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Test of Interactive English

All about T.I.E.

The Test Format

The TIE is in two parts – the Oral Test (30 minutes per two candidates) and the Written Test (60 minutes). All the elements of both parts are compulsory and are designed to build upon learners' background knowledge, provide relevant language development opportunities to suit the needs of each student, and reflect tasks with which they will be familiar from the English language classroom and their daily lives. Both parts of the test must be taken on the same day.

Preparing for the Test

In preparing for the test, the candidates are required to carry out three standard pre-specified tasks. These form the framework within which the candidates select their own topics and materials, and decide how to develop each task. In addition, there are two spontaneous tasks in the test, which require the candidates to respond in speaking and writing to random situations. Assessment is made according to how well each candidate performs in carrying these out.

For this test the candidates are required to do the following preparation in advance:

- Carry out an investigation/mini project into a topic of their choice.
- Read a book/graded reader in English.
- Follow a news story
- Keep a logbook which will include their investigation/mini project and news story. The logbook is not assessed, but it has to be brought to the test.

About the Oral Test

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The candidates are required to bring their logbook and their book to the oral test. The oral test lasts approximately 25-30 minutes and is made up of five parts; some parts are a spontaneous interaction whilst other parts are prepared by the candidate.

1. Introduction

3 minutes (spontaneous)

The interlocutor introduces him/herself and then asks some introductory questions which are designed to elicit an exchange of information. **In this part of the oral test the interlocutor interacts with one candidate at a time and the candidates do not ask each other questions.** Below are some sample questions which the interlocutor might ask. The supplementary questions are dependent on the answers to the main questions.

Main questions

- Could you tell me your name?
- Could you tell me something about your home town?
- Could you tell me something about your family?
- What do you like to do in your free time?
- What are your future plans?

Personal Conversation & Writing Booster

Talking about yourself

Match the interlocutor's questions to the candidate's answers. Use each answer only once.

INTERLOCUTOR'S QUESTIONS

1. And what can you tell me about the village you live in? F
2. Do you participate in any leisure activities? G
3. And what do you do when you go out with your friends? D
4. What do your parents do for a living? B
5. How do you spend your free time? A
6. Tell me something about your family. C
7. What job would you like to do one day? E

CANDIDATE'S ANSWERS

- A. I enjoy watching television, reading books and surfing the Internet.
- B. My father is a civil servant. He is a high-school teacher and my mother works in a supermarket.
- C. I have a brother, who is three years older than me and a twin sister, who is the same age as me.
- D. We go for coffee at one of the cafés in the square, we go to the cinema, or we play on-line games at an Internet café.
- E. I haven't decided yet, but I'd like to go to university - maybe to become a doctor or a psychologist.
- F. It's very small, and there are not many things for children to do there.
- G. I play basketball for a local team and I sometimes go hiking with my parents.

Complete with a short word or phrase.

Tell me something about yourself.

- I'm old and I am in school.

Where are you from?

- I was born and I have been living here/there

What do your parents do for a living?

- My father is and my mother works

What would you like to be one day?

- I would like to because

Do you have any hobbies or activities?

- Yes I do. I enjoy and I also

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Reference Point

Workplaces

- bank
- post office
- factory
- supermarket
- office
- school
- town council

Occupations

- plumber
- manager
- electrician
- civil servant
- engineer
- builder
- teacher

Hobbies and Activities

- playing sports or board games
- surfing the net or playing on-line games
- reading or writing
- listening to music or dancing
- collecting stamps or coins
- doing crossword puzzles or playing cards

The TIE Interview: Stage 1 - Breaking the Ice

Correct preparation for your TIE interview is extremely important. If you do this, you will feel confident and most probably breeze through it; however, if you go to your interview unprepared, you will most likely not achieve what you are aiming for.

The first three minutes of the interview are when the candidates make their first impression on the interlocutor. This stage lasts approximately three minutes and is designed to set the candidates at ease. The interlocutor will introduce himself and go on to ask you a number of straightforward questions during this stage.

Read the following sample TIE interview for stage 1 carefully. Ensure that you are familiar with all its vocabulary.

Interlocutor: *Hello, my name is Peter and I will be talking to you today about your projects. Could you tell me your names and ages please?*

Candidate 1: My name is Billy and I'm twelve years old.

