



School of Health and Education

## WRITTEN EXAMINATION

Course: **English: Proficiency**

Sub-course: **Reading comprehension/Vocabulary knowledge**

Course code: **EN247G**

Credits for written examination: **3.0**

Date: **October 30, 2025**

Examination time: **8:15-11:30**

Examination responsible: **Stefan Sönnherhed**

Teachers concerned

Aid at the exam/appendices: **None**

Other

Instructions

- Take a new sheet of paper for each teacher.
- Take a new sheet of paper when starting a new question.
- Write only on one side of the paper.
- Write your name and personal ID No. on all pages you hand in.
- Use page numbering.
- Don't use a red pen.
- Mark answered questions with a cross on the cover sheet.

Grade points: **Pass/E 54; D 62; C 70; B 80; A 88 (Maximum: 100)**

**Examination results should be made public within 18 working days**

*Good luck!*

Total number of pages **6**

**EN247G – EXAM in Reading comprehension and Vocabulary knowledge**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID no: \_\_\_\_\_

This exam is divided into four sections:

■ **Part One: Text discussion – 40 points**

Summarize the stories “A Belfast Woman” and “The Mortal Immortal: A Tale” from the coursebook *Criss-Cross Tales*. Make sure you include the most important parts of the stories in your essay summary; think especially of the lead questions in the exam. (1½–2½ pages)

■ **Part Two: Questions on a previously unknown text/*Compendium* – 30 points**

Read the article “Star UConn guard Paige Bueckers uses ESPYS speech to honor Black women” and answer/discuss the questions that follow. Note that some questions in this part are on articles in *Compendium*. Answer the questions one by one and in your own words. (1½–2½ pages)

■ **Part Three: Vocabulary – 20 points**

Explain twenty English words/phrases, from *Criss-Cross Tales* and *Compendium*, listed in the vocabulary worksheet. Make sure you explain the words in a way that clearly explains what they mean. Write your answers on the test form next to each word or on a separate sheet.

■ **Part Four: Oral presentation – 10 points**

Added here is your score in *Oral presentation* which was done in class prior to this exam.

Maximum points for the exam:	100
A	88
B	80
C	70
D	62
E	54
F	0-53

### Part One: Text Discussion – 40 points

In “A Belfast Woman,” we meet Mary Harrison and her family of different generations, and in “Going Home,” we meet Billy who leaves his life in the big city to visit his family. To help you remember the stories, read the short extracts below. Then summarize both the stories in essay form. Your essay should be on 1½–2½ pages in total. Remember to structure your text well into paragraphs and to use correct sentence structure and punctuation. Carefully go through your writing for both vocabulary and grammar—including capital and lowercase letters.

#### “A Belfast Woman”

I mind well the day the threatening letter came. It was a bright morning, and warm, and I remember thinking when I was dressing myself that it would be nice if The Troubles were over so that a body could just enjoy the feel of a good day. When I came down the stairs the hall was dark but I could see the letter lying face down.

#### “The Mortal Immortal: A Tale”

I will tell my story, and my reader shall judge for me. I will tell my story, and so contrive to pass some few hours of a long eternity, become so wearisome to me. For ever! Can it be? to live forever! I have heard of enchantments, in which the victims were plunged into a deep sleep, to wake, after a hundred years, as fresh as ever.

Summarize both the stories in essay form—one essay only or one essay per story (either is okay). Include the following aspects when you write your summaries:

#### “A Belfast Woman”

1. Where does the story take place, and what's the significance of choosing just that place.
2. What the threatening letter is about and why people like Mary were given such letters.
3. Who the members of Mary's family are (children, mother, husband...) and Mary's relations to them (include how Eileen and Liam are different in your answer).
4. How Mary's (imagined) cancer and bleeding arm are important in the story?

#### “The Mortal Immortal: A Tale”

1. Who is Winzy, and who is Bertha, and what problem did they meet with as a couple?
2. Who is Cornelius Agrippa, and why is he important in this story?
3. What happens after Winzy drinks the potion, both as an immediate effect and in the long run?
4. What does Winzy think and do about his seemingly never-ending life? How do you interpret this half glass of a potion that would give eternal life?

