MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SULTANATE OF OMAN

GENERAL EDUCATION DIPLOMA EXAMINATION ENGLISH LANGUAGE 'A' SEMESTER TWO — FIRST SESSION

TIME: 3 HOURS

TOTAL MARKS: 70

This paper has 8 pages.

<u>LISTENING</u>: You will hear each text three times. The first time, only listen; the second time write; the third time check your work. When the tape finishes, write your answers on your answer paper.

LISTENING 1 (Items 1 – 6)

You will hear part of a job interview at a hotel. Listen, and for each item, choose the correct option: **A**, **B** or **C**.

- **1.** The woman is applying for a job as a _____.
- A. waitressB. sales managerC. receptionist2. She left her last job because _____.
- A. her parents moved house B. she wanted a change C. the hotel closed
- **3.** She asks for _____.A. accommodationB. transportationC. medical care
- 4. She would ______ have to work overtime.A. sometimesB. oftenC. never
- 5. She says she is especially interested in opportunities for ______.
 A. training B. promotion C. travel
- 6. The hotel manager says he will contact her by _____.A. faxB. e-mailC. phone

LISTENING 2 (Items 7 – 15)

You will hear a scientist giving a lecture about a dangerous disease. The text is divided into $\underline{\text{two parts}}$.

<u>Part</u> <u>**One:**</u> For each question, write a <u>short</u> answer (**ONE or TWO WORDS only**).

- 7. When was Lassa fever discovered for the first time? _____ (year)
- 8. What is the disease named after?
- 9. In which continent is it usually found?
- 10. How many people die of the disease every year?
- 11. What kind of animal gives it to human beings?

Write your answers on your answer paper.

LISTENING 2 (cont'd)

<u>**Part Two:**</u> For each item, choose the correct option: **A**, **B** or **C**.

12.	Of the people who catch the disease, about			have no symptoms.		
	Α.	20%	В.	50%	C.	80%
13.	Pat	ients can easily be cured	if the	ey are		
	Α.	young and strong	В.	treated quickly	C.	put in hospital
14.	The	e disease often causes		·		
	Α.	deafness	В.	heart problems	C.	blindness
15.	The	e writer thinks the situation	on is			
	Α.	getting worse	В.	getting better	C.	not changing

VOCABULARY 1 (Items 1 – 5)

Complete the text. Use five of the words in the box. Write ONE word in each space. (There are three extra words in the box.)

	agriculture organisation	aim protection	industry reform	loan support				
TAKLONG is a non-governmental (1) which was established in 2001.								
It works in rural areas of Indonesia where (2) is the most important source								
of income. Its main (3) is to provide advice and financial (4)								
for poor farmers and their families. If, for example, a farmer needs a (5)								
to buy seeds or equipment, TAKLONG can help him to negotiate with the bank.								

Write your answers on your answer paper.

VOCABULARY 2 (Items 6 - 10)

Complete each sentence. Choose the correct option: **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**.

6.	I've been following the	e same boring	for years. I	for years. I need a change!					
	A. quality	B. routine	C. condition	D. obligation					
7.	On the front page, the	ere was a huge _	It said: "OM	AN WINS GCC CUP".					
	A. brochure	B. publication	C. headline	D. essay					
8.	I tried to persuade her to see a doctor, but she to listen to me.								
	A. requested	B. remained	C. returned	D. refused					
9.	The shortage of water in the region may lead to between the tribes.								
	A. damage	B. conflict	C. pollution	D. irrigation					
10.	He's an player, probably the best in the world.								
	A. outstanding	B. unsatisfacto	ory C. official	D. universal					

VOCABULARY 3 (Items 11 – 15)

For each item, read the definition and write the word in the space provided. You are given the first letter(s) of the word. Make sure you spell the word correctly.

<u>Example</u> : <u>kitch</u>	nen (noun) a room where food is prepared and cooked e.g. <i>They keep the fridge in the kit</i>
11	(noun) a small practical piece of advice e.g. <i>She gave me a very useful t on how to cook spaghetti.</i>
12	(adjective) short, quick, not lasting a long time e.g. <i>The minister made a br statement about the crisis.</i>
13	(verb) to stay on the surface of a liquid, and not sink e.g. It's easier to fl in saltwater than in fresh water.
14	(noun) someone who applies for a job e.g. What time shall we interview the first can ?
15	(verb) to deliberately pay no attention to somebody or something e.g. I said 'hello' to her. So why did she ig me?

Write your answers on your answer paper.

