

اسم:
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مسابقة في مادة اللغة الانكليزية
المدة ساعتان ونصف

Part One: Reading

(Score: 11/20)

Read the following selection where the writer discusses the effects of commuting on married couples, and the compromise each has to make. When you are through with the reading, answer the questions that follow.

A Commuter Marriage

- 1 Among communication technology, international business dealings and cheap flights, commuter romances are the latest trend of modern Europe.
- 2 Three days after our honeymoon, I left my wife in London and flew to Milan. **This** wasn't some kind of dispute or the insistence of a classy Italian lady. No, the reason was work, which is to say money. I had been living and working in Italy for the past six months, and that wasn't about to change when I had my wedding ring on. At home, Gill had a growing business and an ailing mother: it was a dead end.
- 3 Two weeks apart was as much as Gill and I could handle. Weekdays weren't so bad: work late and sleep. Calling is the first thing I did in the morning and the last thing at night. But, what do you do with the weekends?
- 4 In Milan, without an extensive social network, there is nothing to do. Even the natives flee to the beaches or the mountains. The apartment was barely decorated; home was in London. Friends of hers said that **it** must be the perfect relationship, only seeing your husband on weekends. But the sad truth was that I was lost without her.
- 5 Compromise is a key. Gill never pressured me to come home, and I didn't ask her to come to Milan although I thought one day she would. We talked about bringing up children there, but we always talked our way back to the dead end: my job was important, but she couldn't leave London.
- 6 But for Gill and I, the 18 months we spent as migrating lovebirds was like putting the relationship on hold. Our limited time together was reserved for fun, but that meant ignoring more long-term decisions. Should we buy a house? What color should the bathroom be? Can you be here for friends' weddings? And when will I see you again? These questions were unanswered, held off against the necessary reassurance of I love you; I still love you. Our social life diminished, as we refused to share our time together. At work, time in the office expanded to fill all available hours.
- 7 In the end, it was recognizing my own unhappiness that brought us back together. For ages, I didn't like to touch anything in the London apartment, even my own stuff. There's the shock of sharing a bed again. A week before my contract was renewed, I announced that I was going home. That was early November. I worked until the end of January, and then flew back to London for good.
- 8 Linda Laderman, who has been commuting between her firm in London and her husband and daughter in Portugal on two-weekly cycles for 17 years, said, "If you aren't with your family all the time, then you can feel guilty. I'm not there when someone accidentally hits my daughter in the face, and we do her homework on the phone. This lifestyle wasn't for me, but others have made it work for them. There comes a time when you do not want to be apart and that lasts 24 hours, and then you look at the bigger picture. Portugal provides a better quality of life for our daughter, but I'd find it frustrating to be there full time. We have not built up a big social life in Portugal because I'm not around as much. It only worked because Freddie and I were prepared to compromise."
- 9 Cecilia Canziani, an independent art curator, is based in London while her German artist-husband lives in her hometown of Rome. "This is the second year, and I'm getting really tired of it. Every time I meet him, my heart is beating as if it's our first date. I miss having the daily

support and struggling together. Time apart takes its toll: after 10 days, one of us is usually in tears,” she said. “I feel like I’m becoming a spinster even though I’m married. I really want to be a couple again.”

10 “For **it** to work, you have to have a strong relationship,” said Canziani. “There must be trust and affection for the other person. You have to sustain the other person from a distance. I try to have some of his things around even if it’s painful to see two toothbrushes and one not used.”

11 To sum up, such situations may make any married couple become strangers with time. **This** could trigger a mix of learning about and remembering one another. It could also be joy and fear at the same time. Both could be nervous, yet effective communication could be another key.

Questions

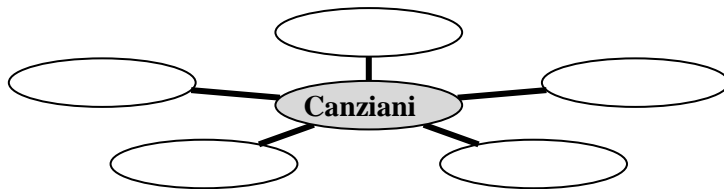
A. Answer each of the following in 1-4 sentences of your own.

1. Why couldn’t Gill, the writer’s wife, accompany her husband to Italy? (Score: 0.5)
2. With reference to the above selection, write a brief definition of “a commuter marriage.” (Score: 01)
3. How does Laderman feel about “commuting between England and Portugal” for 17 years? Justify by providing **two** pieces of evidence. (Score:1.5)
4. What does Cecilia Canziani in Paragraph 9 mean by “I feel like I’m becoming a spinster even though I’m married. I really want to be a couple again.”? (Score: 01)

B.

