

LEARNINGGUILD

CERTIFICATE

IN

REASONING AND EXPRESSION

WRITTEN EXAMINATION

SEPTEMBER 2008

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 a few 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) Things are not looking that bad like everyone is talking about.
- b) No one rings a bell when the market is at it's bottom making it very difficult to predict the time to go back in.
- c) What is unknown however is when the volitivity will ease.
- d) Simply I asked her if the quality of the fabrics were top notch?
- e) You can slide the rear seat forward or back depending if you need to carry people or cargo.
- f) The cost of the tyres is expensive, ranging from between \$160 to \$190 a tyre.
- g) Don't ask me whence I received that information.
- h) As an Engineer what I'm saying is lets find what procedures elderly people find difficult and then design things around that functionality.
- i) Low mental health literacy and stigma are barriers as to why some people do not seek out mental health assistance.
- j) Noone was surprised when he took over as premier, they would have been surprised if he didn't.
- k) The athlete said that he wasn't just someone who turned up to race but also to entertain the crowd.
- l) It is absurd to have the only body encumbered with administring the student register exempt from the offence dealing unauthorized uses.

2. INSERTION OF PUNCTUATION, ETC.

(Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes)

Write out the following passage, inserting punctuation, capitals, apostrophes and double inverted commas as required. **Do not make any changes to the wording of the passage.**

isnt the winning of medals at the olympics overvalued asked
mary look at the consequences many medals are won if not
through drugs then by an artificial lifestyle the winners often
living far from their own country have minimal influence
there upon sport or community health but the prestige replied
ron isnt jamaica more prominent now because of bolt and
others anyway what would you prefer festivals said mary
eagerly festivals concentrating on particular sports such as
athletics there could in any country be say a week in which
people of a wide variety of ages and levels from that country
and elsewhere could watch the champions yes but also
compete with others similar to themselves they would
experience and others hear about the delights of the activities
and the health and vigour and the friendships they can
promote hospitality would be provided ideally in peoples
homes rather than in those miscalled villages

3. EXPLANATION AND COMMENT

(Recommended maximum time: 30 minutes)

In two paragraphs of a review in 1967 of Sir Peter Medawar's collection of essays *The Art of the Soluble*, Sydney Brenner writes first about "the attitudes of many scientists, especially the younger ones, to administration", and then about science itself. Read this passage in relation to the questions on the opposite page, and then answer those questions.

.... There is an almost universal contempt for scientists who leave research to become administrators: they are looked upon as cowards or deserters. Galileo is remembered for his physics but he has become a folk hero of scientists because he defied the apparatus. There is no doubt that scientists have a romantic conception, not necessarily of science, but of themselves. Is this simply a tribal cult handed on by oral tradition? And whatever it is, could science do without it? Times are changing and science is becoming industrialised. Cottage weaving has turned into textile manufacture. Science is fast becoming a job for nine-to-five problem-solvers.

Although this change is an interesting, perhaps important, problem of science, discussions about the organisation of research tend to distract our attention from the real content of scientific activity. Medawar says that 'nowadays we all give too much thought to the material blessings or evils that science has brought with it, and too little to its power to liberate us from the confinements of ignorance and superstition.' This cannot be stated too strongly or too often. Science is news of the world; everybody should know that the earth is round and not flat, and that people are made out of atoms and not vital stuff. It is scientific knowledge that enables Medawar to state point blank that Teilhard de Chardin is talking nonsense. Teilhard de Chardin's writings are a caricature of what many people believe to be true: that what goes on in our heads is completely different from everything else in the universe. Consciousness, they say, will never be explained by physics; the mind and the brain are different things and the former cannot be reached by the methods of science. But scientists are determined to unmake mystery, and it is this field of how nervous systems work which offers the real challenge to science today. Will society pay us to solve this problem even if we do not discover a cure for mental disease or help the military with psychological weapons?

[The review appeared on p.477 of the issue dated 12 October 1967 of what was for many years the weekly magazine *The Listener*, published by the British Broadcasting Corporation.]

- i. Explain the meaning of each of these words as they are used in the first paragraph:

 - a) the noun ‘administrators’;
 - b) the adjective ‘romantic’.

- ii. What does Brenner mean, do you think, by his statement in the second paragraph “Science is news of the world”? (Does he intend it, for example, as a definition of ‘science’?) Explain why you would happily make that statement your own or prefer some modification that you provide. (Write 150-200 words.)

- iii. Let us give the label ‘Statement A’ (or just ‘A’) to the statement in the second paragraph “the mind and the brain are different things and the former cannot be reached by the methods of science”. First say what **Brenner**’s attitude is to Statement A, and how you can determine what it is from the context; then explain (if you wish with some reference to him) **how you would begin** considering whether you should agree or disagree, entirely or to some extent, with A. (Write about 200 words.)

4. FACTORS AND ARGUMENTS

(Recommended time: 30 minutes)

Here is part of an imagined letter from a man named Joe to a friend of his named Jill. Read it and then write answers to **i** and **ii** below.

