

MS. CHI ENGLISH

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Date: .../.../20...

Class: GE8

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FCE 2008 (4) – TEST 3 - PART 1

Test 3

PAPER 1 READING (1 hour)

Part 1

You are going to read an extract from a novel about a little girl called Pixie. For questions 1–8, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Her father had been a big handsome man with a fine head of hair, a paintbrush in his hand, paint threading along the canvas making a bird look like an angel. He was the famous James Harley Savage, son of Harley Talbot Savage, brother of Norman Backhouse Savage. It was an illustrious family.

From when she was old enough to hold a pencil, the little girl Pixie Harley Savage had been taught about vanishing points in pictures, and was made to work out at the start where the horizon was going to be, and how to make things at the front bigger than things at the back. No matter how young, she had never been allowed to scribble with a pencil or crayon. Nor had she been allowed to do stick people like every other child, or square houses with symmetrical windows and a carefully curving path to the front door with a round tree on one side. It was unacceptable to do drawings like that.

line 9

Her father's hands skimmed across the paper and out of the end of his pencil came a bird, a twig for it to perch on, behind it a branch. 'See?' he said. 'Like that.'

It was a gifted family, but it seemed that the gift had passed Pixie by. Even after so many patient lessons, from the end of her pencil came only hard ugly lines, and a bird that looked like a surprised fish.

She was ashamed of her own big muscly legs and her round face. But the shame of showing this ugly bird to her father and the rest of her family was unendurable.

She heard the silence and saw the ring of shocked faces among her family.

'Oh, but you are very artistic and terribly creative,' her mother said quickly, with something like fear in her voice.

There was a moment's silence.

'In your own way, of course.'

Someone cleared their throat.

'And you never know, these things blossom later on sometimes.'

At school they had known she was a Savage, and hoped for wonders. Her teacher, Miss McGovern, was even willing to see them when there were none. It had taken a long time, but finally she had come to expect no more wonders.

'Use your imaginations, girls,' Miss McGovern would say, but what Pixie drew was never what she meant by imagination. Pixie was interested in the veins of the leaf, how photosynthesis worked and why they turned brown or orange in the autumn.

'You make a plant look like a machine,' Miss McGovern accused.

line 33 Pixie's sister, Celeste, had always been a proper Savage. Celeste had known about things at the back of a picture being smaller than things at the front without ever having to be told. She had a way of being dreamy, slightly untidy but lovely, even in her old pink pyjamas, thinking interesting thoughts behind her lovely green eyes. Celeste's birds made Father laugh with surprise and pleasure in a way Pixie's never did. Celeste had a knack for other things, too; she was always catching Pixie in moments when she would rather have been alone. Celeste's reflection would join Pixie's frowning into the mirror. 'That lipstick, Pix,' she would say in her sophisticated way, 'it makes you look like a clown.' She was not the older sister, but acted as though she was, not showing Pixie the respect she might have received from a less critical younger sister.

'Why did you call me Pixie?' she asked her mother once, when puberty was making her look into mirrors. 'You were such a beautiful baby,' her mother said, and smiled into the air at the memory of that beautiful baby, not at the face of her plain daughter.

Pixie decided she looked interesting. But later she realised she was simply ordinary: ordinary brown eyes, ordinary brown hair. An ordinary small nose, an ordinary mouth. No one would ever find her fascinating across a crowded room. 'So like your grandmother,' her mother had sighed.

As a child, she could not do much, but she could refuse to answer to the name of the beautiful baby who had turned into herself. 'Harley,' she insisted. 'My name is Harley.'

- 1 When Pixie was young, her parents thought that she should
 - A get pleasure out of being creative.
 - B try not to copy other people's drawings.
 - C be shown how to draw properly.
 - D be allowed to use her own imagination.
- 2 In line 9, 'that' refers to drawings which
 - A were lacking in originality.
 - B were very similar to each other.
 - C were done with a pencil or crayon.
 - D were of everyday objects.
- 3 When Pixie drew the bird,
 - A she didn't need to put much effort into it.
 - B she was trying to please her father.
 - C she didn't care what it looked like.
 - D she was determined to make it look unusual.
- 4 What did Pixie's family think of her artistic ability?
 - A They were convinced that she would be a good artist one day.
 - B They didn't agree on whether she was artistic or not.
 - C They found it hard to admit that she had no talent.
 - D They were sorry she wouldn't listen to their opinions.
- 5 What was Miss McGovern's attitude towards Pixie?
 - A She was pleased Pixie was showing an interest in science.
 - B She continued to hope that Pixie would display her family's creativity.
 - C She realised that Pixie was using her imagination in a different way.
 - D She tried at first to convince herself that Pixie was typical of her family.
- 6 What does 'knack' mean in line 33?
 - A an ability to do something
 - B an ambition to be the best
 - C a desire to be noticed
 - D a need to be certain about something
- 7 What do we find out about Celeste?
 - A She tried to help Pixie.
 - B She worked hard to understand things.
 - C She took trouble with her looks.
 - D She looked down on Pixie.
- 8 Pixie decided to be called Harley because she
 - A wanted to make her mother annoyed.
 - B knew she had not turned out as expected.
 - C felt a need to change her appearance.
 - D wanted to be more like her father.

