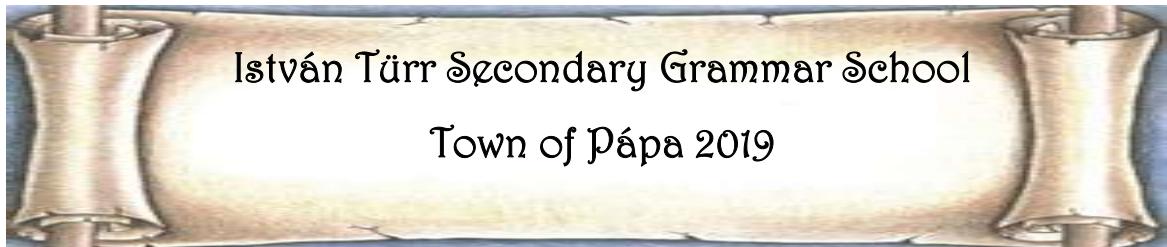


NATIONAL ENGLISH COMPETITION FOR AJTP STUDENTS

A KNIGHTLY VENTURE
INTO UNEXPLORED
REALMS

Disguised as a test paper



SIR / LADY _____

CASTLE: _____

ABANDON ALL HOPE, YE WHO ENTER HER



TEST 1:
DECYPHERING OLD SCRIPTS

TO ALL CONTESTANTS: You can work on this test paper but you must
write all your answers on the Answer Sheet.

Exercise 1: Read through the following text and fill in the gaps with the missing phrases. Be careful, there are two phrases you do not need. Write the right letters next to the numbers on your answer sheet. (9 POINTS)

St Patrick's Day

St Patrick's Day is a global celebration of Irish culture on or around March 17. It particularly remembers St Patrick, one of Ireland's patron saints, who ministered Christianity in Ireland during the fifth century.

What Do People Do?

St Patrick's Day is celebrated in many parts of the world, especially by Irish communities and organizations. Many people wear an item of green clothing on the day. Parties featuring Irish food and drinks that are dyed in green food colour are part of this celebration. It is a time when children can (1)..... and adults can enjoy a “pint” of beer at a local pub. Many restaurants and pubs offer Irish food or drink, which include Irish potato soup, Irish stew, Irish brown bread, corned beef and cabbage, beef and Guinness pie. At the end of their meal, the Irish usually gulp down an Irish coffee or have some Irish cream chocolate mousse cake.

Some people plan a **pilgrimage** to St Patrick's Purgatory, which has been commonly (2)..... since the early 13th century. It is on Station Island in Lough Derg in County Donegal where St Patrick had a vision promising that all who came to the sanctuary in penitence and faith would receive a pardon for their **sins**.



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Public Life

St Patrick's Day is a bank holiday in Northern Ireland (United Kingdom) and the Republic of Ireland. St Patrick's Day is also (3)..... where it is not a public holiday. Therefore traffic and parking may be **temporarily** affected in streets and public areas where parades are held in towns and cities.

Background

St Patrick is one of the patron saints of Ireland. He is said to have died on March 17 in or around the year 493. He grew up in Roman Britain, but was (4)..... when he was a young adult. After some years he returned to his family and entered the church, like his father and grandfather before him. He later returned to Ireland as a missionary and worked in the north and west of the country.

According to popular legend, St Patrick rid Ireland of snakes. However, it is thought that there have been no snakes in Ireland since the last ice age. The "snakes" that St Patrick **banished** from Ireland, may refer to the druids or pagan worshipers of snake or serpent gods. He is said to be (5)..... Ireland's other patron saints are St Brigit and St Columba.

Luke Wadding, a Franciscan **scholar** born in 1588 in Waterford, on the south coast of Ireland, was influential in ensuring that the anniversary of St Patrick's death became a feast day in the Catholic Church. Many Catholic churches traditionally (6)..... if March 17 falls during Holy Week.

Many immigrants from Ireland fled to other parts of the world, including Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, in the 19th and 20th centuries. Many Irish **customs**, including the St Patrick's Day celebrations, (7)..... However, much of the interest in the St Patrick's Day events is largely commercially driven in the 21st century.

