



Università degli Studi di Udine
Prova di Ammissione alla Scuola Superiore a.a. 2018-19 – LINGUA INGLESE

PART 1: READING COMPREHENSION

The Sahara Film Festival

After a bumpy 225km drive from a meagre airstrip in Tindouf, south western Algeria, a sprawling single-story town begins to emerge from the desert's dust. As the sun climbs in the cloudless sky, visitors are rewarded with their first glimpse of Dakhla refugee camp. It isn't the most obvious setting for a film festival, but for seven years, just before the glitz and glamour of Cannes, the Sahrawi people of Dakhla have hosted actors and film-makers from around the world for this six-day event. This year, for the first time, direct flights were laid on from London, giving the opportunity for overseas visitors to play a part in this extraordinary occasion. But despite the energy and excitement, the background to the film festival is a serious one, as the Sahrawi people have been living for thirty years in this isolated desert outpost, having been forced to flee their native Western Sahara.

Western Sahara, Africa's last colony, was taken over by Morocco when the Spanish withdrew in 1976, despite a ruling from the International Court of Justice. This was followed by a brutal 16-year war, during which time tens of thousands of Sahrawis fled across the Algerian border to refugee camps. In 1991, a ceasefire agreement was drawn up, in which a referendum on self-determination was promised to decide the fate of the country and its people. However, almost twenty years later, the gears of diplomacy have turned slowly and nothing has happened. Meanwhile the refugees have been left stranded in five refugee camps dotted around the vast, inhospitable desert.

Dakhla, home to nearly 30,000 of these refugees, is the most remote of these camps, being located 175 km from the nearest city. Unlike its namesake, the beautiful coastal city in Western Sahara, this Dakhla has no paved roads and is entirely dependent on outside supplies for food and water. Temperatures regularly top 120 degrees, there is minimal vegetation and there are frequent sandstorms. Locally it is known as the Devil's Garden. Despite these obvious setbacks, the town is clean and well-organized, with wide sandy streets. Houses and tents are grouped in neat family compounds. There are hospitals, funded by aid agencies, and a good standard of education. For the duration of the festival, an articulated lorry is parked in the central compound, and a multiplex-sized screen is mounted on its side. Around it are stalls and tents housing workshops and exhibitions.

The aim of the festival is to raise international awareness on the plight of the refugees. However, it also offers a rare chance for the refugees to go to the movies and experience some educational opportunities. It is hoped that it might foster a new generation of Sahrawi film-makers, especially as this year, the festival also celebrated the opening of a permanent film, radio and television school in a neighbouring camp.

The program of films for this year included over forty films from around the world. Films range from international blockbusters to various works on and by the Sahrawi people. The themes mostly centre on experiences of struggle and hope, but there were lighter moments, such as an animated film for the children and a flash of Rachel Weisz's naked bottom during the ancient Egyptian epic *Agora* which proved to be a highlight for many older boys. However, the runaway favourite was 'a

'Victime', a documentary about Ibrahim Leibeit, a 19-year-old Sahrawi who lost his leg to a land mine last year.

Films are screened at night, so the daytime is taken up with exhibitions, camel races and football matches. One afternoon the London-based charity 'Sandblast' put on a joint workshop with a film-maker, giving refugees the opportunity to learn about filmmaking and create their own video messages. These were put online so that their extended families in Western Sahara, from whom they have been separated for more than 33 years, could watch them. Helen Whitehead, a film-maker from London said, 'Working together really broke down language and cultural barriers. It was very rewarding, and we came across some real talent.'

More than 500 visitors flew into Tindouf on charter planes and braved the rough drive to the settlement. All the visitors to the festival stay with Sahrawi families, sharing their homes and partaking of their food. Living with these displaced people gives overseas participants an invaluable insight into the conditions in which the refugees live. Alongside the film buffs there are real celebrities such as actors Victoria Demayo and Helena Olano. They are mostly B and C listers from the Spanish film industry, although the real stars do take an interest. Director Javier Cardozo was a visitor last year, and Penelope Cruz is a long-term supporter, but pulled out of attending the festival this year at the last minute. Will the celebrity backing make a difference to the plight of the refugees? Possibly. Cardozo's suggestion that the Spanish, as the ex-colonial masters of Western Sahara, were responsible for the situation received significant coverage in the Spanish Media and put some pressure on the government to take some action. However, although the campaign in Spain is growing steadily, the focus of attention cannot only be on the Spanish government.

On the final day of the gathering, there is a dusty red-carpet ceremony in which the White Camel award for best picture is presented to Jordi Ferrer and Paul Vidal for 'El Problema', their 2009 film about Western Sahara. Actors, activists and festival organizers gather on stage in high spirits to show their solidarity with the refugees. But as the stalls are dismantled and the trucks are driven away, the thoughts of the visitors turn to the people they are leaving behind. They may never get the chance to see the world or fulfil their dreams of becoming actors or film-makers. For them, there is nowhere to go. Dakhla is essentially a desert prison.

