

FINAL WRITTEN EXAM

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LEVEL: C1.2

01. Match the phrases to make logical sentences.

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. I got into the best dorm on campus due to the <u>e</u> | a. push her luck. |
| 2. Muriel's never bowled, so her high score was ____ | b. bad luck. |
| 3. I tried to get tickets to the play, but I couldn't. I was ____ | c. best of luck. |
| 4. When Max graduated from college, I wished him the ____ | d. out of luck. |
| 5. Celia drives too fast. One day she's going to have an accident.
I wish she wouldn't ____ | e. luck of the draw. |
| 6. I was hoping to find a letter in my mailbox, but ____ | f. beginner's luck. |
| 7. Jim dropped his laptop and lost his files. He's had some ____ | g. no such luck. |

02. Use the words in parentheses to rewrite these sentences with a reporting clause in the passive with *it*.

- Over one billion people use the Internet. (estimate)
It's estimated (that) over one billion people use the Internet.
- Every continent on earth has a city named Rome. (report)

- The longest word in English without a vowel is "rhythm." (say)

- In a baby's first year of life, parents lose between 400 and 750 hours of sleep. (believe)

- Items like plastic cups and toys take 500 years to break down. (believe)

- About 100 hairs fall from a person's head each day. (claim)

03. Write the type of TV show next to its description.

cartoon	game show	reality TV	soap opera	talk show
documentary	news program	sitcom	sports program	

- game show 1. Participants compete for money and prizes by answering questions that an average fifth grade student would know.
- _____ 2. The complicated lives of the Diaz family are dramatized daily.
- _____ 3. Ann Brady reports on the top news stories of the day.
- _____ 4. The Lakers take on the Suns in game three of the playoffs.
- _____ 5. Ty Ott interviews the actor Ash Lake and the chef Ami Tran.
- _____ 6. Astronaut Neil Armstrong's life is reviewed in this program.
- _____ 7. A boy and his ladybug friend star in this animated kids' show.
- _____ 8. Alice Lee stars in this funny half-hour show about high school.
- _____ 9. To win, chefs live together and cook dishes for celebrity judges.

04. Circle the words that best complete the sentences.

1. The last book I read wasn't original. In fact, it seemed pretty formulaic / touching to me.
2. My teacher was disappointed with the short story I wrote. She said my work was unoriginal and *engrossing* / *insipid*.
3. The last *Harry Potter* book was so *predictable* / *riveting* I read it in two days!
4. The way Nicholas Sparks describes the heartbreaking relationship between the two main characters in *The Notebook* is beautiful and *predictable* / *touching*.
5. I always worry when I read a Patricia Cornwell book. It's usually so *clichéd* / *engrossing* that I'd rather read the book than do my homework!
6. After I read the *inspiring* / *predictable* story of a woman who lost over 100 pounds, I followed her example and lost 20 pounds myself!
7. Cheap detective novels are usually *clichéd* / *moving*, but I love to read them anyway!

05. Read the text and answer the questions. Write the letter of the appropriate sentence.

1. Which sentence is the thesis statement? ____
2. Which sentence gives general examples? ____
3. Which sentence reflects the author's personal opinion about traditional beliefs? ____
4. Which sentence restates the thesis statement? ____

Traditional Beliefs

http://www.cup.org/beliefs

Traditional Beliefs

a Traditional beliefs are not the same as superstitions. They differ in that they supposedly transmit useful information from one generation to another. **b** For example, I'm sure most of us can remember our parents telling us to eat certain foods or to avoid specific behaviors. Is there wisdom in these teachings, or are they without value? **c** Some of the beliefs passed down through the generations reflect current medical thinking, whereas others have not passed the test of time.

Did your mother ever tell you to eat your carrots because they are good for your eyes? Scientists now report that eating carrots can help prevent a severe eye disease called macular degeneration. Because carrots are rich in a substance called beta carotene, eating just one carrot a day can reduce the likelihood of contracting this disease by 40 percent. Is garlic really good for you? It turns out that it is. It can kill the type of virus that causes colds. How about chicken soup? We now understand that chicken contains an amino acid that is similar to a drug often prescribed for people with respiratory infections.

Unfortunately, not all of Mom's advice has withstood medical inquiry. For example, generations of children have been told not to go swimming for an hour after eating. But research suggests that there is no danger in having lunch and then diving back into the ocean. Is chocolate really so bad for teenagers' skin? Doctors now believe that there is little connection between diet and an outbreak of acne. Does candy cause tooth decay? Well, yes and no. Sticky candy or other sweets made with grains tend to cause more decay than sweets made with simple sugars, which dissolve quickly in the mouth.

d Even though science can persuade us that some of our traditional beliefs don't hold water, there is still a lot of wisdom in the beliefs that have been handed down from generation to generation. **e** After all, much of this lore has been accumulated from thousands of years of trial-and-error experience in family health care.

f We should respect this informal body of knowledge even as we search for clear scientific evidence to prove it true or false.



Carrots are good for your eyes!

06. Read the article about the possible extrasensory perception of dogs. Match the abilities on the left with the explanations on the right.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. finding its way home ____ | a. changes in barometric pressure |
| 2. predicting thunderstorms ____ | b. changes in the earth's magnetic field |
| 3. knowing if a buried person is alive or not ____ | c. infrared heat sensors on the dog's snout |

The Amazing Abilities of

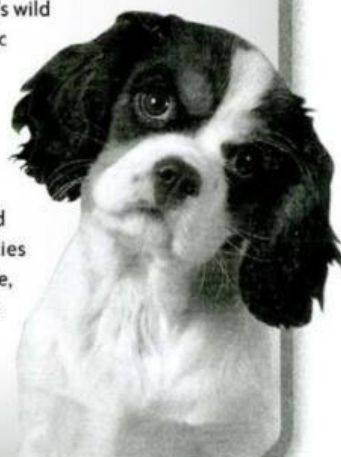
DOGS

Do dogs have a sixth sense? Yes, but perhaps not in the way that is generally assumed. There is nothing supernatural about canine sensitivities. They can all be explained by biological mechanisms, although it is true that we are only beginning to understand some of them.

