

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ, ΔΙΑ ΒΙΟΥ ΜΑΘΗΣΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ
ΚΡΑΤΙΚΟ ΠΙΣΤΟΠΟΙΗΤΙΚΟ ΓΛΩΣΣΟΜΑΘΕΙΑΣ

Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs
English Language Certification

LEVEL

B1&B2

on the scale set by the Council of Europe

MODULE

1

Reading comprehension and language awareness

Period

May 2012

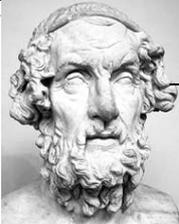
ATTENTION

- Do not open this booklet until the exam begins.
- Try to answer all the questions.
- Mark your answers on Answer Sheet 1 [ΑΠΑΝΤΗΤΙΚΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1].
- Provide **ONE** answer for each item.
- You have **85 minutes** to complete this exam.

ACTIVITY 1

1.1 Read the text and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 1-2.

1. This text informs the reader about
 - A. the heroes of the Iliad.
 - B. the Iliad and the Odyssey.
 - C. how the Iliad was created.
2. The author of this text probably writes from the point of view of
 - A. a book reviewer.
 - B. a historian.
 - C. a student of the Iliad



April Issue

Homer: who was he?

Tradition says that a blind poet named Homer wrote the *Iliad*, the epic poem about the Trojan War. But who was Homer?

Inside St. Mark's church in Venice is the oldest complete version of the *Iliad*, a manuscript created in about AD 900. Before that, we have written fragments and references to poetry by Homer. The earliest of those are from the sixth century B.C. But Homer's poetry is even older.

Before writing was generally known among the Greeks, poets recited poems and sang stories for their audiences. Repetitions and formulas in the poem helped the memory of the person reciting a spoken text. Poets could actually make up a story in spoken form, if they knew the plot and the characters.

Some theories say that Homer was two or even a group of poets. But the main action of the *Iliad* is connected and easy to follow, a fact that suggests it must have been written by a single author. It seems likely, then, that Homer was just one oral

poet, who collected the best of the Troy stories and connected them in his own way. If Homer was an oral poet, it would take days to recite all of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.



It is now thought that Homer wrote the *Iliad* between 725 and 675 B.C. when the Greeks were beginning to use the Phoenician alphabet. It seems possible, then, that writing helped Homer – whoever he was – to collect the poems.

1.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 3-6.

3. The oldest hand-written version of the *Iliad* is
 - A. fragmented.
 - B. safely kept.
 - C. totally destroyed.
4. At first, the *Iliad* was probably
 - A. written.
 - B. spoken.
 - C. set to music.
5. According to the text, the storyline of the *Iliad* is
 - A. clear.
 - B. confusing.
 - C. original.
6. The evidence suggests that 'Homer' was
 - A. a group of people.
 - B. one person.
 - C. two people.

ACTIVITY 2

Read the story below and match the meaning of each underlined word (7-11) with options A-F. There is one option you do not need.

A. collect	B. very hungry	C. talk	D. get ready	E. carry	F. feed
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The Ant and the Grasshopper

In a field one summer's day a Grasshopper was hopping about singing happily when an Ant passed by, (7) bearing with great effort some corn, which she was taking to the nest. 'Why not come and (8) chat with me,' said the Grasshopper, 'instead of working hard like that?'

'I am helping to (9) gather food for the winter,' said the Ant.

'Why bother about winter?' said the Grasshopper; we have got plenty of food at present'. But the Ant went on her way. When the winter came, the Grasshopper had no food and was (10) starving. The ant, on the other hand, was selling corn, which she had collected in the summer. Then the Grasshopper knew: It is best to (11) prepare for the days of necessity.

