

**FACOLTA' DI SCIENZE POLITICHE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXAMINATION
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL (NON FREQUENTANTI)**

Question 1

Complete the sentences, putting the verbs in brackets into the correct form:

1. Lucy usually _____ (wear) jeans, but today she _____ (wear) a skirt.
2. Who _____ (invent) the wheel? I _____ (not know).
3. What _____ (you/do) last summer? I _____ (go) to Greece.
4. Agatha Christie _____ (write) some excellent detective stories before she _____ (die)
5. Dawn _____ (be) interested in medicine ever since she _____ (be) a child.
6. I really like Graham's new car. How long _____ (he/have) it?
7. Andy _____ (come) out of the cinema yesterday when he _____ (see) Jane.
8. What _____ when you graduate ?I _____ yet.
9. We can't go out until it _____ (stop) raining:
10. Alex _____ (read) *The Lord of the Rings*, before she _____ (see) the films.
(18 marks)

Question 2

Rewrite the following sentences in the PASSIVE form:

1. All visitors must wear identity badges.

2. John kept Mary waiting for half an hour.

3. George shouldn't have opened that letter.

4. Where will the company send Henry next year?

(8 marks)

Question 3

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form, using the appropriate CONDITIONAL:

1. Water _____ (become) ice, if the temperature _____ (fall) below zero.
2. If Helen _____ (graduate) in June, she _____ (start) work in September.
3. What _____ (you do), if you _____ (be) the Minister of Education?
4. If I _____ (miss) the bus this afternoon, I _____ (take) a taxi.
5. Julie _____ (pass) the law exam last week, if she _____ (study) more.

(10 marks)

Question 4

Complete the following sentences according to the instructions.

1. You _____ remember to lock the front door when you go out. (obligation)
2. There is a really good exhibition at National Gallery ! You _____ see it. (suggestion)
3. You _____ go to meeting if you don't want to. (no obligation)
4. Julia _____ take her car to garage yesterday. (obligation)

(4 marks)

WORDS THE WORLD CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT
Spoken Here: Travels Among Threatened Languages
by Mark Abley
Heinemann pp322 £14.99 (£12.99)
Reviewed by Samantha Ellis

We are losing our languages. Today about 6,000 are spoken. By the end of the century half those will be gone. That is one every two weeks. In his forceful and humane book, Mark Abley listens to some of the world's endangered languages, wondering what it means 'to feel the language of [one's] childhood melting away'.

He meets Patrick Nudjulu, the lonely speaker of Mati Ke, an Aboriginal language that may never have had more than 1,000 speakers - all it needed to survive - but is now almost extinct. Nudjulu's sister speaks it too, but not to him; tribal taboos forbid them to communicate after puberty. Of many such elegiac moments in *Spoken Here*, perhaps most poignant is the story of a parrot speaking a language that had died out among humans and that its keepers could not comprehend.

Meanwhile, English gets more robust. Some are willing to do anything to acquire it. Abley reports, appalled, that wealthy South Koreans take their toddlers to plastic surgeons for frenectomies, tongue-lengthening operations intended to help them pronounce English. Maybe it's a waste of time to learn languages that travel badly. Why preserve them past their sell-by dates?

Abley finds many reasons to keep languages. Who would want to lose Mi'kmaq, which with its complex verb phrases and scant nouns posits a reality not fixed but in perpetual oscillation? Abley also relishes Hixkaryana, a Brazilian language that puts the object first and the subject last; in a sentence *toto yahosIye kamara* (man grabbed jaguar') does not describe crazy heroism; it should translate to 'jaguar grabbed man'. They think we talk backwards.

Encountering the south-east Asian language Boro, with words meaning 'to love for the last time' (*onsra*) and 'to pretend to love' (*onsay*), Abley falls head over heels: 'Having met those words... how can I do without them? I covet them... They are more than just fresh sounds on the tongue; they are fresh thoughts in the mind.' Other Boro words yield still more pleasure: 'How could anyone resist a language whose expression for "slightly humpbacked" is *gobdobdob*?'.

It is about more than fun with dictionaries, though; language is political. Aborigines planning land-claim have a stronger case if they can prove their connection to the land, often by linguistic associations; knowing the name of a waterhole can be crucial. Native American languages have

been lost because children were punished for speaking them at school.

One that clings to life is Yuchi - an isolate, a language that bears no relation to any other living tongue - spoken mainly now by elders at meals hosted by an anthropologist. They speak for their supper and he records a language on the brink. 'When the language goes,' one elder tells Abley, 'the government will be able to say there's no such tribe as the Yuchi.'