I can't say I'm sad about the staff cuts newspapers are having to make because so much advertising revenue is being lost to sites on the net. But we can get our news there too (no need to buy a heavy newspaper) and quickly select whatever we're really interested in – not usually very much – without having all that paper to get through and clutter our homes. (You know how newspapers lie around.)

It's news most people want, not views. Those people who want views usually have strong preferences on what those views should be. They can find them, too, on the net, if they take the trouble to find out where to look.

People who have strong views can start their own blog and tell their friends and foes about it, rather than competing for space in half a page of a newspaper.

As for “powerful editorials”, etc., it's about time newspaper editors and columnists realized that they'd better concentrate on survival and attractiveness – giving people what they want – rather than on pontificating to Presidents and the rest of us on what ought to be done. Why should we pay attention to **them**?

I reckon that we younger people should bluntly say that newspapers belong to the past, not the future. They used to be needed for advertising, and, as for the rest, it was a luxury that could be supported when there was no shortage of advertising.

- i.** Let's imagine that in her reply Jill says: “Joe, that was a series of sound arguments of yours about the dispensability of newspapers.” Explain in what respects you agree and/or disagree with Jill's view of Joe's series of paragraphs, giving your reasons. (Write about 300 words. You may find it convenient to refer to particular paragraphs as P1, P2, etc.)
- ii.** On the assumption that you are a serious student with quite wide interests, what **features** of, or **changes** in, a mainly serious newspaper that you know would maintain or increase the likelihood that **you** would want to have regular access to it, even if not by subscription? (Concentrating on specific features and/or changes, write about 100 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) “Human beings need to live close to nature, but that’s just about impossible for most city-dwellers today.” Discuss.
- B) June says: “In families and businesses, and in educational institutions, we need to be well aware of some of the main ways in which things can go wrong, because in so many situations they do go wrong.” Alan replies: “That’s too negative and too general, and anyway mere awareness won’t help.” What would you say? What are two or three of those “main ways in which things can go wrong”?
- C) German has a famous word ‘*Weltanschauung*’, which we might translate as ‘general outlook on the world’. Explain **two or three components** of any such general outlook that you have adopted or might adopt, in such a way that someone who did not share them could appreciate what you are saying. (You may wish to consider, for example, whether it matters very much to you that you have the particular nationality you have.)
- D) “It is entirely understandable and right that employers of university graduates should look for ‘employability skills’; but, as many employers would agree, that’s not all they should look for.” Discuss, with reference to skills and other qualities.
- E) Amy says “Instead of constantly saying ‘education’ we should talk about exploration – in libraries and elsewhere.” Tom asks her “What about teaching and testing?” How best could she reply? Do you think she is basically right?
- F) “I’m sure that we students could make much better use than we do of ‘odd times’, brief intervals when we’re waiting for a train, washing dishes, etc. But how?” Explain why you do or do not agree, and consider what answer you’d give to that question.
- G) “I want to make a difference.” What would you like to make a difference to, and how might you go about it?
- H) Explain in what respects you agree and/or disagree with the negative view of the Olympic Games put by the imagined writer at the beginning of the passage set for punctuation in Section 2.

- I) Describe some memorable sporting event in which you participated or which you watched. What was special about it?
- J) In the last Learningguild exam paper (March 2008), the passage set for punctuation was very critical of election campaigns. With or without reference to that passage, discuss some features of a campaign you are or have been witnessing in reference to the question “Is this democracy at its best?”
- K) Explain why you are or would like to become a member of one of the political parties in your country, or why you prefer, or think you would prefer, to remain outside any of the present parties.
- L) What are the lessons that lending institutions must learn from the subprime loans crisis? What can the rest of us learn?
- M) “The measures that are needed in relation to climate change are not politically practicable. The situation seems hopeless.” Give in some detail your response to that.
- N) “All advertising should be treated with suspicion.” “Advertising is essential to a healthy society.” Explain your attitudes to those two statements, and discuss any aspect of advertising in which you have a particular interest.
- O) What are your main criteria in choosing clothes to buy or wear? (Give some examples.)
- P) “The responsibility of parents to their children ends when those children become adults.” Discuss.
- Q) “I think that, as the human lifespan lengthens, the old ideal of marriage as enduring ‘till death us do part’ is increasingly unrealistic.” Explain why you agree or disagree.
- R) Is it desirable, and is it practicable, that far less meat should be consumed by human beings than is now the case?
- S) Examine some of the various uses that are given to the word ‘faith’ in and out of religious contexts. Use other words, or groups of words, to explain what you think is meant by ‘faith’ in different contexts.
- T) In the following words H.J.Paton translates Immanuel Kant’s expression of what he regarded as a fundamental principle of ethics: “Act in such a way that you always treat humanity, whether in your own person or in the person of any other, never simply as a means, but always at the same time as an end.” Explain Kant’s meaning (without leaving either ‘means’ or ‘end’ unexplained), and show what implications you think the principle has in two or three areas of life.