

MS. CHI ENGLISH

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Class: GE8

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FCE 2008 (4) – TEST 4 - PART 1

Test 4

PAPER 1 READING (1 hour)

Part 1

You are going to read a magazine article about a woman called Clare Hall who used to train racehorses in Britain. 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.

A change of lifestyle

An allergy made Clare Hall give up her job training racehorses, but she has now created a new career for herself as a best-selling author. Jane Henman interviews her.

In the large field which would normally contain horses, there are three big dogs running wildly around. As I talk to Clare Hall and her husband, Daniel, he says, 'I'm not allowing Clare to have anything larger than those dogs.' It's said with a smile, but persuading one of Britain's most successful racehorse trainers to give up her work can't have been easy. Clare explains her situation: 'I'd been ill for some time, and then I discovered that I had actually developed an allergy to horses. Giving up training horses after so long was a horrible decision to take. But it wasn't as if I needed the money any more. And at least it allowed me to try writing on a full-time basis – I'd been scribbling away in my free time for years!'

Clare was brought up on a small farm. Her father couldn't afford to hire any farm workers so Clare was expected to take her share of the workload. 'One of my earliest jobs was to carry the lamp for my father when he went to feed the pigs at night. I remember feeling really grown up the day I was allowed to feed them on my own.' Sometimes Clare accompanied her father to the fields on her pony. 'I was little then and not confident on a horse. My father used to run alongside shouting, "Up, down, up, down." As soon as she could, Clare got a weekend job at the local racing stables to be with the horses. Then, after leaving school, she worked at the stables full-time. Her parents were always supportive: 'They were there if I needed them, but thankfully they took a back seat,' she says.

line 29 Clare's career as a trainer is legendary. She was not afraid of upsetting people and had a reputation for being outspoken. 'I have endless patience with horses – they respond to kindness and are prepared to work just as hard as you are – but I've no time for people who are in horse-racing purely for financial gain. The

old, established trainers were helpful, but some of the rich newcomers were really spiteful and resented my success. I had my battles. But when everyone knew I was leaving, I was quite taken aback by the number of people who said, "Clare – you can't go!"'

Since giving up racehorse training, Clare has made a new career as a novelist. She writes laboriously in longhand at the dining-room table. 'Writing is a challenge but also very isolating,' Clare says. 'When I started, I had all the feelings I used to get before an important race – fear, apprehension, but that all disappears when you win or you're published!'

Clare's son Tim has now taken over her training business, keeping eighty of her horses. Despite the fact that Tim's only been doing this for two years, Clare announces proudly that he's already had several winners. 'But racehorse owners have high expectations. Keeping them happy is not an easy task,' she says. 'It is something you really have to work at line 51 and I just hope he can cope.' She sometimes visits Tim's stables – not just to see the horses, but to see her granddaughter, who is also crazy about horses. 'Tim and his family come over here every Sunday and we talk about everything except horses, as I feel he needs a break from that,' she says.

Clare says she is trying to put her life in horse-racing behind her, but in the next breath, she's talking about a young horse at Tim's stables. There are compensations in her new lifestyle, however, such as more time to relax. 'My books are selling and I'm having golf lessons three times a week,' she says, smiling. 'We do need to sort things out better, though, so we have time to take holidays, and enjoy our hard-earned money! However, as hard as she tries, there is obviously a huge gap in Clare's life that has yet to be filled.'

- 1 What do we learn about Clare in the first paragraph?
 - A She is still worried about her financial security.
 - B She likes to follow her husband's advice.
 - C She was relieved to begin a less stressful job.
 - D She accepted that a change of career would be beneficial.
- 2 When Clare was a child, she
 - A was annoyed by her father's advice.
 - B was keen to earn money.
 - C enjoyed taking on responsibility.
 - D wanted to be more independent.
- 3 What does Clare mean by 'they took a back seat' in line 29?
 - A They gave her confidence.
 - B They had high expectations of her.
 - C They did not try to influence her.
 - D They did not ask her for help.
- 4 How did Clare feel at the end of her career as a trainer?
 - A upset by some people's personal criticism
 - B surprised at her colleagues' reactions
 - C relieved that the hard work was over
 - D proud of her contribution to horse-racing
- 5 According to Clare, horse training resembles writing in terms of
 - A the amount of effort required.
 - B the experience needed to succeed.
 - C the loneliness of the activity.
 - D the extremes of emotion involved.
- 6 What is Clare's attitude to her son?
 - A She considers that he is too competitive.
 - B She worries that he is under too much pressure.
 - C She believes that she should have more contact with him.
 - D She thinks he should spend more time with his daughter.
- 7 What does 'It' in line 54 refer to?
 - A dealing with the owners
 - B running a racing stable
 - C being successful in races
 - D earning money in horse-racing
- 8 In the final paragraph, the writer suggests that Clare
 - A plans to return to the horse-racing business.
 - B is exaggerating the size of her income.
 - C misses her involvement with horses.
 - D is concentrating too much on her hobbies.

