



WRITTEN EXAMINATION

AUTUMN 2012

4 pages

ENG0111 – English for International Students

4 hours

Friday, 7. December 2012

You are allowed to use an English-English dictionary. All questions must be answered in English. All answers must be written on copy-sheets.

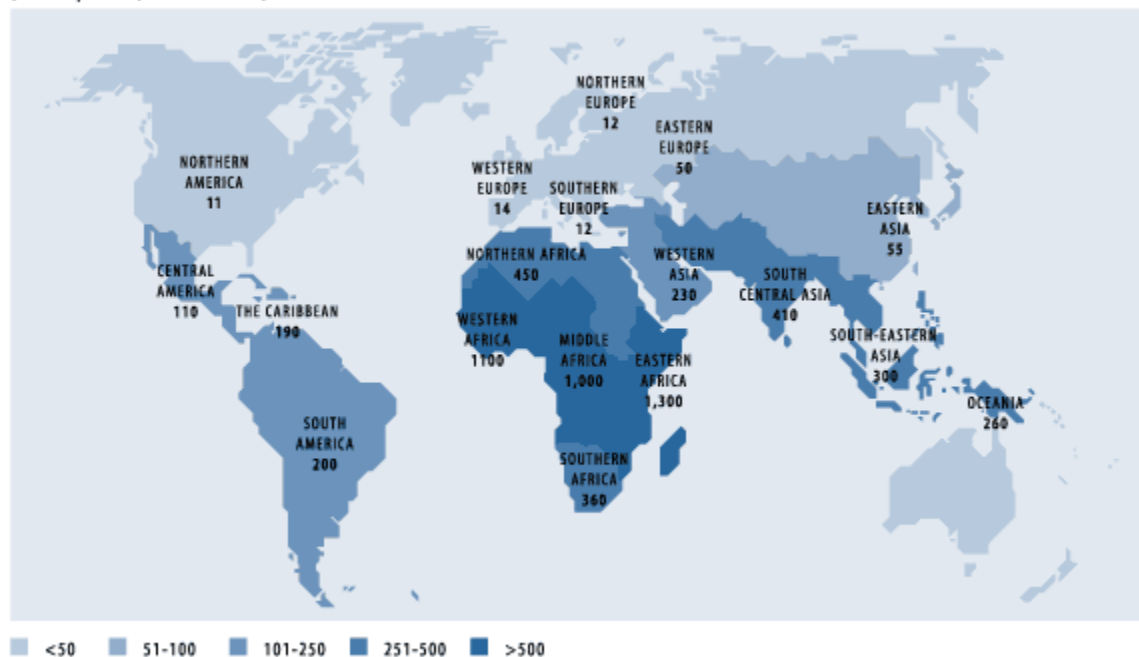
REMEMBER TO DOUBLE-SPACE.

Exercise 1: Visual Information [30 %]

Write a small *accompanying* text for the visual below, not exceeding 50 words.

FIGURE 1: MATERNAL MORTALITY BY SUBREGION, 1995

(deaths per 100,000 live births)



Source: WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA



Exercise 2: Summary (40 %)

Read the text below well. Look up the words that you do not understand. Then write a summary of it, not exceeding 150 words. Make sure that every sentence has a subject. Please use **DOUBLE SPACE**.

Barack Obama's Second Term

Let Obama savour, for a day or two, a victory that many had said could not happen. No president since F. D. Roosevelt has been re-elected with unemployment so high. The country seemed pessimistic and bitterly divided, on racial grounds even more than on economic ones. Obama's best-known achievement, the health-care reform, had turned out to be deeply unpopular. The Republicans spent \$800 M trying to remove him. Yet on November 6, Barack Obama carried all the states he won four years ago, except Indiana and North Carolina, for a solid victory over Mitt Romney. He won 332 electoral-college votes to Romney's 206. The Democrats tightened their grip on a Senate that they had once been expected to lose; and the president gave his best speech for several years.

In fact, Mr Obama's victory is both smaller and potentially bigger than that. Smaller because it was a less impressive feat than what it immediately feels, and a lot of hard work lies ahead of him. Bigger because if this president—who has so often failed to find achievements to match his lofty words—can reach out to the Republicans, they will have a rare opportunity to cement a much more substantial legacy for Mr Obama, to make the American right electable again, and to do their country's finances and politics a power of good.

In the short term, it will be the smallness that stands out. Many of those who endorsed Mr Obama are glad that he won, but he was lucky: lucky for the second time to have faced a less fluent opponent weighed down by his party's trunkful of baggage; lucky that the American economy perked up—a little—just when he needed it to; maybe lucky even that Hurricane Sandy appeared when it did. Mr Obama fought an appallingly negative campaign and scraped a victory in both the swing states and the popular vote (which he won by only 2.4%, the lowest ever for a successfully re-elected president). The Democrats' gains in the Senate stemmed largely from the Republicans choosing candidates of such tragicomic extremism that they might have been



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characters from a Tom Wolfe novel. And above all: in the House, the Republicans preserved their majority, feel vindicated and are spoiling for a fight.

Indeed, it will be in his negotiations with Congress that the smallness will really strike home. For all the speeches, Mr Obama has merely renewed the status quo in Washington—one he has proved so unable to alter for the past two years. His main domestic achievements, including health reform, were shuttled through Congress when his party controlled both chambers. He has no Clintonian record of reaching across the aisle. And the central issue that divides the parties—how to solve the American government’s rotten finances—was the weak spot both of Mr Obama’s first term (he ignored the recommendations of his own Bowles-Simpson deficit commission) and of his campaign (he simply concentrated on hammering away at Mr Romney’s admittedly barmy numbers).

So why might Mr Obama’s victory turn into something big? Because if he wants his second term to be more than a disappointing addendum to a divisive first one, he must work with his opponents. Unless a deal is struck in less than two months’ time, America will fall off a “fiscal cliff” that will, through a combination of automatic tax rises and spending cuts, subtract as much as 5% from GDP in a year. That would be a disaster for an economy growing at an annual rate of barely 2%. But behind this immediate crisis is the deeper one: America taxes itself like a small-state economy, and spends like a big-state one. Add in an ageing population, and it is going broke. Mr Obama will be pilloried by history if he does nothing to fix that, though the bond markets would probably punish him well before he left office.

647 words

The Economist, November 10, 2012 [Edited]



Exercise 2: Questions and Statements (30 %)

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

1. Obama needs to cooperate with the opposition.
2. Obama won the election by a small majority of votes.
3. The two parties in Congress are agreed on the economy.
4. What is meant by *reaching across the aisle*?
5. What is meant by the term “lofty” in paragraph 2?
6. What is meant by the term “rotten finances” in paragraph four?
7. What is meant by the term “spoiling for a fight” in paragraph three?
8. What is Obama’s greatest accomplishment?
9. What is the attitude of the author of this article towards President Obama?
10. What would be the main benefits of reaching out to the Republicans?
11. What impact does an ageing American population have on the economy of the country?
12. Why was Obama “lucky” (paragraph three)?

For an explanation of the mark obtained, please contact the teacher responsible for the course within one week after the exam results have been published in StudentWeb.

Remember to include your name and candidate number. The examiner will then decide whether to give a written explanation or give an oral explanation to you in person.