

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ, ΔΙΑ ΒΙΟΥ ΜΑΘΗΣΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ
ΚΡΑΤΙΚΟ ΠΙΣΤΟΠΟΙΗΤΙΚΟ ΓΛΩΣΣΟΜΑΘΕΙΑΣ

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

LEVEL

C1

on the scale set by the Council of Europe

MODULE

1

Reading comprehension and language awareness

Period

May 2011

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 **80 minutes** to complete this exam.

ACTIVITY 1

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

WORLD CULTURE

Lost Languages

Laura Fountain finds that half of the world's languages are in danger of disappearing forever.

Languages are not just tools with which we communicate; they also reflect our view of the world and our values. It is well-known that the Inuit (or Eskimo) languages have many words for snow, whereas English has just one. Living closer to nature and in a snowy climate, you could reason that an Inuit would distinguish between various types of snow and develop words that communicate this. In creating these words, the culture is signifying snow's importance in it.



This idea is the argument at the heart of language preservation; when languages disappear, so does an important way of understanding the culture and heritage of a particular people.

Vanishing voices

Languages all over the world are threatened with extinction and, as they disappear, so too does an insight into the values and views of a particular culture.

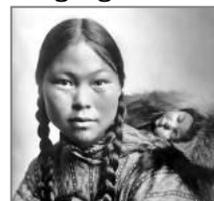
Although 6,000 languages are still in use, experts estimate that more than 50% of these are endangered, with one disappearing every two weeks. As English, Mandarin, Spanish and French exert their global dominance, 96% of the world's languages are now spoken by just 4% of the world's population. In Nepal, for example, efforts are underway to prolong the life of Soma Devi Dura, who is the last surviving speaker of the Dura language.

Should this 82-year old woman die before linguists have recorded the knowledge she holds, it will mean the end of hundreds of years of songs and folklore that have been handed down through the generations. In Nepal alone there are more than 100 tongues, many with fewer than 100 speakers each.

This situation is by no means unique: linguists in Alaska know only too well Nepal's predicament. Experts at the Alaska Native Language Center worked with Marie Smith Jones, the last native speaker of the Eyak language, until her death earlier this year. Jones believed in preserving her language and wanted a written record kept for future generations. When she died, it caused the first of Alaska's native languages to become extinct.

Languages become endangered when users cease to pass them on. This can be a result of external forces such as military, economic or cultural subjugation, or internal forces such as a community's attitude towards its own language. Jones did not pass Eyak on to her children as it was considered 'wrong' to speak anything but English when they were growing up.

Concern about endangered languages is not confined to small communities however...



1.1 Read the text and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 1-4.

1. The purpose of the text is
 - A. to advise on the best way to learn a foreign language.
 - B. to describe the advantages of learning foreign languages.
 - C. to warn of the dangers faced by many languages today.
2. Another possible title for the text would be
 - A. Saving languages.
 - B. The threat to English.
 - C. Global languages.
3. The text suggests that language death is
 - A. a rare phenomenon.
 - B. an urgent problem.
 - C. an irreversible situation.
4. The last part of the text, which has been cut off, is likely to contain information about
 - A. disappearing languages in small villages.
 - B. special features of the Inuit languages.
 - C. language loss as a global problem.