Candidate 2: My name is Roger and I'm fourteen years old.

Interlocutor: *Welcome to you both. I'll start with you Billy. Could you tell me something about your family?*

Candidate 1: Yes. My father is a lawyer and my mother works at the local KEP offices.

Interlocutor: *Do you have any brothers or sisters?*

Candidate 1: I have one brother, who is 2 years older than me, and a sister, who is one year younger than me.

Interlocutor: *Are your brother and sister learning English like you?*

Candidate 1: Yes, both of them are. My brother is studying for the English Proficiency Exam and my sister is taking the B1 level this year.

Interlocutor: *Have you had a chance to visit a foreign country yet?*

Candidate 1: Not yet, but I would like to go to England and visit Manchester. My favourite football team is from there.

Interlocutor: *Thank you Billy. Now Roger, could you tell me a little about the town you live in?*

Candidate 2: I live in Athens, near the sea. The suburb I live in is called Glyfada.

Interlocutor: *Do you like living there?*

Candidate 2: Yes, because it is very near the beach and it has many cinemas and Internet cafés.

Interlocutor: *What films do you enjoy watching?*

Candidate 2: I like watching science fiction and fantasy films.

Interlocutor: *What is your favourite fantasy film?*

Candidate 2: I loved the Lord of the Rings trilogy. I saw all three films twice.

Interlocutor: *I see. And you said that you visit Internet cafés.*

Candidate 2: Yes, I spend some of my time there on Sundays. I play on-line games with my friends.

Interlocutor: *What sort of games?*

Candidate 2: Usually, the Lord of the Rings PC game. We play against each other.

The TIE Written Test: The unprepared task

In the TIE written test, the second task is unprepared and candidates will be asked to respond to a subject on which they have general personal knowledge. The candidates must be familiar with writing a **description**, a **letter**, an **essay expressing an opinion**, a **discursive essay** and a **factual account**.

A description

Read the candidate's essay and choose the correct word or phrase.

Sample writing task: Write about your favourite aunt. Include what your aunt looks like, what she does and why you like her (150 - 200 words).

Candidate's essay:

My favourite aunt

My favourite aunt is called Maria. She (1) has/is my father's (2) sister/niece and she is younger than him.

My aunt is (3) overweight/tall and slim. She has big brown eyes and dark (4) brown/light hair. My aunt has (5) dark/light skin (6) because/because of she works out of doors in the sun, not in an office, so she (7) never/always looks (8) like/as if she has been sunbathing. Her job is (9) very/too nice. She is a tennis (10) pupil/coach at a sports club in Athens. She is (11) very/enough lucky because she works and exercises at the same time. My father (12) said/told me that she earns a lot of money from this job too since she trains (13) poor/wealthy people and gets paid (14) well/good.

My aunt is a very (15) cruel/nice person and is kind to everybody. (16) Because/For instance, when she comes to visit us, she (17) seldom/always gives me some money and takes me out for an ice cream. She also makes me feel special (18) due to the fact that/owing to she always gives me presents for Christmas and Easter. I (19) like/want my aunt to (20) teach/want me tennis one day.

(180 words)

Essay Plan

Paragraph 1

Briefly introduce who you will be writing about.

Paragraph 2

Describe her appearance and what job she does. Provide justification and give examples where possible.

Paragraph 3

Describe her personality and state why she is your favorite aunt. Provide justification and give examples where possible.





My TIE Investigation

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Then link your sentences together using the linking words on page 34 and form paragraphs. Finally, choose a couple of relevant photographs that you can talk about and insert them into your investigation.
(Recommended length 400-500 words)

My Favourite Football Team

TITLE:

Paragraph 1

Which is your favourite football team? Where is it from?

.....
.....

Is it a popular team in Greece/your region? Approximately how many fans does it have?

.....
.....

Which is its home stadium? What is the stadium's capacity?

.....
.....

Paragraph 2

Who owns the team? What else does he do?

.....
.....

Who is the team's coach? Which other teams has he coached? What do you think of him?

.....
.....

Who is the team's manager? Which other teams has he managed? What do you think of him?

.....
.....

Paragraph 3

Who are the team's star players? Where are they from? What positions do they play?

