

**LEARNING GUILD**

**CERTIFICATE**

**IN**

**REASONING AND EXPRESSION**

**WRITTEN EXAMINATION**

**SEPTEMBER 2007**

Time allowed: half an hour for reading the paper and making notes upon it, and two-and-a-half hours for writing answers. Times recommended for each section are based on the assumption that the initial half-hour has been well used. Paper for writing answers will be distributed at the end of that half-hour. **Begin each of the five sections on a new sheet, with a given name and your family name at top right.** Within a section, in order to save paper, use the back of a sheet for an even page of an answer. To make it easier for examiners to write legible detailed comments on your pages, you are asked to maintain margins at left and right, and to leave about nine lines at the foot of each page.

## 1. CORRECTION

(Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes)

**Most but not all** of the following sentences contain one or more errors in one or more of the following eight categories: grammar, punctuation and spelling; use or non-use of apostrophes, capitals and inverted commas; word-order and choice of word(s). Where you consider a sentence correct, just put 'Correct' after writing the sentence's letter; where you consider one to be incorrect, **write out in full** a correct version of it, making no more changes than necessary. **(Read again the first sentence above, noting carefully the range of types of errors.)**

- a) The ages which Australians are most likely to say their life is out of control is between 30 and 49.
- b) There are some people that have health problems which are entirely treatible and which, if they are treated, they can return to the workforce.
- c) They will either have to adjust their lifestyle, or adjust their retirement expectations.
- d) Its time to ask what solutions do both the Government and the Opposition see to this looming crisis.
- e) His reply was: so you're not repelled by anything whatever on TV; to which I answered that my review has defended one particular program.
- f) I knew and agreed that since this was my final year in contract that my position would be assessed.
- g) Generation X is torn: between saving for retirement or a home deposit.
- h) For people like you or I, such advices are redundant.
- i) I am loth to criticize such comments from a youthful and disinterested observer.
- j) Early childhood education is the 'cradle' of democracy, with it's most urgent task being transitioning children into ethical citizens.
- k) He was some years ago bestowed with the title of Professor Emeritus at that University.
- l) One of these new activities in which Mary has been the leader, have had a transformative affect on two of the elder residents.

**2. INSERTION OF PUNCTUATION, ETC.**

(Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes)

Write out the paragraph below, inserting punctuation, capitals, apostrophes and inverted commas as required. Do not make any changes to the wording of the paragraph.

multicultural polyethnic which is the better adjective to describe our nations there is something to be said for each one derived from latin suggests the valuing of cultural diversity and the other from greek recognizes a peoples diverse racial origins without wanting to revive the old metaphor of a melting pot or to talk of assimilation we might reasonably oppose the use of multicultural because that use tends to encourage separatism which can lead to fragmentation we all need open minded exposure to one anothers traditions let the warm readiness of people from pacific societies to talk with one another challenge the cocooned sometimes cold behaviour most of us tend to when we travel to describe our nations as polyethnic recognizes diversity of origin but contains no hint that people should be uncritical of and remain within the cultures in which they have been brought up

### 3. EXPLANATION AND COMMENT

(Recommended maximum time: 30 minutes)

Here is a paragraph from a book called *And a Time to Live*, by Dr Robert Chernin Cantor, published in 1978 by Harper and Row. The author is described as coordinator of a cancer rehabilitation clinic in California. Read the paragraph in relation to the questions on the opposite page, and then answer those questions, the first three of which refer to the use by the author of words (mostly in the middle of the paragraph) which have here been italicized.

Imagine a child attempting something new, something difficult and frightening. Now imagine a parent: one who supports and respects the child, who calls for a genuine effort and offers firm and consistent support, feeling both pride in the child's progress and sympathy during inevitable failures. Now imagine another parent guiding the same child's attempts at a difficult task, a parent who demands immediate success, who is impatient and tolerates no mistakes, who is harsh and punitive and perfectionistic. There is no doubt which parent is the more likely to *foster self-confidence* and *self-esteem*. Yet when we ourselves approach something new and frightening, when a small part in each of us again resembles a child struggling to succeed, we all too often become a harsh, *vindictive*, abusive parent to that struggling part of ourselves. We condemn, *berate*, undermine and vilify; we take no measure of pride in tasks completed and permit ourselves to feel no pleasure in progress we have made. We see only *defects* and *deficiencies*. Some of us even manage to condemn ourselves for being self-condemning, and in doing so choose to engage in precisely that kind of endless self-accusation guaranteed to wound the childlike part of every adult under stress. I believe wholeheartedly that we are all capable of adopting the attitude of a firm, *empathetic* and understanding parent toward this frightened and aspiring aspect of ourselves and others. I ask you to share this bias toward greater self-acceptance and of adjustment in a spirit of *empathetic* curiosity, with the courage of a kind parent.

- i. Explain the meaning, in the context of this paragraph, of **one** of the verbs *foster* and *berate*, and of **one** of the adjectives *vindictive* and *empathetic*.
  
- ii. Explain, with an example of each from any area(s) of life, the difference between a defect and a deficiency.
  
- iii. “Self-confidence, yes; self-respect, yes; but self-esteem? That has become a fetish among teachers and psychologists, and it has led, among teachers, to a reluctance to correct mistakes, and, among students, to misplaced satisfaction with their present levels and attitudes, and to unrealistic expectations.” Explain with reasons (in about 150 words) to what extent, if at all, you agree with that comment on recent emphasis on self-esteem.
  
