Mary was like a dark moth. She had the same texture of softness, and when she looked at you with her large dark eyes they spoke of the night: of the night hours in the Rectory garden, of night-scented stocks, the starry heavens above and the whirring yet soothing rattle of the nightjars in the glades of the New Forest close at hand. A rectory in the New Forest – that was where she had been brought up. It was an English setting; but Mary and her brother Simon never seemed very English, and it was scarcely a surprise that their mother had been a Persian.

Yes, Mary was like a dark moth, and yet you might suspect that if she lifted her wings to fly she would uncover brilliant red or purple underwings in dazzling contrast to the shy ambiguously patterned pair which she exhibited when at rest. A fanciful idea – but possibly it conveys her quality.

When Nelson, a curate in a Bournemouth parish proposed, Mary accepted. She was not in love, indeed not much attracted, but she found it impossible to refuse him outright and her indefinite murmurs were interpreted as assent, after which she was taken possession of, not physically but morally. She was no longer herself – a lonely girl with only one intimate friend, and she in Dublin – but a part, a very small part of we. “Now we can really get a move on. We’ll have a lot of planning to do.”

Nelson had asked Mary’s father’s consent before proposing and told him afterwards that Mary had agreed to their engagement. He asked his blessing, and while Mr. Watson was giving it, Mary found it impossible to say: “Wouldn’t it be better to wait a little?” Nor could she say anything to Nelson, for he left at once on his motorbike.

That evening after supper Mary slipped out into the garden in great agitation. A voice was saying: “You have done for yourself, my girl. What do you know of this man?”

The salary of a young curate is not sufficient to marry on, and Mary looked forward to an engagement of several months, or even years. But Nelson did not believe in letting the grass grow under his feet and applied for the headmastership of a Mission School that was being started in New Guinea. There was a decent salary and it was a great opportunity. Owing to his excellent sports records at Oxford, he got the job. Mary had to agree to an early wedding, and after the ceremony they set off in one of the few liners to call at Port Moresby. They had a first-class stateroom. There was a Japanese captain and a Filipino crew.

Mary was surprised by the contrast between her husband’s attitude to foreigners and that of her father. Her father had always shown a great interest in the ideas and culture, not only of the Persians, but also of the Turks, Armenians, Arabs and Georgians. But to Nelson all the races of the Middle East were “wogs”, Italians were “eye-ties” and all of them but little
superior to the Papuan head-hunting “fuzzy-wuzzies” who were to be his pupils in New Guinea.

Nelson was on stiff formal terms with the fat little Japanese captain at whose table Mary and he dined. It was over this that their worst quarrel arose.

One day, Mary, who had been drooping in the heat, was slow in dressing and had only just started making up her face when the bell for dinner rang. Nelson watched her with annoyance. He was not sure whether he altogether approved of mascara and eyeshade. Suddenly he said: “I can’t bear to see you so slow. Didn’t you hear the bell? We shall be late at that little brown man’s table. You are letting the side down. I like to be on the dot.”

Then, as Mary did not reply, he exploded. “Snap to it. You are being slow on purpose.” Mary said nothing and Nelson added, as though to himself but for Mary to hear: “I ought to have known what it would be when the old man confessed that you had a touch of the tar brush.”

It took Mary some time to realize that this was a reference to her mother.

1. When meeting Mary, people could easily realise that
   A. her father was a rector.
   B. she is of mixed origin.
   C. she had been raised in New Forest.

2. By comparing Mary with a dark moth the author implies that
   A. she had very dark skin which made her stand out among the others.
   B. she had many flaws in her character which she never showed.
   C. deep inside she was more vibrant and sophisticated.

3. Mary accepted Nelson’s proposal of marriage because
   A. she was too delicate to openly decline it.
   B. her father had already given his blessing to the marriage.
   C. she was attracted to him despite not being in love.