Part 2

You are going to read a magazine article about a cruise ship. 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.

The *Oriana* turnaround

When the cruise ship *Oriana* comes into port, it has just 12 hours to get everything ready for the 1,800 passengers on its next cruise.

Chris Mersea joined the team for the day.

It's 6.00 a.m., still dark, and above the rooftops of the port city of Southampton a large orange funnel suddenly appears. It's attached to the 69,000-tonne cruise ship *Oriana*, the pride of P&O Cruise Lines. *Oriana* has been home, for the past eleven days, to some 1,800 passengers. It will soon be home to 1,800 different passengers yet to arrive in Southampton, but who in twelve hours' time will be setting sail for the Atlantic islands of Madeira and Tenerife.

In most small hotels the staff complain if they have to change more than ten bedrooms in one day. On *Oriana*, there are 900 cabins to be cleaned in just a few hours. **9**

On board *Oriana*, however, working practices are shaped not by the attitude of individual members of the staff, but by time, tide and a rigid cruise schedule. **10**

The first aim of the day is to have the last passengers off the ship and away by 10.30 a.m. **11** Even so, passengers manage to drive off home having forgotten sunglasses, souvenirs and even pearl earrings. The staff often find jewellery that has fallen down the backs of beds and chairs, and at least one passenger always manages to arrive home without his house keys – by which time the ship could already be halfway back across the Atlantic.

While *Oriana*'s armies of cabin stewards are changing sheets and looking for lost property, an

enormous amount of activity is also taking place elsewhere on the ship. **12** Everything from 10 tonnes of fish, to 108 new sun chairs, to a vanload of scenery for the ship's Rio Dance Spectacular has to be carefully checked in.

The biggest problems of the day are a set of waiters' uniforms that have disappeared and several thousand boiled sweets that don't seem to have turned up. **13**

While all this is going on, there is also a large number of people coming and going. Turnaround day, according to the captain, starts off with an end-of-term feeling because a lot of the crew are saying goodbye, but then others are arriving to take their places. **14** These include a replacement head waiter, a new swimming-pool attendant and a new piano act called the Bibby Sisters, who will contribute to the ship's entertainment programme during the cruise.

For the moment, though, the priority is to meet and greet the new passengers, who start coming on board as early as 1.30 p.m. **15** Five hours later, back on dry land, the band will be playing their own version of *Sailing*, as *Oriana* heads out towards the open sea. It's a thrilling moment for the 1,800 men, women and children on board, who can look forward to eleven days of fun and relaxation.

- A It's a leisurely process – nobody is made to feel they have to rush their goodbyes or their packing.
- B Lorries full of supplies for the ship's stores are waiting to be unloaded.
- C Hopefully, they haven't been missed amongst the loads of cornflakes and crisps that keep on coming, steered through the narrow corridors by dock workers in orange overalls.
- D As for having to stock up on food for a fortnight ahead, no hotel chef would hear of it.
- E These are entertained in the Tiffany Lounge area by a small group of musicians, playing pieces vaguely connected with the sea.
- F Every so often, however, a loud crash announces the departure of another empty metal container.
- G And today is no exception – in all, some 91 people are taking up or leaving their posts.
- H It would take really extreme weather conditions to stop the ship departing and returning at the stated times, wherever it's sailing.

Part 3

You are going to read an article in which four young people are talking about sport. 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.

Which person

thinks winning is the most important thing?

16	
----	--

was inspired by seeing others take part in the sport?

17	/
----	---

feels their sport has both a positive and negative impact on their social life?

18	
----	--

thinks that their sport may be inappropriate for a particular group of people?

19	
----	--

was nearly refused a place on a team?

20	
----	--

has changed their mind about participating in competitive sport?

21	/
----	---

has long-term plans which include continued involvement in their sport?

22	
----	--

is realistic about their chances of being very successful?

23	
----	--

feels that there is too much emphasis on analysing performance?

24	
----	--

has learnt to be more sympathetic to less successful competitors?

25	
----	--

thinks playing their sport changes their character?

26	
----	--

uses a second sport to improve performance in their main sport?

27	
----	--

is looking forward to a new challenge?

28	/
----	---

has friends locally who share their passion for sport?

