



UNIVERSITETET I OSLO

Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages

WRITTEN EXAMINATION

Spring 2013

4 pages

ENG0111: English for international students

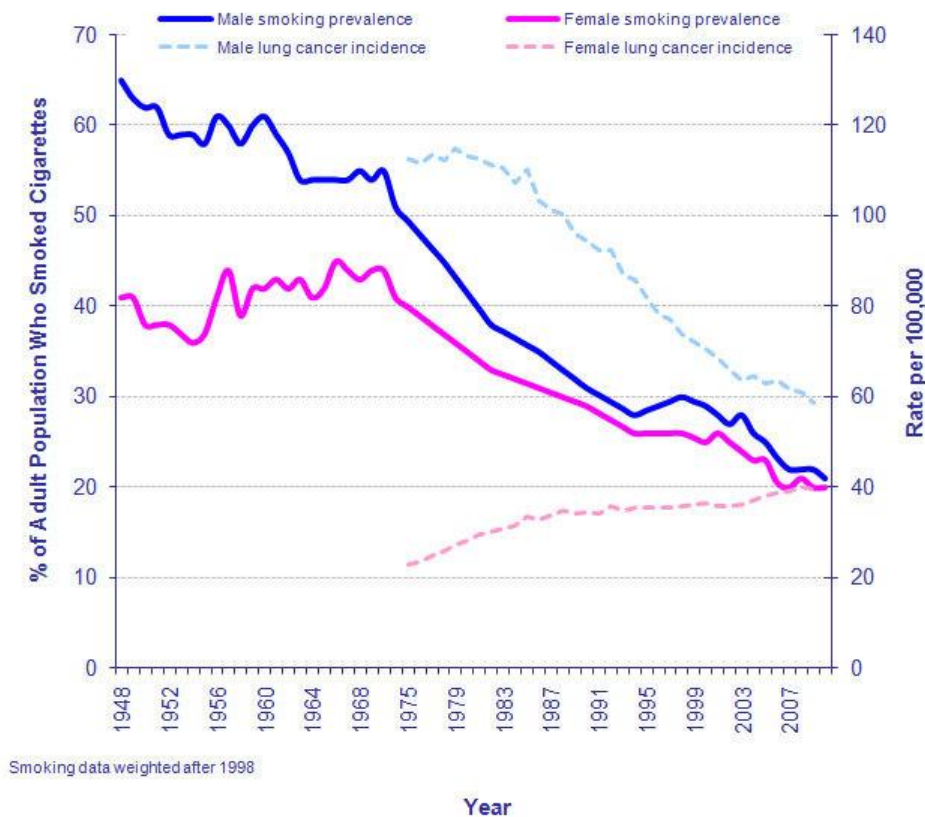
Duration 4 hours

Date: 04 June, 2013

English-English dictionaries are allowed. **REMEMBER TO DOUBLE-SPACE** [skip one line when you move down on the page]. **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 the prevalence of smoking in the UK since 1948.



<http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats/types/lung/smoking/lung-cancer-and-smoking-statistics>



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 200 words. Remember to **DOUBLE SPACE**.

Inside the cult of Kim

The Economist, Apr 6, 2013 | PYONGYANG

1 IT IS hard to talk about normality in North Korea. But as its leaders each day crank up the
2 threats of merciless all-out war with America and South Korea, residents in and around the
3 capital, Pyongyang, appear to be busier preparing for the coming of spring than a coming war.
4 At a time of high tension on the Korean peninsula, a propaganda blitz in Pyongyang warning of
5 something akin to a doomsday “do-or-die” battle has been relentless. On March 26, people
6 crowded around television screens to watch a newsreader in pink bark out orders from the top
7 brass of the Korean People’s Army for field units to be ready to attack American bases and
8 conduct “physical action” against South Korea.

9 As the days wore on, the threats increased to encompass nuclear war. The state news agency,
10 KCNA, issue daily reports emphasising what is a pattern of the government’s propaganda: that
11 the regime’s belligerence comes in response to dire threats from the outside world, such as the
12 deployment of American B-2 stealth bombers and F-22 fighters as part of joint exercises by
13 American and South Korean armed forces south of the heavily fortified demilitarised zone
14 (DMZ). To its people, North Korea is the victim, not the aggressor. On March 31, the regime
15 described the country’s nuclear weapons (still few and crude) as the nation’s “life”; something
16 that would never be abandoned while outside forces threatened it with nuclear attack.

17 Yet for a solipsistic¹ society force-fed on the fear of nuclear annihilation, the few signs that the
18 capital was anywhere near a war footing appeared more comical than convincing. Buses and
19 trams rigged in camouflage looked as if they were wearing hairnets with the odd leaf stuck on.

