

A) READING COMPREHENSION

I. Read the text and decide if the sentences are true or false. Choose T (true) or F (false).

Valentine's Day

Great Britain

In Great Britain on the night before Valentine's Day, women used to pin four bay leaves to the corner of their pillow and ten they ate boiled eggs with salt. They believed they would dream of their future husbands. Another custom was to write the names of eligible, single young men on pieces of paper and stick them to balls of clay. They would then drop them into water and watch and wait. The first name to rise would, they believed, be the name of their future husband. These days it is more customary to send your secret love an unsigned greetings card, in the hope that he or she will know who sent it and send a card in return.

United States of America

Most people in the USA treat Valentine's Day as an opportunity to express their feelings towards their loved ones, including friends and family members. However, a popular trend these days is to send an 'anti-Valentine' card. These cards are intended to be humorous, and contain negative messages about Valentine's Day or love in general, for people who wish to protest the holiday. Some cards even contain a goodbye message to end a relationship!

Japan

In Japan there are two Valentine's Days. On 14th February, women give chocolate not only to their boyfriends or husbands but also to men who are friends or colleagues. The men don't have to give anything. On 14th March, which is called 'White Day', the men must buy white chocolate or marshmallows for their girlfriends, wives and female friends and colleagues.

Korea

Valentine's Day traditions in Korea are similar to those in Japan. However, in addition, the young people who didn't have a girlfriend or boyfriend in February or March get to celebrate their own day on 14th April. On this special day, called 'Black Day', young single boys and girls sit with their friends who are in the same situation and eat *jajang* noodles, which are black. This ensures that everyone has a day to celebrate!

China

The Chinese celebrate Valentine's Day on 14th February, but they also celebrate a special Valentine's Day on 7th July of the Chinese lunar calendar. This celebration comes from a Chinese fairy tale from a long time ago. It is the only night in the year when two stars meet in the skies above. One star represents a shepherd boy and the other his lover, a weaver.

Denmark

In Denmark, people swap poems and sweets. Some people also send joke cards, which are called *gaekkbrev*, and instead of writing their name, they sign it in dots. If the person who receives the card correctly guesses the identity of the sender, they will get a chocolate egg from the sender at Easter time.

Italy

There is a custom in Italy for young couples to get engaged on Valentine's Day. Some shops sell china baskets and cups which are filled with sweets and tied with ribbons. The young romantics offer these to each other as a token of their love.

France

A long time ago, the French custom for Valentine's Day involved young women going into one house and young men going into another house, opposite the first house. They would then call out of the windows to each other. If, in the end, the man was not attracted to his partner, he would go away and abandon her. Later on in the day, a bonfire would be lit and the women would insult and burn images of the young men who had abandoned them.

Germany

Young German men present their loved ones with a beautiful bouquet of flowers on Valentine's Day, along with a message of love. They must remember, though, to give an odd number (1, 3, 5, etc.) of flowers and not an even number (2, 4, 6, etc.), otherwise it could bring them both bad luck.

Adapted from: <http://www.insideout.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/NIO499-Valentines-Day.pdf>

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| 1- Women in Britain were believed to dream about their future husband on the night before Valentine's Day. | T / F |
| 2- No relationships are ended on this day. | T / F |
| 3- The Japanese only give chocolate to their spouses or partners. | T / F |
| 4- In Korea, there is a Valentine's Day for people without lovers. | T / F |
| 5- You are expected to eat black food if you are single in Korea. | T / F |
| 6- The Danish sign their Valentine's cards in code. | T / F |
| 7- Young Italian couples usually agree to get married as part of the Valentine's Day traditions. | T / F |
| 8- French women used to throw images of their Valentines into the water. | T / F |
| 9- If a woman received ten red roses in Germany, she would be delighted. | T / F |
| 10- Valentine's Day is celebrated all over the world exclusively on the same date. | T / F |

B) USE OF ENGLISH

I. Fill in the gaps in this text with a suitable option.

Animal communication

Dolphins are not only animals besides humans that use sounds in an apparently intelligent manner. Whales also use a complex system of sounds which is similar in many ways to a human language. One type of whale even sings, and its songs can go on for as long as three or four hours., they can under water at distances of more than 300 kilometres. After one of these songs with the aid of a computer, Carl Sagan said it has at least a million 'bits' of information. This is approximately the same amount as 'bits' as in a long poem like the *Odyssey*.

Chimpanzees also use a system of different sounds with each other. One type of cry seems to mean something like 'danger in the air' or 'big bird' and apparently means 'danger on the ground' or 'snake', is quite advanced for this animal species. When they hear the first cry, they hide under trees or in holes and look up at the sky. The second cry causes them to hide in the upper branches of trees and to stare nervously at the grass.