29	
----	--

thinks it is easier to perform well in their sport when they are calm?

30	
----	--

Young people and sport

A Luke Hazleton

My mum is the team manager for the Olympic diving team and when I was a baby I used to go with her to the pool and jump in and out – now I practise diving every day after school and on Saturdays. I'm really too tall to be a great diver and my long legs make it difficult to do somersaults, so I don't think I'll ever make it to the top. But nevertheless, I find it exhilarating when I'm diving well. If it's a complicated dive, I have to concentrate very hard, which is difficult if I feel nervous. My dad's support is very motivating for me. I take part in about ten competitions a year, both national and international. The best thing about it is that you make new friends from different countries. I do trampolining for the regional team, which prepares me for diving – the moves are similar but you don't land in water! The one thing I don't like about it is that doing my homework takes up my spare time and I don't have much time to go out with my friends from school.

B Natalie Harris

Last year our netball team was promoted to the top league and so the coach became very strict. At that level, every move is scrutinised and discussed, which makes everyone feel very pressurised. There's a lot of competition to get chosen for the team and sometimes I got substituted. When I played last year, I would look at the subs sitting on the sidelines and not really care, but when I started to become one myself I had a whole new perspective on the game. Now I realise that when you're not the best at a sport it doesn't seem as much fun as when you're a top player. I left the team earlier this year, as the pressure of playing in matches was too much; it was becoming a frustration instead of a recreation. I still enjoy playing netball with my friends in gym classes, when I can

relax without worrying about impressing my coach all the time.

C Joanne Whittaker

I was good at football and I really enjoyed playing left back in the school team. Then one Saturday when I was 14, I went to watch the local ice hockey team play. It was so exciting and became a real turning point in my life. School football seemed so dull in comparison. I discovered that there was a local women's ice hockey team just being set up. At first, the coach thought I was too young and too inexperienced as I'd only done occasional fun skating on Saturday afternoons. But she agreed to give me a trial and I have been playing for three years now. I'll really find out what I can do in June when we go to take part in a women's international ice hockey competition in Prague.

D James Spiers

I knew I was serious about rugby when I scored a try in my first game. I was named 'player of the year' at my club last year and I'm also captain of my school team. My uncle often comes to watch me play. He's very competitive so that is probably why I am too. Losing makes me feel that I've done something wrong. It doesn't happen very often, though. I'm not normally an aggressive person but, on the rugby pitch, I am. I don't think girls should play rugby as it's so aggressive and they could easily get injured. Most of my schoolmates play rugby and all of them are sporty. I can't really imagine my life without rugby! I'm going to agricultural college when I leave school and eventually will take over my uncle's farm, but I hope there'll still be time for lots of rugby. If I have a son, I'll want to help coach his team and I'd be disappointed if he wasn't interested in sports. I'll definitely be a competitive dad!

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 your friend Anna arrange an end-of-year party at the international college where you study. Read Anna's email and the notes you have made. Then write an email to Anna using all your notes.

email

From: Anna
Sent: 5th December
Subject: Party plans

Thank you for letting me know that you've found a room for the party. Nearly everyone I've spoken to says they can come. So now there are just a few decisions we need to make.

Great!

First of all we need to organise the food. Shall we ask everyone to bring something or shall we pay a company to provide it for us?

Say which and why

I'm not sure what to do about the music because the band we tried to book can't come. Have you got another suggestion?

Yes ...

Finally, I've had an idea. Why don't we make it a fancy dress party? *What do you think?*

Speak to you soon.

Tell Anna

Anna

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 English class has been discussing how useful different subjects studied at school are. Now your teacher has asked you to write an essay answering this question:

Which **two** subjects studied at school are most useful for our future lives?

Write your **essay**.

3 You see this advertisement in an international student magazine:

Holiday hire shop on the beach

We provide equipment for tourists to hire – bicycles, swimming and sports equipment. We need an English-speaking person to help in the shop who:

- likes meeting people
- is interested in sport
- can advise on the equipment.

Write and tell us why you are suitable for the job. Contact Mr James Carlton, Manager.

Write your **letter of application**.

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

It all began when I found an old key at the back of the kitchen cupboard.

Write your **story**.

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

(a) *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

Your English teacher has given you this essay for homework:

Pip's life suddenly changes when he becomes rich. Does this money make him happy?

Write your **essay**.

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

This is part of a letter you have received from your English-speaking penfriend, Robin:

I really enjoyed 'Phantom of the Opera', but can you explain why Erik allowed Christine to leave and marry Raoul? I thought Erik wanted to keep her for himself...

Write soon.

Robin

Write your **letter**.