Symbols

The most common St Patrick's Day symbol is the shamrock. The shamrock is the leaf of the clover plant and a symbol of the Holy Trinity. Many people choose to wear the colour green and the flag of the Republic of Ireland is often seen in St Patrick's Day parades around the world. Irish brands of drinks are (8).....

Religious symbols include snakes and serpents, as well as the Celtic cross. Some say that Saint Patrick added the Sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross. Other Irish-related symbols seen on St Patrick's Day include the **harp**, which was used in Ireland for centuries, (9) known as the leprechaun and a pot of gold that the leprechaun keeps hidden.

- A. became quite popular in these countries
- B. a festive occasion in some parts of the world
- C. credited with bringing Christianity to its people
- D. popular at St Patrick's Day events
- E. buried under Down Cathedral in Downpatrick, Ireland
- F. captured by Irish raiders and taken to Ireland as a slave
- G. move St Patrick's Day to another date
- H. evolved into a celebration of Irish culture
- I. indulge in sweets
- J. as well as a mythological creature
- K. associated with penance and spiritual healing

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Exercise 2: Match the definitions A-I to the words highlighted in the text. Be careful, there is a definition you do not need. Write your answers on your answer sheet. (7 POINTS)

1. pilgrimage
2. sin
3. temporarily
4. banish
5. scholar
6. custom
7. harp

- A. send someone away from their country, especially as an official punishment
- B. an intelligent and well-educated person
- C. a large musical instrument with strings that are stretched across a frame with three corners
- D. a journey to a holy place for religious reasons
- E. something that is done by people in a particular society because it is traditional
- F. an item of clothing that is typical of a place or a period of time in the past
- G. an action that is against religious rules and is considered to be an offence against God
- H. for only a limited period of time



Exercise 3: Read the following text and decide whether the statements 1 – 9 are true (T) or false (F), or not in the text (N). Write your answers on your answer sheet. (9 POINTS)

The X Factor

Millions of television viewers around the world have become familiar with the musical talent show The X Factor, which started in Britain in 2004 and has since become an international franchise. In some countries the name is different — for example, Factor X in Spain and XSeer Al Najah in Arabic-speaking countries — but the format is usually the same: pop singers or groups compete in front of a small group of judges, and a large studio audience, for the prize of a recording contract.

The British version of the show has been enormously successful. Aired on Saturday evenings between August and December, around 13 million people watch it — more than a fifth of the population. Fans vote by telephone for their favourite act, and on Sunday evening the results are

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announced in a follow-up show. The two acts who receive the fewest votes from the public normally have to perform again and then their fate is in the hands of the four judges: the one the judges think has sung better stays in the competition, but the loser has to go.

As the competition goes on, the performers are in the public eye for more often than two evenings a week: their talents (or the lack of it), personalities and off-stage behaviour are also discussed endlessly by gossip magazines and tabloids, their faces appearing on the front pages. Feelings run so high that campaigns for or against the contestants are launched on social networking sites and discussed among friends and families sometimes causing even fights.

In Britain, winning *The X Factor* means that the singer or group will be able to make a lot of money from their music, at least in the short term. In most years the debut album by the winner, which is released in December, has reached the top of the singles charts by Christmas.

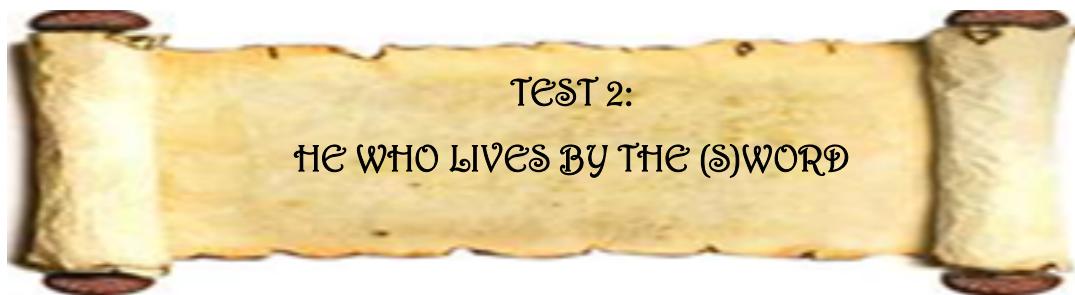
Some people, however, think the programme influences the music-buying public too much. This is why in 2009 there was a campaign to persuade people to buy another single to ensure the song by *The X Factor*'s winner wouldn't be number one at Christmas (the recommended singles were 'Killing in the Name' by the American band Rage Against the Machine in 2009, and believe it or not, a studio recording of pure silence in 2010). As it succeeded the campaign is repeated this year. Another kind of protest against the 2010 competition was when a lot of people voted every week for the contestant with by far the worst voice — he was finally let go only in late November.

