

PROBA ORALĂ DE VERIFICARE A CUNOȘTINȚELOR LA LIMBA ENGLEZĂ
Pentru admiterea în clasa a IX-a cu program bilingv/intensiv
27 MAI 2015

EXAM CARD 1

Read the following text and answer the questions:

Samhain was the end of the Celtic year, and like all good new-year's-eves, a good excuse for a party. However, this was more than just a good time together. It was of major importance to the Celts. Samhain marked the end of summer and the start of the cold, dark winter and was a day when the druidic priests of the Celts believed that the dead could come back to the earth and cause trouble for the living. To counter this, the druids built large, sacred fires to chase away the dead. It was also believed that if you lit a new fire in your house, from the embers of the sacred fire, no evil could enter your house, while the fire stayed lit. When the Romans invaded the British Isles, they added their own customs and traditions to those of the Celts.

- 1) What is the text about?
- 2) What did the druids believe?
- 3) What did the druids build?
- 4) What could the fire do?

EXAM CARD 2

Read the following text and answer the questions:

Vicente Cabrera is a farmer. His farm is in Mexico, near the United States-Mexican border. He works in the field every day, where he also takes his three-year old son, Tomas. Vicente works, while Tomas plays. One day, as Vicente was working, he realized that he no longer heard his son playing. He looked for Tomas, but couldn't find him. As there were holes in the fence separating the borders of the two countries, he thought that maybe Tomas crawled through a hole. The Mexican police phoned the American Border Patrol. The officers started looking for Tomas in the United States. They were worried, because the land near the border is a desert. It is hot in the daytime and cold at night. Finally, they found Tomas under a bush. He was cold, hungry and thirsty. He had cuts on his feet and face, but he was alive. He was 24 kilometers away from his home.

- 1) What is the text about?
- 2) What happened one day?
- 3) Is there a hole in Vicente's field or in the fence?
- 4) Where was Tomas found?

EXAM CARD 3

Read the following text and answer the questions:

The young man in this story was very lazy. To make time pass, he used to think of funny things, maybe in order to forget he was so hungry. He was thinking of funny mice particularly, of some mice that would bring him some food.

But one day his dream turned into reality. A mouse came to the young man and dropped some money at his feet. The money was four ten dollar bills which the mouse carried in its mouth. The mouse had carried the money so delicately that no teeth marks had been left on the money. The young man picked up the money, and studied the mouse, which stood in perfect harmony with everything.

“Well”, he said, “This is delightful.”

He looked at the mouse thoughtfully.

“Stealing, hey?” he said.

The mouse nodded the way a clown nods in a funny way.

- 1) What is the text about?
- 2) What animal was the young man thinking of?
- 3) How had the mouse carried the money?
- 4) Did the mouse work for the money?

EXAM CARD 4

Read the following text and answer the questions:

As a hotel manager, I have some interesting stories about our guests. Well, people steal anything. For example, one couple stole sheets and blankets from their beds, but one of the maids saw them do it. So, the porter who carried their luggage down, took the sheets and blankets out and replaced them with a set of telephone directories.

We also get some unreasonable requests. At a hotel in London, one couple wanted to have dinner on their own in the hotel ballroom with a gypsy violinist and a palm tree. And they also wanted to be able to see the moon!

Other people completely destroy their rooms. One couple managed to spill coffee over an area of nine metres square. It was everywhere – on the TV, across the floor and on the bedclothes.

- 1) What is the text about?
- 2) What trick did the members of the hotel staff play on the couple who stole sheets and blankets from their beds?
- 3) What example of unusual request does the manager give?
- 4) Which, according to the hotel manager, are the three categories of incredible things that happen in hotels?

EXAM CARD 5

Read the following text and answer the questions:

Normal, healthy people can improve their memories very easily. First of all, learn to relax if you're trying to memorise something. You may miss important items if your mind is on something else, or if you weren't paying attention because of anxiety – you retain information best when you are alert and concentrating. If you're having trouble concentrating, increase the flow of oxygenated blood to the brain. Despite its small size, the brain uses 20% of the body's oxygen requirement. So try to combine study with exercise, particularly the kind of exercise that gets you breathing faster. Keep your mind fit as well as your body by doing mental workouts. Crosswords, scrabble and quizzes all help to keep your mind in shape.

