

SECONDA PROVA SCRITTA – SIMULAZIONE 1

Indirizzo: LICEO LINGUISTICO

Tema di: LINGUA E CULTURA STRANIERA 1: INGLESE

PART 1 – COMPREHENSION AND INTERPRETATION

Read the texts A and B and answer the questions below.

Text A

- I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions.
Whatever I see I swallow immediately
Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike.
I am not cruel, only truthful
5 The eye of a little god, four-cornered.
Most of the time I meditate on the opposite wall.
It is pink, with speckles. I have looked at it so long
I think it is a part of my heart. But it flickers.
Faces and darkness separate us over and over.
10 Now I am a lake. A woman bends over me.
Searching my reaches for what she really is.
Then she turns to those liars, the candles and the moon.
I see her back, and reflect it faithfully.
She rewards me with tears and an agitation of hands.
15 I am important to her. She comes and goes.
Each morning it is her face that replaces the darkness.
In me she has drowned a young girl, and in me an old woman
Rises towards her day after day, like a terrible fish.
[172 words]

Sylvia Plath (1932-1963), from *Mirror* (1961)

*Read the first stanza and say whether each of the following statements is **True (T)**, **False (F)** or **Not Stated (NS)**. Put a cross in the correct box.*

1. At the beginning of the poem the mirror introduces itself as neutral and objective.

T ☒ F ☐ NS ☐

2. It is a round mirror.

T ☐ F ☒ NS ☐

3. The mirror is hanging on a wall.

T ☐ F ☐ NS ☒

4. The mirror usually reflects the wall opposite it.

T ☒ F ☐ NS ☐

5. The light in the room is always on.

T ☐ F ☒ NS ☐

Consider the whole poem and answer the questions below. Use complete sentences and your own words.

6. What word in the first stanza shows that the mirror is not an absolutely detached entity but feels emotions?

Even though the mirror claims not to be influenced by love or dislike, it says it has a heart (line 8). The wall that the mirror has reflected for so long has become part of the mirror's heart.

7. In the second stanza the mirror imagines itself as a lake and continues to claim it is truthful. What elements mentioned in this stanza, on the contrary, do not tell the truth?

The mirror calls the candles and the moon 'liars' (line 12).

8. What, in the woman's behaviour, reflects her anxiety? What line suggests that the woman might not only be preoccupied with her physical appearance but also wants to explore some deeper part of herself when looking into the mirror?

The woman responds to what she sees in the mirror 'with tears and an agitation of hands'. 'She comes and goes', that is, she is compelled to repeat her investigation without any hope of finding relief. Yet she isn't exclusively worried about her appearance. She wants to know 'what she really is'.

Text B

We should appreciate that these recent outbreaks of new zoonotic diseases, as well as the recurrence and spread of old ones, are part of a larger pattern, and that humanity is responsible for generating that pattern. We should recognize that they reflect things that we're doing, not just things that are happening to us. We should understand that,
5 although some of the human-caused factors may seem virtually inexorable, others are within our control.

The experts have alerted us to these factors and it's easy enough to make a list. We have increased our population to the level of billion and beyond. We are well on our way toward billion before our growth trend is likely to flatten. We live at high densities in
10 many cities. We have penetrated, and we continue to penetrate, the last great forests and other wild ecosystems of the planet, disrupting the physical structures and the ecological communities of such places. We cut our way through the Congo. We cut our way through the Amazon. We cut our way through Borneo. We cut our way through Madagascar. We cut our way through New Guinea and northeastern Australia. We shake
15 the trees, figuratively and literally, and things fall out. We kill and butcher and eat many of the wild animals found there. We settle in those places, creating villages, work camps, towns, extractive industries, new cities. We bring in our domesticated animals, replacing the wild herbivores with livestock. We multiply our livestock as we've multiplied

