

SAMPLE TEST FOR GRADE B INTERMEDIATE SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

PART A : READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following texts and answer the questions below (35 %)

“RED CLIFF”, THE CHINESE EPIC



The most expensive epic film in Chinese history has touched the hearts of world audiences. Directed by action film specialist John Woo, “Red Cliff” has hit \$124 million in Asia alone, breaking the record held by “Titanic.”

Based on historical events, “Red Cliff” dramatically sketches the Battle of Red Cliff in China in 208 AD. Prime Minister and powerful General Cao Cao (ZHANG FENGYI) invades the southern Chinese regions, whose rulers, Liu Bei and

Sun Quan, are rebelling against the Emperor. The southern kingdom rulers, Zhuge Liang (TAKESHI KANESHIRO) and Zhou Ye (TONY LEUNG) form an alliance against the tyrant. A series of battles follow until the enemies’ final conflict at Red Cliff.



Despite the Mandarin language of the actors, which may put off the audience, the action includes excellent choreography, entertaining martial arts, catchy dialogues, atmospheric scenery and impressive special effects. The colossal ships, countless soldiers, and the battles which focus mostly on the personalities of the generals and their strategies are a thrill to watch. Woo himself has stated that his goal was to create an “Asian ‘Troy’”.

Questions on the text

1. How big was the movie’s success compared to “Titanic”?

or (alternatively)

1. Choose the best answer a, b, c, or d and give a reason for your answer (use information from the text and your own words)

In the writer’s opinion, the movie’s success is due to ...

- a. the fact that its production cost lots of money*
- b. John Woo’s work*
- c. the great effect it had on the hearts of the audience*
- d. its epic nature*

Reason :

.....

2. Is the movie simply narrating a Chinese legend?

or (alternatively)

2. Choose one of the two statements to complete with evidence from the text

- a. According to the critic, the audience should believe the story in the movie, because
- b. According to the critic, the audience shouldn't believe the story in the movie, because

3. What is the main cause of the battles in the movie?

or (alternatively)

3. Fill in the following chart with information from the text

The movie battles		
Opposing parts	Action they take (full sentences, not notes)	Reason for their action (full sentences, not notes)
General Cao Cao		
Zhuge Liang and Zhou Ye		

4. Is the use of Mandarin and not English by the actors a weak point of the movie?

Give a reason for your answer.

or (alternatively)

4. Complete the following statement using information from the text

According to the text, what makes the battles in the movie different from other battles is

PART B : LANGUAGE USE (35%)

Activity 1 : Fill in the gaps with the right form of the word given in capitals in the brackets

SECRETS OF THE RAINFOREST (extract from a radio programme)

Reporter : Hello and welcome to our THINK GREEN programme. Today we're going to be



talking about the rainforest and in particular the rainforest in Borneo. In 2007 there was an (1) _____ (AGREE) to protect a large area of rainforest and (2) _____ (ENVIRONMENT) scientists have just revealed some of the

strange and rare animals and insects that live there. Let's listen to David Norman. He mentions some of the diverse wildlife in Borneo and (3) _____ (SPECIFIC) four different animals. What are they?

David Norman : Hello! It's really an extraordinarily rich tropical rainforest, where you have elephants, and orang-utans and rhinoceros and clouded leopards all (4) _____ (LIVE) in the same territory. In a (5) _____ (PROTECT) area I saw orang-utans and that was in Sabah, that's the (6) _____ (NORTH) part of Borneo.

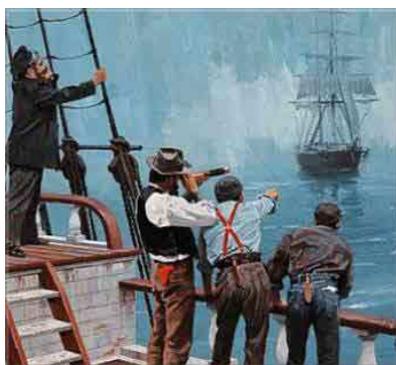
Reporter: David, tell us about some of the more (7) _____ (USE) creatures that have been discovered in the Borneo rainforest.

David Norman : Well, you will be (8) _____ (AMAZE), but the world's (9) _____ (LONG) insect has been discovered here, about half a metre long!

Reporter: Now just imagine that thing landing on your head!

David Norman: Well, I don't mind touching and holding creepy-crawlies like insects and spiders. I have made so many (10) _____ (discover) in the natural world, that nothing surprises me any more.

