

Lingua e Traduzione Inglese III

Corso di Laurea in Lingue e Culture Moderne

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Simulazione della verifica delle competenze linguistiche

La verifica delle competenze linguistiche del III anno comprende tre parti:

- Use of English (Keyword sentence transformation and open cloze)
- Translation (Italian-English) – monolingual dictionary allowed
- Short essay writing – monolingual dictionary allowed

Durata della prova: Use of English + translation 1h30' – essay writing 2h

Di seguito una simulazione della prova.

USE OF ENGLISH

SENTENCE TRASFORMATION: Complete the second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first sentence. You MUST use the word given and use between 2 and 5 words including the word given.

1. I want to see you next month.

INTERESTED

I _____ next month.

2. "Have you ever been to China, Lilly?" asked Maria.

BEEN

Maria asked Lilly _____ to China.

3. He was too tired to work anymore.

THAT

He was _____ he couldn't work anymore.

4. There's no point going to the market today.

WASTE

It's _____ going to the market today.

5. The doctor will only see you if you have an appointment.

NOT

The doctor _____ you have an appointment.

6. I'm sure it was Charlie I saw in town as I recognized his jacket.

MUST

It _____ Charlie I saw in town as I recognized his jacket.

7. In my opinion, you're the luckiest sailor alive.

CONCERNED

You're the luckiest sailor alive, as _____ .

8. They have a tendency to react badly when they are under pressure.

TO

They _____ badly when they are under pressure.

9. She paid half of what I paid.

TWICE

I paid _____ her.

10. They play so skillfully that nobody can beat them.

MUCH

They play with _____ that nobody can beat them.

_____/20

OPEN CLOZE: Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word

The pleasure of learning to play a musical instrument

As an activity, learning to play an instrument is something that can give a lot of pleasure. It's also an achievement and a skill (1) _____ stays with you for life. Music has a part to play in everyone's life, and has been described (2) _____ a 'primary language'.

Learning to play an instrument isn't easy at the beginning (3) _____ takes effort and determination. And while there's nothing wrong with aiming (4) _____ the top, music is definitely (5) _____ something to take up because you think you ought (6) _____ do it.

A lot of adults regret not (7) _____ learnt to play an instrument when they were younger. But it is never (8) _____ late to learn! And the advantages of learning an instrument are far greater than just the pleasure of producing a marvellous sound. When you've progressed far (9) _____, there are lots of amateur groups which you can join (10) _____ you want to be part of a larger group.

_____/10

TRANSLATION (ITALIAN-ENGLISH)

Translate the following passage into English

La spesa consapevole fa bene alla salute

Anche una pratica abituale come la spesa al supermercato può risultare fondamentale per la salute, infatti non vi è luogo più pericoloso ma nel contempo più salutare dell'ipermercato vicino a casa. La questione è non farsi trovare sprovveduti e capire ciò che si sta acquistando. Facendo la nostra spesa al supermercato dovremmo quindi sempre aver presente che stiamo acquistando prodotti destinati a essere introdotti nel nostro corpo e che questi prodotti possono far ammalare o risanare. Ecco quindi una piccola e non esaustiva guida per rendere più consapevole la nostra spesa al supermercato, per acquistare solo alimenti di cui effettivamente abbiamo necessità per la nostra quotidiana alimentazione e per stare lontano dai cibi non propriamente sani.

La prima cosa da sapere, per una spesa consapevole, è che gli ingredienti del prodotto che abbiamo scelto sono elencati in ordine di quantità, con i più presenti elencati per primi. Ma non sempre è così chiaro. Ad esempio gli zuccheri: la quantità di zuccheri presenti in un determinato alimento potrebbe infatti non essere chiara, alcuni produttori utilizzano il trucco di indicare diversi tipi di zucchero in modo che la quantità di zucchero non compaia tra le prime posizioni dell'elenco degli ingredienti. Questo è un vero e proprio inganno che sposta artificialmente lo zucchero più in basso nella lista e non informa, di fatto, sul contenuto reale di zuccheri presente nel prodotto. [...]