In Britain, Margaret Thatcher wooed the Welsh by promising a TV channel dedicated to their language. Once in power she reneged, but caved in after president of Plaid Cymru, the Welsh nationalist party, threatened a hunger strike. Perhaps you have to be a fanatic to keep a language alive. Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, the uncompromising inventor of modern Hebrew, refused to speak to his wife in any other language, despite the fact that she could not understand it. He made sure the family pets were of different sexes so that their children would grasp the rules of Hebrew gender. He coined new words to modernise the ancient language and to fit it for secular use.

Now it is Yiddish that is at risk; one of Abley's more quixotic interviewees is a rabbi who thinks that if it had been chosen as Israel's national language, the country might be a softer, gentler place. For poet Chava Rosenfarb, writing in Yiddish is an act of 'fidelity to a vanished language, as if to prove that Nazism did not succeed in extinguishing that language's last breath'.

One reason the Zionists chose Hebrew was that it was common to all Jews, not exclusive of Jews who spoke their own diaspora languages such as Ladino, Judeo-Persian and Judeo-Arabic. All are now dying. Abley believes that linguistic diversity should be taken as seriously as biodiversity. He argues fervently, and convincingly, that the battle to save languages may even 'be part of a wider war, perhaps the central one of our time: the fight to sustain diversity on a planet where globalising, assimilating and eradicating occur on a massive scale.'

The Observer
Sunday 8 February 2004

Question 5

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

Read the book review on page 2 taken from *The Observer* and then answer the questions below.

Indicate your answer by putting a circle around the appropriate letter, for example a), b), c)

1. The book review was written by _____.
a) Mark Abley b) Samantha Ellis c) Patrick Nudjulu
2. In 2100 there will be _____ languages spoken in the world.
a) 3,000 b) 6,000 c) 9,000
3. Mati Ke is _____ extinct.
a) already b) nearly c) now
4. Some South Korean families spend money to make their children's tongues _____.
a) shorter b) wider c) longer
5. Some native American languages have been lost because children _____ speak them at school.
a) could b) could not c) used to
6. Eliezir Ben-Yhuda invented modern _____.
a) Welsh b) Hebrew c) Yiddish
7. Mark Abley thinks the battle to save the world's endangered languages is _____.
a) important b) unimportant c) not important

(14 marks)

Question 6

TRUE or FALSE

Read the article again and say whether the following statements are true or false.

Indicate your answer with an **x** in the appropriate column:

1. Patrick Nudjulu speaks Mati ke
2. Patrick Nudjulu is not allowed to speak Mati Ke to his sister.
3. More people speak English as their native language than English as foreign language.
4. Hixkaryana uses the same grammatical structure as English.
5. Knowing their ancestral language can help Aborigines win land-claims.
6. Margaret Thatcher was responsible for the setting up of a Welsh language TV channel.
7. Eliezer Ben-Yhuda's wife understood modern yidiish perfectly.
8. More people speak Yiddish today than Hebrew.

(16 marks)

	TRUE	FALSE
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

Question 7

Transform the following sentences into INDIRECT SPEECH:

1. "I'm going to work in Greece next year"

Julie said _____

2. "Don't drive so fast"

Sarah told David _____

3. "Have you seen my car Keys?"

Mike asked Jennifer _____

4. "Your car keys are on the kitchen table"

Jennifer replied _____

5. "Are you a lawyer?"

Francis asked Jean _____

(10 marks)

Question 8

Write questions for these answers:

1. _____ ?

Gordon is a doctor.

2. _____ ?

Gordon works for the World Health Organisation.

3. _____ ?

Gordon studied medicine at the University of Chicago

4. _____ ?

Gordon has never been to the Philippines.

5. _____ ?

Gordon will be posted to Manila next year.

(10 marks)

Question 9

Read the following passage and fill in the blanks with ONE word so as to give the passage a logical sequence:

The Europeans discover Canada

The _____ Europeans to set foot in Canada were Viking adventurers, _____

established short-lived settlements in what is now Newfoundland _____ about 1000 AD.

Archaeologists _____ found the remains of Viking settlements. However, Italian explorer

Giovanni Caboto, sailing under the English flag, is _____ considered to be the first _____

_____ to sight Canada. In the summer _____ 1497 he landed and

claimed the "new-found-land" for England. His discovery led to the opening of _____

North Atlantic Grand Banks, one of the world's _____ fertile fishing grounds, which

attracted fishing fleets from many European _____

(10 marks)