Activity 2 : guess the missing VERBS to fill in the gaps in the story



The Mystery of the Mary Celeste Ghost Ship

**Mystery Ship Found Deserted Near Azores
NO SIGN OF PASSENGERS OR CREW**

December 4th, 1872

It's a hot afternoon. The First Mate of the Dei Gracia is (1) _____ out to sea through his telescope. In the distance he (2) _____ something surprising. He calls to his captain. 'Look over there, sir' he tells Captain Morehouse. 'Do you recognise that ship?' Captain Morehouse looks through the telescope. For a moment he can't (3) _____ his eyes. 'The Mary Celeste?' he says. 'What's it doing here?'

The Mary Celeste (4) _____ New York a week before its sister ship, the Dei Gratia. 'Where's it heading?' 'Nowhere,' says the first mate. 'I've been (5) _____ it for an hour, with the telescope, but I can't see anyone on board. The ship is just (6) _____ without control! 'Wh a t ' s (7) _____ , Captain?' 'I don't know,' says Captain Morehouse 'But I don't like it. '

As they (8) _____ closer to the Mary Celeste, all conversation stopped. Something was clearly wrong. The deck of Celeste was completely deserted. There (9) _____ no signs of life. Some men from the Dei Gratia boarded the ship. Neither Captain Briggs nor his wife and daughter or anyone from the crew was there.

'They've all (10) _____,' says the first mate. 'It's like a ghost ship. What can we do, Captain?' 'We need to find out what is going on,' says the Captain.

Activity 3 : *Hans Matheson, a popular Scottish actor gave an interview. As a reporter, you have to publish an article with Hans's answers. Use the actor's words in the appropriate indirect speech in your article.*



Here is what Hans said

- a. "No, I am not British. Actually, I am Scottish. I was born at Stornoway, which is north west of Scotland"
- b. "Well, I have always been a shy and introverted child in school, so my parents encouraged me to audition for a drama school after I finished my school studies"
- c. "I really had a quick success starring in both films and TV series, but I don't think this has changed my character at all"
- d. "At the moment I am reading a new script, which I cannot discuss now, but I am sure that when it comes out as a movie, it will be a great hit. You have to be a little patient"

Here is how you write your article

- Hans Matheson, told me
- and that he
- Hans admitted that
- so
- He added rather surprised that
- but
- He revealed to me that
-
-

Activity 4 : *fill in the gaps with the missing relative pronouns (who, which, whose, where, when, how, why). You may use a pronoun more than once.*

Discovering the origins of the Morris dance



The Morris dance is a form of English folk dance (1) _____ is usually accompanied by music. The dancers, (2) _____ are supposed to hold sticks, swords and handkerchiefs and (3) _____ clothes are full of bells, are mostly male. It was in the time of the Celts (4)

_____ the Morris dance first appeared as part of the Druid festivals. That dance may have been performed at Stonehenge, (5) _____ the Druid priests made their magic rituals around the well-known circular stones. Up to this moment, no one can be sure about the reason (6) _____ this dance has survived for so many centuries. Perhaps it's the colourful costumes (7) _____ appeal to young people, or the lively tunes (8) _____ make your heart beat or even the idea that you have to preserve something from the Celts (9) _____ are your true ancestors. Whatever the reason may be, Morris dancing sends crowds of tourists to the British country, (10) _____ life has become more quite and dull than ever.

PART C: WRITING (30%)

You have recently seen a film you got really thrilled about, so you would like to share your feelings with friends you communicate with online (email, facebook, personal website, blog, etc.). Write a presentation of the movie (120-150 words) recommending it to your friends.

The screenshot shows the Blogger 'Create Post' interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: 'Ανάρτηση', 'Ρυθμίσεις', 'Διάταξη', 'Αύξηση κερδών', and 'Προβολή ιστολογίου'. Below these are sub-tabs: 'Νέα Ανάρτηση', 'Επεξεργασία Αναρτήσεων', 'Επεξεργασία σελίδων', and 'Αναθεώρηση σχολίων'. The main form includes a 'Τίτλος:' field, a 'Σύνδεσμος:' field with 'http://' entered, and a 'Προσθήκη συνδέσμου συμπερίληψης' link. Below the form is a rich text editor with a toolbar containing icons for bold, italic, text color, background color, bulleted list, numbered list, link, unlink, and undo. At the bottom of the form are 'Επιλογές ανάρτησης' and 'Ετικέτες' fields. Two buttons are visible: 'ΔΗΜΟΣΙΕΥΣΗ ΑΝΑΡΤΗΣΗΣ' (orange) and 'ΑΠΟΘΗΚΕΥΣΗ ΤΩΡΑ' (blue). On the right side of the page, there is a section titled 'Tips to follow' with a list of points to include in the text.

Tips to follow

In your text remember to provide information on the following:

- Title of movie
- Movie plot
- Characters
- Highlights (scenes, special effects, music, other)
- Reasons for recommending it

Start and finish your text according to its type (email, blog entry, etc.)