GRAMMAR 1 (Items 1 - 5) Complete the dialogue. For each space, choose the correct option: **A**, **B**, **C** or **D**. Speaker A: ___(1)___ that documentary last night? Speaker B: ____(2)___ one about global warming? No, I never watch that kind of programme. It's too depressing. Speaker A: I know, ____(3)____ this documentary was different. It presented the problem ___(4)____ a completely new way. Speaker B: Really? Maybe I should see it then. Do you know when ____(5)___ on again ? 1. A. Do you see B. Did you see C. Can you see D. Have you seen 2. A. The B. A C. Some D. These 3. A. if B. and C. but D. so C. on B. in D. with 4. A. by A. it will be B. it will C. will it be D. will it 5. **GRAMMAR 2** (Items 6 – 10) *Complete each sentence with* **ONE WORD only***.* 6. "I met her for the first time _____ June 1998." 7. "Which is better for you: Monday _____ Tuesday?" 8. "How long have you _____ learning French?" 9. "This is a nice place. _____ don't we camp here?" 10. "I never used ______ like him, but now I do!" **GRAMMAR 3** (Items 11 – 15) Look at the sentences. If the sentence is correct, put a tick (\checkmark). *If the sentence is* <u>not</u> <u>correct</u>, *write it correctly. Do not change the meaning of the sentence.* Examples: Ahmed is a nice man. Salma are a nice woman. <u>Salma is a nice woman.</u> If we don't hurry, we'll miss the 11. bus. **12.** I've lived here since five years. **13.** We visited Great Wall of China. She asked me if I wanted a 14. glass of water. **15.** You ought listen to my advice.

READING 1 (Items 1 – 10)

Read the following two texts. Then, for each item, Choose the correct option: **A**, **B** or **C**.

<u>Text 1</u>

My favourite film of all time is definitely '*King Kong*', and I don't mean the fancy new colour version made in 2005, or any of the other versions made in Japan and other places — I mean the real, original, black-and-white movie made in 1933.

Of course, I'm not old enough to have seen the film when it first came out — in fact, I wasn't even born then! But when I did see it on television as a teenager — that was in 1975 — I was amazed! A few years later, I was also able to see it at the cinema, and that was even better! Now of course, I've got the DVD and can watch it any time I like.

Everyone knows the story of the gigantic gorilla named Kong, and how he is captured from a remote prehistoric island and brought to civilization — and how he is destroyed by that civilization. For some reason, I've always found this story very moving. I still sometimes feel like crying when Kong dies at the end.

Another reason I like the film is that I've always preferred classic movies from the great days of cinema in the 1930's and 40's. Black-and-white films require far more skill from the director and I think they actually look better, too! Modern films may have huge budgets and be able to produce wonderfully life-like special effects. But even if the special effects back in 1933 were crude and simple, who could ever forget that scene near the end when Kong is on top of the tallest building in the world being attacked by fighter planes?

 The story of King Kong has A. only once 		C.	several times
2. The writer is aboutA. eighty	_ years old. fifty	C.	fifteen
 She first saw the film A. on DVD 	 at the cinema	C.	on TV
4. She thinks the most importA. the story	hing in a film is good acting	 C.	special effects
 Her favourite part in the file A. the opening scene 		C.	at the end
<u>Text 2</u>			

My favourite film of all time is definitely '*Amadeus*'. I'm not saying it's the best film ever made, but it's the one that's had the biggest impact on me personally. In fact, it changed my life.

For those of you who have never seen it: it was made in 1984 and it's all about the great classical composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart who lived in Austria at the end of the 18th century. Many people believe that he is greatest composer of all time, but the problem with having so much natural talent — his middle name Amadeus actually means "beloved by God" — is that it can make other people very jealous.

Text 2 (cont'd)

In the film, the jealous person is an Italian composer called Antonio Salieri. Salieri is actually a very good composer, but not a *genius* like Mozart! So he loves and really appreciates Mozart's music, but gradually begins to hate the composer himself — so much that in the end he actually murders him by putting poison in his food!

In fact, there is no historical evidence that the *real* Mozart was actually murdered — he almost certainly died of typhoid. But never mind, it makes a very good story, and it's certainly a very interesting psychological study — and the acting is brilliant!

So, how did it change my life? Well, before seeing 'Amadeus' two years after it came out, I had always been deeply prejudiced against classical music, especially opera. I only ever used to listen to my favourite rock bands! But the clips of music in the film were so wonderful that I changed my attitude completely! Now I listen to all kinds of music, including lots of classical music, and I've even learnt to play the piano!

6	. ' <i>Ar</i>	<i>madeus'</i> is mainly about _							
	Α.	money	В.	power	C.	jealousy			
7.		e writer first saw the film							
	Α.	1984	В.	1985	C.	1986			
8.	He	especially enjoyed the							
	Α.	acting	В.	photography	C.	dialogue			
9.	Beo	cause of ' <i>Amadeus'</i> , the v	vriter	is now interested in					
	Α.	history	В.	classical music	C.	films			
10	10. Most historians believe that Mozart								
	Α.	died of an illness	В.	was murdered	C.	died in an accident			

READING 2 (Items 11 – 20)

Read this newspaper story, and then complete $\underline{\text{Task 1}}$ *and* $\underline{\text{Task 2}}$ *on page 7.*

(30 April 2008) Magician David Blaine has set a new world record for breath-holding: 17 minutes 4 seconds. The stunt was broadcast live during the Oprah Winfrey TV show, and the studio audience cheered as divers pulled Blaine from a water-filled tank. He looked relaxed afterwards and said the record was a 'lifelong dream'. The previous record was 16 minutes 32 seconds, set earlier on 10 February by Switzerland's Peter Colat.