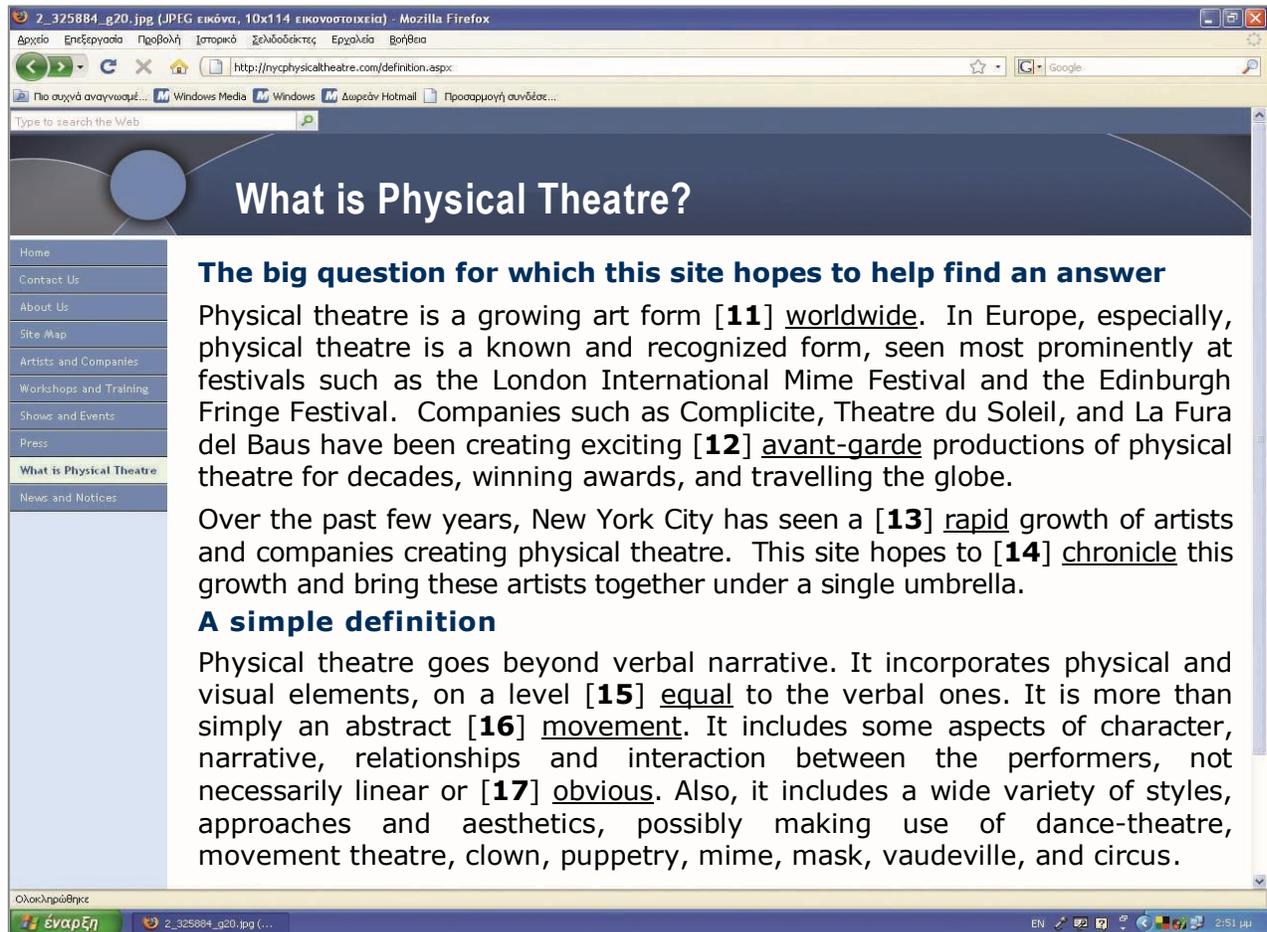
1.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 5-10.

5. English has fewer words for snow than the Inuit languages because
 - A. snow plays a very important role in Inuit culture.
 - B. there is less snowfall than there used to be.
 - C. English words for snow have disappeared.
6. What are we told about Soma Devi Dura? She is
 - A. a singer of traditional songs.
 - B. the oldest person in Nepal.
 - C. the only speaker of a language.
7. What is the language situation in Nepal?
 - A. A lot of languages are spoken by a few people.
 - B. It has more languages than other countries.
 - C. There is only one language still in use.
8. What is the status of the Eyak language today?
 - A. A few language experts still speak it.
 - B. There is just one speaker left.
 - C. There are no speakers of the language.
9. Jones was in co-operation with language experts to
 - A. help them keep a record of her language for next generations.
 - B. contribute to the development of a research project.
 - C. protect Alaska's native languages from extinction.
10. Why didn't Jones' children learn their native language?
 - A. She did not encourage them to speak it.
 - B. The community did not let them speak it.
 - C. Because their first language was English.

ACTIVITY 2

Read the text below and match the meaning of each underlined word (11-17) with options A-H. There is one option you do not need.

A. equivalent	B. innovative	C. trend	D. record
E. globally	F. productive	G. quick	H. readily apparent



ACTIVITY 3

Read texts 18-24 and decide what type of text each one is (options A-H). Use each option only once. There is one option you do not need.

