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Book: American Full Blast B2 (Units 1 and 2)



Sixth Intensive- Written Test 1

1. READING- Read the following article about "The Importance of Hair"

1 I once saw a short film about a young man being shaved. He sat very close to the camera and stared, he hardly **blinked** at all even though the person shaving his hair was a little rough at times. I could just see an orange cloth around his neck and there was smoke drifting up in front of him from an invisible source. The young man was obviously going to become a monk and his head was being shaved in preparation. By the orange robe I assumed he was a Buddhist rather than a Christian monk, and the smoke was coming from incense sticks - I could almost smell them! His blank **stare** seemed to suggest some holy trance or meditation.



2 When he was completely shaved the barber brushed the fallen hair away and then removed the cloth - I was a little surprised because I thought the monk was wearing a robe rather than having a protective cloth draped over his shoulders. The camera drew back and I was surprised even more. He wore a tight, white t-shirt **tucked into** jeans that were held up by a pair of braces. He also wore large, black boots. He wasn't a monk at all - he was a skinhead. He was still staring as he leaned forward and picked up the smoking item - not incense sticks at all but a cigarette. He put the cigarette into the corner of his mouth and took a drag. The shaven head no longer meant a peaceful existence, but an aggressive one.

3 The film cleverly showed the strong, but opposing, symbolism associated with shaved heads. Why do both monks and skinheads shave their heads when their attitude to life is so different? For monks a shaved head is a sign of renunciation, giving up worldly things and putting aside **vanity**. But skinheads have a different **motive** to monks. They recognize that a shaved head can send out a negative message. Hair, and what you do with it, can make you more attractive so by removing it the skinhead is saying: I don't care. It's a rejection of society and its traditional values. So, the act of shaving the head symbolizes rebellion.

4 Long hair also has strong symbolism. Ironically, in the West, hippies in the 1960s grew their hair long as a rejection of traditional values. Hippies led an alternative lifestyle and their hair was grown long to express new social, political and moral values - so the act of not cutting hair symbolizes rebellion, too!

5 So what is it about hair that can make it so symbolic? Why does its length represent our religious, political and cultural beliefs? Perhaps this is because hair has some strange properties. Firstly, it's the only part of the body that does not register pain, except at the roots - we can do all sorts of things to our hair and it doesn't feel anything. Secondly, it **outlives** us - a lock of hair can be kept as a remembrance long after someone has died. Thirdly, it's not alive but, as it can remain in the same state forever, it doesn't seem to be dead either - it's immortal. So the next time you go to the hairdresser for a haircut consider the significance of what you are having done and what your chosen hairstyle says about you!

1-a) Match the following definitions with the correct underlined word or phrase in the text. There is a word you don't need. (5/1.5:7. 5)

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1- Excessive pride in one's appearance or accomplishments | blink |
| 2- To close and open one or both of the eyes rapidly. | stare |
| 3- To thrust or fold the edge of an item of clothing, so as to secure it | outlive |
| 4- To live longer than | vanity |
| 5- A fixed look with the eyes wide open. | tuck into |

1-b) Read the text again and choose the correct answers to the questions. The number in brackets refers to the paragraph. (6/2:12)

a) What are the words/phrases that show that the writer is guessing who the person is? (1)

1 ...I **assumed** he was a Buddhist rather than a Christian monk.... / ... **seemed to suggest** some holy trance...

2- ... **was obviously** going to become a monk/ ... from an **invisible source**.

b) The writer was mistaken about some things - what are they? (2)

1-He thought the man was wearing a robe but he wasn't. When he saw his clothes and shoes, he realized he wasn't a monk at all - he was a skinhead. Also, what he had assumed was an incense stick, was a cigarette.

2-He thought the monk was wearing a protective cloth but it was a robe. When he saw his clothes and boots, he realized that what he thought were incense sticks was in fact a cigarette.

c) What is the first symbolism associated with shaving the writer refers to? (3)

1-The first symbolism associated with shaving is vanity and resignation.

2-The first symbolism associated with shaving is renunciation to material things and lack of vanity.

d) What is the second symbolism associated with shaving the writer refers to? (3)

1-The second symbolism associated with shaving is a rejection of society and rebellion

2.The second symbolism associated with shaving is bullying and aggression.

e) Why is the word *ironically* used? (4)

1-Contrary to skinheads' view, the act of not cutting hair can also symbolize rebellion

2-Contrary to skinheads' view, the act of cutting hair can also symbolize rebellion

f) According to the article, why is hair so symbolic? (5)

1-The writer points out that hair is so symbolic because its roots do not register pain, it never dies and it's immortal.

