

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΘΝΙΚΗΣ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ
ΚΡΑΤΙΚΟ ΠΙΣΤΟΠΟΙΗΤΙΚΟ ΓΛΩΣΣΟΜΑΘΕΙΑΣ

Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs
English Language Certification

LEVEL

C1

on the scale set by the Council of Europe

MODULE

1

Reading comprehension and language awareness

Period

May 2008

ATTENTION

- Do not open this booklet until the exam begins.
- Mark your answers on Answer Sheet 1 [ΑΠΑΝΤΗΤΙΚΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1].
- Provide a single answer for each item.
- You have **80 minutes** to complete this part of the exam.

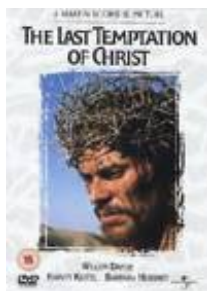
ACTIVITY 1

Read the text below and do steps 1-2.

Times Literary Supplement

Out of Crete

Roderick Beaton



Zorba the Greek and the *Last Temptation of Christ* are both better known as films, than the books they are based on. Even harder to identify, behind the opera *The Greek Passion* by Bohuslav Martinů that has played to full houses at

Covent Garden in recent seasons, is the novel that provided its libretto, its title translated in the UK as *Christ Recrucified*. In the game of 'name' recognition', Nicos Kazantzakis scores well below his most successful creations.

In the public imagination around the world, the name Zorba has become the symbol for an exuberant, lovable stereotype of the modern Greek. Every tourist in Greece, and Greco-philos the world over, will have been exposed to 'Zorba's dance', the syrtaki, that was actually invented for the 1965 film, and the accompanying music by Mikis Theodorakis. In Crete, where the story of Zorba is set, just about every second taverna is named after him. All over the globe, how many more Greek restaurants, bars, nightclubs, rely on the name 'Zorba' alongside ouzo, retsina, and the blue-and-white Greek flag, to promote what they have to offer?



In a more sombre way, the fuss that followed the release of the Scorsese film, *The Last Temptation of Christ*, particularly in the US, in 1988, turns out, in hindsight, to have been one of the first clashes in a battle that may yet prove to be the defining conflict of the early twenty-first century – between religious fundamentalists and secular 'Western' liberalism. Pressure by religious groups in America so intimidated the cinema chains that public screenings of the film were effectively banned – and that was almost twenty years ago.

Still, if his name is not exactly on everybody's lips, Kazantzakis has not done too badly for a writer who has been dead fifty years. In the UK, all seven of his novels that established his international reputation during the last ten years of his life are still in print, even if the publishers (Faber) seem neither to know nor to care that three of them were translated, back in the 1950s, without reference to the original Greek, and that the English versions contain translation errors that would not be acceptable in a translation published today.

After *Zorba the Greek* and *The Last Temptation*, next best known is *Christ Recrucified*, published in the US as *The Greek Passion*, whence the title of Martinů's opera. In this novel, a group of villagers in Anatolia, under Turkish rule, are preparing a re-enactment of the Passion when the arrival of refugees from a neighbouring village destroyed in a massacre raises the stakes to such a pitch that all the major figures end up playing their biblical roles for real.

Step 1: Read the text and choose the best answers (A, B, or C) for items 1-4.

1. This text
 - A. gives tourists to Crete background information.
 - B. introduces readers to Zorba the Greek.
 - C. makes an appraisal of Kazantzakis' work.
2. Another possible title for the text would be
 - A. Kazantzakis: fifty years later.
 - B. Re-reading *Zorba the Greek*.
 - C. Kazantzakis in the USA.
3. The text suggests that
 - A. cinema has made Kazantzakis' work better known.
 - B. Kazantzakis is more famous than his characters.
 - C. Kazantzakis was more famous fifty years ago.
4. Information such as this might also be found in
 - A. a history of Crete.
 - B. a travel guide to Crete.
 - C. a biography of Kazantzakis.

Step 2: Read the text again and choose the best answers (A, B, or C) for items 5-10.

5. The writer suggests that
 - A. the opera of *Christ Recrucified* is more famous than the book.
 - B. most people know the opera *The Greek Passion* because of the book.
 - C. the opera of *Christ Recrucified* has been made into a film.
6. According to the writer, the film of *Zorba the Greek*
 - A. made traditional Greek dances famous.
 - B. made Greek cuisine famous all over the world.
 - C. led to the promotion of aspects of Greek culture.
7. The themes of the film *The Last Temptation of Christ*
 - A. are still being discussed today.
 - B. are rarely inspiring nowadays.
 - C. led to fights in the streets.
8. How did religious groups in the USA influence the reaction to *The Last Temptation of Christ*?
 - A. They made people want to go and see the film.
 - B. They put people off going to see the film.
 - C. They discouraged cinemas from showing the film.
9. Why is the author unhappy about Kazantzakis' books in English?
 - A. They are different from the Greek originals.
 - B. The publishers do not promote them.
 - C. They contain English language mistakes.
10. The villagers in *The Greek Passion* end up
 - A. reliving the Biblical story in actuality.
 - B. performing a play for the refugees.
 - C. putting on a play against Turkish rule.

