

Държавен зрелостен изпит по АНГЛИЙСКИ ЕЗИК
1 септември 2009 г.

Вариант 2

Учителят-консултант изчита на глас и инструкцията, и съответния текст, според указанията в инструкцията

PART ONE: LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Directions: *You will hear a text about tourists' impressions of France twice. Before you listen to it, you have **1 minute** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **5 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among A, B or C. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.*

Tourists visiting France this summer will find the French as haughty as ever. They still seem to think that even big-spending foreigners don't deserve to taste the glories of French history and culture. Yet beneath the mask of superiority, the French are suffering a severe crisis of confidence. France sees its influence shrinking. The French feel strangely unsure of themselves and uncertain of their future. In a country, which traditionally celebrates red wine, one Frenchman in four takes anti-depressants.

The symptoms of crisis are high unemployment, an immigrant Arab underclass threatening to explode, a government that throws fortunes away on industrial losers and ministers who routinely give in to special interests. The French language and culture are Americanized, housewives tend to microwave their dinners, straight from the frozen-food section.

Confused by change like no other West Europeans, the French wonder what kind of nation they are becoming. A little America? Or a greater North Africa?

Other powerful industrialized nations like Germany also have to deal with angry youth, economic stagnation and increasing immigrant population. Some, like Britain, have adjusted gracefully to a diminished world role. But France, fascinated by its own history has not faced up to reality. What really punctures French self-esteem is the fact that the world is rapidly becoming dominated by the English language and American values. The French worry that their culture is being swamped.

Directions: *You will hear a text about genetic engineering twice. Before you listen to it, you have **1 minute** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **5 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among A, B or C. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.*

Many companies are now using genetic engineering to create new and better varieties of plants, increasing the quality and quantity of the world's food supply. Traditional crossbreeding methods are already used to make corn sweeter and roses more beautiful, but they take a lot of time and labour and leave too much to chance. Using genetic modification, scientists plan to make plants resistible to bugs and diseases – and to improve their taste, nutrition and longevity. A herbicide-resistant gene is now being put into soybean plant. Researchers are even looking at bananas and potatoes that can deliver built-in vaccines for disease.

The genetically modified tomato has unnaturally tough skin. There's little flavor and fragrance. You recognize immediately it was made in a lab. The biotech company, which introduced it, claims that the new tomato is the same as the regular one except for a gene that slows down softening. Maybe that is so. Trouble is, scientists have no idea what all the nutrients and non-nutrient substances in a regular tomato (or any other food) might be. Could the new gene set off a chemical chain reaction that proves toxic or provokes unexpected changes in the environment? Test tubes aren't the same as nature. Scientists can hardly fool Mother Nature. It has adjustment mechanisms, which scholars can hardly understand. Bacteria, for instance, are famous for their ability to mutate and adapt to new circumstances.

It is worrying that new foods do not require any testing unless they are substantially different from the originals or prove hazardous. And who decides that? The biotech company, of course. If it's been cutting on funding for research - too bad. Human lives might be at risk.

Directions: *You will hear a text about a well-known newspaper twice. Before you listen to it, you have 2 minutes to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have 5 minutes to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among A, B, C or D. Then you will hear the text again and will have 1 minute to check your answers.*

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