2-The writer points out that hair is so symbolic because it's the only part of the body that does not register pain, excepting its roots. It also outlives us and it can remain unchangeable.

2- **LISTENING** - Listen to a YOUTUBE video about the different functions of hair. Then, read the sentences below and decide whether they are TRUE or FALSE. (10/2:20)

1- Human beings have approximately 5,000,000 hairs in their body. TRUE FALSE

2- Human hair protects different parts of the body like the head, the nose, the ear and the eyes. TRUE FALSE

3- An important function of hair is signaling facial expressions... You can see this in a person's eyebrows that signal different emotions TRUE FALSE

4- Hair also protects all the body from serious sunburn, especially the face. TRUE FALSE

- 5- The speaker mentioned the case of footballers whose long hair releases a cloud of heat in cold weather games. TRUE FALSE
- 6- Hair root plexuses can detect light touch, especially when you move around a crowd of people. TRUE FALSE
- 7- It is possible to identify people standing in their backs simply by looking at their hair color and hair style. TRUE FALSE
- 8- Hair plays a role in attracting people who can be your friends. TRUE FALSE
- 9- Hair helps in releasing chemicals called pheromones which are secreted by love glands onto the body. TRUE FALSE
- 10- The purpose of this short video is to introduce the basic functions of hair. TRUE FALSE

3- GRAMMAR

3-a) Lily is looking for recommendations of a hairdresser's. Choose the present simple or present continuous to complete the dialog below. (8/0.5:4)

Sharon: My best friend, Candace..... at a Hair Saloon near the corner. (work)

Lily:today? (she/work)

Sharon: Oh, not today. On Mondays shea free day. (have)

Lily: Oh, what a pity. I need to have my hair cut, I.....my future parents in law tomorrow. (visit)

Sharon: Great! married soon? (you/get)

Lily: No way! We..... where to live! (not/even/have)

Sharon: But,to get married? (you/want)

Lily: I.....about that. I'm not sure yet. (think)

3-b) These events happened during the week at the hairdresser's. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in parenthesis. Use Past Simple or Past Progressive. (8/0.5:4)

1. They(cut) their neighbors' hair when the postman(come).
2. I(open) the Saloon's door when I(hear) a noise.
3. She(watch) a Hair documentary when the doorbell(ring).
4. We(hear) a cry and(run) into the Saloon.
5. First Samantha(buy) the Hair products, and then she(take) the plane to Chicago.
6. I think she(wear) her new hat when I(see) her at the Fashion Show.
7. When the phone(ring), the old stylist.....(work) in the Saloon.

8. Sally(take) a photo when I(do) my hair.

3-c)- My stylist went on a getaway last summer. Complete the letter using the comparative or superlative form of the adjectives in brackets. You might need to include **the** or **than**. (8/1:8)

Dear Mary,

Haven't seen you for ages! I guess the last time I saw you was in my Hair Saloon two years ago... Anyway, let me tell you about my last vacations.

I took some days off last year but it was a disaster! My hotel room was 1) _____ (small) the one in the photograph in the brochure. I think it was 2) _____ (small) room in the hotel. The weather was terrible too. It was 3) _____ (cold) in The US. The beach near the hotel was very dirty – it was 4) _____ (dirty) all the beaches on the island. The food was 5) _____ (expensive) I expected and I didn't have enough money.

One day I went shopping in a big department store and I broke a vase. It was 6) _____ (expensive) vase in the whole shop. But 7) _____ (bad) thing all was that I lost my passport and I couldn't go back home. It was 8) _____ (horrible) getaway in all my life.

Hope you are having a good time in Paris. Looking forward to hearing from you soon,

Yours, Thelma

3- d) Read an extract about the history of Hairstyle and write the correct article: **a /an / the /-** (10/0.5:5)

1910

..... Victorian era left lasting mark on early twentieth century hairstyles, butrigidity of the era gave way to more flowy styles in early 1900s.

1920s-30s,

While long hairstyles remained fashionable in 1920s, the new decade marked increased interest in hair accessories, like felt and wool hats, jeweled pins, hair bows, and headbands.



1940s

The late 1930s saw growth in hair length. The classic chignon became popular styling option for 1940s women, as it could be worn both for event or evening out.

4- VOCABULARY

4-a) Use the word given in CAPITALS at the end of the sentences to form a suitable adjective (6/1.5:9)

1- It is extremely important to provide young stylists withsupport. **EMOTION**

2- She painted the Hair Saloon a beautiful blue that was.....on the eyes **PLEASE**

3- The new hairdressers had much to be..... for. **THANK**

4- After working for so long, the barbers have saved aamount of money. **CONSIDER**

