as well as issues on decorative art and history of science, but the highlights of the fair are always the first editions, the fine bindings and the signed or illustrated books.

The greatest sensation of this year's fair was the first American edition of *The Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin of 1860 (the original British edition is one year older) for \$8,500. However, the most expensive book was the sketch of James Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake*; the price was \$18,500. As for the ancient maps, the most alert experts stopped frequently in front of the stand of a bookstore named after Ptolemy: here one could find a wide collection of ancient maps of the Holy Land going back to the 16th century.

As Adrian King-Edwards, vice president of the association, explains, this non-profit organization, founded in 1987, aims to call attention to the value of ancient book rarities. The association unites dealers of great expertise who are keen on trying to raise public interest in our common heritage, ancient books. The association strives to maintain and continuously widen the knowledge of its members, and they are also building a bibliographic database of ancient issues. Several of the book dealers visit the fair every year. Some have come for the twentieth time this year. As they say, it is rather the opportunity to meet the fellow professionals that attracts them – and certainly the returning visitors. As one of the visitors put it, "It's like a candy-shop. You have to come back regularly, and each time choose another of the specially assorted sweets."

<http://www.terranovalmagazine.ca/38/pages/essai/essai.html#sara>

1. The Montreal Antiquarian Book Fair is held ____
 A every year.
 B every other year.
 C every month.
 D every six months.
2. The main attraction is represented by ____
 A second-hand clothes.
 B second-rate clothes.
 C second-hand books.
 D second-rate clothes.
3. The old books on sale are only ____
 A the visible part of the event.
 B the unseen part of the event

- C the unavoidable part of the event
- D the inescapable part of the event.

4. The location of the fair ____
- A was unlikely to offer it visibility.
 - B was likely to draw large sums of money.
 - C was likely to offer it visibility.
 - D was likely to attract crowds of foreign visitors.
5. ____ book(s).
- A Everyone could afford to buy at least one ---
 - B No-one could afford to buy many ---(s)
 - C Hardly anyone could afford to buy any ---(s)
 - D Most people could afford to buy a couple of the more expensive ---(s).
6. The main feature of the fair ____
- A was the Ptolemy bookstand.
 - B were the ancient maps.
 - C were the catalogues, and online marketing schemes.
 - D the first editions, the fine bindings, and the signed or illustrated books.
7. The oldest maps of ancient Palestine on display...
- A went as far back as the 14th century.
 - B went as far back as the 15th century.
 - C went as far back as the 16th century.
 - D went as far back as the 17th century.
8. The association of the Antiquarians...
- A is a non-profit organization founded some 20 years ago.
 - B is a lucrative organization founded some 20 years ago.
 - C is a non-profit organization founded some 30 years ago.
 - D is a lucrative organization founded some 30 years ago.
9. The aim of the association ____
- A is to raise interest in Canadian culture.
 - B is to raise public interest in old, rare books.
 - C is to raise important sums of money.
 - D is to sell as many rare books as possible.
10. Some of the book dealers ____
- A attend the fair every other year.
 - B attend only the opening ceremony of the fair.
 - C attend the fair regularly.
 - D attend all the fairs in Montreal.

MODEL 4

I. Written examination

A. Reading comprehension

Example 1

Read the text below. Are the sentences 1-7 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't say' (C).

Mark A, B, or C on your exam sheet.

Four centuries before Gutenberg, in AD 1041, the Chinese artisan Picheng invented movable type, which was subsequently used to print newspapers. Nevertheless, despite their early start, the Chinese – until 1988 – never had an efficient typesetting system, or practical typewriter, or efficient computer keyboard.

The inspiration that promises to make it possible for one-fourth of the world's people to move into the computer age came from an American engineer, James Monroe, who decided to learn Chinese late in life. As Monroe painstakingly learned to write Chinese characters he had an idea that, together with three years of hard work, resulted in a working typewriter. The invention is expected to have an enormous impact on business and technology. The stumbling block was that the Chinese have no alphabet. Instead, they use more than 50,000 unique characters, or ideograms, each representing an entire word. Chinese typesetting keyboards and typewriters in the past have been cumbersome arrays of keys, each bearing a unique character, which despite being crammed, represented only a fraction of the Chinese language. The Monroe system keyboard is arranged in a nine-by-nine square with eighty-one blank keys (an English keyboard has about fifty keys). The system is based on principles so fundamental to Chinese that anyone who can write the language can learn to type in ten minutes and acquire a good working speed in two weeks.