- iv. Give **your own** response to the paragraph as a whole, with some reference to an imagined criticism that might be expressed thus: “How can we split our personalities as suggested here? We can’t be a kind of parent to ourselves.” Write 2-300 words.

#### 4. FACTORS AND ARGUMENTS

(Recommended time: 30 minutes)

Suppose that a man named Frank is a primary school teacher, and that he is speaking at a meeting of teachers at his school. They are discussing the response they should make to parents who complain about what they call “the teaching our children are receiving” and the children’s “lack of progress”. Examine carefully what Frank has to say and then answer the questions below.

I wish these parents would take seriously the fact that we are professionals in our field. They wouldn’t challenge a doctor’s recommendations on treatment for a child, or an accountant’s on how their business could save money, and yet they think they know better than we do about education. In every line of work it’s the authorized people, the professionals, who work full-time for a salary, whose opinion is the one that counts.

Not only do we have our degrees after four or more years of study, but we keep up to date with, and put into practice, the latest ideas from very intelligent people who have done plenty of research. These parents are remembering bits of their own education, and think that what they did 30 years ago should be repeated now, when it’s quite out of date.

A lot of education in the past was simply boring. How many people you meet who hated school, with its repetition and also its punishments if you stepped out of line. We know better now, and above all we want children to have fun at school, not just to “make progress”; to enjoy themselves and enjoy learning.

There is so much teacher-bashing in the community. Parents are probably influenced by what some ultra-conservative politician or pedant has had to say in the media. We need to stand firm or else we won’t be respected.

I think we should say, politely but firmly, to interfering parents: “You leave us to follow what is now widely accepted practice in teaching: trust us and tell your children to trust us.”

- i. Give your own assessment of the arguments Frank has advanced in seeking to justify his conclusion in paragraph 5. (You can refer to a paragraph by the letter P and a numeral.) Write about 250-300 words.
- ii. What pattern of response by teachers to dissatisfied parents would you recommend, and why? Write about 150 words.

**5. ESSAY**

(Recommended maximum time: one hour)

Write on ONE of the following twenty topics, making sure that your essay remains entirely relevant to that topic, is balanced and well-paragraphed, and covers an appropriate range of factors and considerations. Write 500-800 words.

- A) Explain and illustrate what is meant by 'the middle ground' in politics. Is it possible or desirable for a political party to be elected in a democracy without occupying this middle ground?
- B) What principles should guide political decisions on whether taxes should be raised or lowered? (Concentrate, if you wish, on the taxing of individuals or on that of companies.)
- C) "Liberty, equality, fraternity" is the English translation of the cry of the French Revolution. Does it deserve to be the motto of every democrat?
- D) On what principles should it be determined which people from elsewhere should be permitted to reside in your country (or the country in which you are now living) and become citizens?
- E) "An undergraduate education at a college or university cannot be both deep and broad: which is it to be?" Discuss that view and that question.
- F) "Education and entertainment are entirely different things." How far do you agree? Provide some illustrations.
- G) "We have gone too far in banning the touching of children by teachers or others who work with them. Many a child sometimes needs a (perfectly innocent) hug or pat." Discuss.
- H) Someone is surprised that you admire so much a particular book, play, film, musical piece or performance, or other work of art. Answer the puzzled question "What do you see in it?".
- I) "In any loving relationship, both honesty and tact are needed." What is honesty? What is tact? Explain, with reasons, how far you agree with that statement.
- J) Illustrate and explain the prevalence of the metaphor of the heart in religious language and/or the language of love. Is this metaphor indispensable?
- K) "The nuclear family needs to be set within an extended family, one that preferably includes 'aunties' and 'uncles' who are not actual relatives." Discuss.

- L) In Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*, Polonius gives his son Laertes plenty of advice, such as "Neither a borrower, nor a lender be". His closing piece of advice is often quoted: "This above all: to thine own self be true,| And it must follow, as the night the day,| Thou canst not then be false to any man." Explain why you think that piece of advice of great or of little value.
- M) "I would not encourage children of mine to be ambitious. It leads to such pressure, tension, selfishness, and narrowing of personality." Discuss.
- N) "To be excellent is to stand out from the rest. Obviously competition is the path to excellence." Discuss.
- O) What meaning or meanings has the word 'feminist'? Explain why you do or do not consider that feminism, in a particular sense of that word, is indispensable. Can a man be a feminist?
- P) Daniel Dennett quotes Richard Dawkins: "We'd be aghast to be told of a Leninist child or a neo-conservative child or a Hayekian monetarist child. So isn't it a kind of child abuse to speak of a Catholic child or a Protestant child?"\* Explain and discuss that comparison and that view.
- Q) "I should like to discover, or at least to learn, a great deal more about ...." How would you complete the sentence, and why in that way? How would you begin the process of discovering or learning more?
- R) What policies should be pursued in your country (and/or, if you wish, in one or two others) to reduce the emission of carbon dioxide?
- S) "Abuse of alcohol deserves more attention than illegal drugs, and their illegality only promotes criminal behaviour." Discuss, with attention to the question "Is that practicable?".
- T) What are some factors that can give rise to depression? To what extent is such depression preventable?

\* The quotation, from an article in the British newspaper *The Guardian* (21 June 2003), occurs in Dennett's book *Breaking the Spell*, p.323.