

ENGLISH A2 – HIGHER LEVEL – PAPER 1
ANGLAIS A2 – NIVEAU SUPÉRIEUR – ÉPREUVE 1
INGLÉS A2 – NIVEL SUPERIOR – PRUEBA 1

Wednesday 12 November 2003 (afternoon)

Mercredi 12 novembre 2003 (après-midi)

Miércoles 12 noviembre 2003 (tarde)

2 hours / 2 heures / 2 horas

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Section A consists of two passages for comparative commentary.
- Section B consists of two passages for comparative commentary.
- Choose either Section A or Section B. Write one comparative commentary.

INSTRUCTIONS DESTINÉES AUX CANDIDATS

- Ne pas ouvrir cette épreuve avant d'y être autorisé.
- La section A comporte deux passages à commenter.
- La section B comporte deux passages à commenter.
- Choisissez soit la section A soit la section B. Écrire un commentaire comparatif.

INSTRUCCIONES PARA LOS ALUMNOS

- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- En la Sección A hay dos fragmentos para comentar.
- En la Sección B hay dos fragmentos para comentar.
- Elija la Sección A o la Sección B. Escriba un comentario comparativo.

Choose either Section A or Section B

SECTION A

Analyse and compare the following texts.

Discuss the similarities and differences between the texts and their theme(s). Include comments on the ways the authors use elements such as structure, tone, images and other stylistic devices to communicate their purposes.

Text 1 (a)

World Cup

- It is, after all, a kind
Of music, an elaborating of themes
That swell and subside, which
In the converting of open spaces
5 Take on a clean edge.
A throw, a chip,
A flick, Wilson to Charlton,
To Moore, to Hunt, to Greaves –
The diagonals cross, green space is charmed.
- 10 A precise moment, balletic in ordained
Agility, with the players as if magnetised
Moving into places seemingly allotted them
– They seem from above to be pushed like counters
And only the fluffed¹ pass, the momentary
- 15 Crudity disconcerting as a clerical oath,
Destroys the illusion. A goal restores it.
- Arms raised like gladiators, they embrace.
Human emotions swamp them, childish even
For such protagonists of perfection.
- 20 – And involved in this mixture
Of the fallible² and the dreamy,
The percussive³ and the lilting, they demonstrate
How art exists on many levels, spirit
And matter close-knit as strangling lianas⁴.

Alan Ross, from *Green Fading into Blue, Writings on Cricket and Other Sports* (1999)

¹ fluffed: miskicked/unsuccessful

² fallible: capable of making mistakes

³ percussive: the physical striking of one body against another

⁴ lianas: climbing and twining plants

Text 1 (b)

World Cup

The biggest sporting event in the world, the World Cup, came to American soil for the first time in 1994. It provided an unprecedented showcase, not only to re-introduce soccer to the American audience, but also to present the United States to the rest of the soccer world as a serious soccer nation. Although a lot of hype was unavoidable, much of it was
5 justified as the organizers defied worldwide skepticism and put on an event, which exceeded all expectations, on the field, at the gates and on the screen. Claims of this being the best World Cup ever were farfetched, but the competition was a very good one indeed, despite a disappointing scoreless final, which went into penalty kicks. From an organizational viewpoint, the claims were more realistic.

10 The competition attracted an unprecedented 3,600,000 spectators at a record 67,000 per game and the completion went smoothly with none of the hooliganism or violence expected by the American critics. More importantly, the United States team did not embarrass itself. In fact it performed much better than expected, making it through a tough first round pool, and holding Brazil to a scoreless tie through most of their second round
15 game.

The competition for the Americans began with a grueling 1 – 1 draw with Switzerland on June 18, 1994. The tie was accomplished by a spectacular free kick by Eric Wynalda in the 45th minute. The US held on through a relentless attack by the Swiss to take the draw. Loss at this point would have been disastrous for the US.

20 The game against Brazil, on July 4, 1994 was the match that caught the nation's attention. A victory against Brazil, who had easily defeated the US in every previous game, would have been unprecedented. The game was anticipated with excitement that riveted the nation.

The best the US could hope for was to hold the game scoreless and hope for luck in a
25 round of penalty kicks. They nearly got their wish, as the US held the game scoreless well into the second half. Although the Americans had a one man advantage due to Leonardo's red card, they were hopelessly overmatched by the Brazilian strikers, and in the 67th minute, a blazing Romario run up the middle drew the defense out of position, and he shot the ball to Bebeto on the right, who shot it right through an opening at the far post. The US
30 run was ended, but it had been more successful than expected, and gave the Americans much to cheer about.

Adapted from *The Year in American Soccer 1994*, www.megasoccer.com

SECTION B

Analyse and compare the following texts.