4. How did Mary feel after accepting the marriage proposal?
   A. She would rather they had a longer engagement.
   B. She wasn’t happy about Nelson’s new job.
   C. She wanted to break off their engagement.

5. Why did Nelson marry Mary?
   A. He was in love with her.
   B. He needed a wife for his position in New Guinea.
   C. None of the above.

6. In context, “Nelson did not believe in letting the grass grow under his feet” means that
   A. He did not want to delay the wedding.
   B. He was afraid that Mary could change her mind.
   C. He didn’t believe in long relationships.
7. Which is NOT TRUE about Mary?
   A. She didn’t know Nelson well before the wedding.
   B. She had no doubts about marrying Nelson.
   C. She didn’t object to their moving to New Guinea.

8. When Nelson spoke of foreigners he showed
   A. affection.
   B. contempt.
   C. indifference.

9. On the day of the quarrel Mary acted slowly because
   A. the heat made her feel weak.
   B. she wanted to look beautiful for her husband.
   C. she thought there was no point in rushing.

10. According to Nelson, Mary was slow in dressing because
    A. she liked doing things in a leisurely way.
    B. she wanted to annoy him.
    C. she wanted to look beautiful for the captain.

Section Two

Directions: Choose the most suitable heading from the list A – F for each paragraph of the text 1 - 5. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. Mark your answers on the Answer sheet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A. Free is too high a price to pay</th>
<th>B. The success of the plastic bag</th>
<th>C. In defence of plastic bags</th>
<th>D. Plas-tax to the rescue</th>
<th>E. The flood of plastic bags</th>
<th>F. No solution to plastic pollution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First introduced in the 1970s, plastic bags now account for four out of every five bags handed out at the grocery store. They are so cheap to produce, sturdy, plentiful, easy to carry and store that they have captured at least 80 percent of the grocery and convenience store market since they were introduced. As a result, these bags are everywhere. They sit balled up and stuffed into the one that hangs from the pantry door. They line bathroom trash bins. They carry clothes to the gym. They clutter landfills. They flap from trees. They float in the breeze. They clog roadside drains. They drift on the high seas. They fill sea turtle bellies.
“The numbers are absolutely staggering,” said Vincent Cobb, an entrepreneur in Chicago, Illinois, who recently launched a website to educate the public about what he terms the “true costs” associated with the spread of “free” bags. He sells reusable bags as a practical solution. According to Cobb’s calculations done on the basis of data released by the United States Environmental Protection Agency in 2001 on U.S. plastic bag, sack, and wrap consumption, somewhere between 500 billion and a trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year. Of those, millions end up in litter stream outside of landfills – estimates range from less than one to three percent of the bags.

Laurie Kusek, a spokeswoman for the American Plastics Council, said the industry works with its U.S. retail customers to encourage recycling of plastic bags, which are in high demand from companies such as Trex in Winchester, Virginia, for use in building materials. “We also feel it is important to understand that plastic grocery bags are some of the most reused items around the house,” she said. “Many, many bags are reused as book and lunch bags as kids head off to school, as trash can liners, and to pickup Fido’s droppings off the lawn.” But, according to Cobb, like candy wrappers, chewing gum, cigarette butts, and thousands of other pieces of junk, millions of the plastic bags end up as litter. Once in the environment, it takes months to hundreds of years for plastic bags to break down. As they decompose, tiny toxic bits seep into soils, lakes, rivers, and the oceans.

The Film and Bag Federation, a trade group within the Society of the Plastics Industry based in Washington, D.C., said the right choice between paper or plastic bags is clearly plastic. Compared to paper grocery bags, plastic grocery bags consume 40 percent less energy, generate 80 percent less solid waste, produce 70 percent fewer atmospheric emissions, and release up to 94 percent fewer waterborne wastes, according to the federation.

