



USAL
UNIVERSIDAD
DEL SALVADOR

Ciencia a la mente y virtud al corazón

ADMISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Applicant's surname and name

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Date of examination

Course of studies

Shift

For examiners' use only

Written exam

Oral exam

READING COMPREHENSION

YOU ARE GOING TO READ AN EXTRACT FROM A NOVEL. FOR QUESTIONS 1-8, CHOOSE THE ANSWER (A, B, C OR D) WHICH YOU THINK FITS BEST ACCORDING TO THE TEXT.

On the very last day of a bad year, I was leaning against a pillar in the Baltimore railway station, waiting to catch the 10.10 to Philadelphia. There were a lot more people waiting than I had expected. That airy, light, clean, polished feeling I generally got in the station had been lost. Elderly couples with matching luggage stuffed the benches, and swarms of college kids littered the floor with their bags.

A grey-haired man was walking around speaking to different strangers one by one. Well-off, you could tell: tanned skin, nice sweater, soft, beige car-coat. He went up to a woman sitting alone and asked her a question. Then he came over to a girl standing near me. She had long blond hair, and I had been thinking I wouldn't mind talking to her myself. The man said, 'Would you by any chance be travelling to Philadelphia?'

'Well, northbound, yes,' she said.

'But to Philadelphia?'

'No, New York, but I'll be ...'

'Thanks, anyway,' he said, and he moved toward the next bench.

Now he had my full attention. 'Ma'am,' I heard him ask an old lady, 'are you travelling to Philadelphia?' When the woman told him, 'Wilmington,' he didn't say a thing, just marched on down the row to one of the matched-luggage couples. I straightened up from my pillar and drifted closer, looking toward the platform as if I had my mind on the train.

Well, I was going to Philadelphia. He could have asked me. I understood why he didn't, of course. No doubt, I struck him as unreliable. He just glanced quickly at me and then swerved off toward the bench at the other end of the waiting area. By now he was looking seriously stressed. 'Please!' he said to a woman reading a book. 'Tell me you're going to Philadelphia!'

She lowered her book. She was thirtyish, maybe thirty-five – older than I was, anyhow. A school-teacher sort. 'Philadelphia?' she said. 'Why, yes, I am.'

'Then could I ask you a favour?'

line 27 I stopped several feet away and frowned down at my left wrist. (Never mind that I don't own a watch.) Even without looking, I could sense how she went on guard. The man must have sensed it too, because he said, 'Nothing too difficult, I promise!'

They were announcing my train now. People started moving toward Gate E, the older couples hauling their wheeled bags behind them like big pets on leashes. Next I heard the man talking. 'My daughter's flying out this afternoon for a study year abroad, leaving from Philadelphia. So I put her on a train this morning, stopping for groceries afterward, and came home to find my wife in a state. She hardly said "hello" to me. You see my daughter'd forgotten her passport. She'd telephoned home from the station in Philadelphia; didn't know what to do next.'

line 36 The woman clucked sympathetically. I'd have kept quiet myself. Waited to find out where he was heading with this.

'So I told her to stay put. Stay right there in the station, I said, and I would get somebody here to carry up her passport.'

A likely story! Why didn't he go himself, if this was such an emergency?

'Why don't you go yourself?' the woman asked him.

'I can't leave my wife alone for that long. She's in a wheelchair.'

This seemed like a pretty poor excuse, if you want my honest opinion. Also, it exceeded the amount of bad luck that one family could expect. I let my eyes wander toward the two of them. The man was holding a packet, not a plain envelope, which would have been the logical choice, but one of those padded envelopes the size of a paperback book. Aha! Padded! So you couldn't feel the contents! And from where I stood, it looked to be stapled shut besides. Watch yourself, lady, I said silently.

- 1 What was the narrator's impression of the station that morning?
 - A People were making too much noise.
 - B It was unusually busy.
 - C There was a lot of rubbish on the ground.
 - D The seating was inadequate.

- 2 Why does the narrator show an interest in the grey-haired stranger?
 - A He was fascinated by the stranger's questions.
 - B He was anxious about the stranger's destination.
 - C He was jealous of the stranger's appearance.
 - D He was impressed by the stranger's skill with people.

- 3 What does the writer mean by 'she went on guard' in line 27?
 - A The woman was employed by the railway company.
 - B The woman was ready to call the police.
 - C The woman was surprised by the man's attitude.
 - D The woman was cautious in her response.

- 4 According to the stranger, how was his wife feeling when he got home?
 - A relieved to see him
 - B annoyed by their daughter's phone call
 - C upset about their daughter's situation
 - D worried about planning the best course of action

- 5 What does 'this' refer to in line 36?
 - A the story
 - B the passport
 - C the station
 - D the telephone call

- 6 When the narrator had heard the stranger's explanation, he felt
 - A sympathetic towards the stranger's daughter.
 - B willing to offer his assistance.
 - C doubtful about the combination of events.
 - D confused by the story the stranger told.

- 7 When the narrator sees the packet, he thinks that the woman should
 - A remain on the platform.
 - B proceed carefully.
 - C ask to check the contents.
 - D co-operate with the man.