Discuss the similarities and differences between the texts and their theme(s). Include comments on the ways the authors use elements such as structure, tone, images and other stylistic devices to communicate their purposes.

Text 2 (a)

But one closely related family are dedicated hunters and seldom eat anything but flesh. They are the most specialized of all mammalian hunters. They have short snouts and high-domed skulls, which provide attachments for massive jaw muscles. And they have the sharpest teeth and the longest canines. They are the cats.

5 The majority of cat species are solitary hunters living in dense forest. Most have mottled variegated coats that provide them with superb camouflage. There is usually considerable variation in coat pattern between individuals, so that it is easy to recognize particular animals. Overall colouring also varies greatly.

10 Most cats hunt at night. In daylight, their eyesight is as good as ours. At night it is about six times better. They owe this heightened sensitivity to a membrane that many nocturnal mammals belonging to quite different groups have evolved independently. It lies behind the retina of the eye and reflects light that has passed through the retina back on to it. It is a reflection from this layer, the tapetum, that shines back at us if our torches find the eyes of a cat out hunting at night.

15 Tigers were once found in most parts of Asia. They were so widespread, living in rain forests, marshlands and dry scrub country, that they developed into separate regional populations sufficiently distinct in size and coat patterns to be classified as subspecies. Many of these, however, are now extinct. Two subspecies, one in Java and one in Bali, have both disappeared and the one that lives in Sumatra and southern China is now
20 extremely rare. The Caspian tiger that was once found from Afghanistan to Turkey has also been exterminated. Even in India, the tiger's range has been greatly reduced. But the biggest subspecies of all still survives – just. It lives far beyond the Arctic Circle in the snows of Siberia. Its size is hardly unexpected since it is advantageous to be so big in low temperatures. But the Siberian tiger is spectacularly large. Males, which are bigger than
25 females, may weigh as much as 700 pounds (306 kilos). The Siberian tiger is the largest of all living terrestrial meat eaters.

All cat species, in North and South America, in Asia, Europe and Africa are solitary hunters. There is however one that hunts in a very different way – the lion.

David Attenborough, adapted from *The Life of Mammals* (2002)

Text 2 (b)

I wish I could describe what happened next, not as I saw it, which I might manage, but as I felt it. I beheld¹ Richard Parker² from the angle that showed him off to greatest effect: from the back, half raised with his head turned. The stance³ had something of a pose to it, as if it were an intentional, even affected, display of mighty art. And what art, what might.

5 His presence was overwhelming, yet equally evident was the lithesome grace of it. He was incredibly muscular, yet his haunches were thin and his glossy coat hung loosely on his frame. His body, bright brownish orange streaked with black vertical stripes, was incomparably beautiful, matched with a tailor's eye for harmony by his pure white chest and underside and the black rings of his long tail. His head was large and round,
10 displaying formidable sideburns⁴, a stylish goatee⁵ and some of the finest whiskers of the cat world, thick, long and white. Atop the head were small expressive ears shaped like perfect arches. His carrot orange face had a broad bridge and a pink nose, and it was made up with brazen flair⁶. Wavy dabs of black circled the face in a pattern that was striking yet subtle, for it brought less attention to itself than it did to the one part of the face left
15 untouched by it, the bridge, whose luster shone nearly with a radiance. The patches of white above the eyes, on the cheeks and around the mouth came off as finishing touches worthy of a Kathakali dancer. The result was a face that looked like the wings of a butterfly and bore an expression vaguely old and Chinese. But when Richard Parker's amber eyes met mine, the stare was intense, cold and unflinching, not flighty or friendly,
20 and spoke of self-possession on the point of exploding with rage. His ears twitched and then swiveled right around. One of his lips began to rise and fall. The yellow canine thus coyly revealed was as long as my longest finger.

Every hair on me was standing up, shrieking with fear.

25 He completed the turn of his head with a slow turn of his body, moving his forepaws sideways along the side bench. He dropped to the floor with ponderous ease. I could see the top of his head, his back and his long, curled tail. His ears lay flat against his skull. Without effort the front half of his body rose in the air and his forepaws came to rest on the rolled-up edge of the tarpaulin⁷.

30 He was less than ten feet away. His head, his chest, his paws – so big! so big! His teeth – an entire army battalion in a mouth. He was making to jump onto the tarpaulin. I was about to die.

Yann Martel, adapted from *Life of Pi* (2001)

1 beheld: saw

2 Richard Parker is the name given to a tiger in this extract

3 stance: way of standing or position

4 sideburns: facial hair at the side of the face

5 goatee: a pointed beard

6 brazen flair: obvious creativity

7 tarpaulin: a large piece of plastic sheeting