- 1) What is the text about?
- 2) What kind of physical exercise is the most efficient in boosting your memory and why?
- 3) When do people learn best?
- 4) What examples of mental workouts does the writer give?

EXAM CARD 6

Read the following text and answer the questions:

The first job interview I ever had was for a position as a clerk at one of the oldest universities in the city. I bought a new outfit especially for the interview including a pair of lovely leather shoes and a handbag to match. I was not particularly nervous then until I went in and saw that there were four people who were going to interview me rather than one. They asked me a few questions about my university degree and about why I wanted the job. One of the people was a very pleasant, smiling woman, who nodded encouragingly every time I answered a question. Towards the end, one of the men asked me if I had experience with computers. I had to admit I had only used one once. Despite this I got the job. The pleasant, smiling woman, who turned out to be my boss, told me she had argued I should be given the job because she liked my shoes so much. I was glad I had bought them.

- 1) What is the text about?
- 2) What other things were the interviewers interested in?
- 3) Why did the writer become nervous when she went in?
- 4) Who turned out to be one of the people who interviewed her?

EXAM CARD 7

Read the following text and answer the questions:

It is not surprising that training shoes have become such big business. Sporting activities of all kinds have become popular, particularly inexpensive sports like running, where equipment is unnecessary apart from shoes. Runners suffer more injuries than many other athletes. The runner repeatedly strikes the ground with his feet, which can have disastrous effects. Research has led to the development of running shoes and a considerable reduction in problems with the feet and ankles. A combination of padding and air cushions provide protection from hitting the pavement with a force twice your weight.

1. What are the two reasons the writer mentions in connection with the success of training shoes?
2. What, according to the writer, is the benefit of using running shoes?
3. Why is running considered an inexpensive sport?
4. Which is the force with which we hit the ground?

EXAM CARD 8

Read the following text and answer the questions:

Plastics are a victim of their own success. The same properties that make them so popular, such as the ability to resist moisture and last a long time, mean they are very hard to get rid of. The difficulty is making them into a source of food for bacteria.

There are about 80 different types of plastics and about 100 million tonnes of plastic produced worldwide each year. An ordinary plastic bottle could take hundreds of years to disappear, if it disappears at all.

Recently, one company has developed what they describe as the "perfect plastic", which will disappear completely very quickly. It is made from sugar and once it is buried in the soil it is digested by bacteria. Most environmentalists argue, however, that this is missing the point. They say the only solution is recycling our resources. So, when you are about to put a plastic container in the rubbish bin, think twice. Could you use it again for another purpose?

- 1) What is the text about?
- 2) What problem does plastic pose and what are the solutions suggested in the article?
- 3) How many different types of plastics are there in the world?
- 4) What is the "perfect plastic" made from?

EXAM CARD 9

Read the following text and answer the questions:

The speed of your handwriting can be estimated by the fluency and continuity of your script; disconnected writing is usually slower than connected writing, which is made in a continuous motion. A very fast writing shows intelligence and an ability to get down to essentials very quickly. Large handwriting is rarely fast, as the writer tends to waste time and effort. It is a fact that the more articulate you are, the faster you will write, so fast writing is a clear indication of your ability to speak fluently as well as your mental capacity. In the same way, the more simplified your writing, the quicker you will write, and the more elaborate your writing, the more time you take over it. Intelligent writers often depart from the writing style they were taught at school because they find it too slow. They adopt an original and economical form of writing. Many executives have small, fast writing, but large signatures.

1. What, according to the writer, is the connection between handwriting and intelligence?
2. What, in the writer's view, is the connection between writing and speaking?
3. Why do some intelligent writers abandon the writing style they were taught at school?
4. What is unusual about the handwriting of some executives?

EXAM CARD 10

Read the following text and answer the questions:

A lot of people in my country think that television has improved over the last few years, others think it has got worse.

If you like a lot of choice, and want to be entertained more than anything else, you would probably say that television has improved. There are a lot more movies, game shows, sports programmes and the so-called reality shows in which real people talk about dramatic things that have happened to them.

