

Skills for Life: Literacy (SLL)

ERASMUS⁺ - Strategic partnership only between schools

Initial Evaluation

This test assesses skills such as: understanding fictional and non fictional texts (literary and non- literary), the ability of scanning for information on account of certain tasks, the ability of thinking, making up opinions, own arguments and interpretations.

Read carefully each text from the two items, then the tasks and answer each task.

Subject I (50 points)

Three stories by John Cheever

”He took his place by the isle- 32- in the plane for Rome. The plane was full and between him and the person from the seat on the left of the fuselage there was a vacant seat. He realized delightfully that it was taken by an extraordinary beautiful woman – not young, but this was also his case. She smelled of perfume, she was wearing a black dress and jewels, and she seemed to belong to that part of the world where he felt home.

“Good evening”, he said while taking his seat.

She did not answer. She was singing to herself discouragingly and she was holding a book at her eyes’ level. He tried to see the title, but her hands were hiding it. He had met reserved women in the plane before- not often but he had. He supposed that, obviously they feared drunkards, womanizers or boring men. The man took off an exemplar of *The Manchester Guardian*. He had observed that the conservative newspapers sometimes inspire trust to reserved women. Reading the editorials, the sports pages or the financial ones made the reserved strangers disposed to talk. The plane took off, the “no smoking “ sign turned off and he took off a gold cigarette case and a gold lighter. Not blatant, but gold.

“Would you mind me smoking?” he asked.

“Why would I?” she answered.

She wasn’t looking towards him.

”Some people would “, he said.

She was almost as beautiful as she was unfriendly, but why was she so cold? They were going to sit by each other for nine hours and a short conversation would have been something natural. Would he remind her of somebody she disliked or had hurt her? He was freshly washed, shaved and properly dressed and used to making friends .Maybe she was an unhappy woman, angry with the whole world, but when the air hostess came to take orders for the drinks the smile she gave the young woman was warm and overwhelming. That made him so happy. This made him so happy that he also smiled, but when she saw him interfering in a communication destined to someone else, she turned to him and frowned, then started reading again. The air hostess brought him a double Martini, and her a sherry. He was thinking that his strong drink could enhance the woman’s reserve, but he had to risk. She went on reading. If he could have found out the title of the book, he was thinking, he would have had a starting point. Harold Robinson, Dostoevski, Philip Roth, Emily Dickinson – anything could have been of help. .

“May I ask what you are reading?” he asked politely..

“ No.” she answered.

When the air hostess brought the food, he handed her the tray over the vacant seat. She did not thank him. He started eating, feeding himself, as any simple habit. Usually food was bad, and he made this remark.

“ You can’t be very fussy under these circumstances”, she said.

He seemed to grasp a trace of warmth in her voice.

« Salt could do » she said “but they forgot to give me some. Would you please pass me yours?”

“Sure » he said.

Things started looking better He opened the salt box and while handing it to her, he spilt a little on the carpet.

“I’m afraid you are heading for bad luck” she said.

She said that not joking. The woman put salt on her cutlet and ate everything on the tray. Then she started reading again the book with the hidden title. He knew that sooner or later she would go to the toilet and then he could read the title, but when she went to the back of the plane she took the book with her. The projection screen was lowered. He never rented earphones, unless there was an extremely interesting movie. He had discovered that lip reading and guessing gave the movie an extra dimension, and anyway, the dialogues

were offending ordinary. His neighbor rented some headphones and seemed to enjoy herself fully. She had some musical laughter and she communicated with the actors on the screen as she had communicated with the air hostess and had refused to communicate with the one next to her. While they were getting closer to the Alps, the sun rose, but the film had not finished. Here and there, through the pulled curtains, one could see the shining morning in the Alps, but the characters on the screen went on with their parts, undisturbed, while they were flying over the Mont Blanc and Matterhorn. There followed another action scene, some pursue, some making up and then the end. His neighbor went again to the back of the plane, taking again the book with her, then returned wearing some bonnet, her face spread abundantly with cream. She arranged her blanket and got ready for sleeping.

