

DIRECTIONS FOR TEACHERS

LISTENING SECTION

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION IN ENGLISH

Monday, January 27, 2014 — 1:15 to 4:15 p.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 an answer sheet to each student. Then distribute one examination booklet, one essay booklet, and scrap paper to each student.
- 3 After each student has received an examination booklet, an essay booklet, scrap paper, and his or her answer sheet, say:

A separate answer sheet has been provided for you. Follow the instructions for completing the student information on your answer sheet. You must also fill in the heading on each page of your essay booklet that has a space for it, and write your name at the top of each sheet of scrap paper.

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

You will listen to a passage and answer some multiple-choice questions. You will hear the passage twice.

I will read the passage aloud to you once. Listen carefully. You may take notes on page 3 of your examination booklet. Then I will tell you to open your examination booklet to page 4. You will be given a chance to read the questions before the second reading. Then I will read the passage a second time. You may also take notes during the second reading or answer the questions.

Now I will read the passage aloud to you for the first time. Open your examination booklet to page 3.

- 5 Note the time you start reading the listening passage. The three-hour examination starts now. Read both the introduction and the passage aloud, including the attribution at the end. Read with appropriate expression, but without added comment.

Listening Passage

The following passage is from an article entitled “Chillin’ in Antarctica” by Chris Connolly, published in *AAA Going Places* in January/February 2010. In this excerpt, Connolly discusses the spectacular scenery at “the bottom of the world.”

I’m wearing snowpants for the first time since childhood, and I have on the same coat I wore several years ago while covering the Iditarod sled dog race across Alaska. This coat comes with an extra dense fleece lining that can be unzipped and removed, and despite living in Wisconsin, where winter temperatures routinely dip into the minus-30s, this is the first time I’ve ever needed to use the lining. The ship’s deck I’m standing on is wet with spray, and we are really rocking and rolling—the seas in the Drake Passage are the roughest in the world. ...

The only people who live in Antarctica are scientists and people who are paid to live in Antarctica. In 1959, the governments of the world decided not to fight over Antarctica. They declared it an internationally controlled center for scientific research and agreed that no one would ever “own” it. Several countries, among them Chile, Argentina and the U.S., do maintain a year-round presence in Antarctica so that if vast oil fields or plutonium deposits are ever discovered there, they’ll be able to say, “Hey! We’ve had a presence in Antarctica for years!” But beyond researchers and these “professional Antarctica inhabitants,” the only other humans on the continent are tourists. ...

The ship that brought me to Antarctica is a smaller ship. There are several cruise lines that sail to Antarctica—from small to very large (think floating resort)—depending on your preference. Small ships can bring you in a bit closer to the action and offer a more intimate setting, while larger ships provide more stability for rugged waters and greater onboard amenities.

Upon arrival to Antarctica you spend your days “island hopping”—sailing from site to site and making landings via Zodiac [boat] on icebergs, in stunning bays and on black, sandy beaches.

While sailing from place to place is thrilling—you’ll see whales, seals, sea lions, penguins and immense blue-glowing icebergs—the shore excursions, of course, are the highlights of any trip. Antarctica is a land of extremes—technically a desert. It’s Earth’s coldest, driest, highest and windiest place, and the first landing we made, on the Island of Barrientos, presented us with the complete package.

To our right loomed a stark and craggy rock formation bedecked with thousands of juvenile gentoo penguins. To our left lay a 40-foot-long dried out whale skeleton, a couple big chunks of iceberg, and a fur seal who lolled his head over to one side and regarded us quizzically.

For many of us, myself included, this was the big moment. It was official. I had been to Antarctica.

There is a type of ice all over Antarctica called blue ice. Blue ice is formed at the very deepest layers of icebergs and glaciers when, over millions of years, the oxygen within the ice is forced out by the weight of the material on top. In small chunks this incredibly dense ice is perfectly clear—so clear that once you see it, you realize that you’ve never seen clear ice before—and in large chunks it absorbs light at the red end of the spectrum and appears to glow blue, as if from some inner source of illumination.

I sat down on a chunk of this blue ice and looked around me. The seas in the bay were perfectly still, and off in the distance, immense, blindingly white mountains clamored skyward. Overhead, albatross and giant petrels soared in lazy circles, but other than the gentle movements of their wings, the world was frozen and utterly silent. I thought about all the maps I’d be able to point to and say, “I’ve been there,” when suddenly I felt something tugging gently on the cuff of my right pants leg. Maintaining my serenity, I

looked down and saw a fat little penguin climbing onto my boot. I didn't move a muscle. Egged on by a few of his friends, the brave little guy grabbed a snatch of fabric in his beak and hauled himself up to look at me. His feathers were sleek and glossy, his eyes sharp and penetrating. We spent several minutes checking each other out, then he hopped off and waddled back over to rejoin his friends.

I had many magical moments in Antarctica: climbing a snowy mountain on Deception Island; watching building-sized chunks of glacier break off and fall into the sea with a crack like cannon fire; swimming in the Southern Ocean at the foot of an active volcano, where the subterranean lava heats the water to near-pleasant temperatures. But of all the wonderful moments I had, my favorite was the first one: When I initially and officially set foot on the continent, and a resident penguin jumped on my leg to say, "Welcome."

—excerpted from "Chillin' in Antarctica"
AAA Going Places, January/February 2010

6 After reading the passage aloud once, say:

You may take five minutes to read the questions on page 4 of your test booklet before I read the passage aloud the second time.

7 After the students have had five minutes to read the questions, say:

As you listen to the second reading, you may take notes or answer the questions. You will be given an opportunity to complete the questions after the second reading. Now I will read the passage aloud a second time.

8 Read both the introduction and the passage a second time.

9 After the second reading, say:

Now turn to page 4 of your test booklet, read the directions and answer the multiple-choice questions. You may look over your notes to answer the questions.