However, if you thought of television as an educational aid, you are probably very disappointed with what is on offer. Despite the large number of channels, there are definitely fewer documentary programmes. In addition, the documentaries that are shown are of poorer quality than they were a few years ago. There are also fewer programmes about art and music because advertisers have found out that these programmes attract only a small audience.

1. What is the text about?
2. What makes the author think that television has got worse?
3. Has the number of television channels increased or decreased?
4. Which are the programmes which, according to the advertisers, attract fewer viewers?

EXAM CARD 11

Read the following text and answer the questions:

When I first went to live in Spain I couldn't speak any Spanish. I had to learn to speak quickly because of my job. Some friends suggested buying a television and this turned out to be a good idea. At first, I didn't really understand anything at all, but little by little I began to pick up the main ideas. I would read an English newspaper the same day, so I knew what was happening around the world and could understand the news. But the best programmes for learning Spanish were the game shows. I must have watched hundreds of them in the first few months after I came to live here. Because the same patterns are repeated again and again, you learn the rules of the language almost automatically. Although they were not the types of programmes I would normally have watched, I began to quite enjoy them. I speak Spanish well now, but I still watch them sometimes.

1. What is the text about?
2. What was the role the English newspapers played in the process of learning Spanish?
3. How did the writer learn the rules of the language?
4. Which TV programmes did the writer start enjoying?

EXAM CARD 12

Read the following text and answer the questions:

How do we select our partners from all the thousands of possible people? People are often attracted to others who have a lot in common with them – even if we don't always realise that they have anything in common. We give out unspoken messages about ourselves every day from the way we walk, talk and hold ourselves. It's not just the way we dress, but our posture, facial expressions, movements, tone of voice, accent and so on. If you put a group of people who don't know each other in a room together and ask them to pair up, they will naturally choose partners who are of similar family background, social class and upbringing. We are all looking for something familiar, though we may not be aware of exactly what it is.

1. What is the text about?
2. What, according to the writer, helps the others realise what we are like?
3. Is the choice of our partners a conscious process? Give evidence from the text.
4. Give examples of body language that help us select our partners.

EXAM CARD 13

Read the following text and answer the questions:

Tattooing is an old art. In ancient Greece, people who had tattoos were considered to be members of the upper classes. On the other hand, tattooing was banned in Europe by the early Christians who considered it to be a sinful thing. It was not until the late 18th century, when Captain Cook saw South Sea Islanders decorating their bodies with tattoos, that attitudes began to change. Sailors came back from these islands with pictures of Christ on their backs and from then on, tattooing gained in popularity. A survey by the French army in 1881 showed that among the 378 men questioned, there were 1,333 designs.

Nowadays, not everybody finds tattoos acceptable. Some people think that getting one is silly because tattoos are more or less permanent. There is also some concern about catching blood diseases from unsterilised needles. Even for those who do want a tattoo, the process of getting one is not painless, but the final result, in their eyes, is worth the pain.

1. What does the article tell us about the history of tattooing?
2. What are the disadvantages of tattooing mentioned by the writer?
3. When did Captain Cook visit the South Sea Islands?
4. What did a survey by the French army in 1881 reveal?

EXAM CARD 14

Read the following text and answer the questions:

Loneliness is a disease of modern living, a result of people being more mobile and having more opportunities. With the break-up of family units, there is little stability on which to build good relationships. Loneliness isn't something that can be solved simply by seeing a counsellor, speaking to someone on the telephone or being in the company of a lot of people. Advice often given includes: joining clubs, taking up a sociable hobby or even trying a part-time job.

To ease the feeling of emptiness takes time. Friendships have to be allowed to grow and deep bonds can't be formed with just anyone. Anyone might be a victim of loneliness at some time or another in their lives. If you change jobs, get married or move, you too might have problems in a new environment.

1. What is the text about?
2. What could turn out to be useful solutions for lonely people?
3. Why does it take time to reduce the feeling of loneliness?
4. Which factors could contribute to our feeling lonely?

