

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 and answer the questions below

UNDER certain circumstances there are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea. There are circumstances in which, whether you partake of the tea or not—some people of course never do—the situation is in itself delightful. Those that I have in mind in beginning to unfold this simple history offered an admirable setting to an innocent pastime.

5 The implements of the little feast had been disposed upon the lawn of an old English country-house, in what I should call the perfect middle of a splendid summer afternoon. Part of the afternoon had waned, but much of it was left, and what was left was of the finest and rarest quality. Real dusk would not arrive for many hours; but the flood of summer light had begun to ebb, the air had grown mellow, the shadows were long upon the smooth, dense turf. They lengthened slowly, however, and the scene

10 expressed that sense of leisure still to come which is perhaps the chief source of one's enjoyment of such a scene at such an hour. From five o'clock to eight is on certain occasions a little eternity; but on such an occasion as this the interval could be only an eternity of pleasure. The persons concerned in it were taking their pleasure quietly, and they were not of the sex which is supposed to furnish the regular votaries of the ceremony I have mentioned. The shadows on the perfect lawn were straight and

15 angular; they were the shadows of an old man sitting in a deep wicker chair near the low table on which the tea had been served, and of two younger men strolling to and fro, in desultory talk, in front of him. The old man had his cup in his hand; it was an unusually large cup, of a different pattern from the rest of the set, and painted in brilliant colours. He disposed of its contents with much circumspection, holding it for a long time close to his chin, with his face turned to the house. His

20 companions had either finished their tea or were indifferent to their privilege; they smoked cigarettes as they continued to stroll. One of them, from time to time, as he passed, looked with a certain attention at the elder man, who, unconscious of observation, rested his eyes upon the rich red front of his dwelling. The house that rose beyond the lawn was a structure to repay such consideration, and was the most characteristic object in the peculiarly English picture I have attempted to sketch.

25 It stood upon a low hill, above the river—the river being the Thames, at some forty miles from London. A long gabled front of red brick, with the complexion of which time and the weather had played all sorts of picturesque tricks, only, however, to improve and refine it, presented itself to the lawn, with its patches of ivy, its clustered chimneys, its windows smothered in creepers. The house had a name and a history; the old gentleman taking his tea would have been delighted to tell you these

30 things: how it had been built under Edward the Sixth, had offered a night's hospitality to the great Elizabeth (whose august person had extended itself upon a huge, magnificent, and terribly angular bed which still formed the principal honour of the sleeping apartments), had been a good deal bruised and defaced in Cromwell's wars, and then, under the Restoration, repaired and much enlarged; and how, finally, after having been remodelled and disfigured in the eighteenth century, it had passed into the

35 careful keeping of a shrewd American banker, who had bought it originally because it was offered at a great bargain; bought it with much grumbling at its ugliness, its antiquity, its incommodity, and who now, at the end of twenty years, had become conscious of a real æsthetic passion for it.

(656 words)

From: *The Portrait of a Lady* by Henry James, Penguin, Chapter 1 (1908)

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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 in the slowly fading light of a summer afternoon.

T ☐

F ☐

NS ☐

2. There are no women present at the tea ceremony in the garden.

T ☐

F ☐

NS ☐

3. The old man is having tea while looking at the house.

T ☐

F ☐

NS ☐

4. The house was built during the reign of Elizabeth 1st.

T ☐

F ☐

NS ☐

5. The American banker had only made minor changes to the interior of the house.

T ☐

F ☐

NS ☐

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

6. What general atmosphere does the description of the garden and the ritual of the afternoon tea create? Justify your answer by referring to the text.
7. How does the old man's attitude towards the house change over time?
8. The pictorial quality of the narration creates analogies with a painting. How does the language used contribute to this effect? Substantiate your answer by referring to the text.

PART 2 – WRITTEN PRODUCTION

A love of tradition has never weakened a nation, indeed it has strengthened nations in their moment of peril, but the new view must come. The world must roll forward.

Winston Churchill, 1944

Many people argue that traditions represent our roots and continuity with our past, and should be maintained intact, while others think that traditions should adapt to change and circumstance. Discuss the quotation in a 300-word essay giving reasons for your answer.

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请阅读以下短文

换了一个位置

除夕，老人在家准备和面包饺子。去厨房拿面盆时，老人一不小心，被脚下的凳子绊了一下，腿摔断了。等到儿子把她送到医院，处理完腿伤后，已是深夜。可是，老人不愿意待在医院，一定要回家过年。儿子知道母亲的性格，点头答应。

虽然那天是除夕，街上来来往往的出租车仍然很多，但是儿子没有叫车，而是很小心地把母亲背在背上。儿子的背宽厚温热，一点儿也不像出租车那么摇晃，再说儿子也担心母亲舍不得多花他的钱。

一路上，母子俩说说笑笑。快到家时，儿子笑着对母亲说：“妈，小时候我生病时，你背着我去看医生。还记得你当时问过我一个什么问题吗？你问我，‘如果有一天我老了，走不动了，你会不会背我？’妈，现在我正背着你呢。”

听了这几句话，老人幸福得眼泪都快要掉下来了。几十年前跟孩子说的一句玩笑话，自己早就忘得干干净净了，没想到儿子还一直记在心里。

背与被背，只是换了一个位置，而母亲和儿子之间的亲情是永远不变的。

(字数：351个字，不包括标题、空格和标点符号)

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阅读理解与分析

请选出唯一正确的答案

1. “等到儿子把她送到医院，处理完腿伤后，已是深夜。”在这句话中，处理的意思是：

- a. 医生治疗
- b. 医生问情况
- c. 自己包好
- d. 解决问题

2. “儿子知道母亲的性格，点头答应。”这句话的意思是：

- a. 儿子怕母亲
- b. 儿子了解母亲
- c. 母亲很厉害
- d. 母亲性格不好

3. “但是儿子没有叫车，而是很小心地把母亲背在背上。”儿子背母亲回家的原因是：

- a. 那天是除夕，街上的出租车很少
- b. 儿子没有钱叫出租车
- c. 儿子舍不得叫出租车
- d. 想让母亲体会到自己对母亲的爱

请用你学会的词以完整的句子回答以下问题

1. 为什么那天晚上老人不愿意待在医院，一定要在深夜回家？

2. “背与被背，只是换了一个位置”，你从这个故事中明白了什么道理？

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二、写作

请你谈谈在意大利亲人或朋友之间的感情（字数：150-200个字左右），你可以说一说发生在自己生活中的事情，也可以说说你看到或听到的事情。这篇短文是写给朋友或者同学看的。