“Sleep tight” he said daringly.

“She sighed”..

He never slept in a plane. He went to the plane kitchen and had a whiskey. The air hostess was nice and talkative and told him about her native town, the working program, her fiancé and the trouble with the travelers that are afraid of planes. After the Alps they started descending and he looked at the Mediterranean by the window and had another whiskey. He saw Elba, Giglio and the yachts at the pier from Porto Ercole, where he could see the villas of his friends. He remembered them coming from Nantucket so many years before. They would crowd by the left side of the ship and shout “Oh, The Perrys, the Saltons and the Greenough are here!”. It was part authentic, part show. When he returned to his place his neighbor took off her bonnet and wiped the cream. Her beauty was striking in the morning light. He could not realize what was so attractive - her nostalgia maybe - but her features, her paleness, the shape of her eyes, everything corresponded to the notion of beauty.

«Good morning» he said “Did you sleep well?”

She frowned, looking like she considered the question impertinent.

«Who sleeps well in a plane ?” she said sharply.

She put the mysterious book in her zipped purse and gathered her things. When they landed at Fiumicino he stepped aside, letting her pass, then he followed her on the aisle. He remained behind her at the passport and health control and followed her to the baggage. But well, well well... Why does he show the porter her bag and why, after both of them got their luggage, does he follow her to the taxis, where he negotiates with the driver the fare for the travel to Rome? Why does he get into the taxi with her? Is he the impossibly to reject womanizer she was afraid of? No, no. He is her husband, the mother of her children, the woman he had idealized passionately for almost thirty years. “

A. (10 points: 2 points for each correct answer). Circle the letter corresponding to the correct answer.

1. The male character is delighted about the next seat person because:

- a. this one is an elegant woman;
- b. this one is wearing an elegant dress and jewels;
- c. this one is extremely beautiful;
- d. this one seems to belong to a world that is familiar to him.

2. The man is reading *The Manchester Guardian*, because:

- a. he wants to gain the woman’s trust;
- b. he is interested in financial articles;
- c. he wants to escape boredom;
- d. he is interested in sports articles.

3. In the man’s opinion, the woman might be reserved towards him because:

- a. this one has ordered a strong drink ;
- b. this one reminds her of somebody that hurt her;
- c. this one interfered in her communication with the air hostess;
- d. this one interrupted her from the reading of a book.

4. The man did not put on headphones because:

- a. he preferred reading on the actors lips;
- b. prefers reading;
- c. the film seems tiring;
- d. he pays attention to the woman next to him.

B. (8 points: 1 point for each correctly placed idea. The student establishes the logical and temporal order of the following ideas in the text then puts down on the answer sheet only the figures corresponding to the ideas in a box similar to the one below:

1. The woman is watching a movie.
2. The man orders a double martini, and the woman a sherry.
3. The man is reading a newspaper.
4. The woman goes to the toilet with the book
5. The man and the woman get into the same taxi.
6. The two passengers are having meal.
7. The man is talking to the air hostess.
8. The woman is preparing to sleep.

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C. (20 points). Answer on the answer sheet, making up statements, for each of the following tasks:

1. Mention a detail the man finds attractive at his flight partner. (4 points)

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2. From the text it results that the woman has a reserved attitude to the male character. Mention two clues in favour of this idea presented in the text. (4 points)

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3. Explain, in no more than 6 lines, the reason why the man is trying to establish a communication channel with the woman. (6 points)

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4. The following sequence appears in the text:
„ Good morning, he said, did you sleep well?”
She frowned, looking like she considered the question impertinent.
«Who sleeps well in the plane? she answered sharply. “

Present in no more than 6 lines, the reason why you consider the woman answers sharply. (6 points)

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D. (12 points)

Two persons that have read John Cheever’s text discuss:

“I think that even if they are husband and wife, there is an irrecoverably affective distance between the two characters”

«Do you? I think that, on the contrary, a deep affective relationship has established in time.»