Exercise 1. General Comprehension. Circle the correct answer.

1. In the first paragraph, the writer emphasizes:

- a) the enthusiasm that the festival instils
- b) the sensational nature of the festival
- c) the festival's increasing media attention
- d) the festival's unlikely location

2. According to the writer, the refugees have been in the desert for so long because:

- a) International agencies do not know they are there
- b) the Moroccan government disagree with the UN
- c) a proposed vote is yet to take place
- d) there is a war in their home country

3. What does the writer say about the original city of Dakhla?

- a) It is by the sea.
- b) It has good health and educational facilities
- c) It does not have proper roads
- d) It gets food and water from aid agencies.

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4. What is said about the films shown at the festival?
- a) They mostly show the personal experiences of the Sahwari people
 - b) The variety of films suited a wide range of tastes
 - c) All of the films are serious in content
 - d) The international films were more popular than the local film
5. What was the British visitors' response to the workshops?
- a) They were surprised by the refugee's film knowledge
 - b) The workshops enabled them to communicate with local people
 - c) The workshops taught the visitors a lot about local culture
 - d) They showed the local films to their families via the internet.
6. What point does the writer make about celebrity guests?
- a) The writer is disappointed that the more famous celebrities do not attend.
 - b) The celebrities put too much blame on the Spanish Government
 - c) The celebrities' presence has succeeded in raising awareness already
 - d) Their actions are unlikely to put pressure on the decision-makers
7. What point does the writer highlight in the final paragraph?
- a) There is a contrast between the visitors' freedom and the refugees' confinement
 - b) The film festival only gives the refugees unattainable dreams
 - c) The visitors only care about the refugees for the duration of the festival
 - d) The festival is a poor copy of the more famous film festivals

Exercise 2. Say whether the following are True/False: if false, write the correct answer

1. The Sahara Film Festival started seven years before the Cannes Festival.
2. The situation of the Sahwaris has not changed much.
3. Dakhla is a self-sufficient refugee camp.
4. The documentary "A Vicitme" became the preferred film of the festival very quickly.
5. Javier Cardozo and Penelope Cruz were at the festival.

Exercise 3. Textual and Stylistic analysis

1. Macro text type: is the text expository, argumentative or instructive?
.....
2. Micro text type: is the text a story, newspaper article, essay, scientific review, interview, manual, biography, speech or editorial?
.....
3. Is the overall register: formal /informal /neutral /colloquial?
.....

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4. Does the text make use of figures of speech? If so, give some examples

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5. How would you define the general style of the text?

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Exercise 4. Linguistic analysis: The following is a list of synonyms for words/expressions which appear in the text. Find the corresponding words/expressions and write them down:

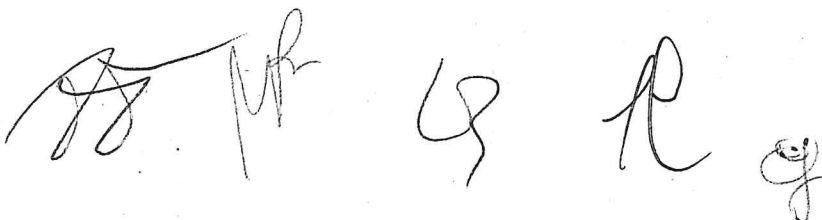
- 1. (par. 1) rises _____
- 2. (par. 1) connected _____
- 3. (par.2) scattered _____
- 4. (par. 3) hit _____
- 5. (par.4) dilemma _____
- 6. (par 7) endured _____
- 7. (par. 7) sharing _____
- 8. (par.8) cheerfully, optimistically _____

PART 2: SYNTAX AND LEXIS

Exercise 5. Join the following sentences with an appropriate connective.

Example: John couldn't play the game. He had a pain in his shoulder.
John couldn't play the game because he had a pain in his shoulder. // Owing to a pain in his shoulder, John couldn't play the game.

- 1. Migration has always been part of human history. Today many are against the boat people.
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- 2. International agreements that regulate the status and treatment of refugees are in place. They are not always respected by all countries.
.....
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- 3. The conditions of life in their home countries are often tragic. For this reason many young people decide to migrate. They risk their lives in the journey.
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.....



4. International aid organizations and the mafia are said to have a leading role in fueling the migration flows toward Europe. Perhaps it's true. This is not confirmed by evidence.

.....
.....

5. How can we imagine what it means to be a refugee? We have never found ourselves in that situation.

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.....

Exercise 6. Read the following two extracts and choose the most appropriate word to complete the texts.