ACTIVITY 2

Step 1: Read the information in the tourist brochure and match the meaning of each underlined word (11-17) with options A-H below. There is one option you do not need.

A.	picturesque	B.	breathtaking	C.	rough	D.	serene
E.	dense	F.	well-preserved	G.	exceptional	H.	very expensive

County Antrim

Original Official Site of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board

The Antrim Coast, Northern Ireland

Some of the world's most spectacular and (11) unspoilt scenery is to be found in the county of Antrim. From the (12) rugged cliffs of the coast to the magical beauty of the valleys, here is the best of what Northern Ireland has to offer. There's nothing else quite like it!

Coastal Highlights

Much of the Antrim Coast is an area of (13) outstanding natural beauty. A beautiful seascape, huge cliffs, white sandy beaches, (14) tranquil valleys and (15) lush forest parks all unfold as you make your way northwards on the Antrim Coast Road. From Larne to Bally castle, this is one of the most (16) scenic routes in Europe.

You'll be constantly delighted as you travel round each bend in the road and pretty fishing villages or (17) dramatic headlands come into view.

DISCOVER NORTHERN IRELAND
Click on the links below

- [A. Accommodation](#)
- [B. Legends](#)
- [C. History](#)
- [D. The Villages](#)
- [E. Forest and Valley](#)
- [F. Flavour of Ireland](#)

Saint Patrick
Patron of Ireland

Step 2: Statements 18-20 come from the links on the right side of the webpage for N. Ireland (options A-F). Match each statement with the right option. There are three options you do not need.

18.	There is really only one spirit of Ireland: Whiskey. Here you will find the original taste of true Irish whiskey.	
19.	Finn McCool is a semi-fictional character. In fact, there are two Finn McCools –the one who built the Giant's Causeway and the one who was leader of a mythical band of warriors.	
20.	The links between Antrim Coast and North America have been important since the 18 th century when wholesale emigration to the New World began.	

ACTIVITY 3

Read the following extracts (21-27) and decide in which publication they might appear. Use each of the options below (A-H) only once. There is one option you do not need.

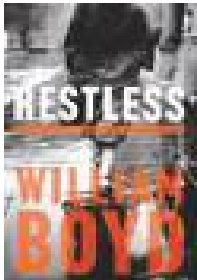
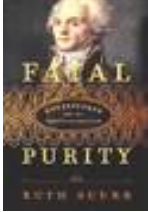
A.	A book of quotations	B.	Small ads section of a newspaper
C.	A horoscope	D.	An autobiography
E.	An official United Nations document	F.	A manual for electrical equipment
G.	An encyclopaedia	H.	Stage directions

21.	At the beginning of the 19 th century, the Balkan peninsula was ruled entirely from Constantinople, the centre of a multi-racial empire.	
22.	'There is a continuous cold war between me and my clothes'. Malcolm Lowry.	
23.	Article 5. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.	
24.	The wall, right, is almost entirely taken up by a pair of doors which open into another room. Upstage, left, a small door leads to a bedchamber.	
25.	Short term Volunteer Work overseas on development projects India, Nepal, Sri Lanka See www.HelpCamps or call Mario on 0210 8291 6181	
26.	Warning This appliance must be earthed.	
27.	With the Moon in the relationship sign of Libra, romance can flourish on Friday and Saturday. A spirit of adventure grows as loving Venus enters excitable Aries on April 5 th .	

ACTIVITY 4

Choose the option (A-H) that best accompanies each of the words in bold (28-34) in the text. There is one option you do not need.

A.	death	B.	secret	C.	elusive	D.	plain
E.	latest	F.	recently	G.	vivid	H.	valuable

New Books	
<p>Restless by William Boyd</p>  <p>Boyd's (28) _____ novel begins when Sally, a (29) _____ widowed housewife, hands her memoirs to her daughter. They describe Sally's true history as a Russian emigré in Paris and her (30) _____ career as a spy.</p> <p>Boyd paints a (31) _____ picture of the spy world during the Second World War. He focuses on the details of everyday gestures but this gripping thriller becomes a subtle study of identity.</p>	<p>Fatal Purity by Ruth Scarr</p>  <p>Robespierre was just a (32) _____ lawyer from the provinces, strongly opposed to the (33) _____ penalty and yet somehow he became one of the bloodiest figures of the French Revolution. Ruth Scarr makes a persuasive attempt at revising his reputation, but this task is not always easy given Robespierre's (34) _____ personality and his lack of personal attachments, but nevertheless this is an absorbing account of the <i>Reign of Terror</i>.</p>