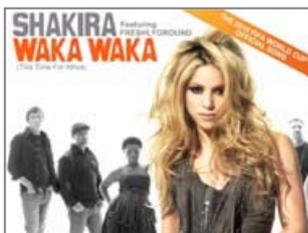


ACTIVITY 3

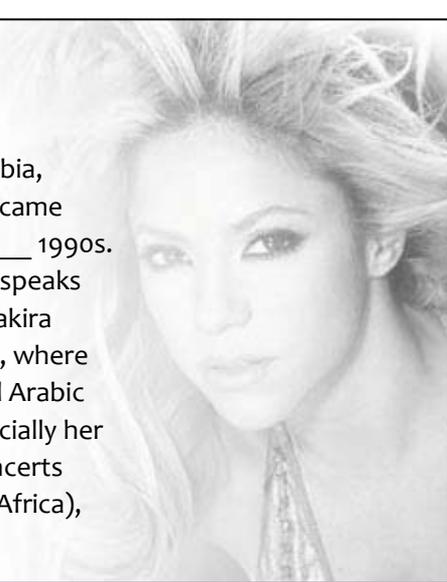
Read the text below and for each gap (12-16) choose the best option (A-F). There is one option you do not need.

A. early	B. rich	C. quickly	D. social	E. catchy	F. fluently
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Shakira



Shakira began her singing career in Colombia, where she was born and (12) _____ became famous in Latin America in the (13) _____ 1990s. Her first language is Spanish, but she also speaks (14) _____ English and Portuguese. Shakira showed her talent as a teenager at school, where she sang rock and roll, as well as Latin and Arabic songs. Shakira is also well-known for her (15) _____ work and especially her work for the poor. She has performed at a large number of charity concerts such as the Live 8. Shakira's (16) _____ 'Waka Waka (This Time for Africa)', was chosen as the official song for the 2010 FIFA World Cup.



ACTIVITY 4

4.1 Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 17-19.

17. This text
 A. states the author's opinion. B. presents the opinions of others. C. gives evidence about life in outer space.
18. A suitable subtitle for the text is:
 A. What most people think. B. New evidence says yes! C. Space travel brings us new facts.
19. Which of these questions were people asked?
 A. Have you seen a UFO? B. Is there life on other planets? C. How did life on earth begin?

DISCOVERmag March 2012

Are We Alone In the Universe?



Most Europeans believe that some form of alien life exists somewhere in the universe, according to a recent survey. A report based on the telephone survey informs us that 60 percent of those asked believe that life exists on other planets. Most people agreed that they would be 'excited' if life was discovered on other planets. They also said that the Earth should reply to any message from another planet. The survey follows a TV documentary, *Life out there*, which has now been seen by millions of viewers worldwide.

'It is quite likely that there is life somewhere in our galaxy, and there's a real possibility that we will find evidence of life on other planets by the year 2025', said Paul Steiner, senior astronomer, who appeared in the programme *Life out there*. Most of the people who believed in life on other planets also said they thought it is likely that aliens are more intelligent than humans.

One argument put forward for the existence of life on other planets is based on the vast size of the Universe. According to this argument, supported by scientists such as Stephen Hawking, it would be improbable for life to exist only on Earth. On the other hand, the belief that some unidentified flying objects (UFOs) are from other planets is not taken seriously by most scientists. Most UFOs have been explained either as aircraft, or as a joke of some kind.



4.2 Read the text again and decide if statements 20-25 are True (A), False (B), or Not Stated (C).

STATEMENTS		A	B	C
		TRUE	FALSE	NOT STATED
20.	The article says there is evidence for life on other planets.			
21.	Most people would like to meet a visitor from another planet.			
22.	The TV documentary was about life on other planets.			
23.	Steiner thinks there may be life on other planets.			
24.	Hawking thinks life on other planets is impossible.			
25.	Scientists are beginning to confirm that flying objects are from outer space.			

ACTIVITY 5

Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 26-35.

Article of the month

15

EUROVISION : Secrets of success!

By Diane Carlston

A British professor of musicology thinks she has discovered the winning formula needed to gain 12 points from the judges and Europe's voters, so as to win the Eurovision song contest.

We know how well the Balkans have always done in Eurovision. The reason? Moustaches. 'If you want votes from Montenegro or Turkey you need a moustache,' joked Petra Short, professor of musicology at the University of Winchester.

Professor Short has researched Eurovision entries from the past 50 years to come up with the qualities a successful entry needs. 'I've been interested to find out why some countries do well and others do terribly. One mistake is to think Eurovision songs are 'national' songs – originally, it was set up to show off national music, but now they are entertainment songs.'