.....
.....

Who are your favourite players? Where are they from? What positions do they play?

.....
.....



Sample News Stories 1

Girl Disappears after Mobile-Phone Incident



In a country like Sri Lanka, where over 20 years of civil war have caused many thousands of deaths, a girl going missing for over a week over a mobile phone incident is the last thing anybody would want to hear about.

A 14-year-old girl ran away yesterday after she had been told off by her school teacher for receiving a mobile phone call in class. She did not want to be stopped from talking on her mobile phone in class and she took the reprimand very personally.

It was later found that the girl had hidden in a toilet, changed her clothes and then fled the school premises. She hasn't been seen since.

Not long before, in a similar case, another teenager in Colombo attempted to kill herself over the same issue of mobile phones, when her teacher and schoolmates prevented her from using her mobile phone in class. These developments have jolted the Sri Lankan government to slam a ban on the use of mobile phones in all schools, especially by kids under the age of 15.

This ban has also affected teachers, who have been asked to reduce their use of mobile phones in schools. If this policy remains as it is, teachers here will probably be required to put their phones on silent mode and not to use them when pupils are present.

In the opinion of this newspaper, the use of phones by kids under 18 ought to be regulated by parents right from the start. I am aware we live in a world where technology proliferates in various forms; however, the girl's parents could have helped to avert this unfortunate incident had they not been so liberal about phone ownership by the kids in their family.

Source: *Sri Lankan News, July 30th 2009*

Book 1

Around the World in 80 Days

1. Synopsis

Around the World in Eighty Days is a classic adventure novel written by the French writer, Jules Verne. The book, first published in 1873, was the result of an idea which came to him one afternoon in a Paris café while he was reading a newspaper. The technological innovations of the 19th century had opened up opportunities for rapid circumnavigation of the globe and this prospect fascinated Verne and his readership. In particular, three technological breakthroughs occurred in 1869-70 that made a tourist like journey around the world possible for the first time. These were the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad in America (1869), the linking of the Indian railways across the sub-continent (1870), and the opening of the Suez Canal (1869).

In the story, Phileas Fogg, of London, accompanied by his French valet, Passepartout, attempts to go around the world in 80 days and win a £20,000 bet set by his friends at the Reform Club.

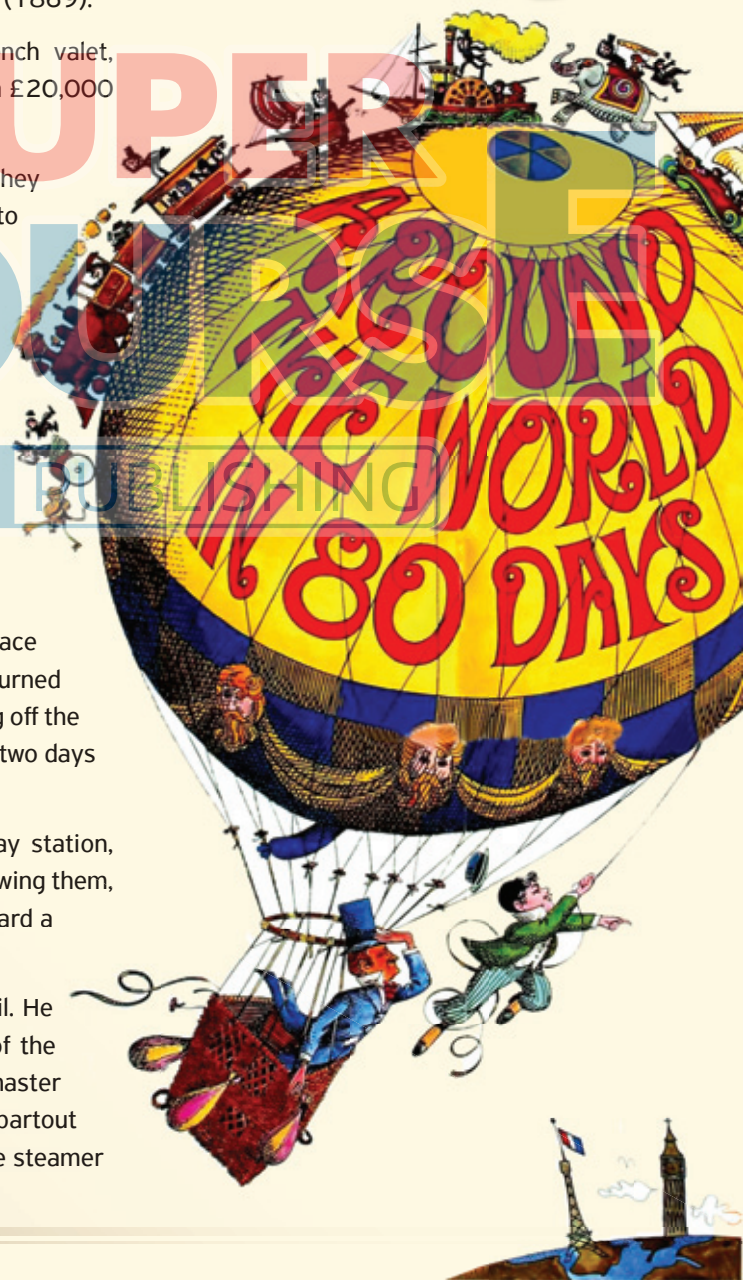
Fogg and Passepartout reach the Suez Canal in good time. In Egypt, they are tracked by a detective named Fix, who has been sent from London to search for a bank robber. Fix mistakes Fogg for the criminal because Fogg matches the description of the bank robber. Fix follows them on board a steamer bound for Bombay. During the voyage, he becomes acquainted with Passepartout. On the voyage, Fogg promises the ship's engineer a large payment if he gets them to Bombay early. They reach harbour two days ahead of schedule.

