

الاسم:	مسابقة في مادة اللغة الانكليزية
الرقم:	المدة ساعتان ونصف

**Part One: Reading****(Score: 11/20)**

Read the following selection in which the writer tackles the problems of young graduates emigration from an American state North Dakota and the official attempts to bring them back home, and then answer the questions that follow.

**Brain Drain**

1 Having survived the winter, North Dakota's determined residents feel they may as well stay around, at least till the end of summer. But many younger people have already left. Cold is one of several reasons why the state has a "brain drain" problem.

2 The lack of good jobs is another crucial factor. Virtually, all the rural areas in North Dakota have been losing well-educated young people to other states. With farm jobs slipping away, North Dakota has struggled to find new ones in services.

3 Furthermore, North Dakota's brain-drain problem is attributed to the high percentage of its educated residents. It has the second-highest high school graduation rate in the country, and ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> in the proportion of residents aged over 25 with a college degree.

4 This may be changing gradually. Census (an official counting of population) in 2004 shows that the state's population witnessed for the first time since 1996 a slight increase of 1,000 people to reach 634,000. Births outnumbered deaths, and the number of college graduates staying in the state for at least a year after graduation rose 3.5% to reach 57%. Regardless of the rising school enrolment in the elementary and secondary cycles, a new theory is emerging: young families are returning to North Dakota, particularly to its bigger towns and suburbs.

5 The main beneficiary is Fargo, North Dakota's largest city, which grew by more than 20% in the 1990s. Microsoft, which bought a local company in 2000, now employs 1,000 people there. The city is spreading outward into the plains, and its downtown boasts an increasing number of stylish and expensive restaurants.

6 In short, though dull and boring, Fargo seems to be just interesting enough to lure back young professionals. Tamara McCullough left North Dakota for Seattle in 1995 and got a job at one of the famous brand coffee shops. Later, she returned to Fargo with a husband and a son. She was afraid they would get bored, but they didn't. She encouraged the parent company to open a new branch in Fargo.

7 This might not directly achieved an economic boom, but Joel Kotkin, a Los Angeles-based demographer, points out that good cafes are now part of the list of assets that North Dakota offers refugees from California and New York. The state's longer-established temptations are its schools and its clean air, besides the second-lowest average commute time in the nation and the lowest median house price.

8 None of this, of course, helps rural North Dakota, and many small farming towns are dying. This has led some locals to consider a modern version of an old idea, the Homestead Act of 1862, which helped to populate the plains by giving settlers up to 640 acres of land in exchange for a commitment to stay for five years.

9 One of those lured by this bribe was the great-grandmother of Byron Dorgan, the state's Democratic senator. Mr. Dorgan is the chief author of the New Homestead Act, which would provide a host of incentives to people who settle in provinces that have lost more than 10% of their population in the past 20 years. These include tax credits for starting small businesses and buying homes, and a \$3 billion venture capital fund to seed new businesses.

**10** Mr. Dorgan has already introduced the Act into the Senate House twice with no success. Undeterred, he recently introduced a new version. “We may discover that the demise of the plains was inevitable and there’s nothing we can do about it,” he admits. “But it won’t be for lack of trying.”

### Questions

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

- 1- In reference to paragraphs 1 and 2, what are **two** reasons behind the “brain drain” problem in North Dakota? **(Score: 0.5)**
- 2- What are the **two** indicators of the economic boom in Fargo? **(Score: 0.5)**
- 3- Other than the economic assets, list **four** different factors that motivate people to return to North Dakota? **(Score: 01)**
- 4- Explain the relation between the high percentage of educated residents and the “brain drain” problem in North Dakota. **(Score:1.5)**

#### B.

- 1- Other than serious, identify the **tones** in paragraph 8. Justify your answer. **(Score:1.5)**
- 2- How does the writer achieve credibility? Justify your answer. **(Score: 01)**
- 3- Other than the general reader, identify **two** types of audience that might be interested in the above selection, and then state the interest of each. **(Score: 01)**