Which of the two points of view do you agree to? Write a text of 15-20 lines, to support your opinion, using John Cheever’ s text.

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Subject II (50 de points)

Labeling textile and clothing articles in the European Union

To export textile and clothing articles on the European market it is necessary to observe the labeling requirements imposed by the European Union. These requirements allow the European consumers the equal and proper access to the information regarding the textile products they purchase. The textile products that are not labeled in conformity with these requirements may not be traded on the UE market. The textile products must be labeled so as to indicate the fiber content. The directive 2008/121/EC establishes the requirements regarding the denominations that are to be used to describe the textile fibers as well as the requirements regarding the products labeling.

The requirements regarding the labeling of the fiber content are as follows:

1. All textile products must have a label to indicate the content of fiber either on the product, or on the product package. The label must not be permanently attached to the product, so it may be removed.
2. If the product is made of two or more components with different fiber content (for ex. a jacket with a lining) it must state the content in fiber of each component of the product, excepting the cases when these components represent less than 30% of the product (except for the linings).

3. A textile product consisting in two or more fibers of which one represents at least 85% of the product, must be marked.:

- According to the denomination of the fiber, followed by the percentage of the respective content.
- According to the denomination of the fiber, followed by the specification “minimum 85%” or
- According to the denomination of all the fibers, with the percentage of the content for each fiber.

4. A textile product consisting of two or more fibers, which totally detain 85% of the product, must be marked according to the denomination of the fiber, followed by the percentage of content corresponding, in descendent order. However, the fibers that separately cumulate less than 10% may be denominated collectively, by the expression “other fibers”, followed by the total percentage or mentioned with their own denomination, followed by the percentage corresponding to each denomination.

5. The term “fiber mixture» or «unspecified textile composition » may be used for a product whose composition is difficult to establish at the manufacturing moment.

6. The textile products that contain pure cotton and pure linen, in which the percentage of linen is at least 40%, may be denominated with the term “cotton mixture fabric”, followed by the specification of the composition ”pure cotton- pure linen fabric”.

7. The fiber content of the exclusively decorative articles that are contained in 7% or less in the product, must not obligatory be indicated on the label.

8. The term” silk” may not be used for the description of the texture of other textile fibres.

9. The terms” pure” , “wholly”, or “100%” may be used only when the product is made of only one fiber type. It is not allowed to use other terms. (There applies a tolerance of o2% other fibres-technical impurities. For the products that passed through a carding⁴ process, the tolerance level is 5%).

The European legislation referring to textile products labeling is closely related to Directive 96/73/EC. This one specifies the analysis methods that may be used to check whether the structure of textile fiber mixtures is in conformity with the information specified on the label.

A. (25 points) Formulate as statements, answers to each of these tasks, by using the text:

1. Mention where the labeling requirements presented in the text may be disregarded. (5 points)

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2. Mention two situations where the fiber content must not be presented on the label obligatory). (6 points)

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3. Explain what buyers of a product labeled “fabric made of cotton mixture - pure cotton-impure fabric” should know about the fiber content. (4 points)

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4. You bought a clothing article and its label writes:
Is labeling correct ? Motivate your answer (10 points)

30% polyester 70% cotton

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5. Present, using the text what the two European Directives mentioned in the text refer to: (10 points)

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B. (15 points)

Imagine you argue with a colleague on the topic of clothing products labeling. Write a text of no more than 20 lines, to support your opinion on the necessity of mentioning the fiber content of the clothing products , mentioning two beneficial effects of this one.

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Initial Evaluation – Answer sheet

Subject I (50 points)

A. 10 points: 2 points for a correct answer

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

B. 8 points: 1 point for a correctly placed idea

3	2	6	4	1	8	7	5
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C. 20 points

1. Mention a detail that the man finds attractive at his flight partner, for example: her nostalgia, her features, her paleness, the shape of her eyes

- 4 points for the complete, correct answer, under the form of a statement
- 2 points for the correct answer, but not under the form of a statement.
- Any other answer variant: 0 points.

