Manhattan - School of Languages
6th YEAR - TEENS - FINAL EXAM – December 2023

Time allowed: 2 hr

Name: _____ Surname: _____

SECTION A: Reading Comprehension

CANOE MAN

When John Darwin walked into a London police station one evening in December 2007, claiming to be suffering from amnesia, few people could have imagined the web of deceit that was about to unravel around him. 'I think I may be a missing person,' was one of the first things he told police.

JOHN DARWIN and his wife Anne were retired and running a small hotel when she reported him missing in March 2002. John, who was a teacher before becoming a prison officer, had apparently disappeared into the sea in a canoe. He had, in fact, been dropped off at a railway station by his wife as the first part of an elaborate plan to fake his death and to mislead insurance companies and the police.

Before the deception started, John and Anne Darwin had appeared to be happy and wealthy. But in reality they owed a lot of money. In March 2002 they were refused a £20,000 bank loan – just six days before John's disappearance.

Soon after turning up in London more than five years later, he claimed he had never intended to defraud anyone. However, the full scale of the deception was quickly revealed by police and media inquiries.

Anne Darwin initially denied that she knew her husband was alive, but then a photograph was found of her and her husband smiling happily with an estate agent in Panama. The photograph was dated July 2006, proving she knew he hadn't died. She confessed to having communicated with him by email.

Anne was accused of six charges of deception and nine of money laundering. She apologized but stated that her husband had forced her to go along with the plan. But the prosecution claimed it was a true criminal partnership.

After John disappeared, a rescue operation was launched that cost more than £100,000. Six weeks later, his broken canoe washed up on the beach. For the next five-and-a-half years, Anne played the role of a grieving widow, hiding the fraud from her sons, the insurance companies and the police. She and her unsuspecting sons attended an inquest where an open verdict was recorded, allowing a death certificate to be issued. Anne received £160,000 in insurance policies plus an £8,000 widow's pension.

John Darwin lived rough for a while after faking his death. Then he stole the identity of someone called John Jones, who died as a baby. He used John Jones's birth certificate to obtain false documents. Within a month of his disappearance, John returned to their home. To disguise his identity, he grew his hair and a straggly beard, and acquired a limp. He was so confident that he could outsmart everyone that he continued to walk around, disguising himself with a wooly hat.

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In October 2003, John Darwin obtained a forged passport in the name of John Jones. He flew to America in 2004 and contacted Kelly Steele, a woman he had met while playing online games. He persuaded her to buy a ranch in her name, offering her £25,000 to do this. He later demanded his money back and sent her threatening emails. Steele described him as the strangest, most frightening man she had ever met.
By December 2007, the game was up. Unbeknown to him, the police had started to investigate Anne's bank accounts in Panama, the UK and Jersey. John Darwin was arrested and taken in for questioning. His wife was in Panama and was tracked down by journalists. In March 2008, John admitted that he had faked his death, and pleaded guilty to seven charges of deception.
The couple's two sons said the news that their father had died in an accident had 'crushed their world'. Both brothers spoke of their sense of betrayal at their parents' actions.

- **Read the article. Then answer the following questions:**
  1. Why did John pretend to have died?

  _____

  2. How did he pretend to have been killed?

  _____

  3 Who in his family knew his death was fake? Who didn't know?

  _____

  4 How did he disguise himself?

  _____

  5. How did the Darwins' two sons feel about their parents' fraud?

  _____

SECTION B: Use of English

1. **Underline the correct tense: past perfect passive or past perfect continuous.**

Toad Alert!

Last spring thousands of toads risked their lives in an amazing journey across busy highways to their chosen breeding ground. When the Cumbrian Wildlife Trust realized that a new ring road (1) ***had been built / had been building*** on the toads' traditional route to their breeding ground, they immediately took precautions.

Volunteers (2) ***had been making / had been made*** preparations for the toads' migration for weeks before it started. By February, a month before the toads' migration, road signs (3) ***had***

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been erected / had been erecting and special underpasses (4) ***had been digging / had been dug*** at busy toad crossing points.

The toads instinctively (5) ***had been following / had been followed*** a centuries-old route to a particular pond, regardless of the dangers involved. David Harpley, Senior Conservation Manager at Cumbria Wildlife Trust, said: 'Luckily motorists (6) ***had been alerting / had been alerted*** before the crossing and relatively few toads were killed.' Before all the publicity, local environment groups (7) ***had been lobbying / had been lobbied*** the council to build a nature reserve around the toads' breeding pond.

2. Match the two parts of the sentences.

If they hadn't won on Saturday,	I wouldn't have taken photos at the party.
If they'd won on Saturday,	you'd be ill.
If I'd had a camera,	they wouldn't be the champions.
If I hadn't had a camera,	if he'd put his alarm clock on.
If you'd eaten those mushrooms,	they'd be the champions.
If you hadn't eaten those mushrooms,	you wouldn't be ill.
He wouldn't be late	I'd have taken photos at the party.

3. Rewrite them using the correct form of the verb in brackets.

a. We were right at the back of the concert hall and we couldn't see a thing. (be able)

_____

b. The party next door was so loud that I wasn't able to get to sleep all night. (manage)

_____

c. I was able to do things like that when I was younger but I'm too old now. (can)

_____

d. Did you manage to speak to him? (be able)

_____

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e. Living off fish and rain-water, they were able to survive for three weeks at sea. (manage)

_____

4. Rewrite the sentences so that they include the words in brackets. Change the words and the word order so that the meaning is the same.

a) I'll go to the cinema with you if you promise to help me with my homework afterwards. (provided)

_____

b) If I don't get some time to myself I'll never finish this book. (otherwise)

_____

c) I don't mind being alone if I've got a good book to read. (as long as)

_____

d) What would you do if you were abandoned on a desert island? (suppose)

_____

e) If you had a week's holiday now, what would you do? (imagine)

_____

5. Rewrite these sentences using *was/were going to*.

a) We didn't spend the day at the Science Museum because Roland wasn't well.

_____

_____

b) The professor didn't hand out the information sheets on lateral thinking because he forgot them.

_____

_____

c) I didn't plan to join the debating society, but I changed my mind.

_____

_____

d) We planned to have snowboarding lessons, but our parents didn't let us.

_____

_____

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e) I intended to start my new exercise regime last weekend, but I twisted my ankle on Friday.

_____

_____

SECTION C: Listening 1.41 (upper - page 17)

- **Listen to a radio interview with a doctor about cyberchondria. Then answer the questions.**

1. What did a patient she saw recently think he had? What did he really have?

_____

2. What four things does she say that diagnosis depends on apart from symptoms?

_____

3. What kind of website forums does she recommend?

_____

4. Complete the three tips she gives to cyberchondriacs:

i Only look online _____

ii Make sure that the website you are using is _____

iii Remember that common symptoms usually _____

SECTION D: Writing

- **Choose ONE option and write about 250 words.**
  1) Imagine you have some French friends in France and you stayed with them for a week last month. Write an email to say thank you.
  2) Write a letter of complaint to a shop you went to buy a gift for your mother two days ago.
  3) Write a film review about a film you would recommend people to watch.

_____

_____

_____

_____

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- **Write a story about <u>the worst experience you have ever had at school</u>. Write about 250 words.**

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