Ahmed Ben Ibrahim High School, Ain Zaatout May 16th, 2011

Duration: 02hs 30mns Level/Stream: 3rdYSE (Lit & Phi)

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| EXPERIMENTAL BAC EXAM OF ENGLISH |
| Choose one of the following topics:  **TOPIC ONE**  **Part One: Reading (15 points)**  ***A/ Comprehension (07 points)***  Read the text below carefully then do the activities that follow.  The Islamic Golden Age or the Islamic Renaissance is traditionally dated from the 9th to the 13th centuries C.E. for 400 years, but has been extended to the 15th century by recent scholarship. During **this period**, artists, engineers, scholars, poets, philosophers, geographers and traders in the Islamic world contributed to the arts, agriculture, economics, industry, law, literature, navigation, philosophy, sciences, sociology, and technology, both by preserving earlier traditions and by adding inventions and innovations of their own. However, Howard R. writes: “Muslim artists and scientists, princes and laborers together made a unique culture that has directly and indirectly influenced societies in every continent.”  During the Muslim conquests of the 7th and early 8th centuries, Rashidun armies established the Caliphate, or Islamic Empire, one of the largest empires in history. The Islamic Golden Age was soon inaugurated by the middle of the 8th century by the ascension of the Abbasid Caliphate and the transfer of the capital from Damascus to the newly founded city, Baghdad. The Abbasids were influenced by the Qur’anic injunctions and Hadith that stressed the value of knowledge. During this period, the Muslim world became the unrivaled intellectual centre for science, philosophy, medicine and education as the Abbasids championed the cause of knowledge. They established the ‘House of Wisdom’ in Baghdad, **where** scholars, both Muslim and Non-Muslim, sought to gather and translate the entire world’s knowledge into Arabic in the translation movement. Many classic works of antiquity that would otherwise have been forgotten were translated into Arabic and later in turn translated into Turkish, Persian, Hebrew and Latin.  During this period the Muslim world was a cauldron of cultures, which collected, synthesized, and significantly advanced the knowledge gained from the ancient Mesopotamian, Roman, Chinese, Indian, Persian, Egyptian, North African, Greek and Byzantine civilizations. Rival Muslim dynasties such as the Fatimids of Egypt and the Umayyads of al-Andalus were also major intellectual centers with cities such as Cairo and Córdoba rivaling Baghdad.  *From* **Wikipedia**  ***1. Are these statements true or false? Write T or F next to the letter corresponding to the statement.***  a) The Islamic Golden Age started in the 9th century.  b)The first capital of the Islamic Empire was Baghdad.  c) The House of Wisdom was intended to Muslim scholars only.  d) Many classic works of antiquity have been forgotten thanks to Muslim translators.    ***2. Put the following sentences in the order they appear in the text.***  a)During the Abbasid period, no other civilization rivaled the Muslim’s intellectually.  b) The Islamic culture had an impact on other societies, all over the world.  c) The Muslims could improve previous civilizations’ knowledge during the Abbasid’s period.  ***3.  Answer the following questions according to the text.***  a) When did the Islamic Golden Age collapse according to recent scholarship?   b) How did the Islamic Golden Age contribute to the universal culture?  c) Did the Islamic Empire give importance to knowledge?  d) What encouraged and urged the Abbasids to value knowledge?  ***4****.****What or who do the underlined words refer to in the text?***  a) this period (§1) b) where (§2)  ***B/ Text Exploration (08pts)***    ***1. Find in the text words closest in meaning to the following.***  a) conserving (§1)          b) established (§2)          c) main (§3)  ***2. Which nouns can be derived from the following verbs?***      a) to extend b) to influence c) to establish d) to translate  ***3. Complete sentence (b) so that it means the same as sentence (a).***  1(a) “Islamic culture has influenced societies in every continent,” Howard R. said.  (b) Howard R. said that …………………………………………………………...  2(a) The Abbasids were influenced by the Qur’anic injunctions.  (b) The Qur’anic injunctions ………………………………….  3(a) No other ancient civilization was as glorious as the Islamic one.  (b) The Islamic civilization was ……………………………………    ***4. Write the silent letter(s) in each of the following words.***  a) sciences b) writes c) knowledge d) sought e) would f) which  ***5. Fill in the gaps with words from the list.***   |  | | --- | | us – past – in – enrich – right – ancestors |     It is absolutely **..1..** that understanding the **..2..** gives us an immense opportunity to **..3..** ourselves  with facts, and encourages **..4..** to understand how our **..5..** developed various arts to succeed **..6..**  establishing their proper identity in hard times.    **Part Two: Written Expression (05pts)**  ***Choose One of the following topics:***  ***Either topic one:*** Summarize the reading passage in about 80 words using your own style.    ***Or topic two:*** Since the appearance of Islam, it has urged people to read and learn. Based on this statement, write a composition of about 100 words, in which you discuss the importance of reading and its role in creating educated and well informed citizens.  **TOPIC TWO**  **Part One: Reading (15 points)**  ***A/ Comprehension (07 points)***  Read the text below carefully then do the activities that follow.  Nobody can help having feelings; they are part of everyone. **We** feel different things all day long as different things happen to us. Sometimes we feel sad; for example, when someone we love passes away. Sometimes we feel happy; for example, when we are having fun playing. Sometimes we feel scared, angry, lonely, or any of a huge range of human emotions.  It is important not to be ashamed of having feelings. Everyone has them, good or bad. What counts is what we do about our feelings. We can all know how to show our feelings in ways that are helpful to us and others, not ways that are hurtful. When we are feeling a strong emotion, it is because chemicals are released into our brains. **These** can make us feel happy, sad, angry, ...  Some feelings like happiness, thoughtfulness, victory, pleasure, love and patriotism are positive. Others like feeling miserable, angry, bored and greedy are negative and bad for the individual. Nobody likes having negative emotions but we live in an anger-provoking social environment.  If you feel positive and are friendly and happy person, you will find that you attract other positive people. However, if you have negative emotions, you will find that you attract negative persons or you may find yourself alone.  Some people enjoy being alone. But man lives in a given society. He is compelled to establish relations with people, to cope with all kinds of situations. Loneliness cannot be a solution.  *Adapted from:* **Kids Health**  ***1. Copy the title you think is the most appropriate.***  a) Positive Feelings  b)Negative Feelings  c) Feelings and Man    ***2. Are these statements true or false? Write T or F next to the letter corresponding to the statement.***  a)Man cannot avoid having feelings.  b) There is a great variety of human emotions.  c) You will, necessarily, find yourself alone when you feel negative.  ***3.  Answer the following questions according to the text.***  a) Why do we have different feelings?   b) How many sorts of feelings are there? What are they?  c) Can loneliness be the solution of feeling negative emotions? Justify.    ***4****.* ***What or who do the underlined words refer to in the text?***  a) we (§1) b) these (§2)  ***5. In which paragraph is it mentioned that:***  a) the death of beloved ones causes sadness?  b) alike people attract to one another?  ***B/ Text Exploration (08pts)***    ***1. Find in the text words that are opposites of the following.***  a) proud (§2)           b) very happy (§3)             c) dislike (§5)  ***2. Classify the following words in the table below.***  a) thoughtfulness b) miserable c) individual d) enjoy   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Prefix | Root | Suffix | |  |  |  |     ***3. Give the correct form of the verbs in brackets.***  The British are different from the other Europeans. They dislike **(to be)** told what to do, and they  would rather **(not to talk)** about their feelings.  ***4. Connect each pair of sentences with the words given. Make changes where necessary.***  A/ **a)** The joke was very funny. **b)** We laughed to tears.**(so…that)**  B/**a)** People can control stress. **b)** They understand its causes and effects. **(provided that)**  ***5. Underline the stressed syllable in each of the following words.***  a) feelings b) chemicals c) attract d) solution  ***6. Imagine what speaker (A) says and complete the following dialogue.***  A: ……………………………….……?  B: Of course I do. In fact I have lots of friends.  A: …………………………………….?  B: For me, it isn’t at all difficult. I can make friends so easily.  A: …………………………………….?  B:Well, because I am always cheerful and friendly with everybody.  **Part Two: Written Expression (05pts)**  ***Choose One of the following topics:***  ***Either topic one:*** It is often said: “A friend in need is a friend indeed.” To what extent is this true for you? Write a composition of about 100 words, in which you state your definition of friendship, on what measures you choose your friends (gender, age, education …, etc) and what qualities you expect to find in them.    ***Or topic two:*** Fraud, bribery, embezzlement and nepotism are all unethical behaviors that provoke negative feelings such as anger, hatred and depression. Deliver a speech of about 100 words, in which you inform people about the damage caused by these behaviors, and what they should do to fight them so that they can enjoy justice and happiness.  **Where there is a will, there is a way**  **I wish you all the best and good luck in the baccalaureate.** |