EXAM CARD 15

Read the following text and answer the questions:

The British are generally regarded as the most untidily dressed people in Europe, but I have often thought that the opposite is true. Take, for example, the wearing of jeans. In many southern European countries it seems perfectly acceptable for both teachers and office staff to wear jeans, whereas in Britain jeans are considered far too casual and are only acceptable if work is dirty or unskilled. Office workers in Britain must follow a very strict dress code. Even in the hottest weather, male employees are required to wear a suit and a tie and female employees must be dressed in a skirt and tights. In schools, the dress code is not quite so formal, but staff still tend to wear shirts and smartish trousers or skirts. The British may not be as stylish as their European counterparts, but a dress code still exists.

1. What is the writer's opinion about the way the British dress?
2. How are jeans regarded in different parts of Europe?
3. What do British male and female employees wear at work?
4. What do school staff wear in Britain?

EXAM CARD 16

Read the following text and answer the questions:

We think of democracy as a modern invention, but in fact the world's most perfect democracy probably existed in Ancient Athens in 55 BC – if you were not a woman or a slave, that is! All decisions were made by citizens collectively, and crimes were tried by juries of between 101 and 1001 citizens!

Ancient Rome had many of the same urban problems as cities today. Crime was an acute problem – few people dared even to go out after dark for fear of robbers and cut-throats. Traffic congestion is not a new problem either – in the centre of Ancient Rome it was so bad that Julius Caesar had to ban all wheeled vehicles during daylight hours.

1. How many people were juries in Ancient Athens made up of?
2. Why were the citizens of Ancient Rome afraid to go out after dark?
3. What were the limits of Greek democracy?
4. Are there any similarities between ancient and modern cities?

EXAM CARD 17

Read the following text and answer the questions:

In the summer of 1985, Geoffrey Pritchard, and his friend, Peter Larsen, were on holiday in the Sudan. They decided to go on a 3-day trek across the desert to Mount Gimbala, an extinct volcano in a remote part of the country. Ignoring advice from local people, they travelled without a guide, using only a tourist map of the area, and carrying only a few days supply of water. After three days walking across the desert, they reached the volcano and immediately began to climb. As soon as they got to the top, disaster struck: Pritchard slipped on some rocks, and Larson watched in horror as his friend fell hundreds of metres down...Three hours later Larsen found him bleeding and unconscious, but still alive. Larsen had to make the most terrible decision of his life : should he stay with his friend or should he return to the village to get help? He decided to return to the village, leaving the little water that remained next to Pritchard's unconscious body.

1. What is the text about?
2. Why did Pritchard fall?
3. Did Pritchard and Larsen do anything stupid?
4. How risky was Larsen's decision to walk back to the village without any water?

EXAM CARD 18

Read the following text and answer the questions:

What you need for an invention to be a success.

The Frenchman Denis Papin (1647-1712) had the idea for a steam engine almost a hundred years before the better remembered Scotsman James Watt was even born ... but he never had enough money to build one.

You also need to be patient (it took scientists nearly eighty years to develop a light bulb which actually worked) ... but not too patient. In the 1870's, Elisha Gray, a professional inventor from Chicago, developed plans for a telephone. Gray saw it as no more than a "toy", however. When he finally sent details of his invention to the Patent Office on February 14th 1876, it was too late; almost identical designs had arrived just two hours earlier ... and the young man who sent them, Alexander Graham Bell, will always be remembered as the inventor of the telephone.

1. Who designed the first steam engine?
2. Why does the story of the light bulb show that inventors need to be patient?
3. How can you be a successful inventor?
4. What was Gray's mistake?

EXAM CARD 19

Read the following text and answer the questions:

Willy Higinbotham was a scientist doing nuclear research in the Brookhaven Laboratory in Upton, USA. In 1958 the public were invited to the Laboratory to see their work; but both parents and children were less interested in the complicated equipment and diagrams than in a tiny 120 cm screen with a white dot which could be hit back and forth over a “net” using a button and a knob. Soon hundreds of people were ignoring the other exhibits to play the first ever computer game. Higinbotham, however, never made a cent from his invention: he only thought people were interested in the game because the other exhibits were so boring!