#### C.

- 1- What pattern of organization does the writer use in paragraph 8? Support your answer with evidence. **(Score: 01)**
- 2- Identify the pattern of each of the following sentences. **(Score: 01)**
  - a- Sentence 1, paragraph 6, “*In short... professionals.*”
  - b- Sentence 2, paragraph 7, “*The state’s .... house price.*”
- 3- What linking hooks does the writer use in paragraph 3 to achieve coherence? Support your answer with evidence. **(Score: 01)**

#### D. Find words/ expressions which almost have the same meanings as the following. **(Score: 01)**

- |                               |                                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1- important (paragraph 2)    | 3- attracted/ tempted (paragraph 9) |
| 2- disappearing (paragraph 2) | 4- to establish (paragraph 9)       |

#### Part Two: Writing

**(Score: 09/20)**

*Emigration has become a familiar and almost habitual phenomenon to the Lebanese. Write an essay of 250-300 words in which you elaborate on two reasons behind this emigration and on two positive and / or negative effects. 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)*

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Part of the Q	Answer Key	Mark
	Competencies: - Utilize reading strategies - Develop literal and interpretive comprehension of written discourse - Produce transactional writing	
<b>I-A-1</b>	The writer cites two different reasons behind “brain drain”. The first is the cold weather; the second is the lack of good jobs. <b>N.B: 0.25 for each reason</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>I-A-2</b>	The two indicators of economic boom in Fargo are: a) the employment of 1000 people by Microsoft b) the increasing number of stylish and expensive restaurants and famous brand coffee shops <b>N.B: 0.25 for each indicator</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>I-A-3</b>	The writer refers to: a) efficiency of education and high rate of graduates, b) least time spent on commuting, c) clean air, d) lowest housing costs as factors behind motivating people to return to North Dakota. <b>N.B: 0.25 for each factor</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>I-A-4</b>	In fact, the high percentage of educated people in North Dakota is a main factor behind “brain drain”; in other words, the more people are educated in rural areas, the more they are inclined to leave their homeland to find better job opportunities somewhere else. <b>N.B: 0.25 for identifying the relation, 1 for justification, and 0.25 for language</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>I-B -1</b>	In paragraph 8, the writer expresses two different tones. One is of disappointment /pessimism and criticism (farming towns are dying; version of an old idea). The other contrasting tone is that of optimism and hope (... helped populate the plains by giving settlers up to ...) and (considering a modern version of the Homestead Act). <b>N.B: two contrasting tones- 0.25 for each, 0.5 for justification - each tone.</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>I-B-2</b>	The writer achieves credibility by using: Observations and facts: determined residents feel ... Dates: Tamara left Seattle in 1995 Examples: paragraphs 6 and 7 (Joel Kotkin...) statistics and numbers: 57%, Census shows that ... <b>N.B: 0.25 for each aspect</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>I-B-3</b>	Government officials, investors, social workers, educators, demographers, emigrants, and others. Government officials gain more awareness of the incentives set by North Dakota to lure back residents who left. Investors, on the other hand, may learn a new role that opening businesses can achieve, a national role to attract residents back home. <b>N.B: 0.25 for identification, and 0.25 for stating the interest (for each type)</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>I-C-1</b>	The pattern of organization used in paragraph 8 is that of cause-effect. The cause is that opening new businesses could not help rural Dakota.	<b>01</b>

	The effect is considering the Homestead Act to motivate the residents to come back home. <b>N.B: 0.5 for identification, and 0.5 for support</b>	
<b>I-C-2-a</b>	Cause-Effect/ cause: Fargo being interesting enough- effect: to lure back young professionals OR Contrast	<b>0.5</b>
<b>I-C-2-b</b>	Listing	<b>0.5</b>
<b>I-C-3</b>	The writer uses direct linking hooks. “Furthermore” ensures the link between paragraphs 2 and 3. “It” is an indirect link that connects sentence 2 to sentence 1. <b>N.B: 0.5 for each cohesive device</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>I-D-1</b>	crucial	<b>0.25</b>
<b>I-D-2</b>	slipping away	<b>0.25</b>
<b>I-D-3</b>	lured	<b>0.25</b>
<b>I-D-4</b>	to seed	<b>0.25</b>
<b>IIA</b>	Ideas and organization	<b>05</b>
<b>II-B</b>	Language and style	<b>03</b>
<b>II-C</b>	Tidiness and legible handwriting	<b>01</b>