



*Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca*  
**ESAME DI STATO DI ISTRUZIONE SECONDARIA SUPERIORE**

**Indirizzi:** LI04, EA03 - LICEO LINGUISTICO

(Testo valevole anche per le corrispondenti sperimentazioni internazionali e quadriennali)

**Tema di:** LINGUA E CULTURA STRANIERA 1 (INGLESE) e  
LINGUA E CULTURA STRANIERA 3 (CINESE)

**PART 1 – COMPREHENSION AND INTERPRETATION**

*Read the text below*

My mother usually walked up and down the *glacis*, a paved roofed-in terrace which ran the length of the house and sloped upwards to a clump of bamboos. Standing by the bamboos she had a clear view to the sea, but anyone passing could stare at her. They stared, sometimes they laughed. Long after the sound was far away and faint she kept her eyes shut and her hands clenched. A frown came between her black eyebrows, deep - it might have been cut with a knife. I hated this frown and once I touched her forehead trying to smooth it. But she pushed me away, not roughly but calmly, coldly, without a word, as if she had decided once and for all that I was useless to her. She wanted to sit with Pierre or walk where she pleased without being pestered, she wanted peace and quiet. I was old enough to look after myself. 'Oh, let me alone,' she would say, 'let me alone,' and after I knew that she talked aloud to herself I was a little afraid of her.

So I spent most of my time in the kitchen which was in an outbuilding some way off. Christophine slept in the little room next to it.

When evening came she sang to me if she was in the mood. I couldn't always understand her patois songs - she also came from Martinique - but she taught me the one that meant 'The little ones grow old, the children leave us, will they come back?' and the one about the cedar tree flowers which only last for a day.

The music was gay but the words were sad and her voice often quavered and broke on the high note. 'Adieu.' Not adieu as we said it, but *à dieu*, which made more sense after all. The loving man was lonely, the girl was deserted, the children never came back. Adieu.

Her songs were not like Jamaican songs, and she was not like the other women.

She was much blacker - blue-black with a thin face and straight features. She wore a black dress, heavy gold earrings and a yellow handkerchief - carefully tied with the two high points in front. No other negro woman wore black, or tied her handkerchief Martinique fashion. She had a quiet voice and a quiet laugh (when she did laugh), and though she could speak good English if she wanted to, and French as well as patois, she took care to talk as they talked. But they would have nothing to do with her and she never saw her son who worked in Spanish Town. She had only one friend - a woman called Maillotte, and Maillotte was not a Jamaican.

The girls from the bayside who sometimes helped with the washing and cleaning were terrified of her. That, I soon discovered, was why they came at all - for she never paid them. Yet they brought presents of fruit and vegetables and after dark I often heard low voices from the kitchen.

So I asked about Christophine. Was she very old? Had she always been with us?

'She was your father's wedding present to me -- one of his presents. He thought I would be pleased with a Martinique girl. I don't know how old she was when they brought her to Jamaica, quite young. I don't



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- 35 know how old she is now. Does it matter? Why do you pester and bother me about all these things that happened long ago? Christophine stayed with me because she wanted to stay. She had her own very good reasons you may be sure. I dare say we would have died if she'd turned against us and that would have been a better fate. To die and be forgotten and at peace. Not to know that one is abandoned, lied about, helpless. All the ones who died - who says a good word for them now?'  
'Godfrey stayed too,' I said. 'And Sass.'  
40 'They stayed,' she said angrily, 'because they wanted somewhere to sleep and something to eat.  
(684 words)

*from Wide Sargasso Sea, (1966), Jean Rhys, (1890 - 1979)*

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

1. The narrator yearns for a relationship with her mother but is rejected.

T ☐ F ☐ NS ☐

2. Christophine is one of the narrator's mother's friends.

T ☐ F ☐ NS ☐

3. The narrator's mother likes talking about Christophine.

T ☐ F ☐ NS ☐

4. Christophine sings happy songs.

T ☐ F ☐ NS ☐

5. The narrator's father is in England.

T ☐ F ☐ NS ☐

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

1. How would you describe the state of mind of the narrator's mother'?
2. Explain the different meanings and connotations the words "adieu" and "à dieu" take on in the passage.
3. Christophine and Mother are the most important relationships in the narrator's life. Describe these two women and how they are presented by the narrator.



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**PART 2 – WRITTEN PRODUCTION**

*“As we advance in life it becomes more and more difficult, but in fighting the difficulties the inmost strength of the heart is developed”.*

*Vincent Van Gogh*

This quotation focuses on optimism and inner strength. How do you think education can contribute to shaping young people's inner strength?

Discuss this issue in a 300-word essay. Support your ideas by referring to your readings and to your personal experience.



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请阅读以下短文

**和电子游戏说“再见”**

我快满7岁时，爸爸给我买了个电脑。电脑上有各种电子游戏，爸爸教我的第一个游戏是“愤怒的小鸟”。后来，我发现平板电脑里还有其他游戏，约有上百种，每种游戏我都想玩一遍。从发现新游戏起，我几乎把空闲时间都用在玩游戏上。直到3年前的一件事让我发生了改变。

3年前的一天，窗外蓝天白云，妈妈大声叫起来：“外面的天气多好啊，快出去玩，不要玩游戏了！”我没理她。妈妈气疯了，按下了电脑的电源开关说：“再也不可以玩游戏了。”我停下手中的游戏，决定到外面走走。回来后，爸爸说：“邓韦多，来我的书房。”

弟弟玩电子游戏比我还要厉害，那天我们两个被叫进爸爸的书房。爸爸严肃地告诉我们在电子游戏上花费太长时间会带来的危害。

谈话结束后，弟弟说：“我有个主意——我们约定从现在起，1年内不玩电子游戏。”



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从此以后，我们俩再也没玩电子游戏了。尽管我和弟弟常会争吵，但是他让我和电子游戏说“再见”，所以我十分感谢他。

这就是我对玩游戏说“不”的经历。

(字数：354个字，不包括标题、空格和标点符号)

### 一、阅读理解与评述

- 请选出唯一正确的答案

- 1 邓韦多有了电脑以后
  - a 只喜欢玩电子游戏“愤怒的小鸟”
  - b 想把每个游戏都玩一遍
  - c 常常和弟弟一起玩游戏
  - d 教弟弟玩游戏
- 2 妈妈不要让邓韦玩游戏，因为
  - a 他总是玩游戏
  - b 外面天气很好
  - c 妈妈自己想用电脑
  - d 他还要完成很多作业
- 3 邓韦多的弟弟提议以后不玩电子游戏了，因为
  - a 他想玩别的
  - b 爸爸跟他们生气了
  - c 自己对电子游戏不再感兴趣
  - d 明白了长时间玩电子游戏的危害



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- 请用你学过的词语以完整的句子回答以下问题

1. 邓韦多为什么十分感谢弟弟?
2. 玩游戏会带来哪些危害?

## 二、写作

请谈谈你自己或者你的朋友与电脑的关系 (字数: 150-200个字左右)