ourselves, operating huge factory-scale operations involving thousands of cattle, pigs,
 20 chickens, ducks, sheep, and goats, not to mention hundreds of bamboo rats and palm
 civets, all confined en masse within pens and corrals, under conditions that allow those
 domestics and semidomestics to acquire infectious pathogens from external sources
 (such as bats roosting over the pig pens), to share those infections with one another,
 25 and to provide abundant opportunities for the pathogens to evolve new forms, some
 of which are capable of infecting a human as well as a cow or a duck. We treat many of
 those stock animals with prophylactic doses of antibiotics and other drugs, intended not
 to cure them but to foster their weight gain and maintain their health just sufficiently for
 profitable sale and slaughter, and in doing that we encourage the evolution of resistant
 bacteria. We export and import livestock across great distances and at high speeds.
 30 We export and import other live animals, especially primates, for medical research.
 We export and import wild animals as exotic pets. We export and import animal skins,
 contraband bushmeat, and plants, some of which carry secret microbial passengers. We
 travel, moving between cities and continents even more quickly than our transported
 livestock. We stay in hotels where strangers sneeze and vomit. We eat in restaurants
 35 where the cook may have butchered a porcupine before working on our scallops.
 We visit monkey temples in Asia, live markets in India, picturesque villages in South
 America, dusty archeological sites in New Mexico, dairy towns in the Netherlands, bat
 caves in East Africa, racetracks in Australia – breathing the air, feeding the animals,
 touching things, shaking hands with the friendly locals – and then we jump on our
 40 planes and fly home. We get bitten by mosquitoes and ticks. We alter the global climate
 with our carbon emissions, which may in turn alter the latitudinal ranges within which
 those mosquitoes and ticks live. We provide an irresistible opportunity for enterprising
 microbes by the ubiquity and abundance of our human bodies.
 Everything I've just mentioned is encompassed within this rubric: the ecology and
 45 evolutionary biology of zoonotic diseases. Ecological circumstance provides opportunity
 for spillover. Evolution seizes opportunity, explores possibilities, and helps convert
 spillovers to pandemics. [...]
 During the early twentieth century, disease scientists from the Rockefeller Foundation
 and other institutions conceived the ambitious goal of eradicating some infectious
 50 diseases entirely.
 They tried hard with yellow fever, spending millions of dollars and many years of effort,
 and failed. They tried with malaria, and failed. They tried later with smallpox, and
 succeeded. Why? The differences among those three diseases are many and complex, but
 probably the most crucial one is that smallpox resided neither in a reservoir host nor in a
 55 vector. Its ecology was simple. It existed in humans – in humans only – and was therefore
 much easier to eradicate. The campaign to eradicate polio, begun in 1988 by WHO and
 other institutions, is a realistic effort for the same reason: Polio isn't zoonotic. [...]
 That's the salubrious thing about zoonotic diseases: They remind us, as St. Francis did,
 that we humans are inseparable from the natural world. In fact, there is no 'natural
 60 world,' it's a bad and artificial phrase. There is only the world. Humankind is part of that
 world, as are the ebolaviruses, as are the influenzas and the HIVs, as are Nipah and
 Hendra and SARS, as are chimpanzees and bats and palm civets and bar-headed geese, as
 is the next murderous virus – the one we haven't yet detected.
 [852 words]

David Quammen (1948-), from *Spillover: Animal Infections
 and the Next Human Pandemic* (2012)

Read from line 1 to 43. Say whether each of the following statements is **True (T)**, **False (F)** or **Not Stated (NS)**. Put a cross in the correct box.

1. Humans can control some of the factors that facilitate the spread of zoonotic diseases.
T ☒ F ☐ NS ☐
2. When the population of the earth reaches 9 billion, most people will be living in cities.
T ☐ F ☐ NS ☒
3. Domestic animals are often left free in the last great forests, where they acquire dangerous pathogens.
T ☐ F ☒ NS ☐
4. Antibiotics are generally used to treat livestock when they are ill.
T ☐ F ☒ NS ☐
5. Global tourism and air travel contribute to the diffusion of microbes across continents.
T ☒ F ☐ NS ☐

Consider the whole text and answer the questions below. Use complete sentences and your own words.

6. Why is factory-scale animal farming one of the main causes for the outbreak of zoonotic diseases?
Factory farming involves keeping 'thousands of cattle, pigs, chickens, ducks, sheep and goats' in small spaces where some of them can be infected by wild animals (for example, bats). The infection can then spread quickly because the animals are in close contact with each other. In the process, the infecting agent can evolve and develop new forms transmissible to humans. Moreover, in factory farming animals are routinely treated with antibiotics, not to cure a specific disease but so as to make them grow bigger and to keep them reasonably healthy until they are slaughtered. This encourages the evolution of bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics.
7. Why have diseases like smallpox been completely eliminated, while other diseases, like malaria, have so far proved impossible to eradicate?
The main reason lies in the fact that smallpox is not a zoonotic disease, that is, it is transmitted only from one human to another. It is then comparatively easy to interrupt the infection chain. Yellow fever and malaria, on the other hand, exist in wild animals (the 'reservoir hosts') and can be carried by other animals (the 'vectors'). It is therefore much more difficult to stop their transmission to humans.
8. Are there any useful lessons to be learned from the outbreaks of zoonotic diseases that have happened so far?
The lesson to be learned is that we are wrong when we think of a 'natural world' that is separate from us, a world that we have a right to exploit carelessly for our convenience. We are part of the natural world just as any other organism, viruses included. The same evolutionary mechanisms that have produced humans are at work to exploit any

opportunity for pathogenic agents to evolve and find favourable new environments. Since there is only one world, of which we are part, we should be very careful about how we impact it with our activities.

PART 2 – WRITTEN PRODUCTION

Task A

Sylvia Plath's poem is particularly relevant in the light of the contemporary preoccupation with body image. American author Golda Poretsky has written:

'Don't change your body to get respect from society. Instead let's change society to respect our bodies.' Discuss the quotation in a 300-word essay. Support your ideas by referring to your reading and/or to your personal experience.

Written production activity where students write a 300-word essay with a clear structure containing an introduction, the main body, and a conclusion. They should cite references and sources where necessary and pay attention to grammar and punctuation.

Task B

Write a 300-word short story that ends with the following sentence:

This is why humans are the real virus on our planet.

Written production activity where students write a 300-word story with a clear structure containing an introduction, the main body, and a conclusion. The last sentence of the story must be the sentence provided. They should pay attention to grammar and punctuation.

Durata massima della prova: 6 ore

È consentito l'uso del dizionario monolingue e bilingue.

Non è consentito lasciare l'Istituto prima che siano trascorse 3 ore dalla dettatura del tema.