During the ride into Bombay, they come across a procession in which a young woman, Aouda, is being led to a sanctuary to be sacrificed. Since the young woman has been drugged with opium and is obviously not going willingly, the travellers decide to rescue her. They follow the procession and Passepartout secretly takes the place of Aouda's deceased husband on the funeral fire where she is to be burned the next morning. During the ceremony, he rises from the fire, scaring off the priests, and carries the young woman away. Due to this incident, the two days gained earlier are lost.

Fogg and Passepartout hurry to catch the train at the next railway station, taking Aouda with them. At Calcutta, Fix, who has secretly been following them, has Fogg and Passepartout arrested. However, they jump prison, board a steamer for Hong Kong and Fix is forced to follow them.

Fix sees Hong Kong as his last chance to arrest Fogg on British soil. He therefore confides in Passepartout, who does not believe a word of the detective's story. To prevent Passepartout from informing his master about the premature departure of their next vessel, Fix gets Passepartout drunk. Despite his dizziness, Passepartout still manages to catch the steamer to Yokohama, but forgets to tell Fogg.

Around the World in 80 Days



TIE coursebook glossary

PART 1

page 9

civil servant δημόσιος υπάλληλος
engineer πτυχιούχος μηχανικός ή μηχανολόγος
plumber υδραυλικός
town council δημοτικό συμβούλιο

page 10

average μέσος, του μέσου όρου
lenient επιεικής
patient υπομονετικός
strict αυστηρός

page 11

learn by heart αποστηθίζω
memorise απομνημονεύω, αποστηθίζω
parrot fashion παπαγαλία

page 18

curly σγουρά
dazzling εκθαμβωτικός
easy-going βολικός
envious ζηλόφθονος, φθονερός
extrovert εξωστρεφής
freckled με φακίδες
honest έντιμος
introvert εσωστρεφής
jealous ζηλιάρης
optimistic αισιόδοξος
overweight υπέρβαρος
pessimistic απαισιόδοξος
piercing διεισδυτικός, κοφτερός
practical πρακτικός
reliable αξιόπιστος
rosy ροδαλός, ρόδινος
rude αγενής
scruffy ατημέλητος, βρώμικος
sensible λογικός
smooth απαλός, λείος, αρυτίδωτος
sociable κοινωνικός
tanned μαυρισμένος απ' τον ήλιο
wrinkled ρυτιδιασμένος

page 19

abundant άφθονος
blaring διαπεραστικός (ήχος)
considerable σημαντικός
contemporary σύγχρονος
deafening εκκωφαντικός
narrow στενός
steep απότομος
tiny μικροσκοπικός
wide φαρδύς