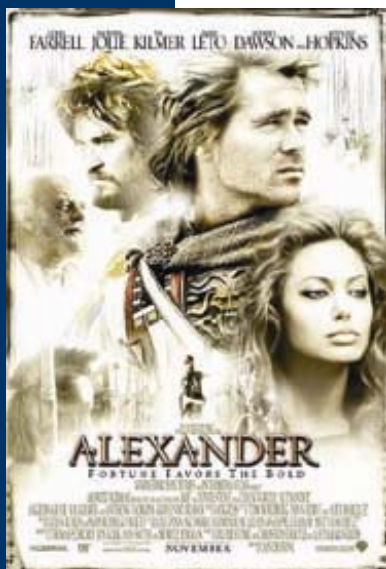
ACTIVITY 5

Step 1: Read the opening part of a review of Oliver Stone's film, *Alexander*, and choose the best answers (A, B, or C) for items 35-38.

35. This text suggests that the reviewer will focus on
- A. the development of the plot.
 - B. the importance of the main character.
 - C. the part played by Anthony Hopkins.
36. The tone of this text is, on the whole,
- A. positive.
 - B. neutral.
 - C. negative.
37. According to the film reviewer, the technique of narration should have been
- A. used only for battle scenes.
 - B. avoided altogether.
 - C. used less frequently.
38. Farrell's interpretation of Alexander is
- A. complex.
 - B. inconsistent.
 - C. exciting.

Oliver Stone's *Alexander*

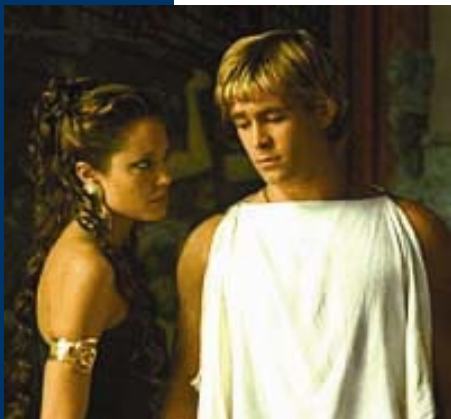
Alexander invites easy criticism about hair dye and accents (Angelina Jolie as Alexander's mother, Olympias, sounded Russian to me) but its storytelling problems are much more serious.



The story is narrated in flashback by Ptolemy (Anthony Hopkins) and his memories, except for two scenes at the beginning and the end, monopolise the narrative. When, for example, there are plots against Alexander they aren't really dramatised. For example, instead of our seeing conspirators whispering in corners, Hopkins' voice simply states that it was so. As a result, there is none of the intrigue that is fundamental to many classical epics, notably the BBC's 1976 series *I Claudius* (which is indirectly referred in the casting of Brian Blessed in a cameo role). There's no dramatic depth in *Alexander*, no subplots to give depth to the account of Alexander the Great's creation of a vast empire. Inevitably, then, much depends on Colin Farrell in the lead role. But Farrell's performance is very erratic, veering between exaggerated expressions of emotion (various howls and screeches of rage, grief or lust) and soft-spoken thoughtfulness, as when he rallies his troops

before the decisive battle of Gaugamela at which his Macedonian soldiers defeat Persia's massed armies.

Step 2: Read the rest of the text, and choose the best answers (A, B, or C) for items 39-44 below.



It's hard not to compare Farrell unfavourably to actors from a previous generation of comparable roles – Kirk Douglas in *Spartacus* (1960), for instance, or Charlton Heston in *El Cid* (1961) – but, to be fair, Stone's *Alexander* is as much an intellectual as a warrior, a compassionate proto-democrat who criticises his commanders for their contempt for 'a world older than ours'. This is a post-millennial idea of masculinity: Alexander seems to be an anti-macho, existentialist epic, an epic which undermines its own premises of heroism.

There are only two major battles in the film. The first is Gaugamela: panoramic shots of the digitally enhanced opposing armies moving across the desert field alternate with tightly framed shots of furious violence. The second takes place in an Indian jungle as Alexander's troops are defeated by a force headed by armoured elephants: slow motion, red filters and one strange pictorial shot of Alexander rearing Napoleonically on his horse in front of an elephant all feature. Overall the sense is of a muddled style, but there's real cinematic intelligence at work here which is underlined by one sequence (the murder of Alexander's father Philip II, played gruffly by Val Kilmer).