1. What was the purpose of the exhibition at the National Laboratory at Upton in 1958?
2. Did Professor Higinbotham understand the potential of his “computer game”?
3. What do you need for an invention to be a success?
4. Why were the visitors of the exhibition attracted to the “computer game”?

EXAM CARD 20

Read the following text and answer the questions:

It's March 2050. As they watch the screen, Frank and Mary take their usual weight control pills, and order one of the household robots to make coffee. Frank disappears into the study to join a live video conference with his colleagues around the world. He is a computer programmer working for several companies on a contract basis. Mary has a quick look at the shopping channels before picking up the video phone to talk to a colleague. She also has a job, which she shares with several others. They are doing research into genetic engineering, which has become a major industry. Both she and Frank used to have an office desk in London, but in 2014 they decided to move to the seaside and work from home.

1. What is the text about?
2. What is Mary's job?
3. What are the differences between working life in 2050 and the present day?
4. What will make all these changes possible?

EXAM CARD 21

Read the following text and answer the questions:

It's the year 2050. Frank and Mary have one child, Louise, who also has her own workstation in the family home. She goes to school only one day a week, mainly to play with other children. Classrooms vanished in 2030 because there was no longer any need for them: interactive communications systems have made it much easier to learn at home. Louise, now thirteen, is currently studying Chinese, which has become as important as English as a world language. Louise has many Chinese friends with whom she communicates by computer. According to medical experts, Louise will live to at least 130. She intends to work for a few decades and then devote her time to music and painting. She has given little thought to marriage, which she regards as an old-fashioned concept.

1. Why is Louise studying Chinese?
2. What will Louise devote her time to when she retires?
3. Will there be any differences between a child's life in 2050 and the present day?
4. Which aspects of the life described in the text seem more attractive than life nowadays?

EXAM CARD 22

Read the following text and answer the questions:

"Security Deposits", situated in Knightsbridge, one of the most fashionable areas of London, was a company which provided lockable safe deposit boxes in a secure building for its rich clients. It attracted the kind of people who preferred not to use banks, where money is easier to trace. Its owners, Z.A. and Parvez Patif had bought the business for nearly a million pounds in 1986, but things had not gone well – and in their first year they lost around \$ 400,000. Latif owed more than \$100,000, and had no way of repaying the money. Around this time, he became friendly with a client of the firm, Valerio Viccei, who was wanted in Italy for bank robbery and had escaped to London, where he robbed banks whenever he needed money. Valerio kept his money with "Security Deposits". The two men began to socialise and soon realized that by working together they could solve both their problems.

1. What did people use "Security Deposits" for?
2. What problem did Latif have?
3. What was the relationship of the two men?
4. How could they help each other to solve their problems?

EXAM CARD 23

Read the following text and answer the questions:

We recently carried out a survey of 1,000 people from different countries to find out what they think life will be like in the future. The results clearly demonstrate both our hopes and fears. Space exploration will become increasingly popular. Fifty per cent of the people we talked to believe that man will regularly visit Mars. They also believe that travel on our own planet will probably change. Almost everyone thinks there will be no cars in the city centers. Some even think that environmentally-friendly electric or solar-powered cars will have replaced the cars we use nowadays. Pollution is something that seems to worry many people. Some fear that it will continue to get worse, and that our planet will become impossible to live on. Others even foresee that one day we'll have to pay for clean air just like we do now for clean water.

1. What is the text about?
2. What are many people concerned about?
3. Which changes will be for the better and which for the worse?
4. Why are the two aspects, travel and the environment, presented together?

EXAM CARD 24

Read the following text and answer the questions:

Can you imagine what our lives will be like in the year 2050? Here are some answers to this question. Friendship, one of the most important human relationships, will have changed dramatically. People will make friends through the Internet. What is more, a large number of people will even come across their future husbands and wives in this way! Computers will have become absolutely essential by 2050. Even now, some people describe them as their best friend! Others, however, say that we will become much more isolated from each other because we will have little real human contact. Education will have changed a lot, too. As more and more pupils will be using computers in schools, certain abilities, such as mental arithmetic, won't be necessary since there will be computer programs for most calculations. Even writing by hand will have become a thing of the past.