Before entering the tank, Blaine had spent 23 minutes inhaling pure oxygen through a mask in order to saturate his blood with oxygen and get rid of carbon dioxide. This is allowed under the official rules set by the 'Guinness Book of Records'.

When interviewed by Oprah Winfrey, the host of the show, Blaine told her that the secret of success was to train hard beforehand and then, during the stunt, to think about absolutely nothing at all. And this is exactly what he did. As the minutes ticked by, he remained completely motionless and calm. Winfrey, however, was exactly the opposite. As she watched, she moved around in her chair, placed her head in her hands, and kept checking with the doctor at her side that everything was OK.



READING 2 (cont'd)

In fact, the doctor's only real worry was Blaine's very high heart-rate. The higher the heart rate, the more quickly oxygen is consumed, and the more painful the build-up of carbon dioxide in the body. During training in a swimming pool, he had been able to reduce his heart-rate to less than 60 beats a minute, but here — probably because he was appearing 'live' on TV — Blaine's heart-rate never fell below 100 beats per minute.

As a result, the carbon dioxide in his body grew and grew, until in minute 12 he was in severe pain. "It felt as if a heavyweight boxer had hit me in the stomach with the hardest punch he could." This pain reached a maximum in minute 14, but then gradually decreased. When he was finally released from the tank, he was fine again.

Born in Brooklyn in 1973, Blaine was the son of a soldier and a schoolteacher. From the age of five, he was fascinated by the great American escapologist, Harry Houdini, who was at the height of his fame in the 1920's. Blaine's previous stunts include being buried alive in a see-through coffin for seven days, with no food and only a few teaspoons of water per day; and, in November 2000, being enclosed in a block of ice for 63 hours, an experience which very nearly killed him!

Blaine says he now plans to try to break the world record for staying awake. The current record is twelve days. However, doctors have strongly advised him not to make this attempt, which they say could permanently damage his health.

Task 1 For each statement, write '<u>True</u>', '<u>False</u>' or '<u>DNS</u>' (= 'Doesn't Say').

- 11. David Blaine's stunt was shown 'live' on TV.
- 12. It is very important to remain calm during this stunt.
- **13.** Blaine received a lot of money for doing this stunt.
- **14.** Before doing the stunt, he drank a lot of water.
- **15.** He beat the previous record by over a minute.

<u>Task 2</u> For each question, write a <u>short</u> answer (**not more than THREE WORDS**).

16. When Blaine was a child, who was his hero?

17. Where did he do his training for this stunt? _____

18. What causes pain during this kind of stunt? _____

- **19.** Why was the doctor worried? Because of Blaine's _____
- **20.** What was Blaine's most dangerous stunt? Staying in a _____

WRITING 1

Write at least 100 words on the following topic:

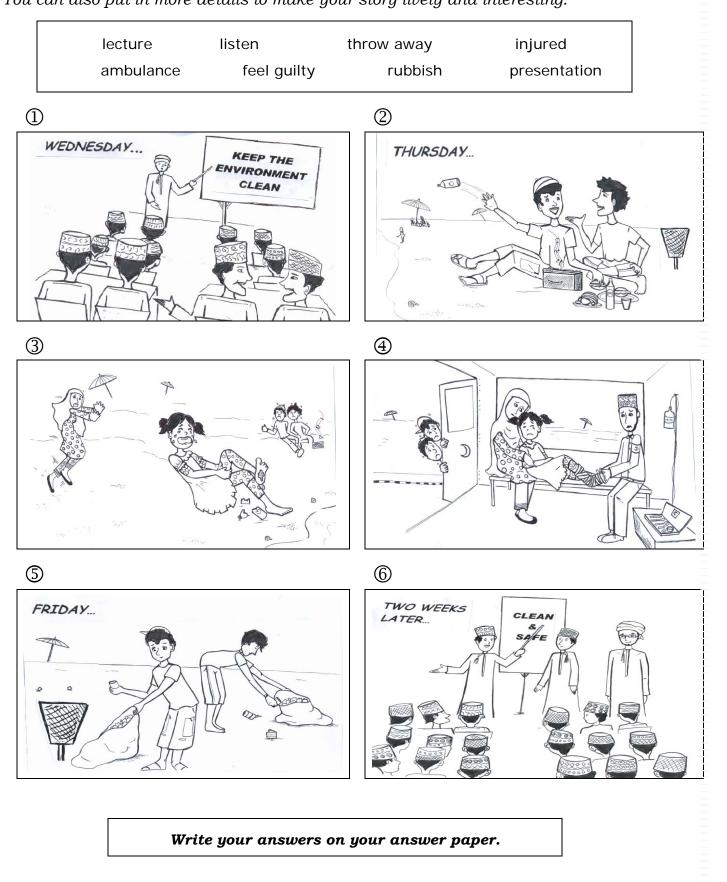
"Before making an important decision, you should always talk to someone first." — Do you agree? Give your reasons with examples from your own experience.

Your writing should be clear and interesting.

Grade 12, English Language 'A' Semester Two, First Session, 2008 – 2009

WRITING 2

Write a **story** of at least 100 words based on the following pictures. You can use the words in the box to help you. You can also put in more details to make your story lively and interesting.



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