1. What is the thematic relation between the introductory and the concluding paragraphs? (Score: 01)
2. Identify two types of audience, other than the general reader, who would be interested in reading the above selection. State the interest each finds in it. (Score: 01)
3. What is the dominant tone revealed in Paragraph 4? Justify your answer. (Score: 01)

C. Fill in the following web with suitable adjectives that best describe Canziani. Then, write a paragraph using the adjectives. (Score: 02)



D. What do the **bold-typed** pronouns refer to? (Score: 01)

1. **This** (Paragraph 2)
2. **it** (Paragraph 4)
3. **it** (Paragraph 10)
4. **This** (Paragraph 11)

E. Find words/phrases in Paragraphs 2, 5, and 6 that nearly have the same meanings as the following. (Score: 01)

1. *sick*
2. *taking care of*
3. *postponed*
4. *reduced*

Part Two: Writing (Score: 09/20)

In today’s demanding world, couples are forced to commute at times to meet the demands of sustaining their families.

Discuss the positive and negative effects of commuting on families, and what it takes to maintain a successful relationship in such a marriage. Develop your answer in an essay of 250-300 words, shedding light on the conditions of a successful marriage. Make sure that, in your introduction, you put your reader in the general atmosphere of your topic and clearly provide a thesis statement, and that each of your body paragraphs starts with a topic sentence which you back up with relevant supporting details. Draft, revise, and proofread your essay. Your writing will be assessed for ideas, language and style, and tidiness. (Score: 05 for ideas and organization, 03 for language and style, and 01 for tidiness and legible handwriting)

Part of the Q	Answer Key	Mark
	Competencies: - Utilize reading strategies - Develop literal and interpretive comprehension of written discourse - Produce transactional writing	
I-A-1	She did not accompany him because she has her own “growing business” in London. In addition , she has to take care of her sick mother.	0.5
I-A-2	It is a term used to describe a state of married couple who are forced to leave each other for some time because of work conditions. This may happen if the workplace of either one is in a distant or near country—abroad.	01
I-A-3	Laderman is not happy and satisfied because she says that being without one’s family all the time might cause her to feel guilty. She admits that she does not have any social and family life. She cannot be with her daughter to help her in her studies or support her in case she faces any problem. (0.5 for the feeling and 0.5 for each justification)	1.5
I-A-4	Canziani’s words summarize her suffering because of “commuter marriage”. She feels that she does not live a real marriage. Marriage to her is living with the partner under one roof and sharing everything, a situation she is deprived of.	01
I-B-1	It’s a problem-solution relation. The writer in the introduction highlights a current trend of life in Europe, commuter marriage where its outcomes become problematic as discussed throughout the selection. To overcome these problems the writer in the concluding paragraph provides a recommendation/solution which is “effective communication”. (0.5 for the relation and 0.5 justification)	01
I-B-2	Suggested audience: 1- Newly married couples: They acquire the key to a successful marriage through “comprise” and “effective communication”. 2- Spouses living abroad: They have awareness of the problems of commuting marriage. 3- Marriage counselors: They provide appropriate solutions. (Two types are enough and 0.5 for each type with its interest)	01
I-B-3	The writer feels nostalgic/ lonely/sad/sentimental. He misses his wife and does not socialize. The terms “home was in London”, “sad truth”, and “lost without her” reflect his tone. (0.5 for the adjective and 0.5 for justification)	01
I-C	Suggested adjectives: sad, lonely, talented/innovative, dissatisfied/anxious, and tired Suggested paragraph: Canziani is not happy because she is away from her husband. She is lonely and misses her spouse’s support. Although she is talented for being an artist, she is dissatisfied as she feels like a	02

	spinster/single. (01 for the adjectives and 01 for the paragraph)	
I-D-1	“This” refers to flying from London to Milan.	0.25
I-D-2	“it” refers to the idea of seeing your husband on weekends only.	0.25
I-D-3	“it” refers to the idea of becoming a couple again.	0.25
I-D-4	“This” refers to the idea of becoming strangers.	0.25
I-E-1	ailing	0.25
I-E-2	bringing up	0.25
I-E-3	held off	0.25
I-E-4	diminished	0.25
II-A	Ideas and organization	05
II-B	Language and style	03
II-C	Tidiness and legible handwriting	01