Apart from political voting motivations, the media circus and the stage show each act puts on, Professor Short's research focused on the musical techniques that successful songs seem to employ. She found there were several musical themes that could be used to guarantee success, as for example: an 'enjoy life' theme, a 'leisure time' theme, an 'idealistic' theme with key words, 'I can', 'I will', 'I know...' – most people in foreign countries will know those verbs. These themes are tried and tested. If you go for one of these, you run into fewer problems.

'Love' is another key word, but love-interest songs are a problem. Who in the widely varied audience do you want to please? Those who are in love, those who aren't but would like to be? Who? A broader approach gets more votes.'



Professor Short found that including gestures in songs also helped people remember them. 'It's good to include gestures. They make the song stick'. She also believes the tempo of a song must be upbeat, but not too fast, so as not to put people off when listening to the songs for the first time. Comedy or parody is a favourite, too, and Professor Short said Finland's winning entry in 2006, was a good example, which was satirical and fun.

If the song doesn't have one or more of these features, it is unlikely to do well, according to Professor Short's statistics.

Based on her findings, Professor Short has written her own song, called *I love the whole world*, and it has nearly all the elements she has described. She said her song had a serious moral message that would not offend anyone – a classic Eurovision tactic to win votes. 'But already my colleagues in the music school have started a petition to stop me releasing my song. And I am totally fed up with it, too'.

26. This article is written to be read by
 A. Eurovision singers. B. songwriters. C. the general reader.
27. Another title for this article could be:
 A. How to win Eurovision. B. Why I love Eurovision. C. The History of Eurovision.
28. What does Prof. Short's joke about moustaches suggest?
 A. That the music of the Balkan countries is more masculine. B. That male singers are more successful. C. That people vote for what is most familiar to them.
29. According to Short, successful Eurovision songs are usually
 A. fun. B. interesting. C. traditional.
30. The text says that Eurovision songs are
 A. based on a formula of a sort. B. hard to understand. C. written for young people.
31. Gestures in Eurovision make the performance
 A. understandable. B. memorable. C. entertaining.
32. Finland won Eurovision with
 A. humour. B. romance. C. a good show.
33. Why did Professor Short write a song?
 A. To win Eurovision. B. To illustrate her theory. C. To express her feelings.
34. The song written by Short
 A. has won the hearts of her colleagues. B. has been a great success in the music world. C. has caused even her to be tired of it.
35. The overall tone of this text is
 A. serious. B. entertaining. C. scientific.

ACTIVITY 6

Read items 36-41 below and decide in which location (A-H) these notices would probably be seen. There are two options you do not need.

A.	airport	B.	post office	C.	department store	D.	art gallery
E.	school	F.	facial cream box	G.	hospital	H.	supermarket

36.	'Landscape near Dorset'. Oil on canvas.	
37.	Requests for refunds on all goods will only be accepted on presentation of a valid receipt.	
38.	Parcels normally delivered within 3-5 working days, including Saturday.	
39.	Visiting hours are from 12 noon to 8 p.m. Spouses, relatives and friends may visit from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.	
40.	In addition to liquids, gels, and aerosols, numerous other potentially dangerous items are not permitted in carry-on baggage.	
41.	In age-defying skincare, advances are common but revolutions are rare: stem cells have opened up a new era in the world of beauty care.	

ACTIVITY 7

7.1 Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 42-43.

42. The article below is probably based on
 A. an autobiography. B. a film review. C. an interview.
43. The author's attitude towards Bardem is
 A. positive. B. critical. C. humorous.

Javier Bardem

Javier Bardem was born in Las Palmas on Gran Canaria and has two older siblings, Carlo and Monica, who are also actors. His parents got divorced when Bardem was still a baby; he was raised by his mother. Bardem's family has always been deeply involved in acting, starting with one of his ancestors, Mercedes Sampedro, who was a renowned stage-player back in the late 19th century.