Hidden Prehistoric Paintings

When another old cave is discovered in the south of France, it is not usually news. Rather, it is an _____(1) event. Such discoveries are so frequent these days that _____(2) anybody pays heed to them. However, when the Lascaux cave complex was _____(3) in 1940, the world was amazed. Painted directly on its walls were _____(4) of scenes showing how people lived thousands of years ago. The scenes show people hunting animals, such as bison or wild cats. Other images _____(5) birds and, most noticeably, horses, which appear in more than 300 wall images, by _____(6) outnumbering all other animals. Early artists drawing these animals _____(7) a monumental and difficult task. They did not limit themselves to the easily _____(8) walls but carried their painting materials to spaces that required climbing steep walls or crawling into narrow passages in the Lascaux complex. Unfortunately, the paintings have been exposed to the destructive action of water and temperature changes, which easily _____(9) the images away. _____(10) the Lascaux caves have many entrances, air movement has also damaged the images inside. Although they are not out in the open air, where natural light would have destroyed them long ago, many of the images have _____(11) and are barely recognizable. To prevent further damage, the _____(12) was closed to tourists in 1963, 23 years after it was discovered.

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|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 a) habitual | b) ordinary | c) established | d) everyday |
| 2 a) scarcely | b) faintly | c) hardly | d) rarely |
| 3 a) discovered | b) found | c) founded | d) unearthed |
| 4 a) multitude | b) an hundred | c) a hundred | d) hundreds |
| 5 a) depict | b) draw | c) outline | d) draft |
| 6 a) long | b) far | c) much | d) a lot |
| 7 a) realized | b) accomplished | c) discharged | d) effectuated |
| 8 a) accessible | b) approachable | c) obtainable | d) ready |
| 9 a) damage | b) take | c) erode | d) wear |
| 10 a) Despite | b) Due to | c) Owing to | d) Because |
| 11 a) worsened | b) declined | c) deteriorated | d) degenerated |
| 12 a) plot | b) scenery | c) site | d) scene |

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Mount Vesuvius, a volcano located _____(13) the ancient Italian cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, has received much attention because of its frequent and destructive eruptions. The most famous of these eruptions _____(14) in A.D. 79. The volcano had been inactive for centuries. There was little warning of the _____(15) eruption, although one account unearthed by archaeologists says that a hard rain and a strong wind had disturbed the celestial calm during the _____(16) night. Early the next morning, the volcano _____(17) a huge river of molten rock down upon Herculaneum, completely burying the city and filling the harbor with coagulated lava. Meanwhile, on the other side of the mountain, cinders, stone and ash _____(18) down on Pompeii. Sparks from the burning ash ignited the combustible rooftops quickly. Large portions of the city were _____(19) in the conflagration. Fire, however, was not the only cause of destruction. Poisonous sulfuric gases saturated the air. These heavy gases were not buoyant in the atmosphere and therefore sank toward the earth and suffocated people. Over the years, excavations of Pompeii and Herculaneum have revealed a great _____(20) about the behavior of the volcano. By analyzing data, _____(21) as a zoologist dissects an animal specimen, scientists have concluded that the eruption changed large portions of the area's geography. For instance, it turned the Sarno River from its course and raised the level of the beach along the Bay of Naples. Meteorologists studying these events have also concluded that Vesuvius caused a huge tidal wave that _____(22) the world's climate. In addition to making these investigations, archaeologists have been able to study the skeletons of victims by using distilled water to wash away the volcanic ash. By strengthening the brittle bones with acrylic paint, scientists have been able to _____(23) the skeletons and draw conclusions about the diet and habits of the residents. Finally, the excavations at both Pompeii and Herculaneum have _____(24) many examples of classical art, such as jewelry made of bronze, which is an alloy of copper and tin. The eruption of Mount Vesuvius and its tragic consequences have provided everyone with a _____(25) of data about the effects that volcanoes can have on the surrounding area. Today, volcanologists can locate and predict eruptions, saving lives and preventing the destruction of other cities and cultures.

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|-------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 13 a) between | b) nearby | c) among | d) next |
| 14 a) cropped up | b) occurred | c) appeared | d) presented itself |
| 15 a) coming | b) advancing | c) anticipated | d) pending |
| 16 a) precedent | b) foregoing | c) preceding | d) prior |
| 17 a) spat | b) rushed | c) flowed | d) poured |
| 18 a) hailed | b) showered | c) rained | d) sprinkled |
| 19 a) destroyed | b) smashed | c) demolished | d) shattered |
| 20 a) amount | b) deal | c) load | d) lot |
| 21 a) a lot | b) much | c) albeit | d) however much |
| 22 a) conditioned | b) attacked | c) affected | d) struck |
| 23 a) check | b) explore | c) investigate | d) examine |
| 24 a) surrendered | b) submitted | c) yielded | d) granted |
| 25 a) wealth | b) richness | c) number | d) plenty |

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PART 3. WRITING

Briefly comment on the role that the media play in constructing or influencing public opinion in the debate on migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers (max. 600 words).

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