

EXERCISE A:

Read the following passage carefully, then circle the right answer:

Fugu is a fish caught off the Pacific shores of Japan. Being a rare species, fugu can only be found at certain spots known only to a few expert fishermen. The fish has held a special significance for me ever since my mother died through eating one. The poison resides in the sexual glands of the fish, inside two fragile bags. When preparing the fish, these bags must be removed with caution, for any clumsiness will result in the poison leaking into the veins. Regrettably, it is not easy to tell whether or not this operation has been carried out successfully. The proof is, as it were, in the eating.

Fugu poisoning is hideously painful. If the fish has been eaten during the evening, the victim is usually overtaken by pain during his sleep. He rolls about in agony for a few hours and is dead by morning.

At the time of my mother's death, I was living in California. My relationship with my parents had become somewhat strained around that period, and I always felt my parents had never come to terms with my decision to leave Japan. It came as no surprise then to learn of the death of my mother and of the circumstances surrounding it only when I returned to Tokyo two years later. Apparently, my mother had always refused to eat fugu, but on this particular occasion she had made an exception, having been invited by an old school friend whom she was anxious not to offend. It was my father who supplied me with the details as we drove from the airport to his house in the Kamakura district.

'You must be hungry,' he said. 'We'll eat as soon as Kikuko arrives.'

My father was a formidable-looking man with a large stony jaw and furious black eyebrows. His general presence was quite forbidding, and things were not helped much by his odd way of stating each remark as if it were the concluding one. Far from being lively, our conversation since my arrival at the airport had inevitably been punctuated by long pauses.

'I'm glad in any case that you've decided to come back,' my father said. 'More than a short visit, I hope.'

'I'm not sure what my plans will be.'

Just then a girl's voice came echoing through the house.

"At last" My father rose to his feet. 'Kikuko has arrived.'

Despite our difference in years, my sister and I had always been close. Seeing me again seemed to make her excessively excited. But she calmed down somewhat when my father started to question her about Osaka and her university. She answered him with short formal replies. She in turn asked me a few questions, but she seemed inhibited by the fear that her questions might lead to awkward topics. Then my father stood up, saying: 'I must attend to the supper.'

My sister relaxed quite visibly once he had left the room. Within a few minutes, she was chatting freely about her friends in Osaka and about her classes at university.

'Guess what? I've got a boyfriend now.'

'Oh yes?'

'Except I'm wondering what to do. You see, he's making plans to go to America.'

'I see. And you want to go to America?'

'If we go, we're going to hitch-hike. I had a go at it in Osaka. I guess I'm not sure I want to leave all my things and friends behind just yet. And Suichi – well . . . I dread the idea of being tied to him for a month in America.'

Then, quite suddenly, she turned towards me.

'Mother never held any harsh feelings against you, really,' she said, in a new voice. 'She bore no grudge against you. She always used to say to me she only had herself to blame. Father would always beg to differ, though. He seemed to show no interest in you after you left. But she used to tell me how much more careful they'd been with me, and that's why I was so good. Poor Mother'.

'Yes, poor Mother.' Adapted from "A Family Supper", by Kazuo Ishiguro (680 words)

EXERCISE A:

- 1) According to the narrator, the only way to know if fugu has been properly prepared is
 - a) by removing its sexual glands carefully.
 - b) by simply eating it.
 - c) by buying it from certain expert fishermen.
 - d) by removing the poison with caution.
- 2) Why wasn't the narrator told about the death of his mother immediately?
 - a) He was living in California.
 - b) A school friend of her mother's had taken offence.
 - c) The narrator and his parents did not get on well.
 - d) His father refused to tell him about it.
- 3) According to the narrator, his conversation with his father . . .
 - a) flowed naturally despite the years gone by.
 - b) showed great bitterness and resentment.
 - c) was not very friendly or relaxed.
 - d) was lively and interesting.
- 4) How did Kikuko seem to feel in the presence of her father?
 - a) Tense.
 - b) Relaxed.
 - c) Upset.
 - d) Resentful.
- 5) What does Kikuko tell the narrator about their mother?
 - a) She never forgave him for leaving Japan.
 - b) She admitted that she had done something wrong.
 - c) She agreed with their father about the reasons why the narrator left.
 - d) She remained indifferent to the narrator's departure from Japan.