Part 2

You are going to read an article about two brothers who have become successful businessmen in the UK. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–H the one which fits each gap (9–15). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

From £5 to \$250 million

He came to Britain as a 16-year-old with a handful of qualifications, £5 in his pocket and a burning ambition to leave his childhood in Kenya behind him. Vijay Patel was brought up in one room with his brother, Bhikhu, as his schoolteacher mother struggled to raise her family after her husband died. Thirty-five years later, Vijay, 51, and his brother own a pharmaceutical company which employs more than 600 people and does £200 million worth of business each year. Together they are worth \$254 million – and now they have been jointly named 'Entrepreneur of the Year'.

It is an inspirational tale. **9** He says: 'We are very pleased and very surprised to have been given this kind of recognition. It has really been about a will to succeed and a determination to distance ourselves from the difficulties of our early life.' He also praises his mother. 'She is an incredible lady. She taught us hard work, honesty and punctuality and we have based our lives on those qualities.'

Vijay's father was a timber merchant who lived with his wife in the village of Eldoret, 200 miles north of Nairobi, and died when Vijay was six. At the age of 16, Vijay and his brother, who was two years older, kissed their mother goodbye and promised to bring her to Britain when they made their fortunes. 'It was 1967 and I had little more than my qualifications and a few pounds in my pocket,' says Vijay. **10** And so he set about trying to achieve just that.

Typically, Vijay looks on the bright side. 'When you start from zero, things can't get any worse.' **11** The pair of them certainly had that.

'My brother and I were determined to better ourselves and Britain was the land of opportunity,' he says.

Vijay enrolled at a college in north London, and did courses in physics, chemistry and biology, washing dishes in a restaurant at night to earn his keep. He gained a degree at the College of Pharmacy in Leicester. After graduating, he opened a chemist's shop in 1975 – he was 24. He made it his business to know all his customers' names, their children and what conditions they suffered from. **12**

By 1982, he owned six shops and sales had doubled. From there it was a short step from buying medicines for his own shops (he now has 21) to supplying other pharmacies, then hospitals and wholesalers. **13**

Brother Bhikhu, an architect by training, joined Vijay in 1982 to add some 'financial discipline' to the company. Vijay says: 'My brother and I have built this business together. I simply couldn't have done it without him. We know each other inside out.' **14**

Vijay is keen to continue putting something back into the country he has made his own. 'We hope we are model citizens and would like to remain so,' he says. 'My brother and I have enormous ambition and drive, but we were also lucky enough to live in a country that never stood in our way,' he says. **15** His message for young people is to do the same: 'Identify your aim, and do not let anything deter you from achieving that goal.'

- A 'But to go with those, I had a tremendous ambition to make something of myself,' he recalls.
- B As he puts it, 'If you cannot trust your family, then who can you trust?'
- C Instead, he hopes that his sons will take over the business after they finish their studies.
- D 'We took every opportunity it gave us.'
- E According to him, in those circumstances, 'You have only one way to go, and that's up – if there is a hunger in your belly for success.'
- F Yet despite his wealth and this award, Vijay remains modest about his success.
- G 'The idea was that when people had something wrong with them, they went straight to Mr Patel,' he says.
- H Last year, company profits hit £13.8 million.

Part 3

You are going to read a newspaper article about four people who have written travel books. For questions **16–30**, choose from the people (**A–D**). The people may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Of which writer is the following stated?

She does not make decisions in advance.

16	
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She used to be a journalist.

17	
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She has given up travelling.

18	
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She writes in an informal way.

19	
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She travels with the intention of putting her experiences into print.

20	
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She was undecided about her future when she was young.

21	
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One of her trips was not a success.

22	
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Her writing reflects events as they happened.

23	
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She has written a very successful book.

24	
----	--

Which writer says

she took no notice of other people's opinions when planning one trip?

25	
----	--

on one trip, just staying alive took up most of her time?

26	
----	--

she takes pleasure in her surroundings?

27	
----	--

she chose her method of transport because of lack of funds?

28	
----	--

she is confident of finding solutions to problems?

29	
----	--

she likes to escape from everyday pressures?

30	
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On the road

A Eleanor Young

Young has written a book about a journey which took seven months. Beginning in Beijing, she headed west out of China and then south to Kashmir. The 20 years of her life until then had been varied – she had been a correspondent for a French weekly, she had sailed in the Olympics and skied internationally, but her main love was travelling. She had made a similar journey in Central Asia and had a minor success with the resulting book. When she writes she thinks of her audience as one family member or one good friend. She writes what was seen and felt, the way it turned up on the road – her descriptions of the camel journey are mixed with discussions about politicians and images of a girl with her hair in a hundred plaits.