1. How will people get to know each other in the future?
2. Why will mental arithmetic cease to be necessary?
3. In what respects will computers change our lives?
4. Why do some people believe that our lives will change for the worse in the future?

EXAM CARD 25

Read the following text and answer the questions:

We have spent thousands of years fighting for our survival. Yet now we have discovered that our planet is under threat and, to make matters worse, it's all our fault. One of the major problems is the destruction of the rainforests in South America. They are home to half the world's species and to millions of people. Moreover, the rainforests clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and giving out oxygen. The trees are being cut down for paper or to make room for cattle farms. As a result, birds and animals lose their homes and die. This destruction is also bringing about changes in the climate, air pollution, flooding, drought and famine. If we continue to burn and cut down the forests as we are doing now, the earth will never be the same again.

1. What is the text about?
2. Who lives in the rainforests?
3. How does the destruction of the rainforests affect the environment?
4. Why are humans to blame for this problem which confronts our planet?

EXAM CARD 26

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Some of the earliest maps were made on pieces of stone or sometimes simply by drawing a map on the ground to show travellers the way to go. A map is basically a kind of picture of an area and is designed to help people find their way from one place to another.

However, to do this, it is necessary to know where you are starting from. The ancient Greeks invented a geographical grid using the stars as their starting points. They drew lines going from North to South – Longitude and lines going East to West – Latitude . Using these lines, it was possible to work out where you were and look at where you wanted to go on the map. The use of stars to help navigate has long been known and so it should not come as a surprise to learn that map-making relied heavily on the stars to help determine location.

1. What were some early maps made from?
2. Who used the sky to help them draw maps?
3. Apart from travel information, what did some early maps show?
4. What is your favourite travel destination? Why?

EXAM CARD 27

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Many of the maps from the 15th and 16th centuries show the coastlines of countries and continents in detail, but very little of the inland areas. Nowadays, with the use of satellite technology, we have comprehensive maps of even the most remote areas of the world.

Many maps of the world have the UK and Europe in the centre of the map. This is partly because the line of zero degrees longitude goes through Greenwich in London. And, there is a map designed by Stuart McArthur, an Australian that not only has Australia in the centre, but also has the South Pole at the top of the map and the North Pole at the bottom. Many people, when they first see this map, think that it is upside down and try to turn it round. Of course, it isn't upside down at all – it is simply a different perspective of the world.

1. What information was often missing in old maps?
2. How do we, nowadays, have comprehensive maps of the most remote areas of the world?
3. What is special about McArthur's map?
4. What is your dream destination? Why?

EXAM CARD 28

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Companies like *Lost and Found* in London are leading the way when it comes to recycling our junk. Set up by Becky Oldfield, the company specializes in making furniture and covers. Becky will go round to local companies and get whatever they are throwing away and use these things in her products.

Meanwhile, Electra Gillies has set up her own eco-tourism company. She used to work as a journalist for a national newspaper and realized that there was a demand for *green holidays*. To ensure that her holidays really are green she goes out and visits every place she advertises. Unfortunately, this is necessary as there is no international eco-standard and companies often realize that if they use the word 'green' they can charge more for the same thing.

1. Which company was founded on recycling junk?
2. How does Electra Gillies ensure that her holidays really are green?
3. Which word drives the prices up in the tour industry?
4. What do you think the biggest environmental problems are?

EXAM CARD 29

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Rachel Rogers has started her own online department store, thenaturalstore.co.uk. The idea for *The Natural Store* came from the fact that Rachel was frustrated by having to shop at lots of different places to buy what she wanted. She thought that it would be good to start a shop where you could buy Fairtrade products, organic food, environmentally friendly cosmetics and ethical clothing all in one place. Although things cost a bit more it is worth it because the result is a cleaner planet.

So, the next time you are thinking about the environment and you'd actually like to do something positive, check out the options that are available. You'll be surprised just how easy it is to be green.

1. What is the main advantage of shopping at *The Natural Store*?
2. Where did the idea for *The Natural Store* come from?
2. According to the text, why should people buy eco-friendly products?
3. What can we do to protect the environment?