Bardem is the first Spanish actor to win an Oscar; he won his Oscar for his portrayal of a psychopathic killer in the Coen brothers' *No Country for Old Men*. Bardem reacted to his success with moderation – 'I was lucky', he told me, which sounds like the usual response from anyone who's been successful in Hollywood, but in his case it is sincere.

During the whole time I was talking with him, he came across as a shy, withdrawn kind of person who does not often speak to journalists.

He first caught the public eye at the age of 20 in Spain when he starred in

Jamon Jamon and though at first he enjoyed the status and attention he decided in the end that all the fuss was not a good thing. He says 'publicity is good for promoting a new film, but that's all'.



Not even the Oscar managed to change this low key approach in him. He claims that at first he found the whole thing 'weird, surreal'; then he put the statuette on a shelf and got used to it and came back to reality – it didn't make him think he was a better actor, nor did it make him a better man.

His first Academy nomination came with *Before Night Falls* in 2000, in which he played the Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas. When Al Pacino saw the film, he called up the director Julian Schnabel to get Bardem's number. In the middle of the night, he left a message on Bardem's answer phone in Madrid, saying that he wanted to tell him straightaway how much he loved the movie. Bardem, who joked 'I don't believe in God; I believe in Al Pacino', was astonished but above all, he told me, it really opened the door for him for even greater things.

7.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 44-46.

44. Bardem can be described as
 A. modest. B. romantic. C. eccentric.
45. What is Bardem's reaction to the Oscar he received?
 A. He felt more confident. B. He knew he'd have good publicity. C. He forgot all about it.
46. How did Bardem react to the phone call from Al Pacino? He
 A. thought it was a joke. B. was very surprised. C. didn't answer immediately.

7.3 What do the phrases in italics mean? Choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 47-50.

47. Bardem’s family has always been *deeply involved in* acting.
 A. very successful B. done a lot of C. very famous
48. He first *caught the public eye* at the age of 20.
 A. became successful B. became known C. started working
49. He *came across* as a shy, withdrawn kind of person.
 A. gave the impression B. gradually became C. pretended to be
50. He decided in the end that *all the fuss* was not a good thing.
 A. the success B. the media attention C. the promotion

ACTIVITY 8

Use the correct form of the words in parentheses to complete the items 51-55, as in the example.

<p>Stress Management</p> <p>A good way of dealing with stress is to practise Positive Thinking.</p> 	Here are some tips.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think back to moments in your life when you did things (EX) <u>well</u> (good). • Focus on your (51)_____ (success) moments. • Avoid negative thoughts, where you see yourself as a (52)_____ (fail). • Remember: most problems have a (53)_____ (solve) –so don’t just sit there worrying. Do something about it. • If you can’t do anything about a difficult situation, accept it calmly – don’t get (54)_____ (stress) out about it. <p>For example, if you are involved in an accident, be grateful that you have escaped with only minor (55)_____ (injure). You could have been seriously hurt, or worse!</p>	

ACTIVITY 9

Think of ONE word that can go with BOTH sentences (56-60) in each set. The first letter of the word is given.

56. a) For me, reading a book **b** _ _ _ _ surfing the net anyday.
 b) My wife always **b** _ _ _ _ me at backgammon. She’s a very good player.
57. a) They’ve known each other for a **g** _ _ _ many years
 b) It’s a **g** _ _ _ thing you called – I was beginning to get worried.
58. a) She **d** _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ a speech lasting 60 minutes
 b) They **d** _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ the pizzas to our house but they were cold.
59. a) I’ll do anything in my **p** _ _ _ _ to help you, but you have to help yourself, too!
 b) Our aim is to give people more **p** _ _ _ _ over their lives.
60. a) The film sends a clear **m** _ _ _ _ _ _ about the causes of poverty
 b) She’s out right now – can I take a **m** _ _ _ _ _ _ ?

ΣΑΣ ΥΠΕΝΘΥΜΙΖΟΥΜΕ ΟΤΙ ΠΡΕΠΕΙ ΝΑ ΜΕΤΑΦΕΡΕΤΕ ΟΛΕΣ ΤΙΣ ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΕΙΣ ΣΤΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1 ΤΕΛΟΣ ΜΗΝΥΜΑΤΟΣ