2. Mention two clues that suggest the woman's reserved attitude, for example the absence of the answer at the man's greeting; the refusal to communicate the book title to the man; the frowning produced by the man's smile etc 4 points (1point+1point for the presentation of each clue)

2 points for formulating the answer as a statement.

3. Explaining the reason why the man is trying to establish a channel of communication with the woman, for example: the desire of getting near her, the need for socialization, avoiding the boredom of a long way, the affection for her etc.

- Clear, nuanced expression : 5 points.
- Hesitating, poor vocabulary expression: 3 points.
- Unconvincing attempt to explain: 1 point.
- Absence of answer or wrong answer: 0 points.
- Observing he space limit: 1 points.

4. Presentation in no more than 6 lines of the reason why the woman answers sharply, for example: the man's question seems conventional; she replies the man's attempts to get closer to her, etc

- Clear, nuanced expression: 5 points;
- Hesitating presentation, tendency of rephrasing the retorts: 2 points.
- Unconvincing attempt to explain: 1 points.
- Absence of answer or wrong answer: 0 points.
- Observing he space limit: 1 points

D. 12 points

- Making a personal opinion to support one of the two perspectives: 3 points.
- Nuanced support of the perspective: 3 points; (hesitating support: 2 points; attempt to support: 1 point)
- Observing the formal characteristics of an argumentative text : 3 points (partial use: 1 point):
 - Opinion verbs: to think, to believe, to consider, to suppose etc.
 - Linking words that express causality: so, as a result, consequently, in conclusion etc.;
 - Linking words to introduce comparison: like..., unlike... etc.
 - Linking words to establish a hierarchy of arguments: First, second etc;
- Coherence and correctness of expression: 1 point.

- Observing spelling and punctuation norms: 1point.
- Observing the space limit: 1 point

Subject II (50 de points)

A. 20 points

1. Mentioning the space where the labeling requirements presented in the text may be disregarded :outside EU
 - Answer included in the statement: 5 points.
 - Answer not included in the statement: 2 points.
 - Wrong answer or absence of the answer: 0 points.

2. Mentioning two situations in which the fiber content needn't be presented on the label: in the case of exclusively decorative articles in which the fiber content represents no more than 5% or in the case when the products went through a cardation procedure.
 - Answer included in the statement: 6 points. (3 points + 3 points)
 - Answer not included in the statement: 2 p. (1 points+ 1 points)
 - Wrong answer or absence of the answer: 0 points.

3. Explaining what should be known, referring to the fiber content, by those that buy a product that writes "cotton mixture fabric; pure cotton-pure linen fabric"-linen percentage of at least 40%.
 - Answer included in the statement: 4 points.
 - Answer not included in the statement: 1 point.
 - Wrong answer or absence of the answer: 0 points.

4. Motivating the answer : labeling is not correct because in case of a textile product made of two or more fibers, which on the whole represent at least 85% of the product, the composition must be marked according to the denomination of the fiber, followed by the percentage of content, in descendant order.
 - Answer included in the statement: 10 points.
 - Answer not included in the state: 3 points.
 - Wrong answer or absence of the answer: 0 points.

5. Presentation of the regulations of the two European directives mentioned: the European directive 2008/121/EC establishes the requirements regarding the denominations that are to be used for the description of the textile fibers and of the way of labeling for products: the European directive 96/73/EC specifies the methods of analysis that may be used to check whether the structure of textile fibers mixtures is in conformity with the information on the label.
 - Presentation of the regulations: 10 points (5 points +5 points)
 - Wrong answer or absence of the answer: 0 points.

B. (15 points)

- Adaptation to the given communication situation: oral communication (using direct address markers, oral register etc): 5 points (wholly: 5 points; partially: 2 points.)
- Formulating opinion: 3 points.
- Supporting opinion by highlighting two beneficial effects of labelling: 5points; by highlighting an effect: 2 points./ attempt to support opinion: 1 point.
- Coherence of ideas: 1 point.
- Observing spelling and punctuation norms: 1 point.