SECONDA PROVA SCRITTA – SIMULAZIONE 2

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

A woman with the biceps of a wrestler was staring at him, beckoning him to follow
her into the room. The state of her sari told him that she was a servant; but she was
not servile. 'You look green as a fish,' she said. 'You young doctors. You come into a
strange house and your liver turns to jelly. Come, Doctor Sahib, they are waiting for you.'
5   Clutching his bag a fraction too tightly, he followed her through the dark teak door. [...]
Into a spacious bedchamber that was as ill-lit as the rest of the house; although here
there were shafts of dusty sunlight seeping in through a fanlight high on one wall. These
fusty rays illuminated a scene as remarkable as anything the Doctor had ever witnessed:
a tableau of such surpassing strangeness that his feet began to twitch towards the door
10   once again. Two more women, also built like professional wrestlers, stood stiffly in the
light, each holding one corner of an enormous white bedsheet, their arms raised high
above their heads so that the sheet hung between them like a curtain. Mr Ghani welled
up out of the murk surrounding the sunlit sheet and permitted the nonplussed Aadam to
stare stupidly at the peculiar tableau for perhaps half a minute, at the end of which, and
15   before a word had been spoken, the Doctor made a discovery:
In the very centre of the sheet, a hole had been cut, a crude circle about seven inches in
diameter.
'Close the door, Ayah,' Ghani instructed the first of the lady wrestlers, and then, turning
to Aziz, became confidential. 'This town contains many good-for-nothings who have
20   on occasion tried to climb into my daughter's room. She needs,' he nodded at the three
musclebound women, 'protectors.'
Aziz was still looking at the perforated sheet. Ghani said, 'All right, come on, you will
examine my Naseem right now. *Pronto*.'
My grandfather peered around the room. 'But where is she, Ghani Sahib?' he blurted
25   out finally. The lady wrestlers adopted supercilious expressions and, it seemed to him,
tightened their musculature, just in case he intended to try something fancy.
'Ah, I see your confusion,' Ghani said, his poisonous smile broadening, 'You Europe-
returned chappies forget certain things. Doctor Sahib, my daughter is a decent girl, it
goes without saying. She does not flaunt her body under the noses of strange men. You
30   will understand that you cannot be permitted to see her, no, not in any circumstances;
accordingly I have required her to be positioned behind that sheet. She stands there, like
a good girl.'
A frantic note had crept into Doctor Aziz's voice. 'Ghani Sahib, tell me how I am to

examine her without looking at her?' Ghani smiled on.
35 'You will kindly specify which portion of my daughter it is necessary to inspect. I will then issue her with my instructions to place the required segment against that hole which you see there. And so, in this fashion the thing may be achieved.'
'But what, in any event, does the lady complain of' – said my grandfather, despairingly.
To which Mr Ghani, his eyes rising upwards in their sockets, his smile twisting into a
40 grimace of grief, replied: 'The poor child! She has a terrible, a too dreadful stomach-ache.'
'In that case,' Doctor Aziz said with some restraint, 'will she show me her stomach, please.'
[597 words]

Salman Rushdie (1947-), from *Midnight's Children* (1981)

*Read from line 1 to line 21. Say whether each of the following statements is **True (T)**, **False (F)** or **Not Stated (NS)**. Put a cross in the correct box.*

1. When Doctor Aziz meets the first woman, his face shows his emotion.

    T ☐   **F** ☐   **NS** ☐

2. When the doctor sees the two women holding the sheet, he feels the urge to leave the room.

    T ☐   **F** ☐   **NS** ☐

3. Upon looking at the sheet, he immediately notices there's a hole in the centre.

    T ☐   **F** ☐   **NS** ☐

4. Mr Ghani is afraid Doctor Aziz will try to go into his daughter's bedchamber.

    T ☐   **F** ☐   **NS** ☐

5. Mr Ghani's daughter is very beautiful.

    T ☐   **F** ☐   **NS** ☐

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

6. What is the task of the three women that Mr Ghani has hired as servants?

7. What words and expressions convey Doctor Aziz's growing embarrassment during the episode?

8. What does Mr Ghani mean when he says, 'You Europe-returned chappies forget certain things'?

Text B

You're Not as Smart as You Think: Perils and Benefits of Overconfidence

It is widely known—or at least widely believed—that people are overconfident in their own abilities. Psychological research has consistently found, in fact, that people have too high a self-assessment when it comes to traits that they see as important or socially desirable. We tend to think we are funnier, better leaders, better at driving and even

5   more attractive than we really are. But what do people think about one of the most desirable and important traits a person can have: intelligence?