A. Advertisement	B. Bank leaflet extract	C. Encyclopedia entry
D. Newspaper report extract	E. Do-it-yourself instructions	F. Book review
G. Anecdote	H. Film review	

18.	A page-turner in the classic style, the only fault being that the characters are slightly overdrawn.	
19.	He discovered a great cure for amnesia but has forgotten what it was.	
20.	Easy and safe cycling in the dark. Never run out of batteries! The Swallow is a complete lighting system with front and backlight.	
21.	Start by removing all wax, grease or oil with a good, environmentally safe chemical or cleaner. Remember that adhesives will not adhere where oil or grease is a part of the base.	

22.	Not all of our accounts pay interest on credit balances. If your account is eligible for interest, we will pay on the daily cleared balance. Interest on eligible accounts will be calculated and paid in the manner and the rates set...	
23.	A prose narrative of the type which used to be written in Iceland between 1120 and 1400, dealing with the families that first settled Iceland and with the myths and legends of early Germanic gods and heroes.	
24.	SONY is axing 16,000 staff worldwide in one of the biggest rounds of job cuts since the credit crisis erupted. The Japanese electronics giant said it had no choice given the "acute slowdown".	

ACTIVITY 4

4.1 Fill in gaps 25-31 with the best option (A-H). Use each option only once. There is one option you do not need.

A.	located	B.	drowned	C.	set	D.	rebelled
E.	sacrificed	F.	divided	G.	swore	H.	bought

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://hubpages.com/hub/The-Lost-Atlantis>. The page title is "The Lost Atlantis" and it is categorized under "History and Archaeology". The main heading is "Atlantis".

It was 2,350 years ago that the Greek philosopher Plato introduced the world to Atlantis, an island empire founded by the sea-god Poseidon and [25]_____ on a landmass the size of Libya and Asia put together. Atlantis was said to have a cosmopolitan metropolis, with palaces, royal courts, harbour works and waterways that constantly received sea-going vessels from afar.

The whole island, including the other islands over which Atlantis held dominion, was [26]_____ into ten parts, each ruled by its own king. The first king, Atlas, was given control over the city and all the surrounding lands. Each fifth and sixth year the ten kings passed laws and [27] _____ on oath during ceremonies in which a bull was [28]_____. For many generations, Atlantis ruled the Atlantic Ocean. Yet soon the empire [29]_____ its sights on controlling the lands inside the Mediterranean basin. It was then that the fair race of Athens [30] _____ against the Atlantean aggressor and in a decisive naval battle defeated its enemy. Afterwards, the god Zeus provoked earthquakes and floods that [31]_____ the Athenian navy and submerged the island of Atlantis in one `terrible day and night'. The date of this catastrophe is given as approximately 857 BC in Plato's dialogue *the Timaeus*.

4.2 Read the text about Atlantis again, and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 32-33.

32. The text could also have appeared in
- A. an encyclopaedia.
 - B. a popular magazine.
 - C. a scientific book.
33. For many years, the empire of Atlantis had
- A. ruled the Mediterranean basin.
 - B. been in war with the Athenians.
 - C. controlled the nearby areas.

ACTIVITY 5

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

Life & Style

Staying put

We can't sell our houses, so we're all staying put. Blake Morrison says we should celebrate our new-found stability, which has been brought on by the recession.

'You'll want to sell up, then', a friend said last autumn, as my youngest son began his gap year. At the time it seemed to make sense: home was bound to feel empty with two kids at university and the third employed and living elsewhere. We could downsize, put money in the bank, or buy a flat in Spain. The possibilities were endless. But then the property market went into reverse. The economy suddenly collapsed. The pound dwindled to the value of the euro and it became clear that we would probably have to stay put anyway.

Another reason I would not sell the house is that I hate moving because it can be very stressful. The basement has been my only workplace for 15 years although it is cold and damp, I've grown used to it. During the 90's, it was not common to relocate. My parents, for example, bought a house when they were in their late 30's and stayed there until they retired- they then moved to a house nearby. They believed that once you found a place you like, you put down roots. You move in, make it yours, and then relax. In 25 years they decorated the place just once.

My generation is slightly more ambitious, knocking down walls, opening blocked-up,



fireplaces and repairing the attic. But we tended to work within the limits of what was there. The more recent trend has been to treat the house as a shell: one can excavate, extend, expand, and then, after a year or two sell it and move on to the next place which will be bigger.