After reading an English translation of a lengthy Chinese text, Monroe, an optical engineer who was fascinated by China's history of major inventions, concluded that he wanted to learn Chinese so that he could read the book in the original. Because he was a sophisticated scientist learning to write as a child would learn, Monroe had the insight that had so long eluded others. He saw that while the characters were composed of many strokes, it took only a few elements to distinguish

22

one character from any other. Almost any character could be uniquely identified by just five of these "disambiguating characteristics."

(From Young Students Learning Library, Science Yearbook)

1. The author of the fragment is an expert in computer science.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
2. It was not before 1988 that the Chinese could type efficiently.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
3. Monroe's efforts in learning how to write Chinese ideograms led him to this epoch-making invention.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
4. The author had a
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
5. Nowadays, the Chinese who use this new system can learn to write sooner.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
6. The Chinese alphabet is made up of about 50,000 letters.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
7. Monroe's scientific gifts and child-like curiosity led him to this spectacular invention.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

Example 2

Read the text below. For questions 1-10, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Michael Jackson, the show-stopping singer whose best-selling albums – including "Off the Wall," "Thriller" and "Bad" – and electrifying stage presence made him one of the most popular artists of all time, died Thursday, CNN has confirmed. Michael Jackson, shown in 2008, was one of the biggest pop stars in history. He was 50. He collapsed at his residence in the Holmby Hills section of Los Angeles, California, about noon Pacific Time, suffering cardiac arrest, according to brother Randy Jackson. He died at UCLA Medical Center. Lt. Fred Corral of the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office said an autopsy would probably be done on the singer Friday, with results expected that afternoon.

"Michael Jackson made culture accept a person of color," the Rev. Al Sharpton said. "To say an 'icon' would only give these young people in Harlem a fraction of what he was. He was a historic figure that people will measure music and the industry by."

Jackson's blazing rise to stardom – and later fall from grace – is among the most startling of show business tales. The son of a steelworker, Michael was born on August 29, 1958. He rose to fame as the lead singer of the Jackson 5, a band organized by his father, which he joined by the time he was 6; by the time he was 10, the group had been signed to Motown. He made his first television appearance at age 11. The group's first four singles – "I Want You Back," "ABC," "The Love You Save" and "I'll Be There" – went to No. 1 on the Billboard pop chart, the first time any group had pulled off that feat. By the late '70s, as a solo artist, he was topping the charts with cuts from "Off the Wall," including "Rock With You" and "Don't Stop 'Till You Get Enough." Its success paved the way for "Thriller" (1982), which eventually became the best-selling album in history, with 50 million copies sold worldwide. The album that eventually produced seven hit singles. An appearance the next year on a Motown Records 25th-anniversary special cemented his status as the biggest star in the country. The then-new cable channel MTV, criticized for its almost exclusively white playlist, finally started playing Jackson's videos. They aired incessantly, including a 14-minute minimovie of the title cut.

"Thriller's" follow-up, 1987's "Bad," sold almost as many copies. But something about his electrifying performance of "Billie Jean," complete with the patented backward dance moves, boosted his stardom to a new level. People copied his Jheri-curl hair and single-gloved, zippered-jacket look. Showbiz veterans such as Fred Astaire praised his chops. He posed for photos with Ronald and Nancy Reagan at the White House. Paul McCartney teamed with him on three duets, two of which – "The Girl Is Mine" and "Say Say Say" – became top five hits. A new Jackson album – a new Jackson appearance – was a pop culture event. At that point, Michael Jackson became ubiquitous. Jackson became a Pepsi spokesman, and when his hair caught fire while making a commercial, it was worldwide news. He was given the nickname the "King of Pop" – a spin on Elvis Presley's status as "the King of Rock'n' Roll".