The claim that 'most people think they are smarter than average' is a cliché of popular psychology, but the scientific evidence for it is surprisingly thin. Most research in this area has been conducted using small samples of individuals or only with high school or

10   college students. The most recent study that polled a representative sample of American adults on the topic was published way back in 1965.

Do people today think they are smarter than average? […] We asked a combined representative sample of 2,821 Americans whether they agreed or disagreed with the simple statement 'I am more intelligent than the average person.' […]

15   We found that 65% agreed that they are more intelligent than average. […] Not only was our sample of Americans overconfident in their intelligence, they also had little doubt about where they stand in relation to others. […] Perhaps unsurprisingly, more men exhibited overconfidence (71% said they were smarter than average) than women (only 59% agreed).

20   These are not unrealistic self-assessments. People who complete more formal schooling tend to be more intelligent than those who don't. After all, those who are less intelligent are less likely to get advanced degrees, and receiving more education actually increases people's intelligence.

Who did our participants think about when they compared themselves to 'the average

25   person'? The word 'average' has several mathematical definitions. It can refer to the mean (here, the result of adding up everyone's 'intelligence' and dividing by the total number of people), the median (the 'intelligence' value right at the middle, where exactly half of people score higher and half score lower) or the mode (the most common value). IQ tests are designed so that the mean, median and mode are essentially the same, so

30   there's no way that two-thirds of people can be above average.

But expressing confidence also can bestow benefits, even if that confidence is sometimes undeserved. Confident people are seen as being more competent and higher in social status than humble people. A belief that one is truly capable of managing a huge corporation, saving lives in an emergency room or leading troops in battle could be a

35   vital element of decisive, charismatic leadership.

The most reliable way to convince other people you are brilliant probably starts with sincerely believing it yourself. Our study shows that many people think they are smarter than they really are, but they may not be stupid to think so.

[486 words]

Patrick Heck and Christopher Chabris, from *The Wall Street Journal 2018*
https://www.wsj.com/articles/youre-not-as-smart-as-you-think-perils-and-benefits-of-overconfidence-1532100629

*Read the text 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. There is substantial historical proof that the majority of people think they are cleverer than average.

T ☐   **F** ☐   **NS** ☐

2. The researchers thought it was predictable that men were more confident in their intellectual than women.

T ☐   **F** ☐   **NS** ☐

3. Young people still in education are statistically more intelligent than average.

T ☐   **F** ☐   **NS** ☐

4. The 'mean' value of intelligence is dependent on the people being surveyed.

T ☐   **F** ☐   **NS** ☐

5. The researchers maintain that people are unintelligent if they believe they are cleverer than they actually are.

T ☐   **F** ☐   **NS** ☐

Answer the questions below. Use complete sentences and your own words.

6. What are the advantages of being overconfident?

7. Why is it impossible for 65% of people to be 'above average'?

8. Why do you think men tend to be more overconfident than women?

PART 2 – WRITTEN PRODUCTION

Task A

Today, gender equality is still far from being fully accomplished in developing countries as well as in Western societies. Malala Yousafzai, the young Pakistani activist for female education and Nobel Prize winner, has said:

'I raise up my voice – not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard. We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back.'

Discuss the quotation in a 300-word essay. Support your ideas by referring to your reading and/ or to your personal experience.

Task B

Are you an overconfident person? What are the advantages and disadvantages? How does this affect your life and experiences in general and at school?
Write a 300-word text about this topic.

_____
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.