page 21

brief σύντομος
compile συλλέγω, συγκεντρώνω
limit περιορίζω
structure συντάσσω, οργανώνω
summarise συνοψίζω

page 24

climatic κλιματολογικός
cooling ψύχρανση
currents ρεύματα

definitely σίγουρα, κατηγορηματικά
die out εξαφανίζομαι, εκλείπω
dominance κυριαρχία
evidence στοιχεία, αποδείξεις
extinction εξαφάνιση, εξάλειψη
frequently συχνά
height ύψος
impact σύγκρουση
length μήκος
mankind ανθρώπινο είδος
release έκλυση, απελευθέρωση
result επακόλουθος
sea-level θαλάσσια στάθμη
volcanic gases ηφαιστειακά αέρια
warm blooded θερμόαιμος
weigh ζυγίζω
widespread ευρέως διαδεδομένος

page 25

approximately περίπου
claim ισχυρίζομαι
concerning που αφορά
dominate κυριαρχώ
evolve εξελίσσομαι
excavation ανασκαφή
fossil απολίθωμα
global warming φαινόμενο του θερμοκηπίου
prove αποδεικνύω
reveal αποκαλύπτω
social κοινωνικός
vary ποικίλω
with regard to σε σχέση με...

page 26

attitude συμπεριφορά, στάση
break-up διάλυση, διάσπαση
cancer καρκίνος
consider θεωρώ
consist of αποτελείται από
contribute συνεισφέρω
convince πείθω
element στοιχείο
genre είδος
incorporate ενσωματώνω
influential που έχει ή ασκεί επιρροή
innovative νεωτεριστικός
mature ωριμάζω
popularity δημοτικότητα
producer παραγωγός
range κυμαίνομαι, ποικίλλω
sophisticated εξελιγμένος, πολύπλοκος
spot εντοπίζω

page 29

advantage πλεονέκτημα
argument επιχείρημα, διαμάχη
benefit επωφελούμαι, οφελούμαι
calculator αριθμομηχανή
ensure εξασφαλίζω
essential ουσιώδης, στοιχειώδης, απαραίτητος
frequency συχνότητα
generation γενιά
grow up μεγαλώνω
huge μεγάλος, τεράστιος
improve βελτιώνω

invent εφευρίσκα
job qualification επαγγελματικό προσόν
literacy μόρφωση, ικανότητα ανάγνωσης και γραφής
literate μορφωμένος, εγγράμματος
positive effect θετικό αποτέλεσμα
prove αποδεικνύω
quality ποιότητα
smash συντρίβω
state δηλώνω
subatomic particle υποατομικό σωματίδιο
supervise επιβλέπω
survive επιβιώνω
wheel τροχός

page 31

artifact τεχνούργημα
attraction αξιοθέατο
bring up φέρνω σε συζήτηση
capital πρωτεύουσα
carving σκαλιστό
chapel παρεκκλήσι(ο)
civilisation πολιτισμός
cobbled λιθόστρωτος
construction κατασκευή
courtyard αυλή
divide διαιρώ
entrance είσοδος
excavation ανασκαφή
face αντικρίζω, βλέπω
focus εστιάζω-ομαι
glorious ένδοξος
highlight τονίζω, προβάλλω
influence επίδραση, επιρροή
intellectual πνευματικός, διανοούμενος
invader εισβολέας
knowledge γνώση
local τοπικός, ντόπιος
monument μνημείο
mosque τζαμί
occasional περιστασιακός
occupy κατέχω, καταλαμβάνω
orientation προσανατολισμός
preserve διατηρώ
region περιοχή
religion θρησκεία
religious θρησκευτικός
renovate ανακαινίζω, αποκαθιστώ
rival ανταγωνιστής, αντίπαλος
sour ξινός
tolerate ανέχομαι

page 35

absorb απορροφώ
additional επιπρόσθετος
amateur ερασιτέχνης
amount ποσό
announce ανακοινώνω
associate συνδέω, συνδυάζω, συσχετίζω
break-up διάσπαση
breathable που μπορεί να το αναπνεύσεις
bucket κουβάς
by-product υποπροϊόν
composition σύνθεση
confirmation επιβεβαίωση