**Part Two: Questions on a previously unknown text/Compendium – 30 points**

Answer the following questions in your own words, 1½–2½ pages (30 points with 4 points for each question #1-6 and 6 points for question #7):

**Star UConn guard Paige Bueckers uses ESPYS speech to honor Black women**

Paige Bueckers, the star point guard for the University of Connecticut women's basketball team, was named the best college athlete in women's sports at the 2021 ESPYS on Saturday night and used her acceptance speech to celebrate and honor Black women.

"With the light that I have now as a White woman who leads a Black-led sport and celebrated here, I want to shed a light on Black women," said Bueckers, the reigning national player of the year. "They don't get the media coverage that they deserve. They've given so much to the sport, the community and society as a whole and their value is undeniable."

The 19-year-old sophomore said that last season in the WNBA, 80% of the post-season awards were won by Black players, but they got half the amount of coverage of the White athletes.

"I think it's time for change. Sports media holds the key to storylines. Sports media and sponsors tell us who is valuable, and you have told the world that I mattered today, and everyone who voted, thank you. But I think we should use this power together to also celebrate Black women."

She went on to acknowledge other Black women trailblazers.

"To Maria Taylor, Robin Roberts, Maya Moore, Odicci Alexander. To all the incredible Black women in my life and on my teams. To Breonna Taylor and all the lives lost, and to those names who are not yet learned, but I hope to share, I stand behind you and I continue to follow you, follow your lead and fight for you guys so I just want to say thank you for everything," she said.

In her speech, Bueckers also thanked her family, friends, coaches and teammates.

"I'm standing on this stage alone, but without them I wouldn't have this award. They've sacrificed so much for me," she said.

As a freshman guard for the storied UConn team, Bueckers averaged 20 points and over five assists a game, leading the Huskies to a stellar 28-2 record and a trip to the Final Four. She won the John Wooden Award after the season as the best women's college basketball player, the first freshman to win the honor.

Sterling, Wayne, "Star UConn guard Paige Bueckers uses ESPYS speech to honor Black women," CNN, Sun July 11, 2021.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/07/11/us/paige-bueckers-espys-speech>



Vocabulary (most definitions taken from Oxford Learners' Dictionaries: American English)

- point guard (in basketball) the player who directs the team's offensive players
- sophomore a student in the second year of a course of study at a college or university
- trailblazer a person who is the first to do or discover something and so makes it possible for others to follow
- stellar (informal) excellent

## Questions

1. In which context (where and when) did Paige Bueckers make this speech?
2. What does Paige think about sports media?
3. What did Paige mean by “I’m standing on this stage alone, but without them I wouldn’t have this award. They’ve sacrificed so much for me”?
4. What, in your own words, was the main message that Paige Bueckers wanted to send?
5. In *Compendium*, we can read about Aurora Sky Castner who fought against the odds in another way. What was special about her life both as a newborn and as a student?
6. In another *Compendium* article, you can read about the two runners Chandler Self and Ariana Luterman. What was so special about their case(s)?
7. Life is unfair in many ways. Some people get an advantage just because where they were born and what they were born as. Obviously, that’s wrong. How do we best create a world where everyone gets an equal opportunity in life? What is your own opinion of equality? In society and life in general? Through laws and/or education? Or upbringing?

State your own opinions about what you think is the best way to create an equal world today. Besides giving your own opinions, you also need to relate your thoughts to at least two articles in *Compendium*. Feel free to include personal experiences of a direct or indirect kind.

*[It’s important that you express an opinion, but, besides relating it to the course literature, you are free to use any other examples/ideas you want—from the course literature as well as other sources.]*

### Part Three: Vocabulary – 20 points

Explain the following words/phrases in English writing a clear definition of what the words mean. Note the part of speech (word class). Write here or on a separate sheet (20 points with 1 point/word and a .5-point deduction for vague explanations).

#### *Nouns and noun phrases*

1. accordion
2. blotch
3. eternity
4. finish line
5. Ivy League
6. manger
7. plumber
8. proceeds
9. rosary beads
10. venetian blinds
11. vial

#### *Verbs and verb phrases*

12. befall
13. consent
14. smear
15. soothe
16. take a/the knee
17. will (lexical verb)

#### *Adjectives and adverbs*

18. epic
19. immortal
20. upright (of a person)

### Part Four: Oral presentations – 10 points

Your score: \_\_\_\_\_ points

Good luck ☺!

*Stefan*