



ENGLISH

LEVEL B2

READING

2/5/2023

45 minutes

25 marks

Please work on both tasks.

Please write legibly.

Please write all answers with a blue or black ballpoint pen.

You may not use a dictionary.

Write your solutions on the answer sheet.

Only answers that have been transcribed onto the answer sheet will be scored.

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European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages

READING, PART 1

You are going to read a brochure about weddings but some parts of the text are missing. Fill in the blanks (1-10) using the possible missing parts (A-M). There are more possible parts given than you need. Write your answers in the answer box. There is an example already done for you.

Weddings Abroad

The average wedding in Britain costs 21,000 pounds, so ...[0]... that this year more couples than ever are choosing a foreign setting for their big day, and saving thousands of pounds in the process.

Taormina, Sicily, Italy

The cobbled streets of the pretty seaside resort of Taormina offer a classically Mediterranean background to a wedding, ...[1]... taking place at the town hall - a historic palazzo in the centre of the old town. After the ceremony, a reception can be held at the Casa Turchetti guest house, ...[2]... on the roof terrace, which boasts amazing views towards Mount Etna.

A week at Casa Turchetti costs from 2,478 pounds per couple, including ceremony, interpreter, documents, flights and transfers. Anything else - reception, flowers, photographer - is extra.

Schönbrunn Palace, Vienna, Austria

...[3]...to glamour and grandeur, the Schönbrunn Palace takes some beating. Built in the mid-17th century as a summer residence for the Austrian imperial family, the palace is one of Vienna's most famous sights. Wedding ceremonies take place in one of the private rooms of the former Empress Sisi, which have access to ...[4]... - the perfect spot for a post-ceremony champagne reception.

A three-night stay at Hotel Bristol in Vienna costs from 787 pounds per person including flights, and the ceremony at the palace costs an additional 2,658 pounds per couple, including limo transfer from your hotel. The registrar's fee, payable locally on arrival, is about 650 Euros.

Masai Mara, Kenya

...[5]... lions, giraffes and wildebeest as witnesses at your wedding, then the Mara Camp may be the perfect location. Situated on the banks of the Talek River, the camp is luxurious with an elevated game-viewing platform and swimming pool and 30 elegant tents with four-poster beds and modern en suite bathrooms.

A week in Kenya, combining the Mara with the exotic island of Lamu, costs from 2,429 pounds per person. The standard ...[6]... costs an additional 980 pounds, including all formalities and a decorated wedding location.

Banff, Canada

If it's a mountain setting you're after, head to the Canadian Rockies, ...[7]... your vows in the beautiful wilderness of Banff National Park. It is open year round and you can choose from several outdoor locations all of which will make for a dramatic place to tie the knot.

A week at the Fox Hotel & Suites in Banff, room-only, costs from 1,304 pounds per person including flights. ...[8]... a wedding package from 1,108 pounds per couple, including location permit, marriage licence and certificate.

The Cook Islands, South Pacific

If you're thinking of heading to a tropical idyll for your wedding, the Cook Islands offer something really different. Tie the knot on the unspoilt island of Rarotonga, and the ceremony will take place against a view of high mountain peaks scattered with lush rainforest. The island is ...[9]... encircled by a reef, creating a lagoon and stunning beaches. Balmy temperatures mean it is perfect for a wedding at any time of the year, and the ceremony can take place on the beach, in a church or in a garden setting.

A 12-night stay at the Takitumu Villas costs from 2,054 pounds per person, including flights, flowers and formalities, a bottle of champagne and ...[10]... .

- A where you can say
- B when it comes
- C with the ceremony
- D the best season
- E the company offers
- F the grand park
- G almost completely
- H having finished
- I *it's no surprise*
- J if you want
- K a wedding co-ordinator
- L wedding package
- M starting with champagne



READING, PART 2

You are going to read an interview with a novelist who is also a dentist. On the basis of the text answer the questions on the answer sheet.

There is an example done for you.

Man from Cairo

By day a Cairo dentist and by night a novelist, he spent years battling censorship to get published. Today, he is a bestselling writer across the globe.

However committed he was to dentistry, Aswany was always destined to be a writer. He was born in Cairo in 1957. His father was also a novelist, the recipient of the state award for literature in 1972, "when it was still respected", according to his son. "I was lucky. He was very liberal. He was my first professor of literature. He told me what to read and what not to read." Aswany had a traditional French education and then went to Chicago to study for his degree. As a dentistry student in Chicago three decades ago, he hugely admired America's efficiency. But it was not, in the long run, for him. "Everything is systemised, practical. Egypt is the opposite, but there is beauty in that. I cannot be objective about Egypt. It is only in Egypt that I feel myself. When I'm abroad, I'm someone who has much in common with myself, but it's not really me. I am always homesick! To me, it's the most wonderful place on earth. I had to come back for my people, for literature."

So in the early hours of the morning, he would write and then he would walk to his practice and remove his patients' wisdom teeth. Did he, in the years when publishers kept rejecting his work, come close to giving up? "I got very upset. I said to my wife: That's enough. We must leave. I was planning to move to New Zealand. That was in 1998. But a dear friend of mine said: This will be the end for you. So I tried one last novel."

In 2002, his novel *The Yacoubian Building*, was quietly accepted by a small, independent publisher in Cairo. Its first edition sold out in four weeks and it was the Arab world's bestseller for five successive years, selling 250,000 copies in a region where print runs rarely exceed 3,000. Word spread quickly, people talked about it. It was made into a hit film and a TV serial, and has since been translated into 27 languages.

Part of Aswany's international success is down to the fact that his novels, which embrace every layer of Egyptian society from newspaper editor to manservant, and which reveal these characters' most shameful and most secret desires, have given us an amazing picture into a society which many knew little about.

But Aswany hates to be thought of as an Arab writer. "I'm against presenting literature on an ethnic basis. I am pushed, little by little, to be an Arab writer, but I prefer to think of myself as part of the republic of literature."

"Society is a living organism and you must keep up. That's why I still practise, though for only two days a week. I will never close the clinic. The clinic is my window. I open it to see what is happening in the street. You can't get disconnected from the street, as a writer; that's a common mistake. You can be too easily welcomed every night by the richest people and the most influential. It is very dangerous because it is that relationship with the street that made you successful in the first place."