



COGNOME:

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Instructions

In this written test each passage and its associated questions is worth a total of 11 points.

You must choose **three** of the **four** texts (free choice), giving you a maximum total score of 33 points (30L).

- Try to answer all the questions for your chosen texts.
- If you decide to abandon a text, ~~cross out~~ any answers you provided.

SCIENTISTS ARE STILL MYSTIFIED BY THE 'EYE OF THE SAHARA'

The Eye of the Sahara [1], which is more formally known as the Richat structure, is located in the western Sahara Desert in Mauritania. On the ground, it's about 25 miles across.

For several decades [2a,b], scientists believed that the Eye of the Sahara was an impact crater, created by a space rock crashing into our planet. Current theories, advanced by two Canadian geologists, suggest a much more complicated explanation surrounding the origins of **this incredible natural formation** [3a,b].

They think the Eye's formation began more than 100 million years ago, when the super-continent Pangea was being ripped apart to create what are now Africa and South America. Molten rock pushed up towards the surface but failed to find an outlet, creating instead a dome of rock layers, like a very large pimple. At a later stage, the Eye erupted violently, causing the dome to fall in on itself. The paler circle near **the center of the Eye** [4a,b] is volcanic rock created during that explosion. Erosion did the rest of the work to create the Eye we know today: the rings are made of different types of rock that erode at different speeds.

Modern astronauts are fond of the Eye because so **much** [5a,b] of the Sahara Desert is an unbroken sea of sand. The Eye is one of the few breaks in the monotony, and it has become a key landmark for them.

<http://www.techinsider.io/the-eye-of-the-sahara-is-still-a-mystery-2016-7>, 13 July 2016

Points

- | | | |
|-----|--|------------|
| 1 | The Eye of the Sahara is the <i>synonym</i> of which word(s) in the text? | 1 |
| 2 a | Does for several decades refer to both <i>believed</i> and <i>was</i> , or to just one of these two verbs? | 1 |
| b | Explain your answer, making reference to the types of time clause found with actions and states. | 2 |
| 3 a | Which word acts as the <i>head noun</i> in this noun phrase? | 1 |
| b | Explain the function (<i>grounding, characterising, categorizing</i>) of each of the two adjectives. | 2 |
| 4 a | Of the four types of meaning that can be expressed by <i>of + noun</i> , which is being used in the center of the Eye ? | 1 |
| | a) part/whole | |
| | b) relational term | |
| | c) reified thing | |
| | d) identifying relation | |
| b | Justify your decision. | 1 |
| 5 a | In this context, is much a scalar or a set quantifier? | 1 |
| b | What is being referred to, and what features tell you whether it is a <i>scale</i> or <i>set</i> ? | 1 |
| | Total score | /11 |

US POLICE ARE USING POKÉMON GO TO LURE CRIMINALS TO THEIR STATIONS

A police station in Virginia is using its Facebook page to invite “random citizens” to try and catch a super-rare Pokémon in their **processing room** [1a,b].

[Smithfield Police Department](#)

20 July at 15:24 ·

Pokemon Go

The rarest Pokemon of all - Ditto - has been spotted in the Smithfield Police Department processing room!

Since it is so rare we can only allow a limited number of people in the building to capture it. So we put our mainframe computer to work and came up with a list of **random citizens** [2a] eligible for this rare opportunity.

If your name is on the list below, you are one of the **lucky folks** [2b] invited to come to the Police Department for the capture!

The list will be updated periodically, as long as Ditto hangs around!

It's worth noting no one has actually **caught** [3a,b] Ditto in the game yet, but that's not what the police are hoping gets caught – their “random citizens” all have outstanding warrants .

The administrator of Smithfield Police Department's page, Sgt. Bryan Miller, told *The Virginian Pilot* he decided to make a list of eight people **with outstanding warrants** [4a,b] a little more exciting. “I have a sense of humour,” he said. “I had no idea it was going to be this big.” He added he wasn't really expecting anyone to turn up.

While it's unlikely any of the “lucky” few named in the post **will actually come forward** [5], police have actually already caught one criminal thanks to Pokémon Go. **A man in Detroit** [6] cycled to his local police station, which was also a gym in the game, to play. Unfortunately for him, police officers recognised him as someone with an arrest warrant.

The Guardian, 29 July 2016

Points

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 1 a | Is processing room a <i>compound noun</i> or an <i>adjective + noun</i> combination? | 1 |
| b | Explain how the present participle affects (=contributes to) the meaning of the expression | 1 |
| 2 | What combination of <i>individivative/generic</i> and <i>definite/indefinite</i> reference is being used in | 2 |
| a-b | random citizens and lucky folks ? (they are different!) | |
| 3 a | In this context, caught is... | 1 |
| | a) an accomplishing activity | |
| | b) an achievement | |
| | c) an iterative activity | |
| | d) an indefinitely lasting state | |
| b | Justify your answer. | 1 |
| 4 a | Is the qualification in with outstanding warrants is a <i>property</i> , a <i>relation</i> , or a <i>situation</i> ? | 1 |
| b | Describe the features of this kind of qualification. | 1 |
| 5 | What type of future meaning is expressed in will actually come forward ? | 1 |
| 6 | What differences in meaning can you identify between A man in Detroit – the expression used in the text – and the possible alternative, A Detroit man ? | 2 |

Total score /11

16 Godric's Hollow

[1] They **had already spotted** Christmas trees twinkling from several sitting-room windows before there came an evening when Harry **resolved to suggest**, again, what seemed to him the only unexplored avenue left to them. They **had just eaten** an unusually good meal: Hermione **had been to a supermarket** under the Invisibility Cloak (scrupulously dropping the money into an open till as she left), and Harry thought she might be more persuadable than usual on a stomach full of spaghetti Bolognese and tinned pears. He **had also had the foresight** to suggest that they take a few hours' break from wearing the Horcrux, **which was hanging** over the end of the bunk beside him.