For instance, dogs can find their way home from long distances. It has been said that this ability is based on the detection of subtle differences and changes in the earth's magnetic field. We are still learning how dogs achieve such remarkable navigational feats as have been objectively recorded time and again.

Dogs are also capable of predicting thunderstorms. When a storm is imminent, they may become intensely alarmed and begin whimpering and trembling as if in pain. Their distress increases when the thunder starts to boom, but it can be observed for some time before the storm actually breaks overhead. This sensitivity is a response to changes in barometric pressure. It may seem to be meaningless behavior today, but in the dog's wild ancestry, it made good sense to become worried by these climactic signals. For example, wolves go to a great deal of trouble to build their dens on slopes, perhaps to protect tiny pups from floods. It is possible that domestic dogs are acting out the behavior of their ancestors' response to the danger of flooding.

One of the most amazing claims for the dog's sixth sense was made recently by researchers who reported that they had discovered infrared detectors in the dog's nose. This could explain certain abilities previously thought to be supernatural. St. Bernard dogs, for example, are said to be able to tell whether a climber buried in an avalanche is still alive, simply by sniffing the snow. If there are sensitive heat detectors in the noses of animals, this theory is not so far-fetched. We know that they exist on the snouts of certain snakes, and this strengthens the case for their existence in dogs.



Check the statements that the author would probably agree with.

- ☐ 1. Dogs have more kinds of sensory perceptions than people.
- ☐ 2. Scientists will probably be able to discover how dogs' senses work.
- ☐ 3. The behavior of wolves is irrelevant to the understanding of dogs.
- ☐ 4. The behavior of some dogs during thunderstorms indicates that they are afraid of drowning.
- ☐ 5. The presence of heat detectors in some snakes proves that dogs have similar sensors.

07. Read the book reviews below to find the answers to these questions. Then read the book reviews again carefully.

1. How long did it take the reviewer to read *Marley & Me*? _____
2. What language are the foreign words from in *The Kite Runner*? _____

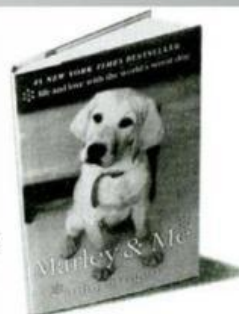
Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog

by John Grogan

I just finished *Marley & Me* last night. I had picked it up last weekend at the bookstore because the adorable photo on the cover caught my eye. Being an avid animal and dog lover, I couldn't pass it up.

Needless to say, I devoured the book in two days. To me it was refreshing to see such commitment in another dog owner. I have always believed that when you adopt a pet it is a lifelong commitment. Grogan articulates this idea without becoming overly emotional.

Grogan's writing is unquestionably clear, interesting, and down-to-earth. I couldn't put the book down. It is a joy to read, as well as a touching story. When you close it in the end, your heart will feel like it is too large to fit inside your chest.



The Kite Runner

by Khaled Hosseini



The Kite Runner is a beautiful novel by Afghan-American Khaled Hosseini that ranks among the best stories of this century.

Hosseini's first novel tells a heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between Amir, the son of a wealthy Afghan businessman, and Hassan, the son of the businessman's servant.

One is born to a father of enormous authority, the other to a crippled man. Amir and Hassan live and play together, not simply as friends, but as brothers without mothers. Loyalty and blood are the ties that bind their stories into a moving and unexpected plot. Even though exotic Afghan customs and Farsi words pop up occasionally, they are so well defined for the reader that the book is enlightening, not at all tedious.

Hosseini is an original and gifted writer. His canvas might be a place and time we barely understand, but in *The Kite Runner* he paints his art on the page, where it is personal and touching to us all.

Check (✓) whether each statement applies to *Marley & Me*, *The Kite Runner*, or both.

	<i>Marley & Me</i>	<i>The Kite Runner</i>	Both
1. Two boys share a close relationship.	☐	☐	☐
2. The story is deeply touching and moving.	☐	☐	☐
3. Having a pet is a big responsibility.	☐	☐	☐
4. A dog makes an impression on a man's life.	☐	☐	☐
5. The two main characters do not have mothers.	☐	☐	☐
6. The writing is extremely understandable.	☐	☐	☐

08. Listen to the audio and solve the activities.

Common explanations

- A** Listen to people talk about superstitions. What superstitions are they talking about? How is each superstition explained?
- B** Listen again. Answer these questions.
1. How did the woman with allergies react to the man's explanation?
 2. Why did the son feel it was necessary to say that he was only kidding?
 3. Why does the man suggest not telling Mr. Wilson that being left-handed was once thought to be suspicious?

09. Listen to the audio and solve the activities.

- B** Listen to four people talk about key elements of the movie genres in part A. Complete the chart with the genre each speaker is talking about.

	Movie genre	Key elements
1. Heather		
2. Josh		
3. Felipe		
4. Dana		

- C** Listen again. What three elements does each person consider essential for each movie genre? Complete the chart. Are their opinions similar to yours?

10. Read the instructions carefully and complete the two writing tasks.

What is your opinion of listening to live music versus listening to recorded music? Write a thesis statement expressing your opinion on the subject.

Now write a compare-and-contrast essay. Include your thesis statement in the introduction, two paragraphs describing the similarities and differences, and a conclusion restating your point of view.