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Academic year: 2011 / 2012
Level: 1st Year Baccalaureate
Test N° 2

Name: .....
Class: .....
Final Mark ...../ 40

A bobbin-boy who became a millionaire

Here are parts from the first chapter of the Gospel of Wealth, an autobiography written by Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919), a self-made American millionaire.

The first serious lesson of my life came to me one day when my father had taken in the last of his work to the merchant, and returned to our little home greatly distressed because there was no more work for **him** to do. I was then just about ten years of age, but the lesson burnt into my heart, and I resolved then that the wolf of poverty should be driven from our door some day, if I could do it.

The question of selling the old looms and emigrating to the United States came up in the family council, and I heard it discussed day in day out. We finally resolved to join relatives already in Pittsburgh.

On arriving in Allegheny City, (there were four of us: father, mother, my younger brother and myself), my father entered a cotton factory. I soon followed and served as a "bobbin-boy", and this is how I began my preparation for subsequent apprenticeship as a businessman. I received one dollar and twenty cents a week, and was then just about twelve years old.

I cannot tell how proud I was when I received my first week's earnings, one dollar and twenty cents made by myself and given to me because I had been of some use in the world! No longer entirely dependent upon my parents, but at last admitted to the family partnership as a contributing member and able to help **them**! I think this makes a man out of a boy sooner than almost anything else and a real man, too. It is everything to feel that you are useful.

I have had to deal with great sums. Many millions of dollars have since passed through my hands. But the genuine satisfaction I had from that one dollar and twenty cents outweighs my subsequent pleasure in money getting. It was the direct reward of honest, manual labor; it represented a week of very hard work.

For a lad of twelve to rise and breakfast every morning, except the blessed Sunday morning, and go into the street and find his way to the factory and begin to work while it was still dark outside, and not be released until after darkness, forty minutes only being allowed at noon, was a terrible task.

But I was young and had my dreams and something within always told me that this would not, could not and should not last. I should someday get into a better position. Besides this, I felt myself no longer a mere boy, but quite a little man, and this made me happy.

A change soon came, for a kid Scotsman, who knew some of our relatives, made bobbins, and took me into his factory before I was thirteen. Every member of the family was working hard, except, of course, my little brother who was then a child, and we were telling each other only all the bright things.

There was no servant in our family, and several dollars per week were earned by my mother by binding shoes after her daily work was done! Father was also hard at work in the factory. And could I complain?

My kind employer, John Hay, needed someone to make out bills and keep his accounts, and finding that I could write and read, **he** made me his only clerk, But still I had to work upstairs in the factory, for the clerking took but little time.

I COMPREHENSION (20 POINTS) (BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT)

A. *Answer the following questions:* *(4PTS)*

1. What does Carnegie compare poverty to? .....
2. Did the family decide to emigrate very quickly? .....
3. Why did Carnegie feel proud when he got his first salary? .....
4. Why couldn't be complain? .....

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B. ***Find in the text a phrase which shows that:*** ***(4PTS)***

1. Carnegie was determined to become rich .....
2. Carnegie succeeded in becoming rich : .....
3. His job was not easy: .....
4. He didn't work as a bobbin-boy for very long: .....

C. ***Which of the following had the strongest effect on Carnegie?*** ***(2PTS)***

1. His father becoming jobless
2. His father's salary.
3. His employer, John Hay.
4. The millions of dollars he made.

D. ***What do the underlined in the text refer to?*** ***(3PTS)***

1. him: .....
2. them: .....
3. he: .....

E. ***Fill in the gaps with the correct word from the list:*** ***(3PTS)***

ban – fits – matches – make – censor – speak – germs

1. Do you think that this jacket _____ these black trousers?
2. They wanted to _____ that song from the radio, but they couldn't.
3. I can't _____ up my mind which film to watch. Can you help me decide?

F. ***Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Use the given words and write between two and five words:*** ***(4PTS)***

1. I was embarrassed when I fell over on the catwalk. ***(Beetroot)***

   I went ..... when I fell over on the catwalk.

2. Did the police find the thief with the museum exhibits in his hands? ***(red)***

   Did they .....?

3. Karim can't wait to go to the concert on Saturday evening. ***(forward)***

   Karim is really ..... to going to the concert on Saturday evening.

4. The students don't understand the details of the story because it's too complicated. ***(ins)***

   The students don't understand the ..... of the story because it's too complicated.

III LANGUAGE (10 POINTS)

A. ***Use the words in capitals at the end of each sentence to make words which fit in the spaces.*** ***(4PTS)***

1. Sydney is always full of ..... in the summer. **TOUR**
2. There is a ..... view of the cliffs from the top of this hill. **BREATH**
3. The Sydney Opera House looks very ..... at night. **SPECTACLE**
4. We love this place and find the local .....very friendly. **INHABIT**

B. Put the verbs between brackets in the correct tense. ***(6PTS)***

Joanne Kathleen Rowling **1**.....**(Grow up)** in chipping, England, but now she **2**.....**(Live)** in Edinburgh, Scotland. She used to be an English teacher, she **3**.....**(Become)** famous when she **4**.....**(Publish)** *Harry Potter* and *the Philosopher's stone in 1997.* Rowling **5**.....**(Write)** most of this book in a café, while her baby daughter **6**.....**(sleep)** beside her. Since this book **7**.....**(Come)** out Rowling **8**.....**(Work)** on the rest of books in the Harry Potter series. They **9**.....**(Be)** now available in more than forty languages and they **10**.....**(Win)** several awards. Rowling **11**..... **(Travel)** a lot, too, and she **12**.....**(Read)** her books to children in bookshops in Britain and the USA.

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IV WRITING (10 POINTS):

Write three paragraphs essay about the disadvantages of population growth (80-100)

Happy New Year (^_^)

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