- 8 What do we learn about the narrator's character from reading this extract?
 - A He enjoys talking to strangers.
 - B He has a strong sense of curiosity.
 - C He has a kind-hearted attitude to people.
 - D He interferes in the affairs of others.

FOR QUESTIONS 1-12 READ THE FOLLOWING TEXT AND THINK OF THE WORD WHICH BEST FITS EACH SPACE. USE ONLY ONE WORD IN EACH SPACE. THERE IS AN EXAMPLE AT THE BEGINNING (0).

SWIMMING

Swimming is generally considered to be (0) ...*one*.... of the best ways of exercising the whole body without risk or injury. According to health experts, it can also ease back pain and even reduce blood pressure. There is only one problem: to enjoy all the benefits of swimming, you (1) to do it properly. (2) you visited your local swimming pool and just watched, you might be surprised to see (3) badly many people swim. Poor technique may result from a number of factors including anxiety, the swimmer's lack (4) body awareness, or just a concern about (5) their hair wet. What's (6), swimming techniques do not always improve with practice. (7) the contrary, once people have fallen (8) bad habits, they tend to be stuck with them.

But help is at hand. For all those keen to learn to swim properly, and so (9) advantage of all the health benefits, there is now something known as the Shaw Method, developed by a former competitive swimmer, Steven Shaw. Shaw encourages people to think about their swimming technique and to concentrate on things (10) breathing correctly and making (11) that arm and leg movements work together (12) than against each other.

FOR QUESTIONS 1-10, READ THE TEXT BELOW. USE THE WORD GIVEN IN CAPITALS AT THE END OF EACH LINE TO FORM A WORD THAT FITS IN THE SPACE IN THE SAME LINE. THERE IS AN EXAMPLE AT THE BEGINNING (0).

AUSTRALIA

For years, Australia has had an (0) ...*irregular*.... pattern of **REGULAR** population distribution, with more people living in towns and cities in (1) areas, especially the east and south-east, **COAST** than in the interior of the country. Since the 1940s, the population has become still more (2) distributed with a **EVENLY** significant rise in the number of people living in these cities.

Cities are now the (3) centres of the country. An **ECONOMY** important element in their (4) has been the **GROW**

number of people from Europe and Asia emigrating to Australia, especially in the second half of the twentieth century. The new

(5) decided to stay in the cities because **ARRIVE**

(6) was easy to find there. Today, the population of Australia includes people who originally came from over 150 countries. **EMPLOY**

At one time, what made the (7) of people in **CONCENTRATE**

Australia's cities so (8) was the country's **REMARK**

dependence on the export of agricultural produce – indeed, the country's economy was founded on the production of wheat and wool. This has since changed, not only with increased

(9) activity, but also with the rapid **INDUSTRY**

(10) of tourist and recreational facilities. **EXPAND**

Tourism is now Australia's largest export industry.

FOR QUESTIONS 1-15, COMPLETE THE SECOND SENTENCE SO THAT IT HAS A SIMILAR MEANING TO THE FIRST SENTENCE, USING THE WORD GIVEN. DO NOT CHANGE THE WORD GIVEN. YOU MUST USE BETWEEN TWO AND FIVE WORDS, INCLUDING THE WORD GIVEN. HERE IS AN EXAMPLE (0).

0. What type of music do you like best?

FAVOURITE

What type of music is your favourite?

1. I regret not contacting Brian when I was in Dublin.

TOUCH

I wish that I _____ Brian when I was in Dublin.

2. Could you look after my cat while I'm away on holiday?

CARE

Would you mind _____ my cat while I'm away on holiday?

3. Claire was not allowed to stay out late when she lived at home with her parents.

LET

Claire's parents _____ stay out late when she lived at home.

4. Floods meant rescue workers could not get through to the village.

PREVENTED

Rescue workers _____ through to the village by floods.

5. According to the report, the driver of the car was a policeman.
BEING
According to the report, the _____ by a policeman.
6. I prefer eating sandwiches to a cooked lunch.
RATHER
I _____ sandwiches than a cooked lunch.
7. 'I'm sorry I behaved so badly,' said George.
APOLOGISED
George _____ so badly.
8. There's no chance of Jenny getting here on time.
POSSIBLE
It won't be _____ here on time.
9. 'We really don't need to leave early,' said Elena.
POINT
'There's really _____ early,' said Elena.
10. Mr Johnson continued to get up at 6.30 even after he retired.
CARRIED
Mr Johnson _____ at 6.30 even after he retired.
11. In my opinion, these two kinds of music are completely different from each other.
COMPARISON
In my opinion, there is _____ these two kinds of music.
12. On his arrival at the railway station, the escaped prisoner was arrested.
SOON
The escaped prisoner was arrested as _____ at the railway station.
13. If the weather doesn't improve, we can't ski here.
GO
We can't _____ the weather improves.
14. I last spoke to Joel seven days ago.
WEEK
It _____ I last spoke to Joel.
15. 'Can you see the tree on the hill, Marta?' asked Peter.
SHE
Peter asked Marta _____ the tree on the hill.