B Fiona Dalton

When Dalton visited the bottom tip of Chile and saw the edge of the ice-field, she decided to cross Antarctica. She tried not to be discouraged by others who had done it. 'The men who had skied across alone didn't know how to deal with the idea of someone happy to take a plane some of the way, but I wanted to do the trip my own way.' She spent seven months crossing the continent, pitching tents on the sea ice. Dalton says that as a woman, her reasons for exploration are different from those of men. 'Men have done it to show they can win. I may go to see what the environment can teach me, or to feel the air and see what it looks like. Or just sit around and appreciate the scenery.' She is a writer who explores the world in order to write. She says, 'It also suits me to get away. I love to free myself from the bills and the bank manager. Antarctica is perfect for that.' It was, however, the most testing environment she has ever experienced – it could be 'a full-time job just surviving'.

C Ruth Moore

On her first trip, aged 24, Moore hitch-hiked through Nigeria, canoed down the Congo and rode horseback across Cameroon. What started as a year-long trip turned into a three-and-a-half-year journey. 'The emptiness that lay ahead was wonderful – days waiting to be filled.' She was raised in the African bush and her mother and grandmother had grown up in China. 'I don't know where I belong. My family thought it was totally normal that I had a larger view of the world.' She dismisses fear. 'Wild animals will look for an escape route rather than attack,' she says. Amongst other things, Moore has devised her own cure for homesickness. 'You can always improvise something. I felt homesick for eggs for breakfast while floating down the river, so I had eggs – crocodile eggs – and felt much better.' Moore does believe that a woman's approach is different. She rarely undertakes journeys with an ultimate aim, goal or destination – she decides as she goes along, often with the flip of a coin.

D Sally Wade

Wade is probably more of an ex-explorer – her last journey has put her off. Wade was born in Queensland, Australia. She was sent to boarding school, then just wandered about – studying music, biology and later Japanese. At 25, Wade bought a couple of camels and rode them over 2,000 kilometres across the Australian outback. Her account became a best-seller. 'I never intended to write about it – it was a private thing. I wanted to get to know aboriginal culture and the desert. It was a glorious trip. I went by camel because I was broke and couldn't afford a vehicle.' Then in 1992 she joined a group of Rabari in India. Wade's account of that Indian journey with them tells of failure. 'The two trips were not comparable.' She tried to live a Rabari existence – except that she could always leave. She remained an outsider.

PAPER 2 WRITING (1 hour 20 minutes)

Part 1

You **must** answer this question. Write your answer in **120–150** words in an appropriate style.

- 1 You are helping to organise a concert at your college. The local English language newspaper is sending a reporter, Jane Nolan, to the concert. You have received an email from Jane Nolan. Read Mrs Nolan's email and the notes you have made. Then write an email to Mrs Nolan using **all** your notes.

email

From: Jane Nolan
Sent: 16th May
Subject: College concert

I am pleased to say that I am able to come to your college concert on 6th July. Our readers are always very interested in events like these. Good!

I would be grateful if you could give me a little more information about the concert. What kind of music will be performed? Describe the concert

I will need to take some photos, so could you tell me when I will have the best opportunity to do this? Suggest ...

Also could you let me know who I should interview and why? Tell Mrs Nolan who and why

Yours sincerely,

Jane Nolan

Write your **email**. You must use grammatically correct sentences with accurate spelling and punctuation in a style appropriate for the situation.

Part 2

Write an answer to **one** of the questions 2–5 in this part. Write your answer in **120–180** words in an appropriate style.

- 2 Your class wants to go out to a restaurant at the end of the course. Your English teacher has asked you to write a review of a restaurant you like. Include information about the food and the atmosphere and explain why it would be suitable for your class.

Write your **review**.

- 3 Your English teacher has asked you to write a story for the college magazine. The story must **begin** with the following words:

Simon turned on the television and was amazed to see his own face on the screen.

Write your **story**.

- 4 You have had a class discussion on how to improve your English in your free time after school. Now your English teacher has asked you to write a report describing different ways to improve your English in your free time **and** saying which one you think is the best and why.

Write your **report**.

- 5 Answer **one** of the following two questions based on **one** of the titles below.

(a) *Phantom of the Opera* by Gaston Leroux

You have been discussing the characters in *Phantom of the Opera* in your English class. Now your teacher has asked you to write this essay for homework:

Who do you think is the most unhappy character in *Phantom of the Opera*? Write an essay giving your opinion.

Write your **essay**.

(b) *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

This is part of a letter from your English penfriend, Kim:

I thought the convict, Abel Magwitch, was a really bad man at the start of 'Great Expectations', but I changed my mind when I read the rest of the story. What did you think of him?

Kim

Write your **letter**.

Handwriting practice lines with a diagonal watermark reading "Ms. Chi English".