LM37 (I anno) **Reading Comprehension (45 mins) and Use of English** (45 mins). *No consultation of dictionaries permitted.*

What do you think when you look at me? A woman of faith? An expert? Maybe even a sister. Or oppressed, brainwashed, a terrorist. Or just an airport security line delay. That one's actually true.

If some of your perceptions were negative, I don't really blame you. That's just how the media has been portraying people who look like me. One study found that 80 percent of news coverage about Islam and Muslims is negative. And studies show that Americans say that most don't know a Muslim.

Well, for those of you who have never met a Muslim, it's great to meet you. Let me tell you who I am. I'm a mom, a coffee lover -- double espresso, cream on the side. I'm an introvert. I'm a wannabe fitness fanatic. And I'm a practicing, spiritual Muslim. But not like Lady Gaga says, because baby, I wasn't born this way. It was a choice.

When I was 17, I decided to come out. No, not as a gay person like some of my friends, but as a Muslim, and decided to start wearing the hijab, my head covering. My feminist friends were aghast: "Why are you oppressing yourself?" The funny thing was, it was actually at that time a feminist declaration of independence from the pressure I felt as a 17-year-old, to conform to a perfect and unattainable standard of beauty. I didn't just passively accept the faith of my parents. I wrestled with the Quran. I read and reflected and questioned and doubted and, ultimately, believed. My relationship with God -- it was not love at first sight. It was a trust and a slow surrender that deepened with every reading of the Quran. Its rhythmic beauty sometimes moves me to tears. I see myself in it. I feel that God knows me. Have you ever felt like someone sees you, completely understands you and yet loves you anyway? That's how it feels.

And so later, I got married, and like all good Egyptians, started my career as an engineer. I later had a child, after getting married, and I was living essentially the Egyptian-American dream.

And then that terrible morning of September, 2001. I think a lot of you probably remember exactly where you were that morning. I was sitting in my kitchen finishing breakfast, and I look up on the screen and see the words "Breaking News." There was smoke, airplanes flying into buildings, people jumping out of buildings. What was this? An accident? A malfunction? My shock quickly turned to outrage. Who would do this? And I switch the channel and I hear,

"... Muslim terrorist ...," "... in the name of Islam ...," "... Middle-Eastern descent ...," "... jihad ...," "... we should bomb Mecca." Oh my God. Not only had my country been attacked, but in a flash, somebody else's actions had turned me from a citizen to a suspect.

That same day, we had to drive across Middle America to move to a new city to start grad school. And I remember sitting in the passenger seat as we drove in silence, crouched as low as I could go in my seat, for the first time in my life, afraid for anyone to know I was a Muslim. From ‘What do you think when you look at me?’ by Dalia Mogahed

\*wannabe=want-to-be; aghast=very surprised, shocked; wrestled=struggled; crouched=accovacciato

*Answer the following questions in your own words as far as possible. Write complete sentences and include all relevant information. (15 marks)*

1. Why does she not blame people for having negative perceptions?
2. How does she describe herself as a Muslim?
3. Does she think wearing the hijab is a form of oppression? Why?
4. Explain what you think ‘living the Egyptian-American dream’ means.
5. Why did one morning of September 2001 turn her from ‘a citizen to a suspect’?

**Use of English:**

*Rewrite each sentence so that it contains the words in capitals and so that the meaning stays the same. Do not change the word given. (10 marks)*

1. Whatever you do, don’t talk to strangers.

Don’t……………………………………………………..strangers. (CIRCUMSTANCES)

2. George always trusts her with his secrets.

George………………………………………………..her. (IN)

3. Football on tv and pizza go together in my mind.

I………………………………………………………in my mind. (WITH)

4. I think going to bed early would do you good.

I………………………………………………………..(FROM)

5. Everyone was frightened apart from Jane.

With……………………………………………………..(OF)

6. Speaking for his colleagues, he would like to thank everyone

On………………………………………………………..(OF)

7.The best solution was thought of by the European Union.

The European Union………………………………………………………(CAME)

8.They said the shooting down of the plane was the Ukraine’s fault.

They…………………………………………….(BLAMED)

9. I had only just arrived home when it began to rain.

No………………………………………………(SOONER)

10. The United Nations’ lack of action is the cause of the problem.

The problem……………………………………………..(STEMS)

*Fill in the blanks with a word formed from the word in capitals. (5 marks)*

1. We…………………….go to the beach if the weather is good on Sunday. VARY
2. Global warming won’t change much in the ………………future. SEE
3. This year,………………..in the publishing industry has suffered because of lack of staff and funds. PRODUCT
4. As a result of such problems, we recognize the need to……………..in certain areas. ECONOMY
5. Due to the lack of resources, at least four departments need to be……………………STREAM

Cloze test:

*Please fill in the blanks with one suitable word. (15 marks)*

WHY READING MATTERS

Here are some of the reasons why it is so important for children to read.

We’re always telling children that books and reading are good for them, but have we ever really thought 1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ why that’s true?  Exactly what do older children get out of reading novels?  What do younger kids get from reading children’s stories and being read to?  Does reading matter?

The purpose of this article is to say that, yes, it’s true, reading really is important, and that there are some solid reasons 2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that is so.  Let’s begin with the practical benefits and then move on to the less tangible rewards of a life filled with reading.

Reading is an important skill that needs to be developed in children.  3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ only is it necessary for survival in the world of schools and (later on) universities, but in adult life as well.  The ability to learn about new subjects and find helpful information on anything 4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ health problems and consumer protection to more academic research into science or the arts depends on the ability to read.

Futurologists used to predict the death of the printed word but, ironically, Internet has made reading more and more a part of people’s daily lives.  The paperless society is a myth.  The computer’s ability to process and analyze data means that endless variations on reports and other types of documents can be and are generated.  Internet, itself an enormous new source of information and recreation, is based 5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the humble written word.  To effectively utilize the web and judge the authenticity and value of 6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is found there, both reading and critical thinking skills are of prime importance.

The more children read, the 7) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ they become better at reading.  It’s as simple as that.  The more enjoyable the things they read are, the more they’ll stick with them and develop the reading skills that they’ll need for full access 8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ information in their adult lives.  Reading should be viewed as a pleasurable activity , 9) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a source of entertaining tales and useful and interesting factual information.

The more young children read stories and are read to, the 10)………….their interest in mastering reading.  Reading aloud exposes children to proper grammar and phrasing.  11)…….enhances the development of their spoken language skills, their ability to express themselves verbally.

Reading, by way of books, children’s stories, magazines or websites, exposes kids to 12)….. vocabulary. 13)……..when they don’t understand every new word, they absorb something from the context that may deepen their understanding of it the next time 14)……word is encountered.  When parents read out loud to children, the children also hear correct pronunciation as they see the words on the page, even 15)……...they can’t yet read the words on their own.

LM37 I anno Writing

*Choose one topic. Write an essay (minimum 400 words). Time: 1h 30 mins*

Narrative essay

How did you come into possession of what you consider to be the most important objects in your life?

Argumentative essay

How would you convince someone that the Earth is/isn’t round, and why is it important to convince them?