Plastic bag litter, however, has become such an environmental nuisance and eyesore that Ireland, Taiwan, South Africa, Australia, and Bangladesh have heavily taxed the plastic bags or banned their use outright. Several other regions, including England and some U.S. cities, are considering similar actions. Tony Lowes, director of Friends of the Irish Environment in County Cork, said the Plas-tax, the 15-cent tax on plastic bags introduced there in 2002 has resulted in a 95 percent reduction in their use. “It’s been an extraordinary success,” he said.
Part Three
USE OF ENGLISH
Section One: CLOZE TEST

Directions: Read the text and the sentences below and for each gap circle the letter (A, B or C) of the word or phrase that best suits each space. Mark your answers on the Answer sheet.

How Fingerprinting Began

The first time a person’s fingerprints were used to 1. A. solve  B. uncover  C. unfold
a murder case was in 1891 when Juan Vicetich, a police officer in Argentina, used them to
2. A. sentence  B. judge  C. convict a woman called Francisca Rojas of the murder of her
twin children. Rojas had 3. A. accused  B. blamed  C. charged her husband of killing the
twins, but Vicetich suspected her of the crime and from the fingerprints 4. A. found
B. exposed  C. revealed on the murder weapon deduced that she must have been
5. A. blamable  B. responsible  C. faulty. He arrested her, and she eventually
6. A. confirmed  B. confessed  C. recognised her guilt.

Vicetich was not the first person to use fingerprints as a 7. A. means  B. mean
C. medium of identification. Over a thousand years ago the same 8. A. technique
B. technology  C. technicality was applied in China, using only one finger, to identify people
signing contracts. The individual 9. A. aspect  B. nature  C. type of fingerprints had also been
recognised in Europe in the seventeenth century, but Vicetich was the first to make 10. A. use
B. usage  C. advantage of them in police work.

To begin with, he took fingerprints of prisoners in La Plata jail, and this 11. A. let
B. permitted  C. enabled him to prove seven of them guilty of other crimes apart 12. A. of
B. for  C. from those they had been charged with.

Later the system was used more 13. A. widely  B. vastly  C. popularly in many
countries not only to identify criminals but to identify the 14. A. complete  B. all  C. entire
population. This is 15. A. still  B. already  C. yet the best method of proving the guilt of
people involved in crimes such as burglaries.

16. The woman returned from work …………… to save the house from entire destruction.
   A. in time  B. at the same time  C. on time

17. They’ve put some traffic lights at the crossing hoping to …………… future accidents.
   A. evade  B. prevent  C. escape

18. The house, standing in the middle of the marsh, was the perfect …………… for a horror
film.
   A. setting  B. scene  C. scenery
19. He …………… through the thick fog, trying to make out the number of the approaching bus.
   A. peeped   B. gazed   C. peered

20. These days I seem to be so …………… that I can’t even afford to go to the cinema at the weekends.
   A. stuck up   B. hard up   C. put up

21. Although my father has …………… hearing, he still refuses to wear hearing aid.
   A. defective   B. deficient   C. insufficient

22. We’ve been having a marvelous …………… of warm weather lately.
   A. spell   B. stretch   C. spin

23. Which …………… of cigarettes do you usually smoke, Janet?
   A. sort   B. mark   C. brand

24. I’m not surprised he became a writer. Even as a child he had …………… imagination.
   A. vital   B. bright   C. vivid

25. The …………… between the rich and the poor is increasing daily.
   A. gap   B. distance   C. space

Section Two: ERROR IDENTIFICATION

Directions: Each sentence below contains an error in grammar or usage. The error is contained in one of the underlined parts of the sentence. For each sentence, choose the letter (A, B or C) of the underlined part that contains the mistake. Mark your answers on the Answer sheet.