Chimpanzees are also capable of sign language. So are gorillas. One chimp called Washoe learned to use about 160 separate signs meaning such things as 'Give me a drink' and 'banana'. Washoe even learned to insult! She had a teacher who once refused to give her a drink. Washoe got angrier and angrier and used several signs which meant 'dirty Jack!' The scientific community feels about the findings of this research since they are scientists who are investigating language problems in ill people.

Adapted from O'Neill, R et al (1987) *Success at FCE*, Oxford University Press.

II. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given without changing it. You must use the word given.

1- Sally spent the whole summer indoors painting the children's bedroom, that's why she hasn't got a suntan. **SPENT**

If Sally a suntan.

2- Before the war, those two villages were part of the same country. **USED**
Before the war, those two villages the same country.

3- If you don't hurry up, you won't meet anyone at the party. **GONE**
Hurry up or everyone home by the time you get to the party.

4- It is highly likely that Maria attended the interview last week. **MUST**
Maria the interview last week.

5- Sven went skiing despite feeling ill. **WELL**
Although Sven he went skiing.

6- 'Have you spoken to Alan since the party, Carole?' Jason asked. **WHETHER**
Jason asked Carole to Alan since the party.

- 7- Peter regrets not asking Pam out. Now she is dating another man. **WISHES**
 Peter because now she is dating another man.
- 8- "Drop your guns and put your hands on your head," the police officer shouted at us. **ORDERED**
 We heads.
- 9- They say that when you get old you become wise. **OLDER**
 It is said that you become.
- 10- Tina's handbag was stolen from her last week. **HER**
 Tina had last week.

III. Put the verbs in brackets in the correct form. Use modals if necessary.

All you need to know about Sudoku

Called 'the fastest growing puzzle in the world', Sudoku was virtually unheard of in Europe until a few years ago. The craze first (**take off**) in Japan over twenty years ago and the Japanese now (**buy**) hundreds of thousands of Sudoku magazines every month. When a British newspaper began (**publish**) the game in 2004, its sales rocketed. Other newspapers were quick to do the same. Reports on CBS and other TV news channels picked up on the craze and suddenly Sudoku was everywhere. There are now Sudoku magazines, Sudoku books and games for mobile phones.

The first Sudoku World Championship (**hold**) in Lucca, Italy, over two days in March 2006 and the winner was Jana Tylova, a 31-year-old accountant from the Czech Republic. The participants, who came from 22 countries, (**go through**) very strict preliminary qualifying competitions in their own countries before making the journey to Lucca. The 85 qualifiers began with straightforward Sudoku grids and then tried (**complete**) more difficult variations, with the fastest person to work out the solution winning the most points. Tylova, the only woman in the top 18 competitors, was unable to explain the secret of her success.

Sudoku was probably inspired by the work of the eighteenth century Swiss mathematician, Leonhard Euler, but the puzzle as we now know it (**design**) by Howard Garns, an American architect and puzzle constructor. His game was included in a New York puzzle magazine, but it was a Japanese magazine, *Monthly Nikolist*, that changed some of the rules and turned Sudoku into what it (**become**) today.

In 2005, the first Sudoku show on TV was broadcast by the Sky channel in the UK. Nine teams of nine players (including celebrities) took part in the studio while viewers at home (**also – join**) an interactive competition. To publicize the show, Sky TV built a huge Sudoku grid, almost 100 square metres, on a hill overlooking a motorway in the west of England. It (**be**) a huge success if, unfortunately, the designers of the giant puzzle hadn't made a huge mistake: there were over one thousand possible solutions to this particular puzzle.

Adapted from Kerr, P. & C. Jones (2007) Straightforward. Upper Intermediate. Workbook. Macmillan

C) WRITING

You must write around 180 words on ONE of the following:

A magazine is looking for film reviews with the following title: ***The film that made me laugh the most.*** Write a review for the newsletter saying **what the film is about, what kind of film it is, who stars in it and why it made you laugh so much.** Write your **review.**

You have been asked to write an essay for a school magazine. The title of the essay is '***Are exams really useful?***' Write your essay describing the **advantages and disadvantages of having exams** in the different school subjects and **provide your own opinion** on the topic. Write your **essay.**

You have decided to enter a short story competition. The competition rules say that the story **must being or end** with the following words:

I shall never forget the New Year's Eve party at The Stellar Hotel as long as I live.

Write your **story** for the competition.