EXAM CARD 30

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Aromatherapy, as the name suggests, is to do with smells. In aromatherapy oils from flowers, fruits and leaves are used to help people relax. Usually the oils are inhaled by smelling the scent given off when the oils are heated. The oils can also be used in massages and when having a bath.

Reflexology is an ancient alternative therapy that was used in ancient Egypt, Greece and China. However, modern reflexology was developed by William H Fitzgerald, a doctor in the USA, in the early 20th century. Reflexology involves putting pressure on parts of the feet or hands and a gentle movement, a little bit like massage.

1. What do we use in aromatherapy?
2. How are the oils used?
3. What is reflexology?
4. What do you do to relax?

EXAM CARD 31

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Acupuncture is probably the best known of all the alternative therapies and is part of traditional Chinese medicine. It involves using needles and inserting them into selected points on the body.

Hypnosis (or hypnotherapy) is probably not usually thought of as a way of treating illnesses. It works by getting the patient to relax. When they are very relaxed it is

possible to make suggestions that are supposed to help the person get better – this is known as mental healing. The suggestions are positive ideas about how to behave, what to do, or how you wish to feel. Because your body and mind are relaxed you are more likely to accept these ideas and find that they work. Hypnosis is used a lot to help people overcome anxiety, addictions, weight problems, insomnia and phobias.

1. What does acupuncture involve?
2. How does hypnosis work?
3. Why is hypnosis used?
4. What do you do to boost your energy?

EXAM CARD 32

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Reflexology is an ancient alternative therapy that was used in ancient Egypt, Greece and China. Reflexology involves putting pressure on parts of the feet or hands and a gentle movement, a little bit like massage.

Acupuncture involves using needles and inserting them into selected points on the body. The belief is that by placing needles at particular points the flow of energy can be changed so that particular parts of the body are affected. Scientists believe that by using the needles endorphins are released into the brain and that it is this that makes acupuncture work. Research shows that acupuncture is effective at helping relieve pain and headaches, as well as helping with asthma and high blood pressure.

1. What does reflexology involve?
2. Why is acupuncture used?
3. How does acupuncture work on the body?
4. What stresses you the most?

EXAM CARD 33

Read the text below and answer the questions.

People in Britain love listening to music and they enjoy making music too. Thousands of schoolchildren play a musical instrument and they like classical music as well as pop! If they are very good, they can join the National Children's Orchestra (NCO).

There are training courses twice a year – usually at Easter and in the summer holidays. The students practise every day and at the end of the week they give a concert. But they work all the time. They can go swimming, do sport and they always have a lot of fun.

The orchestra give concerts in London, Birmingham and Liverpool and its musicians sometimes appear on radio and television.

1. What sort of music do the British schoolchildren like?
2. What does NCO mean?
3. How often do they have training courses?
4. What is your favourite type of music?

EXAM CARD 34

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Larry Walters, from San Pedro, California, lived his dream yesterday. His dream was to fly. Larry bought 42 special weather balloons and he filled them with helium. With the help of some friends, he attached the balloons to his garden chair. He also took a gun. Larry planned to shoot the balloons when he wanted to return to Earth.

His idea was to go up slowly but, in fact, his chair went up into the sky very quickly and Larry lost his glasses. Soon he was at 3,500 metres. He stayed in the air for several hours and he began to feel cold and worried. At the end of the afternoon he was near Los Angeles International Airport. A plane went past him. The pilot closed his eyes and opened them again. It was true! There was a man in a garden chair in the clouds.

1. What was Larry Walters's dream ?
2. How did he manage to fly?
3. What was the pilot's reaction when he saw Larry?
4. What is your favourite means of transportation? Why?

EXAM CARD 35

Read the text below and answer the questions.

In 1895 the Lumiere brothers showed the first public film in a café in Paris. But it was Hollywood that became the centre of the film industry. The first talking movie, *The Jazz Singer*, appeared in 1927 and the first colour films appeared in the 1930's.

Today's films often use a mixture of real images and images from a computer. *Toy Story* was the first film made completely by computers, in 1995. It took 800,000 hours to create the pictures that you see on the screen.

