

الاسم:  
الرقم:مسابقة في مادة اللغة الإنكليزية وآدابها  
المدّة: ثلاث ساعات**Part One : Reading****(Score : 11/20)**

Read the following selection, in which the writer surveys marriage activities as practiced in Eastern and Western cultures. When you are through with the reading, answer the questions that follow.

**MARRIAGE IN THE EAST AND THE WEST**

- 1 Though marriage is practiced in almost all countries of the world, the customs surrounding this ritual are quite different from one culture to another. It is interesting for me to compare the customs of marriage in the West with those in the East.
- 2 I've lived in the West for four years now, but I'm still not comfortable with the courtship customs here. In fact, what seems strange to me is that courting or dating is not always for the purpose of finding a husband or wife. Some people seem to do it as a hobby.
- 3 Here in the West, I have noticed that courtships are begun by the young couple themselves, and they seem to have a lot of freedom to decide and do what they want. Both young men and women date a number of different people. They do **it** without the knowledge or help of their parents. In fact, I have known several friends who got married without even telling their parents or other family members.
- 4 Once a couple is serious about marriage, however, the young man gives the girl an engagement ring (usually a diamond) if he can afford it. This ring makes their intentions "official." During this engagement period, the two usually agree not to court other people. The couple spends time planning for the wedding, sometimes with the help of their families.
- 5 At the actual wedding ceremony, the father of the bride symbolically gives his daughter to the groom. **It's** only a custom, I think, because the bride and groom already know each other quite well. The bride and groom stand together in front of the clergyman or government official to be married. The official reads from a short prepared speech and then asks both the man and woman if they are willing to be married to the other. If they both say "yes", and nobody attending the wedding stands up to object, they are declared "man and wife". It is interesting that the two families are asked if there are any objections right during the ceremony. Perhaps it is because the family members are not as involved in the wedding preparations as they are in the East.
- 6 Marriage is different in a number of ways in the East. **There**, courtship is more serious, and is performed strictly for the purpose of marriage. **It** is definitely not a part of the fun-filled years of growing up like it is here in the West. It is the mother of the young man who initiates the process by visiting the home of a potential bride. She goes to inspect the girl and discover the position and wealth of the girl's family. If she is pleased, then she will return another day with her son. If her son is also pleased, then the two families get together to talk about the dowry, the wedding ceremony, who they will hire to perform the marriage, any festivities, and other matters.
- 7 Then begins what Westerners would call the engagement period. During this period, several gifts are sent by the groom's family to the future bride. The first gift is usually a diamond ring, similar to the Western custom. After that follow other expensive items that represent the best of our culture and art, like delicately carved silver candlesticks, chests, etc. Meanwhile, the bride spends her time with her mother preparing the dowry.
- 8 The actual marriage ceremony is quite different however, from the Western wedding ceremonies I have seen. We follow our own customs. The bride dressed in white, with a veil over her face, sits in another room alone. She sits on a special piece of silk surrounded by bouquets of flowers. A clergyman reads from the Holy Book, then asks for the bride's consent. The bride responds to him in such the same manner as do westerners when they say "I do." The groom's mother then presents a gift of gold, such as a pair of bracelets, to show that her side of the family is serious. There is much rejoicing and applause at this point but the couple does not kiss in public as I have seen them do here in the West. The groom is allowed to go into the bride's room, and they are

left alone behind a drawn curtain, while the clergyman takes care of the official marriage papers.

9 One more difference between the marriage customs of the West and the East is that the bride does not immediately go to the home of her new husband. For several months, she continues to stay at her own home preparing her dowry and receiving instructions from her mother on how to be a good wife and mother. After a few months, the groom and his relatives come for the bride and take her to his home along with the dowry.

10 Though I can certainly see the advantages of the freedom that is given to Western youths to choose whom they will marry and when, I think I still prefer the customs of the East. I suppose that's because there is not so much guessing and uncertainty. In the East families are so much more involved in helping us through this difficult stage of life. I guess that's why I'm not married yet.

