

DIRECTIONS FOR TEACHERS

LISTENING SECTION

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION IN ENGLISH

Wednesday, August 18, 2010 — 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 examination 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 Peace Corps volunteers, 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 local youth group is putting together a newsletter about volunteer work, to be handed out at a career fair. You have decided to contribute an article about Peace Corps volunteers and their influence in foreign countries. In preparation for writing your article, listen to a speech by Gaddi Vasquez about Peace Corps volunteers and their influence in foreign countries. Then use relevant information from the speech to write your article.

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

5 Now read the passage aloud, including the attribution at the end. Read with appropriate expression, but without added comment.

Listening Passage

...In July 2001, President George W. Bush announced his intention to nominate me as the new Director of the Peace Corps. During the initial announcement people said to me in Washington, "You are going to have the best job in Washington, D.C." Well, in Washington, D.C., people say a lot of things, so you just sort of hear it, listen, take it in and then you move on. But 13 months into this job I can tell you that I do believe I have the best job in Washington, D.C., because over the past 13 months I have met some courageous American volunteers who are doing some amazing grass-roots work at the people-to-people level. They are young, middle aged and older Americans and couples. Some have physical disabilities that require special effort on their part, but they are not deterred from advancing the work of the Peace Corps in their host countries. ...

Volunteers are training men and women in some of the most difficult places on earth, or as one leader in a country said to me, "What we really like about the Peace Corps is that the Peace Corps goes where nobody else wants to go." That's what courage is all about. Most of our volunteers are young, but I can guarantee you that they are passion-driven people who are determined to make a difference — volunteers serve from the dense jungles of Latin America to the sand dunes of Mauritius, to the remoteness of Mongolia. Americans like you and me, yes, like you and me, who are dedicating two years of their lives, giving up the great creature comforts of America to go overseas, are making the world a better place and fulfilling one of the most important goals of the Peace Corps, which is to put a face on America. ...

Some have asked, "Can the Peace Corps flourish against the backdrop of war and terrorism in some parts of the world?" Well, Americans are saying "yes." Americans like Sam and Noella Blanc of New Orleans, a former member of the State legislature, a community leader who had had a very successful law career, a senior partner who one day decided it was time to give something back and do something special. He and his wife decided the Peace Corps was the way to do that. He went into his law firm and advised his partners he was going to be leaving. They were surprised to hear it was to go into the Peace Corps, but today they are serving as a couple in Romania — Americans are willing to say "yes" to service. ...

Over twenty countries have pending requests for new Peace Corps programs where programs do not exist today. It is clear that Americans are willing to serve. In the last two months 800 Americans have gone overseas to commence their service as Peace Corps volunteers. Those twenty countries are anxious to have Peace Corps volunteers. In 2002 we returned to Botswana and Swaziland and Peru, where we had not been for 27 years, but did so at the invitation of the newly elected president of Peru. In 2003 we will be entering Azerbaijan, Albania, Chad and Fiji. ...

The Peace Corps is the only federal agency that exists to promote understanding and to bridge the gaps that exist between our nation and the peoples of the world. The Peace Corps volunteer brings hope to people who would otherwise not have the opportunity to improve their economic and social standing in the world let alone their country.

Recently, while in Armenia, I was doing an interview on a radio and television station, and the owner of the station asked me to stay for a moment. He said to me, "When I get enough money I want to erect a bust in front of my building, a bust in honor of Eric Pacific," to which I asked, "Who's Eric Pacific?" He said, "Eric Pacific was a Peace Corps volunteer who was here four years ago and helped me start this radio and television station." Today that station provides informational and educational broadcasting for the people of that community. [In a] country that has endured earthquakes where thousands of lives have been lost and communities have been devastated, a radio signal can be priceless in the

midst of chaos and catastrophe. That young volunteer was the man who helped establish that radio and television station, changing the course and the level of public awareness for that community perhaps forever, it was one young American who decided to go overseas and be a Peace Corps volunteer.

Volunteers have helped artisans and small businessmen and women design websites to sell their products where they have not been able to sell in the past; developed sanitation facilities that are helping eradicate the diseases that afflict children in so many of these countries and sometimes result in their deaths. Peace Corps volunteers are working to advance education and the prevention of HIV-AIDS. Today over 2,000 volunteers include HIV education and prevention as part of their portfolio.

In other countries, information and communication technology is providing an opportunity for people to market their products and merchandise for the first time. They are able to do what they were not able to do just a short year ago. Like women on an island off the coast of Senegal, where a 64-year-old volunteer from New York has helped the women design a website so that they can advertise their products and sell them beyond the boundaries of their island. ...

Perhaps if the Peace Corps is not your calling maybe some local community service might be. President Kennedy said again in 1961, and I quote, “Life in the Peace Corps will not be easy. Men and women will be expected to work and live alongside the nationals in the country in which they are stationed, doing the same work, eating the same food, talking the same language, but if the life will not be easy it will be rich, and satisfying for every young American who participates in the Peace Corps, who works in a foreign land will know that he or she is sharing the great common task of bringing to man that decent way of life which is the foundation of freedom and condition of peace.” President Kennedy had it right in 1961 and his words ring louder than ever today. ...

—excerpted from “The Role of the Peace Corps in the Global Community,”
www.lawac.org, March 26, 2003

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.