The same holds for the interior and the furniture. My parents never changed their furniture and, having inherited half of it from them, I'm the same: if I ever move, I will take it with me.

Hence, in a market where no one's buying or selling, the challenge is to establish a permanent home rather than being on the move. For the tens of thousands unable to pay their mortgages, losing their homes is a fearful prospect. For some of the lucky ones, who are able to keep their property, it is an opportunity to reconnect with their home environment and appreciate the value and importance of their home.

5.1 Read the text and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 34-35.

34. This text would probably interest
- young couples thinking of buying a house.
 - those who have a big family.
 - those thinking of changing residence.
35. Another possible title for this text might be
- Making ends meet.
 - Home Sweet Home.
 - Good fences, good neighbours.

5.2 Read the text again and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 36-42.

- 36. Why did the writer consider selling his house?
 - A. It was too expensive.
 - B. He wanted to move.
 - C. It was too large.
- 37. The writer decided to stay in the same house because
 - A. it was near his office.
 - B. he felt settled there.
 - C. there was no alternative.
- 38. In the 1990s, moving house was considered
 - A. a good thing to do.
 - B. a problem.
 - C. an odd thing to do.
- 39. What has been common practice in recent years?
 - A. To keep the same design.
 - B. To change an old house for a modern one.
 - C. To make major changes to houses.
- 40. The writer thinks that people are selling because
 - A. they want to move to bigger houses.
 - B. they get very easily bored.
 - C. they have a lot of money.
- 41. What advice does the writer give the reader?
 - A. To make the most of the home we do have.
 - B. To make no changes to our home.
 - C. To make sure we can afford the house we live in.
- 42. In conclusion, the writer believes people should
 - A. sell.
 - B. be thankful.
 - C. buy.

5.3 Now read the text again and decide if statements 43-50 are True (A) False (B) or Not Stated (C).

STATEMENTS		A	B	C
		TRUE	FALSE	NOT STATED
43.	The writer lives in a small house.			
44.	The writer considers moving to cut down on expenses.			
45.	The pound has gained in value.			
46.	The writer was happy living with his parents.			
47.	The writer's furniture is very old.			
48.	The author is not keen on modern fashions in house design.			
49.	The writer is on friendly terms with his neighbours.			
50.	A lot of people risk losing their homes.			

5.4 Fill in gaps 51-55 with words that have approximately the same meaning as those underlined in Column A, as in the example.

COLUMN A		COLUMN B
0.	The basement <u>has been my only workplace</u> for 15 years.	The basement is the only place I <u>have worked</u> for 15 years.
51.	I've grown <u>used to</u> its cold and damp.	Its cold and damp don't _____ anymore.
52.	We <u>tended to</u> work within the limits of what was there.	There _____ to work within the limits of what was there.
53.	The <u>recent trend</u> has been to treat the house as a shell.	It has recently _____ popular to treat the house as a shell.
54.	Older generations <u>felt that the house they lived in would be their permanent home.</u>	Older generations had a sense _____ where their homes where concerned.
55.	<u>The fashion is for</u> a handful of tasteful objects.	It has _____ to have a handful of tasteful objects.

ACTIVITY 6

Put the jumbled words in Column B in the correct order, in order to complete gaps 56-60 in Column A, as in the example.

COLUMN A		COLUMN B
0.	From an Encyclopedia The Da Vinci Code, by US author Dan Brown, combines the popular <u>literary genre of detective fiction</u> with the thriller and conspiracy theories.	genre - of - literary - detective - fiction
56.	From a Newspaper article John Mitchell, a postgraduate student at the University of Michigan, is looking for a book that will instruct him in Lakota, an American Indian language _____.	of - extinction - the - verge - on
57.	Joke Why are traffic police strong? Because _____.	traffic - hold - they - up - the
58.	From a horoscope CAPRICORN: The number of individuals you trust can be counted on _____.	hand - the - one - fingers - of
59.	From a TV Documentary preview <i>Chimps unchained</i> This programme _____ the complicated and at times disturbing relationship between chimpanzees and human.	a - takes - look - close - at
60.	From a Magazine article <i>Sudoku</i> What, you might reasonably ask, is Sudoku? The name _____ that it originated in Japan. Well, it didn't.	believe - might - one - to - lead

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