



ICM

MARCH 2017

ENGLISH FOR JOURNALISTS & WRITERS

Instructions to candidates:

- a) Time allowed: Three hours (plus an extra ten minutes' reading time at the start – do not write anything during this time)
 - b) Answer Question 1, which is compulsory, and then any FOUR of the remaining questions
 - c) All questions carry equal marks. Marks for each question are shown in []
1. Give the parts of speech of the words underlined in the following passage:
- a) A large, exhaustive study has shown that people in England get two less hours of sleep a night than they did 60 years ago.
 - b) We are currently conducting a trial to explore the effects of sleep on weight gain.
 - c) Experts think disturbing the body clock affects the way key hormones affect hunger hormones.
 - d) October was clearly the driest month in Britain for 50 years.
 - e) A welcome blast of warm weather in October meant we could leave coats in the cupboard.
 - f) Churchill was an outstanding politician. He was also a maverick and literary figure.
 - g) Beyoncé struts her stuff in every star-studded concert.
 - h) Shirley Bassey was nicknamed Burly Chassis when she put on weight.
 - i) War-torn countries look to NATO for support.
 - j) The boy band has lost its mojo despite eight new tracks. [2 each]

2. Punctuate accurately and remove tautology from the following text, reducing it to 146 words:

It used to be thought that participation in sport was character building that it led to better team players in life and instilled in youngsters an understanding of what was right and what was wrong what was Cheating and what was fair play

sporting heroes were often held up as supreme examples for the young to follow. the referee's decision was totally final and to be accepted, the umpire occasionally got things wrong but that was all in the great game

The English language was beautifully decorated with sporting sayings like keep a straight bat keep you eye on the ball fair play rub of the green etc etc.

Employers looked at youngsters seeking a job who had a paragraph in their cv on sporting achievements as a plus point in a job applications for a position in their firm.

While some schools no doubt cling to that formula and instil in youngsters the absolute need to accept the rough with the smooth life has changed out of all recognition

examples like crooked football managers, greedy players and drug cheats can no longer be held up by teachers and parents as examples for the young to follow.

In the savage words of Wall street, greed is good – and nobody demonstrates this better and more clearly than two Arsenal players, Özil and Sánchez who are paid £130,000 a week and want this increased to £250,000 before signing new lucrative contracts. I'll do the maths – it's about £13million a year give or take the odd few bits of change. and moreover these are people who get special dispensation regarding tax on earnings from their image rights. (275 words) [20]

continued overleaf

3. Construct a news story of FOUR paragraphs from the following statement:
The fire chief said:
- An investigation will be held into the fire
 - Flames reached a height of 120 feet
 - Residents living near the factory fought the flames before fire appliances arrived
 - Fire engines were at the scene within 20 minutes of being called
 - Supplies of water were in danger of running out
 - 200 people from nearby homes were evacuated
 - Damage at the tyre factory was estimated at \$4million
 - Three workers died in the blaze and 25 were taken to hospital injured
 - Ruins were still smouldering 24 hours later
 - Ambulance crews worked overtime
- [20]
4. Define or give examples of the following TEN terms:
- a) Ascender
 - b) Alliteration
 - c) Quatrain
 - d) Conjunction
 - e) Mnemonic
 - f) Hyperbole
 - g) Bastard measure
 - h) Banner
 - i) Descender
 - j) Deck
- [2 each]
5. Excise the redundant words from the following phrases:
- a) Appreciate in value
 - b) Free gifts for all children
 - c) It was 4 p.m. in the afternoon
 - d) Government will cut back on welfare spending
 - e) A general consensus of opinion is against this move
 - f) The club was decimated losing ten per cent of its squad to flu
 - g) In actual fact
 - h) Barcelona will revert back to a 4-3-3 formation
 - i) The chief protagonist is King Lear
 - j) Middlesex will enjoy a temporary respite from fixtures
- [2 each]
6. Write TEN sentences correctly using the following words:
- a) Exigent
 - b) Exiguous
 - c) Fortuitous
 - d) Fortunate
 - e) Titillate
 - f) Titivate
 - g) Partly
 - h) Partially
 - i) Prostate
 - j) Prostrate
- [2 each]
7. Correct the grammar in the following TEN sentences:
- a) Jim was in so much pain that he took too many pills and drunk too much.
 - b) If Attlee had been alive he may well have saved the National Health Service.
 - c) Rooney may never have become a midfielder but for Van Gaal.
 - d) The second incident may not have occurred with a stricter referee.
 - e) Israel may never have survived with the support of the U.N.
 - f) Clauses in the contract should be less than 10.
 - g) Cauliflower's for sale.
 - h) Manchester City is hoping to sign Messi.
 - i) Having been stored in a garage for six years Jim sold his Jaguar.
 - j) They are the only major party to have increased their vote in the election.
- [2 each]

8. Simple English is an aid to clarity in writing. Substitute plain words for the following:

- a) Alma mater
- b) Dolce vita
- c) Dictum
- d) Cortège
- e) Déjà vu
- f) Crème de la crème
- g) Agitprop
- h) Élan
- i) De facto
- j) En bloc

[2 each]