


المادة : اللغة الإنكليزية الشهادة : الثانوية العامة الفرع : آداب وإنسانيات نموذج : رقم ٢٠١٩/٦ المدة : ثلاث ساعات	الهيئة الأكاديمية المشتركة قسم : اللغة الإنكليزية وآدابها	 المركز التربوي للبحوث والإنماء
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Part One: Reading Comprehension

(Score: 42/70)

Read the selection below about the symbolic significance of forests and trees through the centuries and then answer the questions that follow.

Human Concepts in Ancient Societies

1 Trees and forests, probably because of their great size and sometimes longevity, vividly affected the imagination of preliterate societies. They were alive like human beings and animals, but they did not move from one place to another. Like mountains and stones they seemed immobile, but at the same time they could change and sway. Dense forests may have seemed mysterious. Even isolated trees, particularly in a dead barren spot, would have appeared miraculous if they had provided food for a starving wanderer.

2 Trees were seen and touched by the earliest humans. They were utilized for food, fuel, shelter, clothing, fences, lances and spears. They were also burned, cut or transformed into numerous objects. Their shadows provided cover, camouflage and hiding places for people. Over time, forests and individual species of trees have come to represent different concepts in the imaginations of populations living in various geographical locations. Legends, mythologies and cultures were influenced by whether trees were numerous or scarce in a given locality.

3 Trees symbolically represented supernatural and communicative powers. In prehistoric societies, trees struck by lightning and consumed in the resulting fire gave rise to the idea that there is a connection between heaven and earth. A lightning was considered a sign of an angry universe by some societies. Moreover, forests in their seasonal cycles of falling and growing leaves or new growth sprouting from the base of burnt or cut trunks induced people to see them as symbols of an endless and indestructible life force.

4 Also, trees have frequently held great spiritual significance for individuals, children and romantic people. Some societies made magical totems or sacred symbols out of them. Besides, to some societies, a particular tree was considered an inspiration for poets and artists.

5 Because of their human shape, trunk with branches like arms, fingers and bare-like skin, trees lend themselves to identification with the human form. They have frequently been given anthropomorphic or human-like characteristics. For instance, tall and resistant trees have frequently been identified with courageous or righteous humans. The great baobab tree, with its broad, strong protruding root system, holds magical and symbolic value for African indigenous people and it is a common meeting place and safe haven in traditional African societies. This symbolic connection with human form has nurtured the link with fertility symbols in some cultures.

6 The tree of life is a widespread motif in many myths and folktales around the world, by which cultures sought to understand the human conditions on earth. Many legends speak of a tree of life, which grows above the ground and symbolizes life on earth. It has often been linked with nourishing people's life with fruit and providing shelter for them. It is probably the most ancient human myth and is possibly a universal one.

7 The tree of life was often considered the center of the world that bound people and represented a vital connection between the world and humans. In some traditions, the tree was seen as the source of fertility and life. Thus, it was believed that human life was influenced by trees. For example, the tree's fruit was believed to confer an everlasting life. It was also thought that if the tree had been cut down, all fertility would have ceased. Moreover, the tree of life occurred commonly in romantic stories as a haven for characters.

8 However, the symbols used in language, folklore and culture serve as reminders of the rich relationship between human thought and the world of forests. Modern concerns about conserving the forests are perhaps a natural extension of the logic of ancient tree rites. Yesterday's sacred wood is today a biosphere reserve, a natural heritage site or a protected area. Pondering deeply about the symbolic realm can help explain the links between ancient value systems and modern practices.

Questions:

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

- 1- How does the writer introduce trees in paragraph 1? (Score: 03)
- 2- Based on paragraph 2, how have people's perceptions of trees changed over time? (Score: 03)
- 3- According to paragraphs 3 and 4, how can you describe people's perceptions of trees in prehistoric societies? Explain. (Score: 03)
- 4- Based on paragraphs 6 and 7, how is "tree of life" linked to human survival? (Score: 03)
- 5- What message does the writer imply in paragraph 8? (Score: 03)

B-

- 1- Identify one figure of speech in paragraph 5 and explain its function. (Score: 03)
- 2- What cohesive device does the writer use to link paragraphs 6 and 7? (Score: 03)
- 3- How are paragraphs 3 and 4 thematically related? Explain. (Score: 03)
- 4- What two types of audience, other than the general reader, might be interested in reading the selection? Explain the interest of each. (Score: 03)

C- The following statements are false because they misinterpret what is stated or implied in the selection above. Rewrite them correctly. (Score: 04)

- 1- The quality of trees in a certain location has shaped their legendary and cultural importance.
- 2- The ancient people interpreted trees destroyed by fire as an angry sign sent from heaven to people on Earth.

- D-** The reading selection has eight paragraphs (1→8). Each of the following extracts (A and B) is the correct part that completes ONE paragraph in the selection. Read extracts A and B carefully and then choose from paragraphs (1→8) the one that fits with each extract. **(Score: 04)**

Extract A - Trees and forests were thus seen as representing powerful unworldly forces.