1. You are not going to wear a mini-skirt, aren’t you, Mary? They stopped being fashionable years ago.
   A                                 B                                        C

2. One criteria for grading these essays will be their conformity to the rules of traditional grammar.
   A                                               B                       C

3. His arm kept him awake all night because the nurse has wound the bandage round it too tightly.
   A                                                       B
   C

4. Yesterday I went to town but discovered later that there has been no need for me to have gone.
   A                                                                      B
   C
5. His father warned him it was about time he got round to mend the puncture in his tyre.
   A       B       C

**Section Three: SENTENCE COMPLETION**

**Directions:** For each of the sentences below, choose the word or phrase (A, B or C) that best completes its meaning. Mark your answers on the Answer sheet.

1. While listening to the news, Susan felt her blood …………… from her face.
   A. drained    B. drain     C. being drained

2. They demanded that the new government …………… free all political prisoners.
   A. should    B. had to     C. must

3. Since you …………… away last week at the sales conference, I thought I should write to you about the next campaign our company is launching.
   A. were    B. have been     C. were being

4. Chess is one of the world’s oldest games, which is generally said …………… in the East.
   A. to have been invented    B. to be invented     C. that it was invented

5. It’s no use phoning Mr. Smith at the office, he …………… by now.
   A. will be leaving    B. will have left     C. is leaving

**Section Four: TEXT COMPLETION WITH PREPOSITIONS**

**Directions:** Complete the text with the correct preposition where necessary. Write your answers on the Answer sheet.

The 6.45 train, which went from Winchester to Southampton, was already full 1. …… commuters when Charles boarded 2. …… it with fifteen minutes to go 3. …… its departure. He registered vague annoyance 4. …… this, as it meant he had to actually communicate with a fellow passenger in order to find the one remaining window seat 5. …… his normal carriage.
Section Five: SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION

Directions: Complete the second sentence so that it is as close as possible in meaning to the first one. Write your answers on the Answer sheet.

1. Mario and Tim are both good boxers.
   Mario is…………………………………………………………………………… is.

2. I’ve already read two other books by this author.
   This is …………………………………………………………………………….

3. It is possible that Edward had a great effect on his son.
   Edward may……………………………………………………………………….

4. Let’s stay behind and get the job finished.
   I recommend …………………………………………………………………..

5. We must find out how to solve his problem.
   We must find a………………………………………………………………….

Part Four
WRITING

Directions: Write a composition of about 180 – 200 words on one of the following topics. Write your composition on the Answer sheet.

1. What do you think is the most important event that took place in your school last year. Write an account of it and why it was important for the students.

2. Which character in a book you have read or a movie you have seen do you find least/most attractive? Describe the character and explain why you dislike/like him/her so much.
MINISTERSTVO NA OBRAZOVANIETO, MLADEZHA I NAUKATA

REGIONAL OLYMPIAD IN ENGLISH

2011

Group Two

ANSWER SHEET

Part One
Dictation
Part Two

READING COMPREHENSION

Section One

1. A B C
2. A B C
3. A B C
4. A B C
5. A B C

Section Two

1. ______
2. ______
3. ______
4. ______
5. ______

Part Three

USE OF ENGLISH

Section One: Cloze Test

The text

1. A B C
2. A B C
3. A B C
4. A B C
5. A B C
6. A B C
7. A B C
8. A B C
9. A B C
10. A B C
11. A B C
12. A B C
13. A B C
14. A B C
15. A B C

The sentences

16. A B C
17. A B C
18. A B C
19. A B C
20. A B C
21. A B C
22. A B C
23. A B C
24. A B C
25. A B C

Section Two: Error Identification

1. A B C
2. A B C
3. A B C
4. A B C
5. A B C

Section Three: Sentence Completion

1. A B C
2. A B C
3. A B C
4. A B C
5. A B C
Section Four: *Text Completion with Prepositions*

1. _____  
2. _____  
3. _____  
4. _____  
5. _____

Section Five: *Sentence Transformation*

1. ........................................................................................................... .
2. ........................................................................................................... .
3. ........................................................................................................... .
4. ........................................................................................................... .
5. ........................................................................................................... .

Part Four

WRITING

*Topic 1 / Topic 2* (Please underline to indicate your choice.)