_____/30

ESSAY WRITING

Read the following text and gather ideas to write a short essay about a similar topic:

Smartphones changed our lives. Let's think before we invite the robots in

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the iPhone's debut, the start of a societal revolution that no one quite expected and a chance, perhaps, to reflect on the impact of the revolutionary technologies to come.

The device was first presented at the January 2007 Macworld conference by the late Steve Jobs, who described it as a "revolutionary mobile phone and a breakthrough Internet communications device." He wasn't exaggerating. Smartphones were already on the scene — email-capable BlackBerrys had emerged around 2003 — but the iPhone's consumer focus brought into the ordinary American's everyday life a level of connectivity previously expected only of high-level corporate executives.

Since Jobs's announcement and the iPhone's subsequent release a few months later, its rapid takeover of our everyday lives has been nothing short of astonishing. Roughly three-quarters of Americans now own a smartphone. We rely on these devices to navigate almost every aspect of our lives.

It's probably too late to peel ourselves away from our screens: Who, after all, wants to give up instantaneous contact, the Internet at our fingertips, a GPS in every pocket and self-portraits on demand? But it might be the right moment to pause, recognize just how quickly and thoroughly smartphones upended our ways of being, and consider whether a more intentional approach might be merited when the next "revolutionary" tool arrives.

After all, while we could have anticipated that the iPhone would transform our ability to communicate, we didn't consider its implications for our workforce and society at large. Smartphone-enabled technologies such as Uber have flattened industries and helped usher in a precarious new "gig economy" in which rates, hours and employment altogether are contingent on the whims of others. Constant connectivity has made leaving the office a thing of the past, to the point of normalizing a workweek of 72 hours or more. The easy accessibility of social media means that our president can casually spark an international crisis at any hour of the day or night.

No, we couldn't have prepared for all the eventualities, but it also seems as though we never thought to try. And today we're on the brink of making the same mistake with the next wave of technological change.

Artificial intelligence and machine learning are poised to take over not only deep computing but also many of the jobs that underpin our economy. The impending era of self-driving cars could make travel cheaper and safer but could also affect millions of jobs. Virtual reality is lauded as the next frontier — although what we'll do there is still anyone's guess. These are technologies whose use may be more unpredictable and more revolutionary than what, at its heart, is still a souped-up telecom device.

A year or two ago, having begun to recognize the havoc my iPhone wreaked on my own habits, I attempted to curtail my usage in various minor ways. No phones at shared meals, for instance, or aimless scrolling when in company. But it will be harder to walk back these impending innovations. A small amount of anti-smartphone sentiment still aligns with our social norms of politeness, of valuing mental focus and the time of others. But in a growth-obsessed economy that values cost savings and efficiency as the highest goods and celebrates innovation for innovation's sake, there's unlikely to be support for a "no robots on weekends" rule or for a regulation deeming that new forms of artificial intelligence be curtailed to leave space for human work.

I'm not a Luddite: I don't suggest that we go back in time, halt change or attempt to preserve in amber an economic structure that already suffers from myriad flaws. But we might consider pausing before our headlong embrace of the next exciting new things already bearing down on us. Have we anticipated the changes they might bring? And are there ways to mitigate the negative effects that might come with the next technological revolution?

While various analysts have begun to ring alarm bells about how automation-led job loss could create a massive underclass, neither government nor society seems ready to offer more than token solutions: "retraining," perhaps, or, from fringier advisers, a universal basic income to cushion the blow of lost income. There has been even less of the larger discussion, of defining what we value most as a society and how to preserve it.

We may have time to prepare for the future, but so far it seems that we've preferred to wait and see. Yet if the iPhone has taught us anything, it should be that change comes quickly. The Industrial Revolution spanned centuries and still left society reeling. The smartphone revolution took less than a decade. The next major shift? We should try to get ahead of the curve.

(Christine Emba, *The Washington Post*, 3 February 2017)

Now write an essay about the following topic. Use at least 350 words.

Describe how smartphones influence your life and your social relations. What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a society that relies more and more on information technology?