Extract B - For instance, in many stories, the hero sought the tree and needed to overcome a variety of obstacles on his way.

- E-** Based on the indicated paragraphs, what does each underlined pronoun refer to? **(Score: 03)**

1- them (Paragraph 3)

2- them (Paragraph 4)

3- one (Paragraph 6)

- F-** Read the following sentences and then find, in the indicated paragraphs, ONE word that can best replace each of the underlined words or phrases. **(Score: 04)**

1- The story events took place in a fruitless, rocky valley where very few people live. (Paragraph 1)

2- The farmer used all the tools he had in order to plant fifty trees in his field. (Paragraph 2)

3- Because trees became very few in their village, they launched a reforestation project. (Paragraph 2)

4- Superstition is the dominant idea or theme in his writings. (Paragraph 6)

Part Two: Writing

(Score: 28/70)

Choose ONE of the following prompts:

Prompt (A): Read the following statement from an article about the significance of nature in human's world.

An ancient oriental wisdom says: "Live closer to nature, and nature's eternal laws will protect you." Ironically, man has not protected nature; his actions have damaged the purity and beauty of nature.


Write an essay in which you explain the above statement. As you develop your essay, refer to how important it is to protect nature and discuss the steps that make people aware of nature as an equal partner in ensuring environmental and human survival. In your essay, provide a thesis statement in the introduction, a topic sentence in each body paragraph and support the main idea with relevant, specific and adequate details. Give examples drawn from your reading, experience or observation. Your essay should be between 400-500 words with an appropriate title. Revise and proofread your essay.

Prompt (B): Read the following opinion from an article about global warming.

The decreasing of forest area is not the main cause of global warming. Coal fired power plants and automobiles all over the world emit huge amounts of greenhouse gases every day. The effective way to fight against global warming is to reduce emission of greenhouse gases by using and developing alternative energies and restricting the number of automobiles.

Write an argumentative essay in which you argue for or against the above statement. As you develop your essay, support your position by drawing on logical reasoning and experience. In your supporting paragraphs provide relevant, specific, and adequate evidence and examples from your reading, experience or observation. Your essay should be between 400-500 words with an appropriate title. Revise and proofread your essay.

Your essay will be evaluated based on content and organization of ideas (Score:12 ¼), language and style (Score: 12 ¼), tidiness and handwriting (Score:3 ½).

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أسس التصحيح:

A-

- 1- The writer introduces trees by showing how they have influenced human's imagination. Then, he compares them to humans and animals in their dynamism and vitality and to mountains and stones in their stillness and rigidity.
- 2- Many years ago, people considered trees the source that can serve people's needs like food and shelter as well as a source of energy and protection. Later on, people's perceptions changed and they started to view trees as representatives of concepts related to their folktales and culture.
- 3- In prehistoric societies, people were very superstitious and imaginary because they were totally dominated by supernatural beliefs. According to them, every incident in their daily life was attributed to a force beyond reasons or the laws of nature. They viewed lightening, cycle of seasons, or growth of plants as the result of an unworldly power and trees as magical symbols with a special spiritual role.
- 4- According to legends, myths and traditions, the "tree of life" represents the conditions that man needs in order to survive. In some legends, it was the symbol of life on earth because it provided people with food and shelter; in other myths, it was the world's center due to the power it had to bind people; and according to some traditions, it was a source of fertility, without which life could not continue.
- 5- The writer shifts from the sacred role trees played in ancient times to modern times where forests and trees are still significant but from a different perspective. The writer highlights today's role of trees: the storage or supply of the planet and human's natural heritage. This shift or contrast between the past and the present carries a message that we have to preserve forests due to the role they have played in human's life since the dawn of history.

B-

- 1- The writer uses a simile: "trunk with branches like arms, fingers and bare-like skin" in order to compare the shape of the trees to the human figure. The function of this simile is to explain why trees were given human or anthropomorphic characteristics.
- 2- The two paragraphs are linked through an indirect cohesive device which is the repetition of expressions such as "the tree of life", "the world", "human", "life" and "fruit".
- 3- The thematic relationship between paragraphs 3 and 4 is a relationship of addition. In paragraph 3, the writer explains the symbolic representation of trees. Then in paragraph 4, the writer

describes the spiritual and romantic significance of trees in addition to their inspirational role for poets and artists.

- 4- First, students/teachers of literature might be interested because the selection informs them about a theme/topic that dominated many literary products (legends, myths, folktales, etc.) for centuries. Second, naturalists / nature experts/ people who like nature might also be interested because the selection highlights the role trees and forests play in human's life.

C-

- 1- The quantity of trees in a certain location has shaped their legendary and cultural importance.
- 2- The ancient people interpreted trees hit by lightning as an angry sign sent from heaven to people on Earth.

D-

Extract A is the correct part that completes paragraph 3.
Extract B is the correct part that completes paragraph 7.

E-

- 1- "them" in paragraph 3 refers to forests.
- 2- "them" in paragraph 4 refers to trees.
- 3- "one" in paragraph 6 refers to myth.

F-

- 1- barren
- 2- utilized
- 3- scarce
- 4- motif