EXERCISE B:

Choose ONE of the following and write between 250 and 300 words on it:

- A) A popular magazine has invited readers to send in articles for their series "Wine and Dine". Readers are invited to write an **ARTICLE** entitled: "One can learn a lot about a foreign culture by tasting its food." Write your article.
- B) Imagine you went to an exotic restaurant near your home last week and you got food-poisoned. Apart from that, you were annoyed by other aspects of the restaurant. Write a letter of complaint to the manager of the restaurant, expressing your dissatisfaction with the following:
- a) The quality of the food.
 - b) The waiters and the service.
 - c) The lack of supervision.
 - d) The lack of hygiene in the restaurant.
 - e) The expensive prices of the dishes.

Write your **LETTER. Of COMPLAINT** in the appropriate style.

- C) A school magazine is organizing a special writing contest. Readers are invited to submit stories starting with the following sentence: "I entered the restaurant where my friends and I had agreed to meet, looking forward to a pleasant and exotic meal." Write your **STORY**.

For examiner's use: _____/

EXERCISE C

Read the text below and decide which answer A, B, OR C best fits each space:

The Decline of Neatness

Anyone with a passion for hanging labels on people or things (1)....have little difficulty (2)....that a good tag for our time is the *unkempt generation*. I am not referring only to college kids. The untidiness virus (3).... to all sectors of American society. People (4).... all sorts of trouble and expense to look uncombed, unshaved, unpressed.

The symbol of the times is blue jeans- not just blue jeans in good conditions but jeans that are frayed, (5).... , discoloured. They don't get that way naturally. No one wants blue jeans that are clean or new. Manufacturers recognise a big market when they see it, and they compete with (6).... to offer jeans that are made to look (7).... they've just been thrown away by clumsy house painters after ten years of wear. The more faded and apparently old the clothes, (8).... the cost. Dishevelled is in fashion; neatness is obsolete.

The present generation has worked (9).... than previous ones to show (10).... a casual, relaxed, fashionable look. The attempt to avoid (11).... has a quality of desperation about it. We put aside conventionality, but we put on a uniform to do it.

American vocabulary, like blue jeans, is also being emptied of colour and distinction. A complete sentence in everyday speech is as rare as a man's tie in the very fashionable Polo Lounge of the Beverly Hills Hotel. People communicate in chopped-up phrases (12).... "hmmms" and chants of "you know" or "I mean" to cover up a damnable incoherence. Neatness should be (13).... in language than it is in dress. The English language is one of the greatest sources of wealth in the world. (14)...., in the midst of accessible riches, Americans are linguistic paupers.

(1) A- might	B- should	C- could
(2) A- in recognising	B- to recognise	C- at recognition
(3) A- spread	B- is spreading	C- has spread
(4) A- get into	B- go to	C- take
(5) A- tear	B- tore	C- torn
(6) A- each other	B- others	C- one another
(7) A- as though	B- like	C- even though
(8) A- higher	B- the higher	C- the highest
(9) A- much harder	B- hardly	C- less hard

(10) A- a tendency to	B- a liking for	C- a knack for
(11) A- to be neat	B- being neat	C- be neat
(12) A- appealing to	B- resorting to	C- relying on
(13) A- no less important	B- no more important	C- not as important
(14) A- In fact	B- Thus	C- Yet

For examiner's use:

EXERCISE D:

a. Rewrite each sentence, beginning as shown, so that its meaning stays the same.

1. I would have preferred to go to the movies rather than to the theatre.

I'd rather _____

2. If they had warned him about the danger, he would have asked for help.

Had he _____

3. Tristan had no sooner got on the plane than he realized he had left his credit card at home.

Hardly _____

4. I was so astonished that I could barely utter a word.

Such _____

b. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given in bold type. Do not change the word given.

1. He lies to her. I think that's intolerable

I find _____ (IT)

2. It is believed that there are more than one million sufferers of the disease.

There _____ (BE)

3. They never made us do anything we did not consider appropriate.

We were never _____ (DO)

4. It is possible that the car was stolen in broad daylight

The car _____ (LIKELY)