

ESAME DI STATO CONCLUSIVO DEL SECONDO CICLO DI ISTRUZIONE

Indirizzo: LICEO LINGUISTICO

(Testo valevole per tutti gli indirizzi del settore LINGUISTICO)

Disciplina: LINGUA E CULTURA STRANIERA 1 (INGLESE)

IL CANDIDATO DEVE SVOLGERE TUTTE LE ATTIVITÀ COMPRESSE NELLA PROVA

PART 1 – COMPREHENSION AND INTERPRETATION

QUESTION A

Read the following text.

Cross-legged in the examining-chair in Doc Vickerson's office, a boy was reading "Gray's Anatomy." His name was Martin Arrowsmith, of Elk Mills, in the state of Winnemac. There was a suspicion in Elk Mills - now, in 1897, a dowdy red-brick village, smelling of apples - that this brown-leather adjustable seat which Doc Vickerson used for minor operations, for the infrequent pulling of teeth and for highly frequent naps, had begun life as a barber's chair. There was also a belief that its proprietor must once have been called Doctor Vickerson, but for years he had been only The Doc, and he was scurfier and much less adjustable than the chair.

Martin was the son of J. J. Arrowsmith, who conducted the New York Clothing Bazaar. By sheer brass and obstinacy he had, at fourteen, become the unofficial, also decidedly unpaid, assistant to the Doc, and while the Doc was on a country call he took charge - though what there was to take charge of, no one could ever make out. He was a slender boy, not very tall; his hair and restless eyes were black, his skin unusually white, and the contrast gave him an air of passionate variability. The squareness of his head and a reasonable breadth of shoulders saved him from any appearance of effeminacy or of that querulous timidity which artistic young gentlemen call Sensitiveness. When he lifted his head to listen, his right eyebrow, slightly higher than the left, rose and quivered in his characteristic expression of energy, of independence, and a hint that he could fight, a look of impertinent inquiry which had been known to annoy his teachers and the Sunday School superintendent.

Martin was, like most inhabitants of Elk Mills before the Slavo-Italian immigration, a Typical Pure-bred Anglo-Saxon American, which means that he was a union of German, French, Scotch, Irish, perhaps a little Spanish, conceivably a little of the strains lumped together as "Jewish," and a great deal of English, which is itself a combination of primitive Briton, Celt, Phoenician, Roman, German, Dane, and Swede.

It is not certain that, in attaching himself to Doc Vickerson, Martin was entirely and edifyingly controlled by a desire to become a Great Healer. He did awe his Gang by bandaging stone-bruises, dissecting

squirrels, and explaining the astounding and secret matters to be discovered at the back of the physiology, but he was not completely free from an ambition to command such glory among them as was enjoyed by the son of the Episcopalian minister, who could smoke an entire cigar without becoming sick. Yet this afternoon he read steadily at the section on the lymphatic system, and he muttered the long and perfectly incomprehensible words in a hum which made drowsier the dusty room. It was the central room of the three occupied by Doc Vickerson, facing on Main Street above the New York Clothing Bazaar. On one side of it was the foul waiting-room, on the other, the Doc's bedroom. He was an aged widower; for what he called "female fixings" he cared nothing. The bedroom with its tottering bureau and its cot of frowsy blankets was cleaned only by Martin, in not very frequent attacks of sanitation. This central room was at once business office, consultation-room, operating-theater, living-room, poker den, and warehouse for guns and fishing tackle. Against a brown plaster wall was a cabinet of zoological collections and medical curiosities, and beside it the most dreadful and fascinating object known to the boy-world of Elk Mills - a skeleton with one gaunt gold tooth. On evenings when the Doc was away, Martin would acquire prestige among the trembling Gang by leading them into the unutterable darkness and scratching a sulfur match on the skeleton's jaw.

(625 words)

Lewis Sinclair, *Arrowsmith*

Say whether each of the following statements is **True (T)** or **False (F)**. Put a cross in the correct box in the table below and quote **the first four words of the sentence** where the piece of information is found.

1 Doc Vickerson's chair was considered a piece of modern medical equipment, and it was used solely for medical purposes.

2 Martin's appearance was often described as delicate, with a refined and sensitive demeanor.

3 Martin's ability to explain complex medical terms and dissect animals made him the most respected member of his group of friends.

4 The Doc's bedroom was well-kept and reflected his meticulous nature.

5 The skeleton in Doc Vickerson's office both fascinated and terrified the local children.

Statement	TRUE	FALSE	First four words of the sentence
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Answer the following questions. Use complete sentences and your own words.

6 How would you describe the atmosphere in Doc Vickerson's office? What words or details from the text help to create this mood?

7 What does the description of Martin's heritage reveal about his background?

8 How does Martin's role as the Doc's assistant, despite being unpaid and often having little to do, reflect his attitude toward the Doc and his environment?