1. The winner in 2010 was the singer with the worst voice.
2. There are three judges in the show.
3. The winning song of the 2009 competition was number one at Christmas the same year.
4. The TV audience for the programme increases as the competition goes on.
5. The judges decide which two singers have to perform again in the follow-up show on Sunday evening.
6. The judges are the same every week.
7. Spain has its own version of *The X Factor* on a different name.
8. Every country in Europe has its own version of *The X Factor*.
9. The show lasts for 5 months.



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Exercise 1: Read the text below and use the words in brackets to form the words that fit into the gaps (1-15). Use only one word to complete each gap. Remember: Write all your answers on the Answer Sheet. (15 POINTS)

It Took Walt Disney More Than 20 Years to Make 'Mary Poppins'

With (1) _____ (HESITATE) from author P.L. Travers, Disney devoted two decades to bring the nanny that is "particularly perfect in every way" to the silver screen.

In the early 1940s, Walt Disney made his daughter Diane a promise: he would adapt her favourite 1934 children's book, British author P.L. Travers' *Mary Poppins*, into a big-screen masterpiece. What the (2) _____ (FAME) animator didn't know at the time, however, is that it would take much longer to make the film than it took audiences to learn how to spell "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious."

Disney offered Travers a big payday for her book

By the time Julie Andrews' titular heaven-sent nanny quite literally (3) _____ (DESCEND) from the clouds into the Banks family's Cherry Tree Lane home — and into theatres across America — in August 1964, about 20 years had passed since Disney made that promise to his young daughter. The holdup: (4) _____ (NOTORIOUS) prickly Travers was staunchly against selling the screen rights, particularly to a studio she feared would overly sentimentalize her work. What ensued was nearly two decades of Disney (5) _____ (HE) personally appealing to Travers before she finally relented in 1961.

Her eventual change of heart, it turned out, was motivated (6) _____ (LITTLE) by Disney's apparent charm, but more so by money. The royalties from her *Mary Poppins* series had begun to dwindle by the '60s, and Disney (7) _____ (REPORT) offered to pay her \$100,000 (more than \$800,000 by today's standards), plus five percent of the movie's multi-million-dollar gross earnings. Disney also agreed to allow Travers (or "Mrs. Travers," as she demanded that she be called) to act as a consultant on the film. She spent several weeks at Disney's Burbank, California studio, where she became notorious for the "No No No" mantra she constantly barked at Disney's creative team.

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(This particular catchphrase was (8) _____ (IMMORTAL) due in large part to the fact Travers also insisted that all of their meetings be recorded.)

Travers' aunt inspired the character of Mary Poppins

For Travers (born Helen Lyndon Goff), her extreme (9) _____ (INVEST) in the story of Mary Poppins was rooted in dark, painful personal experience. After her beloved banker father Travers Goff (who inspired her later pseudonym) fell victim to alcoholism and died when she was just seven years old, Travers' great-aunt Ellie (also known as Aunt Sass) stepped in to support her mother Margaret Goff, as well as Travers' sisters.

"I thought to myself, 'Someday, in spite of her, I shall commit the (10) _____ (RESPECT) vulgarity of putting Aunt Sass in a book,'" she later wrote. "And then it occurred to me that this had already been done, though (11) _____ (CONSCIOUS) and without intent... I suddenly realized that there is a book through which Aunt Sass, stern and tender, secret and proud, (12) _____ (ANONYM) and loving, stalks with her silent feet. You will find her occasionally in the pages of *Mary Poppins*."

What resulted from Travers' later (13) _____ (COLLABORATE) with Disney (which was also depicted in 2013's *Saving Mr. Banks*, with Tom Hanks portraying Disney and Emma Thompson playing Travers) was the much-beloved film, which starred Andrews, along with Dick Van Dyke. The film's legacy remains (14) _____ (DENY). *Mary Poppins* won five Academy Awards (of a total 13 nominations), with Andrews taking home the Oscar for Best Actress that year for the role — her first in a feature film. In 2013, the Library of Congress also added *Mary Poppins* to the National Film Registry, which showcases "the range and (15) _____ (DIVERSE) of American film heritage to increase awareness for its preservation."