"Hermione?"

"Hm?" She was curled up in one of the sagging armchairs with *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* [2]. He could not imagine how much more she could get out of the book, which was **not, after all, very long** [3], but evidently she was still **deciphering** [4a] something in it, because *Spellman's Syllabary* **lay** [4b] open on the arm of the chair.

Harry cleared his throat. (...)

"Hermione, I've been thinking, and –"

"Harry, **could you help me** [5] with something?"

Apparently she had not been listening to him. She leaned forward and held out *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*.

"Look at that symbol," she said, pointing to the top of a page. Above what Harry assumed was the title of the story (being unable to read runes, he could not be sure), there was a picture of **what looked like a triangular eye** [6a, b], its pupil crossed with a vertical line.

JK Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, p258-9

Points

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------|
| 1 | Re-arrange the narrated events (paragraph 1) into their <i>chronological</i> sequence. | 3 |
| | _____ had already spotted | |
| | _____ resolved | |
| | _____ had just eaten | |
| | _____ had been | |
| | _____ had also had | |
| | _____ was hanging | |
| 2 a | Of the four types of intrinsic relation that can be expressed by <i>of + noun</i> , which is being used in <i>The Tales of Beedle the Bard</i> ? | 1 |
| | a) identifying relation | |
| | b) part/whole | |
| | c) reification | |
| | d) relational term | |
| b | Explain why you believe it is this category | 1 |
| 3 | What <i>implicit norm</i> does long in not...very long refer to? | 1 |
| 4 a | In this context, what type of <i>event</i> or <i>activity</i> is deciphering ? | 1 |
| b | In this context, what type of <i>state</i> is lay ? | 1 |
| 5 | What kind of <i>modality</i> is indicated in the phrase could you help me ? | 1 |
| 6 a | Are we dealing with <i>evidentiality</i> or <i>epistemicity</i> in the expression what looked like ... ? | 1 |
| b | Explain your answer. | 1 |

Total score /11

THE GLOBAL PHILOSOPHER: SHOULD BORDERS BE ABOLISHED?

There are tens of millions of people in the world who have fled their homeland because of war or persecution. Countries have the right to restrict **immigration** [1a,b], at least in theory. The question is whether they should have this right.

Two sorts of justifications are usually given for restricting immigration - the first to do with wealth, the second with identity.

Immigration, it's often said, would adversely affect the lives of existing citizens. Foreigners **might take jobs that would otherwise have gone to locals** [2a,b], or they might drive down wages, or put pressure on public services, such as health and education.

The second rationale for border controls is cohesion. It is often claimed that countries function best when citizens have a powerful sense of identity - an identity **shaped** [3a, b] by a shared history, religion, culture. Foreigners threaten that solidarity, and so undermine the fabric of society. Since some immigrants are more likely to threaten our sense of unity than others, we risk rejecting **those immigrants** [4] who least resemble us - racially, religiously or culturally.

Most people believe that it is wrong to prevent citizens from leaving their country – it is regarded as **an infringement** [5] of human rights to seal borders. But if it is wrong to prevent a person leaving, why is it not equally wrong to prevent that same person from arriving? It's all very well to have the right to emigrate, but it is an **empty** [6] freedom if there is nowhere to go.

bbc.co.uk, March 2016

Points

- | | | |
|------------|---|----------|
| 1 a | Is immigration an <i>indefinite singular noun</i> or a <i>mass noun</i> ? | 1 |
| b | Explain your answer with reference to the concepts of <i>boundedness</i> , <i>internal homogeneity</i> , and <i>countability</i> . | 1 |
| 2 a | What kind of modality is expressed in the phrase Foreigners might take jobs that would otherwise have gone to locals ? | 1 |
| b | Does it refer to <i>reality space</i> , <i>counterfactual space</i> , or <i>potentiality space</i> ? | 1 |
| 3 a | Is the past participle shaped functioning here as an <i>adjective</i> or a <i>reduced relative clause</i> ? | 1 |
| b | What features in the sentence structure confirm this? | 1 |
| 4 | What combination of <i>individuative/generic</i> and <i>definite/indefinite</i> reference is being used in those immigrants ? | 1 |
| 5 | Infringement is a good example of a <i>reification</i> , i.e. a noun (thing) derived from a verb (relation). What kind of information would be present in <u>the syntax of the verb (to infringe)</u> , but is missing here? | 2 |
| 6 a | In this context, is empty a <i>metaphor</i> , a <i>quantifier</i> , or a <i>referring expression</i> ? | 1 |
| b | Explain your answer. | 1 |

Total score /11