



AS LEVEL ENTRANCE ASSESSMENT

Who should complete this assessment?

Students who have not been registered with me previously, and who wish to register to prepare for the AS Level English First Language exam in October/November 2020.

Guidelines

This assessment **must** be **handwritten**, scanned in and emailed to chiara@imago-web.co.za as a **pdf document**. Assessments sent in as jpeg files cannot be marked.

The assessment must be completed under the guidance of a parent or adult, and must be completed in **2 hours 30 minutes**. This allows me to gain a sense of a student's reading and writing speed as well as of his or her knowledge.

No access to phones, internet, dictionaries or other reference books is permitted. I am trying to gain the best understanding possible of a student's abilities, so the aim is not to get all the answers "right" as much as to reflect honestly where a student is in each of the areas assessed by the questions.

SECTION ONE: GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Suggested time for section 1: 15 minutes maximum

Answer each of the questions below without looking them up on the internet or consulting any reference books. Answers do not need to be in full sentences. Try not to leave blanks.

1. In which country do people use nickels and dimes as units of currency?
2. In which century (1700s, 1800s or 1900s) was Napoleon Bonaparte defeated?
3. In which geographical area is Trinidad located?
4. Who wrote *The Jungle Book*?
5. What does a dermatologist study?
6. What does USSR stand for?
7. Which sea does the Nile River flow into?
8. During which war was the atomic bomb developed?
9. What are two things King Henry VIII of England is known for?
10. Which country has the oldest monarchy in the world?
11. Name the six queens who have ruled over England since 1400.
12. During which decade (1920s, 1930s or 1960s) was John F. Kennedy president of the United States?
13. On which river is the Kariba Dam located?
14. What is the name of the fictional character who swore he would never grow up?
15. The Union Jack is made up of three crosses, each of which represents a different nation. Which three nations are represented by the three crosses in the Union Jack?
16. What significant event took place in 1865 in Ford's Theatre, Washington D.C.?
17. What does UNESCO stand for?
18. Which war was brought to an end in 1902 at the Treaty of Vereeniging?
19. When was the Declaration of Independence written in the United States, and who wrote it?
20. What is the capital city of Northern Ireland?
21. Where was the treaty signed which ended the American War of Independence?

SECTION TWO: LANGUAGE APPRECIATION

Suggested time for section 2: 1 ½ hours maximum

In the passage below, set in Wales in the 1200s, Llewelyn, Prince of the province of Gwynedd (pronounced "Gwi-neth") in Wales, goes to see his wife before heading off to war with the English. A year before this meeting, Llewelyn discovered that his wife, Joan, was having an affair with an English visitor. He put Joan in prison and killed her lover, William de Breos. Now, on the brink of war, he goes to see his wife in prison for the first time after a year. **Read the passage, and then answer the questions which follow.**

She was sitting beneath the narrow, barred window when he entered the room, and the first thing he saw was the light lying ashen in her fair hair; there was more grey than gold in it now. She had grown heavier in her enforced stillness, her body was ripe and full that had been so slender, and moved with something less than the old negligent grace. But her face was not full but fallen, the pale skin stretched over slight bones, the eyes grown enormous and calm like grey glass. They looked upon him and gave no sign. Her hands were spread upon the arms of the chair, as she used to sit beside him on occasions of state, erect and observant, quick to anticipate, deft in manipulation. She was richly dressed. He saw and understood that she had prepared herself for him. She was a king's daughter and the wife of a prince, whether in his palace or his prison.

For a year he had neither seen her nor permitted her name to be spoken in his hearing. He had thought that he must come back to her now as a stranger, learning afresh the shape of her

wide forehead and tapering face, and the way she had of opening her eyes wide to take in entire the person to whom she spoke. He had expected to have to batter his way laboriously through the months that had separated them, as through the stockade of a castle into which he must break by force of arms. But at the first sound of her voice even this changed woman became familiar to him, and the veil of estrangement between them broke and drifted like gossamer.

"You are welcome, my lord," she said. "There was no need to ask permission, your prisons are always open to you."