But, as the showbiz saying has it, when you're on top of the world, there's nowhere to go but down. The pop music landscape was changing, opening up for rap, hip-hop and what came to be called "alternative" – and Jackson was seen as out of step. His next release, 1991's "Dangerous," debuted at No. 1 but "only" produced one top-ranking single – "Black or White" – and that song earned criticism for its inexplicably violent ending, in which Jackson was seen smashing car windows and clutching his crotch. After that, more attention was paid to Jackson's private life than his music career, which faltered. A 1995 two-CD greatest hits, "HIStory," sold relatively poorly, given the huge expense of Jackson's recording contract: about 7 million copies, according to Recording Industry of America certifications. A 2001 album of new material, "Invincible," did even worse.

The relentless attention given Jackson started focusing as much on his eccentricities – some real, some rumored – as his music. As the Web site Allmusic.com notes, he was rumored to sleep in a hyperbaric chamber and to have purchased the bones of John Merrick, the "Elephant Man." (Neither was true.) He did have a pet chimpanzee, Bubbles; underwent a series of increasingly drastic plastic surgeries; established an estate, Neverland, filled with zoo animals and amusement

park rides; and managed to purchase the Beatles catalog from under Paul McCartney's nose, which displeased the ex-Beatle immensely. In 1990s and 2000s, Jackson found himself pasted across the media for his short-lived marriages, the first to Elvis Presley's daughter, Lisa Marie; his 2002 claim that then Sony Records head Tommy Mottola was racist; his behavior and statements during a 2003 interview with British journalist Martin Bashir done for a documentary called "Living With Michael Jackson;" his changing physical appearance; and, above all, accusations that he sexually molested young boys at Neverland. The first such accusation, in 1993, resulted in a settlement to the 13-year-old accuser. He also fell deeply in debt and was forced to sell some of his assets. However, an auction of material from Neverland was called off, and all items returned to Jackson. In 2005, he went to trial on child-molestation charges, and was acquitted. In July 2008, after three years away from the spotlight, Jackson announced ten comeback shows at London's O2 Arena as his "curtain call." The story made worldwide news. The number of concerts was later increased to 50. Some of the shows were eventually postponed until 2010. Then, rumors swept the Internet that Jackson was not physically prepared, and possibly suffering from skin cancer. Jackson held open auditions for dancers in April in Los Angeles. He is survived by his three children, Prince Michael I, Paris and Prince Michael II.

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/SHOWBIZ/Music/06/25/jackson/index.html>

1. The text deals with ____
 - A the suspicious circumstances of Michael Jackson's death.
 - B the many accusations levelled at Michael Jackson.
 - C the "rise and fall" of a music star.
 - D the biographical reasons for Michael Jackson's success.
2. Rev. Sharpton implies that ____
 - A Michael Jackson's status was due to the fact that he was black.
 - B Michael Jackson's status was won in spite of the fact that he was black.
 - C Michael Jackson's status had nothing to do with his being black.
 - D Michael Jackson's status will always be an important issue for black people in Harlem.
3. Michael Jackson could be seen on TV ____
 - A before he turned 12.
 - B after he turned 12.
 - C before he turned 11.
 - D after he turned 21.
4. ____ was the best-selling album in history.
 - A "Off the Wall" ---
 - B "Bad" ---
 - C "Dangerous" ---
 - D "Thriller" ---

5. Fred Astaire ____
A appreciated his gifts as a singer and dancer.
B said nothing about him
C said he was handsome
D appreciated the way he dressed.
6. Michael Jackson ____
A was the very opposite of Elvis Presley.
B was Elvis Presley's favourite son-in-law.
C was likened to Elvis Presley.
D had nothing to do with Elvis Presley.
7. After ____ Michael's career saw a definite descending slope.
A --- 1991 ---
B --- 1995 ---
C --- 1996 ---
D --- 1999 ---
8. ____ his eccentricities proved to be real.
A Most of ---
B Nearly all of ---
C None of ---
D A few of ---
9. Michael Jackson ...
A --- was proved to be a pedophile.
B --- was not proved to be a pedophile.
C --- may have been proved to be a pedophile.
D --- was about to be proved as being a pedophile.
10. His 2009 comeback ____
A was a failure.
B was put off.
C failed because of a heart condition.
D had nothing to do with the Internet rumours.