

ESAME DI STATO DI ISTRUZIONE SECONDARIA SUPERIORE

Indirizzi: LI04, EA03 - LICEO LINGUISTICO

(Testo valevole anche per le corrispondenti sperimentazioni internazionali e quadriennali)

Tema di: LINGUA E CULTURA STRANIERA 1 (INGLESE) e

LINGUA E CULTURA STRANIERA 3 (FRANCESE)

PART 1 – COMPREHENSION AND INTERPRETATION

Read the text below

They were all at Charing Cross to see Lilia off—Philip, Harriet, Irma, Mrs. Herriton herself. Even Mrs. Theobald, squired by Mr. Kingcroft, had braved the journey from Yorkshire to bid her only daughter good-bye. Miss Abbott was likewise attended by numerous relatives, and the sight of so many people talking at once and saying such different things caused Lilia to break into ungovernable peals of laughter.

5 “Quite an ovation,” she cried, sprawling out of her first-class carriage. “They’ll take us for royalty. Oh, 5 Mr. Kingcroft, get us foot-warmers.”

The good-natured young man hurried away, and Philip, taking his place, flooded her with a final stream of advice and injunctions—where to stop, how to learn Italian, when to use mosquito-nets, what pictures to look at. “Remember,” he concluded, “that it is only by going off the track that you get to know the

10 country. See the little towns—Gubbio, Pienza, Cortona, San Gimignano, Monteriano. And don’t, let me beg you, go with that awful tourist idea that Italy’s only a museum of antiquities and art. Love and understand the Italians, for the people are more marvellous than the land.”

“How I wish you were coming, Philip,” she said, flattered at the unwonted notice her brother-in-law was giving her.

15 “I wish I were.” He could have managed it without great difficulty, for his career at the Bar was not so intense as to prevent occasional holidays. But his family disliked his continual visits to the Continent, and he himself often found pleasure in the idea that he was too busy to leave town.

“Good-bye, dear every one. What a whirl!” She caught sight of her little daughter Irma, and felt that a touch of maternal solemnity was required. “Good-bye, darling. Mind you’re always good, and do what

20 Granny tells you.”

She referred not to her own mother, but to her mother-in-law, Mrs. Herriton, who hated the title of Granny.

Irma lifted a serious face to be kissed, and said cautiously, “I’ll do my best.”

“She is sure to be good,” said Mrs. Herriton, who was standing pensively a little out of the hubbub. But

25 Lilia was already calling to Miss Abbott, a tall, grave, rather nice-looking young lady who was conducting her adieus in a more decorous manner on the platform.

“Caroline, my Caroline! Jump in, or your chaperon will go off without you.”

And Philip, whom the idea of Italy always intoxicated, had started again, telling her of the supreme moments of her coming journey—the Campanile of Airolo, which would burst on her when she emerged

30 from the St. Gothard tunnel, presaging the future; the view of the Ticino and Lago Maggiore as the train climbed the slopes of Monte Cenere; the view of Lugano, the view of Como—Italy gathering thick around her now—the arrival at her first resting-place, when, after long driving through dark and dirty streets, she should at last behold, amid the roar of trams and the glare of arc lamps, the buttresses of the cathedral of Milan.

35 “Handkerchiefs and collars,” screamed Harriet, “in my inlaid box! I’ve lent you my inlaid box.”

“Good old Harry!” She kissed every one again, and there was a moment’s silence. They all smiled steadily, excepting Philip, who was choking in the fog, and old Mrs. Theobald, who had begun to cry. Miss Abbott got into the carriage. The guard himself shut the door, and told Lilia that she would be all right. Then the train moved, and they all moved with it a couple of steps, and waved their handkerchiefs, and uttered cheerful little cries. At that moment Mr. Kingcroft reappeared, carrying a foot-warmer by both ends, as if it was a tea-tray. He was sorry that he was too late, and called out in a quivering voice, “Good-bye, Mrs. Charles. May you enjoy yourself, and may God bless you.”

Lilia smiled and nodded, and then the absurd position of the foot-warmer overcame her, and she began to laugh again. “Oh, I am so sorry,” she cried back, “but you do look so funny. Oh, you all look so funny waving! Oh, pray!” And laughing helplessly, she was carried out into the fog.

(697 words)

from *Where Angels Fear to Tread* (Ch. 1) (1905), E. M. Forster (1879-1970)

Read the following statements and say whether each one is **True (T)**, **False (F)** or **Not Stated (NS)**. Put a cross in the correct box.