Gilleis [her lady-in-waiting] had gone, and closed the door quietly behind her. He stood just within the room, looking steadily at the Princess, and went headlong where his genius pointed him. Constraint and ceremony could have nothing to say to her that would not be wearisome to hear as it was costly to say. There was no time. He had always been at his best when he was pressed hardest.

"Joan," he said, "I need you."

In spite of herself she stirred so sharply that he felt her astonishment recoil upon his own flesh and set him trembling. If he had spoken of forgiving, or pitying, or even loving, she would have been ready for him, but to be needed was something she had not looked for.

"That cannot be true," she said. "You have done without me well enough for a year, and so you can now." She said it very mildly, without reproach or complaint, only uttering what she felt to be true. He saw now where Gilleis had learned her patience and endurance.

"I have done without you, but not well. Without you nothing is well. I need you. I am going into the field to-morrow, against King Henry's army and against the Earl of Kent in particular, and God knows what the outcome will be. It is a long tale."

"You need not tell it," she said, "I know it already. Do you think I have not been following all that you have done and all that has been done to you all these months?"

"If you know it, you know the need I have of you. Always before when I ran my head, and my country, and my son's inheritance into danger, and stood to it in arms, always I had you by my side, heart in heart with me. I am well-served as princes go, and I have wit to know it. But when I go from hence to this testing I must leave affairs here in one pair of hands, the closest and dearest to me. There is no other I can trust," said Llewelyn, "as I trust you."

At that word she raised her head and looked at him again, and long, and behind the clear disillusionment of her eyes a burning darkness had gathered, and hung, glowing from deep within her. The pale mask of her face fended him off, incredulous, but the bright creature within, so long confined and mute, knew that she had heard aright.

He came nearer, and the light of the June evening turned the tanned planes of his hawk-face and the ridge of the bold, importunate nose to copper, and picked out the russet reds in the short, dark beard, scoring deeper the deeply graven lines of audacity and laughter. The laughter had been absent for a while, but it had not withdrawn far from him, the marks of its permanent habitation were still there.

"Don't think this is merely habit," he said, "though habit it has been for twenty-five years. Without you I do well enough? Ay, so I do, for a man lamed and distracted in mind. Self-maimed and a sinner against the truth, such I am without you, Joan."

"And I," she said, very low, "what am I?"

"You are that part of me that I cut off, and I never have been and never shall be whole without you."

She turned her head a little and put up her hand to shield her face. "The diseased part," she said.

"No, but wounded. And I who should have healed it severed it."

"Dear God!" she said in a shaken whisper. "Be careful what you do with it now. Do you think you can restore it and it will knit again without festering? —"

"By the grace of God, yes," he said, and leaned and took her gently by the wrist, but did not force her hand away. "Do you not feel the two halves closing? Flesh of my flesh, blood of my blood, I want you though you poison me, but well I know you never will. Come back with me to the place that was and is yours, be to me as you were before. Complete me. Make me a whole man before I go out to take the field with Wales in my hands. With one hand only, how shall I carry it safely? The heritage of your son and mine!"

"Have you forgotten," she said harshly, starting and quivering at his touch, "my offence against you?"

"Have you forgotten mine? Even in the right a man can offend past any forgiveness. The measure of my outrage and anger was the measure of my love for you. God witness, at the worst I never ceased to worship you."

He had used another word of power. She looked up, and the prisoned creature within her was bright and burning close within her eyes, frantic for freedom.

"Nor I you," she said, amazed, and let her hand slip into his and be held fast. "God witness!" she said after him. "At the worst, even when I was bound and blind and mad, I swear it never touched you or anything that was yours. If you could take my love in your hands, you would not find one mark upon it, not one. Never a break nor a blemish!" She leaned her head against his sleeve and drew deep breath. "I am in the dark still. It will always be a mystery, a thing that happened to me like the seasons, like floods and lightning, without question or escape. And yet I would not lay it all on him —"

She broke off there. It was the first time they had mentioned the third who was there in the room with them, though they had both felt his presence, and she, indeed, had lived with it close and uncomforted for a year.