The Lord of The Rings films took several years to make, and the actors used 1,600 pairs of hobbit ears and feet! For the film *Harry Potter* and *The Philosopher's Stone*, the animal trainer Paul Wray worked for nine months with the owl Hedwig.

1. When was the first public film shown?
2. What do modern films make use of?
3. What film names are mentioned in the text?
3. What is your favourite movie? Why?

EXAM CARD 36

Read the text below and answer the questions.

The *Eco – Challenge* Race takes place once a year, usually in a different country each year. The competitors travel for six to twelve days, sometimes for 24 hours a day, so they don't get much sleep. They walk through rainforests. They ride horses across the desert. They travel across the sea. They go up the mountains on mountain bikes. They go down rivers and across lakes.

The teams must not put their tents on top of plants and they must not leave rubbish. Before the race the competitors do something to help the local people. For example in Morocco, they cleaned the beaches. In Fiji, they collected books for local schools. In the US, they worked in a children's park.

1. What is *Eco-Challenge*?
2. What do the competitors have to do?
3. What mustn't the competitors do?
4. Have you ever taken part in such a competition? Would you like to? Why?

EXAM CARD 37

Thirty thousand years ago the first Americans travelled across the ice from Asia to Alaska. Some of them stayed in Alaska and became the Inuit people. Others went to different parts of Canada and North and South America. Some were fishermen, some were farmers and some were hunters. When Columbus arrived in the Caribbean in 1492, he thought he was in India, so he called the Native Americans *Indians*.

When the first Europeans went to live in North America, there were already a million people there. There were about 300 Indian Tribes. Each tribe had a different language and way of life, but they also had a sign language that everyone could understand.

1. How did Columbus come to call Native Americans *Indians* ?
2. How many Indian Tribes were there when the first Europeans came to North America?
3. How did the tribes manage to understand among themselves?
4. Have you ever been to USA? Would you like to? Why?

EXAM CARD 38

When the first white settlers arrived, the Native Americans were living in their traditional homes across North America. At first, they were friendly to their new

neighbours, but the European settlers wanted their land. The Indians fought many wars and their leaders – Crazy Horse, Geronimo, Sitting Bull – became famous. Thousands of them died and they also died from illnesses that the Europeans brought with them. Finally, the US government forced the Native Americans to live in special reservations.

Today, about 1,5 million Native Americans live in reservations. Many of them try to keep their ancient traditions and now Native American culture is growing again.

Settlers – European immigrants.

1. How did some of the Indians die?
2. What solution did the US government come up with?
3. How many Native Americans live in reservations nowadays?
4. Have you ever been to USA? Would you like to? Why?

EXAM CARD 39

Matt Long, 9th Grade

My main interest is astronomy – the study of the stars. When I was little, I always watched a programme called *The Sky At Night*. There was a lot of information about the eclipse of the sun in 1999. The best place to see it was Cornwall. So we all went to Cornwall on holiday, but the weather was awful. We didn't see the eclipse because it was too cloudy. I was very disappointed and everyone said it was our worst holiday.

I bought a new telescope last week. Last night I got up at four o'clock because I wanted to see the International Space Station. It was travelling at 28,000 kilometres an hour, 386 kilometres above my head.

I could see it clearly!

Amazing!

1. Why did Matt and his family go to Cornwall?
2. What was the problem?
3. What was one of the best moments?
4. What was one of your best moments at school?

EXAM CARD 40

The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe is the story of life on a desert island nearly three hundred years ago. Richie Sowa, from Liddlesbrough in the UK, is a 21st century Robinson Crusoe. His home is an island near Cancun in Mexico. But Richie's island is different. He built it himself – with 250,000 plastic bottles!

The house has got a living room, a simple kitchen and two bedrooms. The weather is hot, dry and sunny so Richie uses solar power. He's got a solar cooker, a shower, electric lights and a CD player. He shares the island with his dogs, two ducks and four cats.

A lot of tourists visit the island and last year, an ecology student stayed there and studied Richie's way of life. "It's paradise!" He said.

1. What did Richie use to build his house?
2. How many rooms has his house got?
3. Who does Richie share the island with?
4. Would you like to live like Richie? Why?