



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 (FRANCESE)

PART 1 – COMPREHENSION AND INTERPRETATION

Read the text below

When she next raised her eyes from her book - a book from which she had absorbed not a single word - it was to find an unexpected note of glamour in the person of a lady of indeterminate age, her hair radiantly ash blonde, her nails scarlet, her dress a charming (and expensive) printed silk, beating time to the music with her hand, a smile of pleasure on her pretty face, while the waitresses, obviously attracted to such a positive presence, hovered round her, offering more cake, more tea. She bestowed a warm smile on them, and an even warmer one on the elderly pianist, who, when he got up and folded his music, came over to her and murmured something which made her laugh, then kissed her hand and left, his stiff, narrow back radiant with the appreciation he had received. Leaning back in her chair, her cup and saucer raised to her chin, this lady drank her tea with some delicacy, even with a sense of favourable presentation, and she did indeed make a delightful spectacle, devoid as she was of the anguish that attacks some people in strange places, and clearly at home in the ambience of the hotel, even if it was three quarters empty.

Edith watched her as if under hypnosis, sorry to have missed a moment of this spectacle. Rings sparkled on the hand that brought a delicate lace handkerchief to her lips. When her tray had been taken away, Edith waited keenly to see what she would do with the hiatus between tea and dinner, so dispiriting to the unexpected or unaccompanied hotel guest. But of course this lady was not alone. 'Here I am,' carolled a young voice, and into the salon came a girl wearing rather tight white trousers (rather too tight, thought Edith) which outlined a bottom shaped like a large Victoria plum, 'There you are, darling,' cried the lady, who was, who must be, her mother. 'I've just finished. Have you had tea?'

'No, but it doesn't matter,' said the girl, who was, Edith saw, a rather paler version of her mother, or rather the same model as her mother but not brought to the same state of high finish.

'But my darling!' exclaimed the older lady. 'You must have tea! You must be exhausted! Just ring the bell. They can make some more.'

As one of the waitresses approached, they both turned on her a winning smile, begged for tea, but with an assurance that it would certainly be forthcoming, and immediately, and then lapsed into an engrossing conversation of which Edith could only hear the odd word, together with the joyous and congratulatory spasms of laughter that escaped them both from time to time. When the second tray arrived, they both turned their smiling faces to the waitress, thanked her effusively, and resumed their dialogue, although the girl lingered, as if her part in the ritual might just conceivably be prolonged, but, 'That will be all, dear,' said the lady in the silk dress, and settled down to contemplation of her daughter.

The daughter must be about twenty-five, thought Edith, unmarried, but not worried about it. 'She's in no hurry,' she could imagine the mother saying, with her fine smile. 'She's quite happy as she is.' And the daughter would blush and bridle, thus inviting lubricious speculation on the part of the elderly gentlemen who would, Edith was sure, be in relatively constant attendance on the mother. I must stop this, she said



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- 35 to herself. I do not have to make up their lives for them. They are in fact doing very nicely without me. And she felt a pang of wistfulness for such a mother, so good-humoured, so elegantly turned out, so insistent that her daughter should have tea, although it was nearly six o'clock
 (640 words)

From *Hotel du Lac*, Anita Brookner (1928 - 2016)

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 mother is a wealthy and glamorous woman who loves being the centre of attention.

T ☐ F ☐ NS ☐

2. Mother and daughter are Edith's fellow guests at the hotel.

T ☐ F ☐ NS ☐

3. The daughter seems to be a less refined copy of her mother.

T ☐ F ☐ NS ☐

4. Mother and daughter catch Edith's attention and she listens in to their conversation sharing their joyful mood.

T ☐ F ☐ NS ☐

5. Edith's mother died a long time ago.

T ☐ F ☐ NS ☐

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

1. Edith feels attracted, almost hypnotised, by these two women. Explain what makes them so captivating by referring to the text.
2. Describe the mother-daughter relationship between the lady and her daughter. Refer to the text to justify your statements.
3. Focus on the narrative method. What kind of narrator appears in this passage? Whose point of view is privileged and what is the overall effect of this choice?



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PART 2 – WRITTEN PRODUCTION

“It's a beautiful thing, the destruction of words. Of course, the great wastage is in the verbs and adjectives, but there are hundreds of nouns that can be got rid of as well. It isn't only the synonyms; there are also the antonyms. After all, what justification is there for a word, which is simply the opposite of some other word? A word contains its opposite in itself”

G. Orwell, 1984

This quotation reminds us of the power and value of each single word. Discuss this issue in a 300-word essay considering the complexities and richness of a language, the cultural and social implications that it involves. Support your ideas by referring to your readings and/or to your personal experience.



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PARTIE 1 – COMPRÉHENSION ET ANALYSE

Lisez le texte suivant.

Le sport, c'est bon aussi pour le cerveau

Connus depuis Platon et Aristote, les bénéfices de l'activité physique pour la santé ont été confirmés ces dernières années par de nombreux travaux de recherche : une pratique régulière peut prévenir les problèmes cardiaques, les cancers, l'obésité ou encore le diabète.

- 5 Mieux, l'exercice fait de plus en plus souvent partie intégrante du traitement de certaines maladies, et les médecins vont pouvoir officiellement le prescrire à partir du 1^{er} mars.

10 Mais, non content de faire du bien à notre corps, le sport semble donc agir directement sur le fonctionnement de notre cerveau, comme le montrent les études scientifiques les plus récentes. Il peut freiner l'apparition des maladies neurodégénératives, voire doper notre intelligence – ou en tout cas notre capacité à apprendre. « L'encéphale n'est pas un organe figé et isolé dans sa tour d'ivoire se contentant de donner des ordres au reste de l'organisme. Au contraire, il est très influencé par les informations qu'il en reçoit », souligne Gabriel Lepousez, neurobiologiste à l'Institut Pasteur. [...]

15 Désormais les scientifiques cherchent à comprendre par quel processus chimique le sport agit sur l'hippocampe. « Il semblerait que, à l'occasion d'un effort, les muscles, mais également le foie, envoient des hormones vers le cerveau. Elles vont alors stimuler des petites protéines appelées " facteurs croissance ", qui elles-mêmes jouent un rôle crucial dans le fonctionnement de l'hippocampe », détaille Wendi Suzuki, professeur à l'Université de New York. Ces mêmes facteurs de croissance freineraient la mort des neurones et stimuleraient les connexions entre eux.

Stephanie Benz, L'Express, 8 février 2017

Répondez aux questions en cochant (X) la bonne réponse.

1. Les atouts du sport sont connus :

- ☐ depuis l'antiquité
☐ depuis une centaine d'années
☐ à partir du 1^{er} mars 2017
☐ suite à des études scientifiques récentes



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2. Peut-on soigner les maladies par le sport ?

- ☐ oui, toutes
- ☐ oui, certaines
- ☐ seulement les maladies neurodégénératives
- ☐ non

3. Lors de la pratique sportive le cerveau :

- ☐ produit des hormones
- ☐ stimule la production d'hormones
- ☐ est stimulé par des hormones
- ☐ inhibe la production d'hormones

Répondez aux questions suivantes avec vos propres mots et par des phrases complètes.

4. Quelles sont les conséquences de la pratique du sport sur le cerveau ?

5. En quelle mesure la recherche scientifique a-t-elle contribué à la valorisation de la pratique sportive ?

PARTIE 2 – PRODUCTION ÉCRITE

Développez le sujet de rédaction suivant.

Vous êtes bénévole dans une association.

En 150 mots vous témoignez dans son site web en décrivant vos activités et en disant ce qu'elles vous apportent.