**WRITTEN EXAMINATION**

**Spring 2012**

**ENG0111: English for international students**

**Duration 4 hours Monday, 4. June 2012**

====================================================================

## English-English dictionaries are allowed. REMEMBER TO DOUBLE-SPACE.

***Answer sections 1-3. A* pass *mark is required on each section.***

# Exercise 1: Visual Information (30% of mark)

Based on the information conveyed by the map, write a **small accompanying text [50-75 words]** about maltreatmernt of children in the US.

![C:\Users\beriter\AppData\Local\Temp\Temp1_213an[1].zip\213an\213anHtm.gif]()

Top of Form

# Exercise 2: Summary (40 % of mark)

Read the text well. Look up the words that you do not understand. Write a summary of the text below, not exceeding 150 words. Remember to **DOUBLE SPACE**.

## Edvard Munch's "The Scream": Iconic angst



May 4, 2012, by S.P. | NEW YORK

IN 1895, the year Edvard Munch created "The Scream," the Norwegian artist was so poor that debt collectors entered his studio and carried away his easel in lieu of a small debt of 25 marks. Accustomed to such events, Munch propped his work on a chair and carried on.

On May the 2nd, Sotheby’s sold the "Scream," painted in 1985, in New York for the highest price realized by any work of art at an auction: $120 M. It was the culmination of a long, careful and expensive sales campaign. Sotheby’s does not want to disclose even a ballpark figure[[1]](#footnote-1) for their marketing budget, but it included a specially commissioned hardback,[[2]](#footnote-2) two promotional videos and flying the artwork round the world so that a handful of serious buyers could view it in the comfort of their own homes. The rumor mill had it that beneficiaries of these flying visits included the Qatari royal family, Ron Lauder―the cosmetics king―Philip Niarchos and Roman Abramovich. During the five days it was displayed in London, it drew more than 7,500 viewers, who endured airport-style security and long, slow-moving queues to be let in to see it 20 people at a time. "The Scream" has the distinction of being the most-stolen piece of art and bookmakers had been giving 20-to-1 odds on it happening again. So Sotheby’s were taking absolutely no chances.

For the Wednesday-evening sale, the auction house imposed the image of "The Scream" on the exterior of the building. A first for the auction house. The painting's swirls of vivid red, turquoise, orange and yellow added a shock of color and drama to the grey facade. At 7 p.m., Tobias Meyer, who enjoys the reputation of being the James Bond of auctioneers, took the podium in a suit and haircut worthy of the nickname. He was flanked by scores of Sotheby staff to take phone bids. The room held about 800 seats in neat rows, bordered by press cameras. The big hitters sat discreetly in skyboxes[[3]](#footnote-3) on the upper floor, out of sight. They included Petter Olsen, a Norwegian businessman and the seller of the painting; his father was a friend and patron of Munch's. Known for having nerves of steel, Mr Olsen had raised eyebrows when he waived a price guarantee for the work, an arrangement whereby the auction house guarantees a minimum price in exchange for a larger commission. The mood was quiet, well behaved, disappointingly dressed. No bling. Glamour came from a few exotic Japanese fashionistas who stood out like butterflies.

"The Scream" was Lot 20. The room was skittish during the first 19 lots. One by one the artworks were displayed on a kind of revolving magic cabinet. Seven items fell short of their presale estimate, while 12 sold well above. Gauguin and Picasso did well, lesser figures like Bonnard, Van Dongen and Soutine did less so. “And now,” said Mr Meyer in his silky but rather sinister German accent, “to a major moment.”

"The Scream" appeared on the revolving cabinet edged by a couple of body guards. The room stiffened. Bidding opened at $40 M and rose fast in increments of a million. At $50 M a new bidder in the room entered the battle. There were seven bidders up to $80 M; then the small fry dropped out. Two bidders took it up to $90 M, where it stuck. Mr Meyer, who confesses to loving moments of danger, became incredibly cool: “Take your time; I have all the time in the world.” The bids were off again: $98 M, $99 M, $100 M – then applause. At $105 M, the price stuck again, but then two quick bids and the deal was sealed, sold on the telephone for $107 M hammer price, which with the buyer’s commission brought it up to $120 M. Wild applause.

Who could have bought it? As soon as the hammer fell, speculation began. With a telephone bid, one can make an educated guess. The big spenders tend to bid through their favorites among the Sotheby’s staff. But for this sale Sotheby’s mixed up the usual pairings. The mystery winning bid came through Charles Moffett, a Sotheby’s vice president and vice chairman of its worldwide Impressionist, modern and contemporary art department.

It took 12 minutes to sell the piece. They were the most successful 12 minutes in Sotheby’s long history—and a sadly ironic epilogue to the career of the once-penniless artist Edvard Munch.

745 words

<http://www.economist.com/culture>

(Adapted)

# Exercise 3: Text Comprehension (30% of mark)

Read the previous text again and **answer the questions** or mark whether the **statements** are TRUE or FALSE. If FALSE, correct the statements.

1. All potential buyers came to New York to view the painting before the auction.
2. At one particular moment, there was a mix-up at the auction.
3. Explain what an *easel* is (line 2).
4. Mr. Meyer lives a dangerous life.
5. Only “The Scream” was sold by Sotheby’s that day.
6. The “grey façade” in line 17 refers to what?
7. The auction lasted for only 12 minutes.
8. The name of the purchaser has yet not been revealed. Who were some of the potential buyers?
9. What do you think is meant by the term “hitters” in line 22.
10. What is meant by “small fry” in line 37?
11. What is meant by the term “odds” in line 15?
12. Who is Mr. Meyer?
13. Who was the owner of the Edvard Munch that was sold in New York on May 3, 2012?

**Explanation: For an explanation of the mark obtained, please contact the responsible teacher of the course within one week after the exam result has been published in StudentWeb. Remember to include your name and candidate number. The examiner will then decide whether to give a written explanation or meet with you and give an oral explanation to you in person.**

1. A “ballpark figure” is a rough or approximate estimate for a cost. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. A **hardcover**, hardback or hardbound is a book bound with rigid protective covers (typically of cardboard covered with cloth, heavy paper, or sometimes leather). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. A roofed enclosure of private seats situated high in a sports stadium and typically featuring luxurious amenities (as a private bar).

Bottom of Form [↑](#footnote-ref-3)