

# DIRECTIONS FOR TEACHERS

## LISTENING SECTION

### COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION IN ENGLISH

Thursday, August 16, 2001—8:30 to 11:30 a.m., only

**BE SURE THAT THE LISTENING SECTION IS ADMINISTERED TO EVERY STUDENT.**

- 1 Before the start of the examination period, say:

**Do not open the examination booklet until you are instructed to do so.**

- 2 Distribute one examination booklet and one essay booklet to each student.

- 3 After each student has received an examination booklet and an essay booklet, say:

**Tear off the answer sheet, which is the last page of the examination booklet, and fill in its heading. Now circle “Session One” and fill in the heading on each page of your essay booklet.**

- 4 After the students have filled in all headings on their answer sheets and essay booklets, say:

Look at page 2 of your test booklet and follow along while I read the **Overview** and **The Situation**.

**Overview:**

For this part of the test, you will listen to a speech about the United Nations, answer some multiple-choice questions, and write a response based on the situation described below. You will hear the speech twice. You may take notes on the next page anytime you wish during the readings.

**The Situation:**

Your social studies class is learning about the United Nations (U.N.). Your teacher has asked you to write a report about the ways in which the U.N. functions in the United States. In preparation for writing your report, listen to a speech by Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered in San Francisco in 1997. Then use relevant information from the speech to write your report.

Now I will read the passage aloud to you for the first time.

- 5 Now read the passage aloud with appropriate expression, but without added comment.

## Listening Passage

I know that the San Francisco of song is a city of the heart, but for me it is also the city — the progressive, worldly city — where the soul of the United Nations was forged and made real. At this crucial juncture in world affairs, I am pleased to have this opportunity to hear what Californians have to say about the state of the world: where we have been, and more importantly where we are going.

What is this crucial juncture to which I have just referred? It is a moment of promise and peril, an era of complexities and contradictions. Peace spreads in one region as hatred rages in another. Unprecedented wealth coexists with terrible deprivation. Globalization presents new opportunities and knits us closer together while intolerance keeps us apart.

My mind cannot help but turn to other challenges as well: the fight against drug trafficking, for example, or the struggle to uphold human rights, or the negotiations to establish an International Criminal Court. We need only summon the political will. I say “only” because I believe that political will is not finite, as some would argue; like the California sun, it is a renewable resource.

So this seems an appropriate time, and certainly the right place, to dwell on the meaning and presence of the United Nations in our daily lives.

Here in San Francisco and around the world, the big picture is familiar: the U.N. as an advocate of universal values such as equality and tolerance, justice and progress, democracy and peace, harmony among peoples and nations.

Most people also know a fair amount about our work on the ground: our blue-helmeted peacekeepers, our programs of disaster relief, refugee protection and electoral monitoring; our immunization of children against deadly diseases: efforts which have brought the U.N. system seven Nobel peace prizes.

As familiar as we are, however, I know that sometimes the United Nations can seem very remote, especially in the developed world. Our activities take place in conflict zones you will rarely if ever visit; in impoverished areas far from major tourist sites; or behind the scenes, in clinics and classrooms, where progress occurs without bells and whistles and is measured steadily but slowly.

Media reports can bring you closer. Sometimes they generate concern and prompt people to get involved. But they also do the opposite, accentuating the distance between *your* lives, in one of the world’s richest nations, and *their* lives somewhere else, somewhere poorer and less secure. A sense of common humanity is our saving grace; it is why the United Nations was created and why polls show such strong American support for the organization at the grass roots level.

But I would also like to suggest that even here, in the United States, Americans need look no further than your own lives to experience the United Nations system at work.

Consider the last 24 hours of my own life. I flew to San Francisco yesterday afternoon, enjoying a smooth flight while reading and watching an in-flight movie, *As Good As It Gets* — an appropriate title! After settling into my hotel, I made a few telephone calls. Dinner last night featured some fine California seafood. Before going to sleep I watched the news on television. And prior to joining you here today I ate a light California breakfast of fresh fruit and whole-grain bread.

Where is the U.N. family to be found in such ordinary scenes of day-to-day life? Let us examine this picture again, this time in slow motion. I said that I had had a smooth flight. Thanks to the International Civil Aviation Organization, there are global standards for airplane and airport safety; a common language, English, for aviation communications; and standards for the performance of pilots, flight crews, air traffic controllers, and ground and maintenance crews.

And let us not forget the in-flight entertainment, and the fact that the World Intellectual Property Organization helps protect copyrights for one of California's major exports: movies.

Next, I said I made a few telephone calls. Since taking office, I have rarely been more than a few feet from a telephone. This is sometimes an intrusion on my privacy, but more often it is quite convenient: I can enjoy a walk in the woods while doing business. So I am grateful for the International Telecommunication Union, which helps connect national communications infrastructures into global networks, and which manages the sharing of radio frequencies and satellite orbital positions. The news I watched last night, including reports from abroad, also owes no small debt to the ITU.

As for my meals, Californians need no lessons from anyone about growing high-quality produce; your Central Valley is one of the wonders of the world. Even here the United Nations plays a part.

The Food and Agricultural Organization and the World Health Organization set international norms for food additives and limits for pesticide residues. The International Labor Organization promotes safe working conditions for migrant farmworkers. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, meanwhile, stipulates that coastal states have sovereign rights over natural resources and certain other economic activities in a 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone, meaning that California's waters are protected from fishing armadas from other countries.

This is not world government; it is sovereign nations such as the United States coming together in common use. Nor is this intrusive; it is pragmatic problem solving. The United Nations is your tool, your vehicle, your instrument; it exists to help nations navigate the new landscapes of international life.

So let us not think in terms of your lives and their lives, but of our lives. If you thought that the United Nations was something of a charity, existing only for the poor and less fortunate on Earth, think again: for Americans are not only giving to the United Nations, you are living the United Nations.

6 After reading the passage aloud once, say:

You may take a few minutes to look over **The Situation** and your notes.  
(Pause) Now I will read the passage aloud a second time.

7 Read the passage a second time.

8 After the second reading, say:

Now turn to page 4 of your examination booklet, read the directions, and answer the multiple-choice questions. Be sure to follow all the directions given in your examination booklet and your essay booklet. You may now begin.