



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: **March 27, 2026**

Examination time: **14:15-17:30**

Examination responsible: **Stefan Sönnnerhed**

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 “Yusra Mardini” 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:	<b>100</b>
A	<b>88</b>
B	<b>80</b>
C	<b>70</b>
D	<b>62</b>
E	<b>54</b>
F	<b>0-53</b>

### 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”

The week after she died Eileen came home from school crying. She was ten years of age and she didn't often cry. She showed me the mark on her legs where the head teacher had hit her with a cane. A big red mark it was, right across the back of her legs.

#### “Going Home”

Billy camps beside the dying fire. He rolls himself into a bundle of ragged blankets on the floor and stares into the fire. In his mind he can hear his father droning away, telling legends that he half-remembered, and his mother softly singing hymns. Voices and memories and woodsmoke drift around him. He sleeps.

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?

#### “Going Home”

1. What kind of life has Billy been living for the past five years, and how did he change his life?
2. What happens (fellow traveler and racist incident) on his way home?
3. Who does Billy meet when arrives home, and how are their lives different from his?
4. What happens at the end of the story, and what does this say about racism and the attitude to the original inhabitants in Australia?

## 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):

### Yusra Mardini

#### About Yusra

Olympic swimmer and Syrian refugee Yusra Mardini was appointed the youngest-ever Goodwill Ambassador for UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency in April 2017, aged just nineteen. By sharing her inspiring story, Yusra has become a powerful voice for forcibly displaced people worldwide.

In August 2015, Yusra fled the Syrian Civil War with her sister Sara. She made the treacherous journey to Europe at just seventeen years old, crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey to Greece. Mid-crossing, the engine of the boat carrying Yusra, her sister, and eighteen others stopped working. The sisters jumped into the water alongside two others and swam beside the boat for several hours, guiding the dinghy and saving the lives of everyone onboard.

Finding refuge in Germany, Yusra was then selected to compete as part of the inaugural Refugee Olympic Team at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro and then again in Tokyo four years later. Having previously written about her struggle with the title 'refugee', she became the proud flagbearer and spokesperson for the team at the 2020 games. From there, Yusra went on to address world leaders at the UN General Assembly, meet the Pope, and receive several prestigious awards. She has since become a prominent speaker and sports advocate, while also completing her studies at university in the USA.

Yusra's incredible story is told in her memoir, 'Butterfly: From Refugee to Olympian – My Story of Rescue, Hope and Triumph' and in Netflix's *The Swimmers*, which was released in 2022 to widespread admiration across the globe. Yusra also announced the launch of her very own nonprofit, The Yusra Mardini Foundation, on World Refugee Day 2023, which works to advance access to sports and education for refugee communities.

In her role as a Goodwill Ambassador, Yusra has shared her experience of forced migration to shed light on the realities faced by people across the globe. She has spoken at high-profile events, including Google Zeitgeist, the World Economic Forum, COP and the Global Women's Forum and given interviews to a range of publications, including the BBC, CNN, Harper's Bazaar, The Times and Time Magazine (in collaboration with former UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie).

## Recent advocacy

Yusra has been very active in her role as a Goodwill Ambassador for UNHCR. In December 2023, Yusra attended the Global Refugee Forum, an event which also saw her pledge the support of her foundation to the Sport for Refugees Coalition.

In a series of major advocacy moments throughout 2023, Yusra gave a speech at Capitol Hill in Washington D.C., spoke to renowned news outlets in the United Arab Emirates, and represented UNHCR at the Postcode Lottery Charity Gala in Dusseldorf, all to raise the profile and funds of the agency across the globe.

At the BAFTAs in February 2023, alongside fellow Goodwill Ambassador Cate Blanchett, Yusra wore a blue ribbon on the red carpet to show her support for displaced people on the world stage. In the same month, she recorded an appeal for social media, which greatly aided UNHCR's fundraising campaign in the wake of the Türkiye-Syria earthquake that devastated the region at the beginning of the year.

<https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/our-partners/prominent-supporters/goodwill-ambassadors/yusra-mardini>

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

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| ▪ displace      | to force people to move away from their home to another place                       |
| ▪ treacherous   | dangerous, especially when seeming safe   |
| ▪ dinghy        | a small open boat that you sail or row  |
| ▪ inaugural     | inaugural   |
| ▪ advocate      | a person who supports or speaks in favour of somebody or of a public plan or action |
| ▪ pledge (verb) | to formally promise to give or do something   |
| ▪ renowned      | famous and respected  |
| ▪ devastate     | to completely destroy a place or an area  |

### Questions

1. What so special about Yusra Mardini's role at the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency?
2. What incident as a teenager led to Ms. Mardini's taking an active part in work for refugees?
3. What are Ms. Mardini's Olympic experiences and how did those start?
4. What media has Ms. Mardini appeared in? Name two.
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. Most of us live in a secure place and have our families to protect us. But others have to flee for their lives. In some parts of the world, refugees and immigrants are treated unfairly just because they come from another country or place. How can we, as a society but also as individuals change that? Through laws and/or education? Or upbringing?

State your own opinions about what you think is the best way to create a safe 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. barbed wire
3. crew cut
4. eternity
5. hatchet
6. manger
7. proceeds
8. rosary beads
9. stump
10. vial

#### *Verbs and verb phrases*

11. befall
12. hitchhike
13. seep
14. smear
15. soothe
16. will (lexical verb)

#### *Adjectives and adverbs*

17. epic
18. fatal
19. flawlessly
20. legit

### **Part Four: Oral presentations – 10 points**

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

Good luck ☺!

*Stefan*