### Questions

- A. In 2-4 sentences, answer each of the following in your own words.
1. Identify the thesis statement and show how it reflects the title. (Score: 01pt.)
  2. According to the writer, there is a fundamental difference between the East and the West in the purposes of courtship. Explain. (Score: 01pt.)
  3. In reference to Paragraph 6, what image does the writer give about the bride's position in the process of marriage? (Score: 01pt.)
  4. What point of view is the selection written with? Support your answer with evidence from the selection, and then show how the use of such point of view contributes to the credibility of the writer. (Score:01pt.)
  5. How are Paragraphs 2 and 3 thematically related. Justify. (Score: 01pt.)
  6. Describe the writer's attitude in Paragraph 2. Justify. (Score: 01pt.)
- B. Skim Paragraphs 6, 7, 8, and 9 to show the roles played by Eastern mothers of both the groom and the bride in the marriage process. Fill the chart below, using phrases not sentences. (Score: 02pts.)

Bride's Mother	Groom's Mother
1.	1.
2.	2.

- C. Identify the pattern of organization of Paragraph 7. Pick signal words to support your answer. (Score: 01pt.)
- D. What do the **bold-faced words** in the above selection refer to? (Score:01pt.)
- E. Select from Paragraphs 6 and 7 words that have the following meaning(s). (Score: 01pt.)
1. abundance
  2. celebration
  3. future
  4. cut

### Part Two: Writing

(Score: 09/20pt.)

Many sociologists – even those in the West – believe that a traditional Eastern family shields its members with **support, love, security, and emotional balance**.

Discuss the above statement, focusing on the **positive roles** played by such type of family and illustrating whatever you say with concrete evidence selected from your personal life and knowledge.

Write a 350-500- word essay about the topic. See 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, style, and tidiness**.

[Score: 05 for ideas and organization, 03 for language and style, and 01 for tidiness and legible handwriting].

# SECONDARY CYCLE CERTIFICATE

Exam Session of June 2006  
Humanities Section  
English as a 1<sup>st</sup> Foreign Language

## Answer Key

**Competencies:** Utilize reading strategies  
Develop literal and interpretive comprehension of printed discourse  
Produce transactional writing.

- A.**
1. The second sentence in Paragraph 1 serves as the thesis statement, for it conveys the controlling idea, which is comparing “the customs of marriage” in the East and the West. This idea clarifies the title by narrowing down the idea of marriage – customs of marriage. **(1 pt.)**
  2. The writer sees significant difference in the purposes of courtship in the two cultures. Young Westerners do not take courtship as a necessary step (prerequisite) to marriage; however, at times, they do. On the other hand, Easterners take it as a serious step to marriage. **(1 pt.)**
  3. The role of the bride in the East is passive and submissive. She receives instructions from her mother; she is an object of inspection and has nothing to do with decision making. Parents decide on her behalf. That’s why she is always dominated and has no right to choose. **(1 pt.)**
  4. The text is written from the writer’s point of view / first person. This is evident in the first sentence of Paragraph 2, “I’ve lived,” and in sentence one in Paragraph 3 “I have noticed ... .” This point of view / technique contributes to the credibility of the writer. The reader is sure to believe a writer who is familiar with the customs practiced in the East and West, for the writer is a native of the East and a citizen of the West. **(1 pt.)**
  5. Paragraph 2 points the purpose of courting, whereas Paragraph 3 elaborates on such purpose and shows how young people court. **(1 pt.)**
  6. The writer’s attitude is personal and informal. He seems that he is not at ease regarding the purpose of courtship in the West. Moreover, he sounds a bit sarcastic when he says that some take courting as a hobby. **(1 pt.)**

**B.**

Bride’s Mother	Groom’s Mother
1. helping her daughter prepare the dowry	1. visiting the home of the bride for inspection
2. providing instructions to her daughter on how to be a good wife and mother	2. sharing her son’s decision regarding marriage
3.	3. having support for her son during engagement period

**(2 pts.)**

- C.** – Pattern of organization : time order / chronological order  
– Signals : Then / During / The first / After that / Meanwhile

**(1 pt.)**

- D.** Paragraph 3, it : dating  
Paragraph 5, It : the act of the father giving his daughter to the groom at the wedding ceremony  
Paragraph 6, There : the East  
Paragraph 6, It : courtship

**(1 pt.)**

- E.** 1. abundance : wealth (P. 6)                      3. future : potential (P. 6)  
2. celebration : ceremony (P.6)                      4. cut : carved (P.7)

**(1 pt.)**