QUESTION B

Read the following text.

CARVING THE PAST, SHAPING THE FUTURE: PRESERVING YORK MINSTER'S LEGACY

On a damp morning in York, schoolchildren visiting the famous York Minster cathedral were drawn not to its towering Gothic architecture but to a strange stone creature near the stonemason's yard. The newly carved grotesque, weighing nearly half a ton, clutched its head in horror as a frog leapt from its mouth. This dramatic figure was crafted to replace a centuries-old statue eroded by time.

Grotesques, like gargoyles, have long adorned cathedrals, though only gargoyles serve as water spouts. The new carving was created by stonemason Daniel Harper, who spent 15 weeks sculpting it from local limestone. He aimed to replicate the original, though its features were too worn to confirm details like the frog. To ensure accuracy, Harper and his team used modern technology, including 3D imaging and polyurethane models, before finalizing the design. Inspired by medieval art, Harper chose a theme of good versus evil: the frog symbolizes demons, while the fish in the creature's other hand represents Christianity.

Restoring such intricate carvings requires both technical skill and creative interpretation. "We try to replace like for like," Harper explained, "but sometimes the original is so worn that we have to make an educated guess." He admitted that the old grotesque was so weathered that he couldn't be sure about the details. "You could just about see the hand raised to its head," he said, "but the rest? That was mostly imagination and research."

York Minster's stonemasons balance tradition with innovation. For over 200 years, the cathedral's stonemason's yard has been essential for ongoing repairs, with scaffolding on a century-long cycle. Today, restoration methods incorporate digital tools such as laser scanners and computer-controlled stone saws. In 2024, the cathedral opened Heritage Craft and Restoration Centre, a £15 million facility supporting these evolving techniques.

Despite advancements in technology, traditional craftsmanship remains at the heart of their work. Every piece, including a recently completed two-ton statue of Queen Elizabeth II, is still finished by hand with a mallet and chisel. "It's a big step into the future for us," said Alex Monroe, director of restoration, "but we'll never abandon our roots. Every piece we make will always be touched by human hands." The combination of ancient methods and modern tools ensures York Minster's architectural heritage will endure for generations, with many more grotesques and sculptures yet to rise from the mason's yard.

(396 words)

Choose the answer which fits best according to the text. Circle one letter.

1 Why did the children find the statue more fascinating than the cathedral itself?

- A** Its exaggerated expression and strange design captured their attention.
- B** It was much older than the cathedral and had a mysterious history.
- C** The teachers had told them an interesting legend about the statue.
- D** It had been recently discovered and was unlike anything seen before.

2 Based on the description of the statue and its role in architecture, what is the most likely meaning of "grotesque"?

- A** A piece of modern artwork created using advanced tools.
- B** A statue representing historical figures in realistic detail.
- C** A sacred symbol placed on religious buildings for protection.
- D** A decorative carving with a distorted or exaggerated appearance.

3 What challenge do restorers face when replacing ancient sculptures?

- A** Finding the original artist's notes to follow the same vision.
- B** Deciding how much to rely on creativity when features are worn away.
- C** Using modern machinery without damaging fragile historic pieces.
- D** Choosing materials that match the changing climate conditions.

4 How does the opening of the Heritage Craft and Restoration Centre reflect a shift in conservation methods?

- A** It prioritizes automation, reducing the need for skilled artisans.
- B** It signals the decline of traditional stonework in favor of digital techniques.
- C** It integrates modern technology while maintaining historical craftsmanship.
- D** It focuses on training new sculptors for non-religious commissions.

5 What is the underlying message in the statement, "Every piece we make will always be touched by human hands"?

- A** Artisans should reject modern technology in favor of ancient techniques.
- B** The human element in craftsmanship remains essential despite innovation.
- C** Machine-made sculptures will eventually replace hand-carved ones.
- D** Future restoration work will rely entirely on digital models and automation.

Answer the following questions. Use complete sentences and your own words.

6 Why do you think the stonemasons chose to replace the original statue with a nearly identical version instead of designing something new?

7 What does the balance between traditional craftsmanship and modern technology in the restoration process suggest about how heritage sites are maintained today?

PART 2 – WRITTEN PRODUCTION

Complete both Task A and Task B.

TASK A

“Activism works. So what I’m telling you to do now, is to act. Because no one is too small to make a difference.” (Greta Thunberg, Swedish climate change activist).

Discuss this quote by supporting your ideas with suitable examples from your readings and personal experience. Write a 300-word essay.

TASK B

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights *“everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”*.

You have been asked to write an article for your school magazine on the importance of the freedom of speech in democratic societies.

Write your article in about 300 words.

Durata massima della prova: 6 ore.

È consentito l'uso di dizionari bilingue e monolingue.

Non è consentito lasciare l'Istituto prima che siano trascorse 3 ore dall'inizio della prova.