20 North Korea is the most highly militarised society on earth. Yet in the capital, the only guns on
21 view were wooden ones, carried by some callow-looking cadets. The heaviest concentration of
22 soldiers was on the road from Pyongyang’s airport (no military planes visible): hundreds of

¹ Self-centered



UNIVERSITETET I OSLO

Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages

23 conscripts, shovels in hand, were digging up a park and planting trees. Work brigades thronged
24 the capital, busy on grass verges planting spring flowers. It was hard to escape the impression
25 that the threats and bluster aimed at America and the South were mainly for domestic
26 consumption. They seemed intended to present Kim Jong Un, the young dictator, as a fearless
27 commander-in-chief. External threats justify North Korea's paranoia and enforced isolation,
28 whatever hardships are imposed on its people. And it provides existential drama to a nation
29 used to mind-numbing, wall-to-wall Kim worship as entertainment.

30 There is something of an end-of-the-world cult to it all. In conversation, people talk of Mr Kim,
31 his father and his grandfather in hushed, revered tones. Mr Kim's decision to build roller-
32 skating parks for the capital's pampered children is narrated ecstatically. There is rather less
33 talk of the fact that one in four North Korean children – nearly all in the provinces – is stunted
34 from malnutrition. Along the Taedong river winding through Pyongyang, revolutionary music
35 wafts across at every turn, providing what sounds like a soundtrack to an epic death-or-glory
36 film. At sunrise, a piercing soprano belts out from a sound van. The song is about seizing victory
37 "in one breath"—an exhortation to speed that is also written on the wall of the new 20-storey
38 central bank, whose construction beside the river seems to have slowed.

39 Curiously, some of the privileged residents of Pyongyang continue to lap up the propaganda.
40 People gape at television reruns of the late dictator – the paunchy, awkward Kim Jong Il, visiting
41 hospitals and factories—even though they must have watched clips of these inspections
42 countless times before. The distracted mood in Pyongyang may not persist elsewhere. It is
43 thought that three-quarters of North Korea's 1.1 million troops are stationed within 60 miles
44 (100 km) of the demilitarized zone (DMZ), with reportedly 10,000 artillery pieces capable of
45 hitting Seoul. Yet, South Korean and American intelligence have registered no unusual troop
46 movements.

47 It is the economic consequences of the sanctions that cause most worry in Pyongyang.
48 International sanctions, tightened after North Korea's nuclear test in February, cause worry for
49 some Pyongyang residents. The sanctions, they fret, may put off hard-currency investment in
50 North Korea, which growing numbers of state-backed businesses are seeking. Since North
51 Korea sent a satellite-bearing rocket into orbit in December, the currency has weakened by one
52 tenth, to about 8,000 won to the dollar. The official rate stands at 100 won to the dollar.



UNIVERSITETET I OSLO

Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages

53 Possibly the weakest point for the regime, and a potential restraint on its belligerence, is the
54 glaring lack of mechanisation in the economy. In the capital and the surrounding countryside, it
55 is sheer manpower, rather than machines or fuel, that appears to keep the economy going. As
56 teams of farmers, men and women, broke the icy winter soil for planting, not a tractor was
57 running. The most evident form of free-market enterprise appeared to be the old men sitting
58 by the roadside with kits to mend punctured bicycle tyres. Pyongyang, unlike most capital cities,
59 is not enveloped in smog – for the big factories appear to run slowly, when they run at all.

858 words [Edited]

<http://www.economist.com/news/asia/21575794-despite-doomsday-warnings-life-continues-abnormal-ever-capital-inside-cult-kim>

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. Write in full sentences, not in fragments.

1. A war against America and South Korea seems imminent.
2. Feeling threatened by the outside world, the authorities have stationed military troops in the capital Pyongyang.
3. How many North Korean soldiers are believed to be stationed along the border to South Korea?
4. North Korea has its own free-market type of economy.
5. North Korea is threatened by the outside world.
6. There have been troop movements lately.
7. What does “conscripts” in line 27 refer to?
8. What is meant by “callow-looking” in line 25?
9. What is meant by “wall-to-wall Kim worship” in line 33?
10. What is meant by the word “bark” in line 6?
11. What is the “weakest point” for the North Korean government?
12. Why were severe sanctions levied upon North Korea earlier this year?

For an explanation of the mark obtained, please contact the exam coordinator, Kristin Berstad (k.m.berstad@ilos.uio.no) within one week after the exam results have been published in StudentWeb. Remember to include your name and candidate number. The examiner will decide whether to give a written or oral explanation.