

الاسم:  
الرقم:

مسابقة في مادة اللغة الإنكليزية  
المدة: ساعتان ونصف

### Part One: Reading Comprehension

(Score: 12/20)

Read the following selection about the origin and significance of duty-free shops. When you are through with the reading, answer the questions that follow.

#### Duty Free

- 1 Providing shoppers with a chance to buy and transport goods across international boundaries without paying local and national taxes, duty-free shops are found in airports and other ports and stations around the world. Duty-free shops, an invention of the 20th century, mark a sharp departure from more than 2,000 years of nations' means of generating profits by taxing the trade in commodities and other goods.
- 2 The practice of imposing such taxes traces its origins to at least the ancient Greeks and Romans where duties were imposed on a wide variety of imports and exports. As leaders through the ages recognized that (it) was an easy and efficient way to collect profits, the custom remained popular even among the so-called barbarians who conquered the great early civilizations. By the Middle Ages, the feudal lords were still imposing taxes on the goods that were passing in and out of their lands; out of this tradition arose both toll gates and customs houses.
- 3 The word 'duty', meaning something due or owed, dates back to the end of the 13th century while the denotation of 'duty' as a tax was first recorded in the late 15th century. Besides, 'duty-free', as an adjective, goes back in time to the late 1600s, where it referred to a taxing authority that agreed to forego collecting its usual fee.
- 4 The idea of implementing the exemption of certain goods from import or export taxes as a matter of routine, however, is a relatively recent invention. It was born when an innovative Irish man, Brendan O'Regan, recognized that after World War II, the dramatic increase in international, civilian air travel could produce significant profits, specifically from tourism. Thus, he conceived the idea of placing tax-free shops in international airports.
- 5 In 1947, O'Regan convinced the Irish government to pass a law that considered the transit area of Shannon Airport, where he served as Catering Controller, technically 'not' a part of Ireland; therefore, any purchases made (there) would not be subject to taxation. Passed on March 18, 1947, the Customs-Free Airport Act made Shannon Airport the first duty-free port in the world.
- 6 Although initially Shannon Airport's sales were limited to Irish linen and other locally-produced goods, O'Regan and the company quickly realized that stocking other international goods and selling those duty-free as well would make goods fly off of the shelves. So popular was the practice that within a decade, 'duty-free' had also begun to be used as a noun to denote the goods purchased in the shop.
- 7 Other duty-free shops followed, including those established by the American company, Duty Free Shoppers in Hong Kong in 1960 and in Hawaii in 1962. Two years later, the first duty-free shop was founded in the United States (U.S.).
- 8 Taxes are not only imposed by an exporting country, but may also be charged when (you) enter a country as well. The U.S. imposes taxes on a wide variety of purchases, though there are exemptions, depending on the place where you purchase or receive the item, the time you spend there, your residency status, and the value of the goods.
- 9 For example, a U.S. resident who spends at least 48 hours abroad is usually able to bring back \$800 worth of goods without tax. With the next \$1,000 worth of goods, he will be taxed at a 3% rate; with anything more than that, he will be taxed according to a duty schedule. As for the U.S. resident who does not spend at least 48 hours in the foreign country, the base exemption amount reduces to only \$200.
- 10 Some commodities are not subject to duty, such as original paintings or antiques that are over 100 years old or that originate in countries eligible for a special trade program. If you buy products from such countries, you may automatically bring them into the U.S. duty-free. However, you should have proof of the goods' country of origin.
- 11 It is important to remember that the duty-free law only applies to goods purchased for personal use, not for resale. For example, gifts acquired abroad for your personal use or for someone else are included in the exemption list as long as (they) are not intended for business, promotional or other commercial

purposes. The taxes imposed on the latter, and any exemptions, will be governed by other laws, regulations and trade agreements such as the Generalize System of Preferences and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

**Questions**

- A. Answer each of the following questions in 1- 3 complete sentences using your own words.** (01)
1. Based on Paragraph 1, why are duty-free shops found in ports? (01)
  2. Based on Paragraphs 4 and 5, state two reasons that made Brendan O'Regan influential. (01)
  3. In reference to Paragraphs 8 and 9, explain how the U.S. resident benefits from tax exemption. (01)
  4. What conclusion about 'exemption of taxes' can be drawn from the last two paragraphs? (01)
- B. The following sentences are wrong because they misinterpret the meaning stated or conveyed by the selection above. Rewrite them correctly.** (01)
1. Duties and customs houses trace their origin to the great civilizations of Greeks and Romans.
  2. In 1947, Shannon Airport's shops exempted all purchases from taxes.
- C. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.**
1. What is the function of Paragraph 3? Justify your answer. (01)
  2. Identify two types of evidence the writer uses to achieve credibility. Support your answer with examples. (01)
  3. Identify two types of audience, other than the general reader, that might be interested in the reading selection above. State the interest each type finds in it. (01)
- D. The table below shows the average amount of money spent by tourists, from four top countries, on tax-free shopping in 2010. Read the table carefully, and then answer the question that follows.** (01)

<b>Average Amount Spent by Tourists on Tax-free Shopping in 2010</b>			
Nationality	Chinese	American	Russian
Amount Spent (in €)	718	467	368

*Source: Global Blue, a Switzerland-based shopping services provider*

**What can you deduce from the table?** Explain your answer in 4 to 5 complete sentences, using evidence.

- E. Based on contextual clues, infer the meaning of each word in the box below. Then fill in the blanks with the correct words to complete the sentences that follow. The words are underlined in the selection.** (02)

commodities (Par. 1)	denotation (Par. 3)	transit (Par. 5)	residency (Par. 8)	regulations (Par. 11)
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1. The city has a large \_\_\_\_\_ trade in grain, cattle, and horses from northern to southern areas.
2. The new travel \_\_\_\_\_ issued by the local government affected people negatively.
3. The aim of the project was to buy a certain amount of \_\_\_\_\_ at a low price from the farmers in some countries.
4. Some travelers are allowed to have \_\_\_\_\_ upon arrival to the U.S. without any restrictions.

- F. What does each of the following words, between brackets, refer to?** (01)
1. **it** (Paragraph 2)
  2. **there** (Paragraph 5)
  3. **you** (Paragraph 8)
  4. **they** (Paragraph 11)

**Part Two: Writing (Choose ONE of the two prompts below.) (Score: 8/20)**

**Prompt (A):** *Some people believe that the rich should pay more taxes, for those who earn more must pay more in order to help the poor who struggle in life. Others believe that rich people should not be taxed more because they have worked hard for their money, and anyone else has the same opportunity to do so. In a well-organized argumentative essay of 250-300 words, show with which point of view you stand. Make sure that your essay supports your position and refutes the opposite point of view.*

**Prompt (B):** *With increased tax incomes, the government can spend more money on important public services such as health and education. In a well-organized expository essay of 250-300 words, illustrate the statement above, focusing on the fact that spending the money collected from taxes on public services will result in many positive impacts such as improved medical care, increased educational standards, better environmental conditions, etc.*

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Content and organization of ideas (3.5), language and style (3.5), tidiness and legible handwriting (01)