



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: **December 13, 2024**

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

Examination responsible: **Stefan Sönnerhed**

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 “Going Home” 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 “Big Dreams, Historic Moments: Stories Of Athletes Who Fought Against All Odds At The Paris Olympics” 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”

Eileen was never touched in school after that, though, and when she left she learned shorthand and typing and got an office job. She grew up so lovely, and I used to think, watching her going out in the morning in the best of clothes with her hair shining, that she could have gone anywhere and done herself credit.

...

“Going Home”

The slender black hands swing the shiny black wheel around a corner. Blackness forms a unison of power.

For five years he has worked hard and saved and sacrificed. Now, on his twenty-first birthday, he is going home.

New car, new clothes, new life.

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 the story takes place and 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.

“Going Home”

1. Who is Billy (William) Woodward?
2. What do we get to know about his family?
3. What happens on Billy’s way home?
4. What does his brother mean by “welcome ‘ome, brother”?

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):

Big Dreams, Historic Moments: Stories Of Athletes Who Fought Against All Odds At The Paris Olympics

The Olympics have always brought to focus inspirational stories of athletes around the world and their incredible journey to reach the global stage. Apart from their sporting talent, the athletes go through rigorous training to meet very stringent standards and often have to cover medical bills, sports gear and travel costs by themselves. Only a few chosen ones land lucrative corporate offers.

The road to the Games is full of personal and professional hurdles. As the Paris Olympics 2024 makes headlines over the many victories and losses, here are some stories of the journeys, passion and courage that brought the elite athletes to the world's biggest stage:

Yaylagul Ramazanova

At 34, Yaylagul Ramazanova, the Azerbaijan archer, stunned the world after she shot a perfect 10 while being six-and-a-half-month pregnant. "I felt my baby kick me before I shot this last arrow, and then I shot a 10," she revealed in an Instagram post later. Fans on social media have called her a 'badass' and 'champion' to be able to compete while carrying a child. "Women can do anything," others have said on her post.

Ramazanova is only the second archer in Azerbaijan's relatively young history to compete at the Olympics. The first-ever archer from the country to achieve this feat was Olga Senyuk, who took part in the Rio Games in 2016. Ramazanova competed in Paris against all odds and qualified in 1/32 elimination round but later lost out to Germany's Michelle Kroppen in the round of 16.

[...]

Yusuf Dikec

Usually, in the sport of shooting, age is just a number. However, it is not every day that you a 51-year-old casually clinch medals at the Olympics. It is his seemingly 'casual' appeal, though, not his historic medal, that made Turkish pistol shooter Yusuf Dikec an internet sensation overnight. A hand in his pocket, wearing standard glasses and ear plugs – no visors, blinder or chunky ear defenders – Dikec got Türkiye their first-ever medal in Olympic shooting in Paris, taking silver in the 10m air pistol mixed team event alongside Seval İlayda Tarhan.

Paris was not Dikec's first rodeo although it made him famous. He has been competing at the Games since 2008 but had been shy of a place in the top 10. Celebrations have already begun in Türkiye as he and Tarhan bring home glory.

On social media, fans have been editing his pose into memes and film scenes, comparing him to characters from TV shows and video games. In another iconic moment, Swedish pole vaulter

Armand Duplantis recreated Dikec's pose on winning his record-breaking gold at the Paris Olympics. Dikec, too, seems to have embraced the trend, reposting a video compilation of memes about him to his Instagram page.

Zhiying Zeng

Speaking of age, 58-year-old Zeng Zhiying made her Olympic debut for Chile in Paris this year, almost four decades after she missed out on being selected to represent China in 1984. Starting her journey in China at a very young age, she was a pro in table tennis by the age of 12. However, as she reached the international stage, her biggest setback was a new paddle rule – mandating the red and black sides, as opposed to both black sides – ahead of the first-ever table tennis match at the Olympics. The rule drastically affected her technique.

In 1989, when she received an invitation to coach school kids in Chile, she left her home country, stayed on in Chile, and made sporadic comebacks to competitive table tennis. In 2023, she had a big crowning moment when she was picked to be part of the Chilean women's team for the Pan American Games in Santiago. With continuous training, she eventually made her way to Paris, too. According to a CNN report, her 92-year-old father stayed up till 5 am in China just to watch his daughter realise her lifelong dream.

Zeng, the oldest person to debut in Olympic table tennis, lost to 46-year-old Mariana Sahakian of Lebanon in the preliminary rounds but her dream of "becoming an Olympian" came true. Zeng is affectionately dubbed as 'Tia Tania' or Auntie Tania in Chile and 'table tennis Grandma' by her fans. Her journey will be etched in the hearts of many aspiring athletes.

<https://www.outlookindia.com/sports/big-dreams-historic-moments-stories-of-athletes-who-fought-against-all-odds-at-the-paris-olympics>

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

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| ▪ lucrative | producing a large amount of money; making a large profit |
| ▪ archer | a person who shoots with a bow and arrows |
| ▪ visor | a curved piece of plastic, etc. worn on the head above the eyes to protect them from the sun |
| ▪ paddle | here: a bat used for playing table tennis |
| ▪ sporadic | happening only occasionally or at intervals that are not regular |

Questions

1. Why did Yaylagul Ramazanova make headlines in the Paris Olympics?
2. How did Yaylagul Ramazanova do in the Games?
3. What are the reasons that Yusuf Dikec became an overnight sensation in the Games? State at least two reasons.
4. Why did it take around 40 years for Zeng Zhiying to qualify for the Olympic Games?
5. The *Compendium* article “‘What’s more important, my dream or the women of Afghanistan?’: breakdancer Manizha Talash on her Olympic protest” tells us about a protest in this year’s Paris Olympics. What happened and why did Manizha Talash do this?
6. In the *Compendium* article “Controversial apps for kids make cosmetic surgery into a game” we can read about another kind of games: digital games. What does the article say about the negative side of cosmetic-surgery games? Mention at least two things.
7. What is your own opinion of games—sports and other kinds of games? Is there too much competition in the world today? Or do we have a reasonably good balance between competing, winning, and losing? Is it possible to change any of the rules for games: children’s games, sports, the Olympics...?

State your own opinions about how to best create a world where games are fair and become something positive for people. 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. blasphemy
2. cocoon
3. disdain
4. finish line
5. hatchet
6. kettle
7. milestone
8. petition
9. proceeds
10. vessel

Verbs and verb phrases

11. befall
12. hitchhike
13. peer
14. slight
15. soothe
16. will (lexical verb)
17. wither

Adjectives and adverbs

18. ominous
19. rowdy
20. strenuous

Part Four: Oral presentations – 10 points

Your score: _____ points

Good luck ☺!

Stefan