"Yes, speak of him," said Llewelyn, looking down at the heavy ashen head that lay so still upon his arm. "It's meet we should. It's time we should."

"He was blown in the storm as I was, however the thing began. Your rival he never was. You never had a rival." The beautiful voice bled words in short, hard sighs into his arm. "When he came he was weak and in pain. And so young! He needed all those things in me for which you had no use, pity, indulgence, even forgiveness. By his youth he showed me how late it was, and by his admiration that it was not yet too late. He made me know that I was growing old, and that everything he was was slipping out of my hands. And I closed my hands and grasped it while I could. And then I could not loose."

She was silent for a moment. She turned her head a little, and he saw that the calm had come back to her face, but now there was light and colour in it, as if the blood curbed and slowed to solitude and stillness had begun to flow again.

"You it never touched," she said. "Your place it never threatened. The world would not see it so, but I tell you, this is truth. And yet it all but shattered your life and mine and all our work, and killed an unfortunate, rash young man no worse than the most of men, and hardly deserving of death. Night and day, I never can forget him."

“You need not,” said Llewelyn, “as I have not forgotten him. Wherever we go, he will go with us, that I know. But he will not go always between us.”

He took her by both her hands, and drew her up to stand breast to breast with him. His arms he folded round her, and so held her for a moment passive; then with a sudden sharp sigh she embraced again, quivering, and lifted her mouth to him ravenously.

There was the taste of death in the kiss, but she accepted the price with the prize, and clung to the bitterness and the bliss alike, knowing them for ever inseparable now. Llewelyn felt the chill shudder through her before it died in his heart. He held her face cupped and cradled in his great hand, hard against his cheek, and the beat of his blood passed into her veins and drew her own blood into the same passionate measure.

“Death is waiting for me no less,” he said low and gently into her ear, “and for you. When the time comes that we must face William de Breos, we’ll face him. What’s in store for us then is not for us to ordain. God be thanked! And let God dispose.”

She could not speak, but her lips shaped against the pulse in his throat: “Amen!”

After a long while of silence he unlocked his arms from her. He was smiling. His long-sighted eyes reflected gold back to the sunset, and the brightness did not fade as the sun went down. She saw the pale flame she had lit in him burn tall and steady, a miracle of faithfulness out of unfaithfulness. He would be a lantern to his clansmen and lightning striking at his enemies. And she had thought herself quite spent!

“Put on your robes and your crown, my lady,” he said “and come with me to the hall.”

Questions

Write your answers in full sentences. Try to write in as much detail as possible to ensure that your answers are clear and well-explained.

1. What three single verbs does Llewelyn use to persuade Joan of his affection for her? (Hint: look for statements in the pattern of “I [verb] you”)
2. Think carefully about the situation between the couple. Now write down why and how each of these three words would be effective in making Joan feel that Llewelyn truly wanted reconciliation.
3. Re-read paragraph 19 (beginning “By the grace of God, yes”). Write down three phrases Llewelyn uses in this speech to demonstrate their mutual bond to Joan.
4. Identify four sentences which describe (impossible) physical connections between the couple.
5. What do you think these metaphorical sentences tell you about the *emotional* connection between the couple?
6. Identify a couple of sentences and phrases which show that the consequences of their mistake will be with the couple lifelong.
7. Identify a metaphor which describes the difficulty Joan has in talking of the affair. Why do you think this metaphor is effective?
8. When Llewelyn first enters the room, Joan addresses him as “my lord”. At the end of the extract, Llewelyn asks Joan to come to join him at the hall, and calls her “my lady”. What is the implication when Joan uses the formal address at the beginning, compared to the implication when Llewelyn uses it at the end?

SECTION 3: LANGUAGE ANALYSIS

Suggested time for section 3: 45 minutes maximum

a.) Re-read paragraph 2, beginning “For a year he had neither seen her . . .”

b.) Re-read paragraph 12, beginning “He came nearer, and the light of the June evening . . .”

For each paragraph, choose **four** powerful words and phrases, and explain how the language in each one is used to effectively communicate the emotion of the paragraph to the reader.