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|---|-------------------|
| 1) Philip can't go on the trip as he has too much work to do. | FALSE |
| 2) Lilia will be travelling with Miss Abbott. | TRUE |
| 3) Mrs Herriton will be looking after Irma while Lilia is away travelling. | TRUE |
| 4) Lilia is laughing because she is happy about setting off on the trip to Italy. | FALSE |
| 5) Lilia has never been to mainland Europe before. | NOT STATED |

Answer the questions below. Use complete sentences and your own words.

- 6) *Examine the author's choices regarding language and style. Are they effective in creating the atmosphere of the moment? Why?/Why not? Justify your answer by referring to the text.*

Right from the beginning, Edward Morgan Forster successfully draws the readers into the scene thus making them active and involved observers of the situation they are presented with. The author chooses the words in an accurate way and the figurative language he skillfully employs makes the story more engaging. The tone of the passage is peppered with subtle humour and irony and the attention to concrete details further contributes to paint into the reader's mind the sumptuous and hypocritical upper-class world in which the characters live. The use of dialogues between the characters enriches the narrative and the third person omniscient narrator helps the reader further appreciate the moment portrayed, thus inhaling the vivid atmosphere of the scene depicted. Forster carefully provides interesting information about each character, such as Lilia, Philip, Irma, Mrs. Herriton, Miss Abbott and Mr Kingcroft. These details add truthfulness to the narration. Thanks to Philip's recommendation to Lilia, the reader is also clear about where part of the story will take place, that is, Italy.

- 7) *Explain what Philip wants her to do when he tells Lilia not to “go with that awful tourist idea that Italy's only a museum of antiquities and art. Love and understand the Italians, for the people are more marvellous than the land.” (lines 11-12)*

Philip invites his sister-in-law to fully appreciate the country she will be visiting, thus seeing beyond stereotypes and clichés to make the most of her journey. The country she will explore not only offers beautiful places and breathtaking landscapes but also boasts loving inhabitants who deserve to be deeply understood and praised and with whom Lilia can sympathize. To fully enjoy the journey, she is advised not to overlook the population as it is part of the country itself and contributes to its beauty.

8) *What clues does the passage offer about the social class of the characters?*

The passage sheds light on the high social status the characters belong to. Forster introduces the reader into an enchanted and golden atmosphere where everything seems perfect and everybody is well-behaved. The departure attended by numerous relatives, the first-class carriage, the foot-warmers, the chaperon and the handkerchiefs and collars in the inlaid box hint at a luxurious environment and entourage. Philip may actually visit Italy but he pretends to be too busy to take the journey as his inability to travel conveys the idea of him being a hard worker and therefore a successful person. And yet, underneath this royal-like world, the reader can easily notice that Lilia's manners are not as decorous as Caroline's and that she behaves in a more spontaneous way than the rest of the relatives. She laughs helplessly and she acts in a more natural and instinctive way, thus stressing the hypocrisy of Edwardian English society.

PART 2 – WRITTEN PRODUCTION

“Why do you go away? So that you can come back. So that you can see the place you came from with new eyes and extra colours. And the people there see you differently, too. Coming back to where you started is not the same as never leaving.”

Terry Pratchett, *A Hat Full of Sky* (2004)

Some people think that travelling broadens one’s mind and can enrich one’s life. Discuss the quotation in a 300-word essay. Support your ideas by referring to your readings and/or to your personal experience of travelling.

The beauty of travelling is well conveyed in Saint Augustine’s metaphor *“The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page”*. Eager readers always feed on new stories and cannot put down books until their conclusions are unveiled as this passion allows them to travel with their imagination and broaden their minds. If such are the advantages of reading, can you imagine what benefits real travelling can have?

Discovering the world and discovering other peoples’ culture is definitely the best way to live a full life. Exploring new places equals exploring one’s own self as the more you travel, the more profoundly you get to know yourself. Not surprisingly, the theme of the journey is present in literature since the dawn of time and in most books protagonists’ physical journeys represent spiritual journeys too which eventually make the characters better people.

In our ever-more globalized society, flying from one place to another has become extremely easy and fast, thus granting us the gift to enrich our own habits and mindset with those of the people who welcome us in their homeland.

However, if you want to make the most of every journey you take, paraphrasing Philip Herriton’s words, you need to abandon the awful tourist idea that a country is just a museum of antiquities to look at. To fully appreciate the exploration, you must set off with no preconceptions and let yourself be fascinated by the unique beauty each place has to offer you. Its population is part and parcel of the country you are visiting and their customs and life style will help you gain a better understanding of the nation you are exploring.

You cannot benefit from a journey unless you discard the idea that your own culture is superior and depart with humble heart, hungry eyes and curious mind. Once the adventure is over, the most important values you will take back are tolerance, respect, gratitude and humanity and the awareness that you have become a better person with a more outward-looking attitude.

[words: 344]