The battles, however, are outnumbered by scenes of feasting. These scenes emphasise, at the risk of kitsch, exotic locations clothing and decor. If the battles are influenced by Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* films, the party scenes resemble Fellini's films. *Alexander* is often unintentionally hilarious and it fails as narrative entertainment but it's an interesting failure.

39. Farrell's *Alexander*

- A. is not as good as previous heroes.
- B. is difficult to compare with previous heroes.
- C. is similar to previous heroes.

40. How does the film present the idea of the heroic?

- A. It is a traditional epic view.
- B. It is a typical masculine view.
- C. It is a novel, modern view.

41. The battle scenes in the film are

- A. very few.
- B. simplistic.
- C. unnecessary.

42. How does the reviewer feel about the scene of Philips's murder?

- A. It shows that Stone is a good director.
- B. It is copied from an older film.
- C. The director gives it special emphasis.

43. The feasting scenes are
 A. better than the battle scenes.
 B. very amusing.
 C. set in unusual places.
44. Which statement reflects best the reviewer's final judgement on the film?
 A. It fails to capture our interest.
 B. It is worth seeing, in spite of its faults.
 C. It is good light entertainment.

Step 3: Decide which of the options (A, B, or C) best explains the meaning of the underlined word or expression in items 45-50 below.

45. Alexander's father, Philip II, is played gruffly by Val Kilmer.
 A. brusquely B. nicely C. softly
46. There are plots against Alexander.
 A. conspiracies B. stories C. rumours
47. ... *I Claudius*, which is indirectly referred to in the casting of Brian Blessed.
 A. echoed B. briefly mentioned C. clearly imitated
48. The first is Gaugamela: panoramic shots of the digitally enhanced opposing armies.
 A. produced B. filmed C. made better
49. One strange pictorial shot of Alexander.
 A. episode B. attack C. image
50. *Alexander* is often unintentionally hilarious.
 A. witty B. very funny C. bizarre

Step 4: Fill the gaps in Column B with a word or words which have a similar meaning to the words with a strikethrough in statements 51-55 in Column A, as in the example.

COLUMN A		COLUMN B
0.	There is none of the intrigue that is fundamental to many classical epics.	<u>It has</u> none of the intrigue that is fundamental to many classical epics.
51.	Its storytelling problems are much more serious.	are much more serious problems with the storytelling.
52.	It's hard not to compare Farrell unfavourably to earlier actors.	One can't compare comparing Farrell unfavourably to earlier actors.
53.	The battles, however, are outnumbered by scenes of feasting.	There are, however, are of feasting than scenes of battle.
54.	Overall , the sense is of a muddled style.	On Overall , the sense is of a muddled style.
55.	The story is narrated in flashback, except for two scenes at the beginning and the end.	except for two scenes at the beginning and the end of the film, the story is narrated in flashback.

ACTIVITY 6**TURNING HEADLINES INTO COMPLETE REPORTED NEWS**

Fill in the gaps in Column B statements with the appropriate words, replacing the underlined word(s) of the headlines (items 55-60) in Column A, as in the example.

Column A: News Headline		Column B: Reported News
0.	DEAL <u>AGREED</u> ON EU CHARTER	EU leaders have reached <u>an agreement</u> on a new European constitution in Brussels yesterday.
56.	BRITAIN <u>ACCUSED</u> OF MAKING SECRET PAYMENTS TO SAUDI ROYAL	The British government faces [] of secretly paying 1 billion pounds to Prince Bandar of Saudi Arabia.
57.	UNDERWORLD GANGS <u>ACCUSED</u> OF FIXING RESULTS IN RIO	The police [] [] underworld gangs for fixing the results of the Rio de Janeiro's Carnival parade.
58.	CHENEY ADVISOR GIVEN TWO-YEAR JAIL <u>SENTENCE</u> FOR PERJURY	Lewis Libby, who was national security advisor to Vice-President Cheney, was [] to two years in jail for perjury.
59.	GREECE TO <u>TAKE PART</u> IN GAS PIPELINE PROJECT	Greece has just signed an agreement and is supposed to [] in the construction of a natural gas pipeline linking Russia with 'customers' in Europe.
60.	POLICE <u>ARREST</u> TWO MEN FOR POSSESSING DOZENS OF ANTIQUITIES	Two men [] [] by police yesterday for possessing dozens of antiquities.

ΣΑΣ ΥΠΕΝΘΥΜΙΖΟΥΜΕ ΟΤΙ ΠΡΕΠΕΙ ΝΑ ΜΕΤΑΦΕΡΕΤΕ ΟΛΕΣ ΤΙΣ ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΕΙΣ ΣΤΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1

ΤΕΛΟΣ ΜΗΝΥΜΑΤΟΣ