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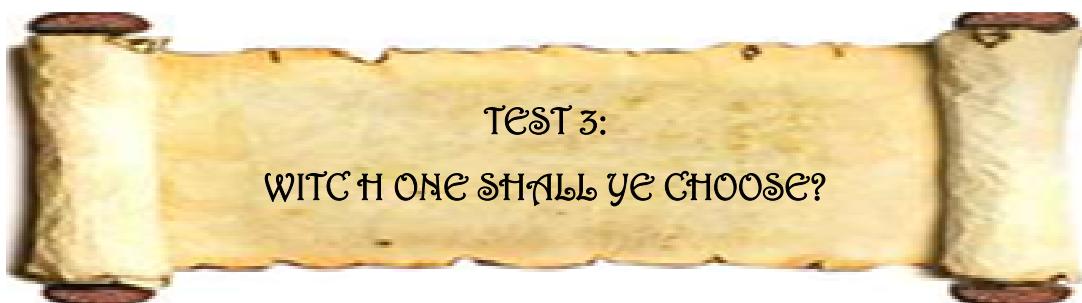
Exercise 2: Match the words (1-10) with their definitions (A-J). Remember: Write your answers on the Answer Sheet. (10 POINTS)

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. beloved | A. total income, taxable income |
| 2. devote | B. an invented name that a writer, artist etc. uses instead of their real name |
| 3. consultant | C. serious or strict, and showing strong disapproval of someone's behaviour |
| 4. gross earnings | D. follow a person or animal in order to watch or attack them |
| 5. legacy | E. something that happens or exists as a result of things that happened at an earlier time |
| 6. literally | F. to use a particular area, period of time, or amount of space for a specific purpose |
| 7. stalk | G. the person that you love most |
| 8. stern | H. someone whose job is to give advice on a particular subject |
| 9. pseudonym | I. to speak, write or think about only good or happy about something, not the bad things |
| 10. sentimentalize | J. according to the most basic or original meaning of a word or an expression |



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Exercise 1: Read the text below and use the words in the box to complete it. There is one extra word which you do not need to use. Remember: Write all your answers on the Answer Sheet. **(15 POINTS)**

Stress can make you worse at your job

increase, performance, replaced, harm, few, purposefully, strategy, workplace, performers, commitment, additional, redundant, underperforming, boss, security, industries

Worrying about being made 1....., feeling powerless due to changing 2..... practices and uncertainty about your role can 3..... your job workplace and hit your morale. Yet, 4..... creating an insecure environment is a tactic used in some industries - by placing 5.....demands and stressors on employees – in the mistaken belief that it will 6..... their performance.

There are a 7..... versions of this type of management. One is the 20-70-10 rule, which favours firing the most 8..... 10% of employees. Another version, known as 'up or out', is a 9..... employed by some firms in the law and consulting 10....., where low 11....., those who are not improving or climbing the career promotion ladder, get 12.....

But by keeping workers on their toes by implanting feelings of uncertainty in the workplace, employers often do more 13..... than good. When companies use job 14..... as a stick as opposed to a carrot, it backfires because workers lose their feeling of 15.....



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Exercise 2: Some words are missing from the text. Your task is to fill in each gap with ONE word. Remember: Write all your answers on the Answer Sheet (10 POINTS)

Making money out of air

Whether enveloped by the thick smog 1..... factories or choked with invisible poisons from vehicle exhausts, many cities around the world 2..... losing the battle 3..... air pollution.

Somewhere between 5.5 million and seven million people die from breathing 4..... the smoke, harmful gases and soot pumped into the atmosphere. In China and India, the toll of this toxic air is particularly alarming, causing three million deaths in those two countries alone.

This is leading some out-of-breath citizens 6.....go to extraordinary length: they are turning 7..... bottled air.

A growing number of companies are compressing and bottling fresh countryside air and selling it online. It sounds 8.....a joke but the idea is to raise awareness and provide people 9..... fresh air – 10..... a price.



You have worked hard. You deserve the treasure. Have a rest knight.