

UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI GENOVA – FACOLTA' DI LINGUE

Prova scritta di lingua inglese del III anno 21 settembre 2015

Choose ONE of the following titles and write a composition of between 250 and 300 words.

Please write clearly and on alternate lines. Compositions that are obviously memorised and/or copied from the internet with a mobile phone will be invalidated!

Time allowed two hours.

1) On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September, thousands of people marched through the streets of Copenhagen, London, Berlin, Stockholm and Helsinki, carrying banners bearing slogans such as “Open the borders!”, and called upon their governments to welcome refugees from countries such as Syria. On the same day, thousands of people marched through the streets of Budapest, Warsaw, Prague and Bratislava, carrying banners bearing slogans such as “Migrants go home!”, and called upon their governments NOT to welcome refugees from countries such as Syria. What is your opinion about this?

2) What is the greatest film of all time? According to a poll conducted in 2012 by the film magazine Sight & Sound, it is Vertigo (La donna che visse due volte). According to a poll conducted by the BBC in July 2015, it is Citizen Kane (Quarto potere) According to the Internet Movie Database users' poll, it is The Shawshank Redemption (Le ali della libertà). Have you seen any of these films? Would you agree that one of them is the greatest of all time? If so, why? If not, nominate another film as the greatest of all time, and give the reasons for your choice.

3) “Smoking should be banned in cars, and particularly in any vehicle with children in it. It should also be illegal to smoke at home in front of children. Children should be able to report their parents to the police for doing so.” These are the opinions of Duncan Bannatyne, member of the anti-smoking organisation QUIT. Do you agree or disagree with Mr Bannatyne's views.

4) Describe a church or a cathedral or a mosque or a synagogue that you are familiar with.

- 5) The Palazzo Ducale in Genoa hosted two major art exhibitions not so long ago. The first, from 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014 to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2015 showed works by Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. The second, from 5<sup>th</sup> March to 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015 showed works by various German Expressionist artists, from Kirchner to Nolde. Did you go to one or both of these exhibitions? If so, write an account of your visit, or visits.

Listening Comprehension – Prova scritta inglese III, 19/6/2013

- 1) Which British political party is mentioned in the text? a) the one led by David Cameron b) the one led by Nick Clegg c) the one led by Ed Miliband d) the one led by Nigel Farage
- 2) Which county is Langdon Manor Farm located in?
- 3) How big is Alastair Brooks's farm? a) 113 acres b) 130 acres c) 114 acres d) the text does not say how big the farm is
- 4) In what condition did a shortage of foreign workers in 2007 and 2008 leave crops in ?
- 5) What will Romanians and Bulgarians gain full access to at the end of this year?
- 6) How many foreigners are currently employed on the seasonal agricultural workers' scheme?
- 7) What is the value of the United Kingdom's horticulture industry?
- 8) What does Alastair Brooks believe supermarkets would do rather than risk food inflation?
- 9) Where would East Anglia's salad industry move to?
- 10) In 1988, what percentage of strawberries consumed in the UK were grown in the UK? a) 60% b) 16% c) 40% d) 14%
- 11) What percentage of growers who used Saws last year did not believe the end of the scheme would have a negative impact on business?
- 12) Which of the following factors is the most important reason why British workers do not like fruit-picking? a) work begins early in the morning b) the meteorological conditions c) the work is physically demanding d) each of these factors is as important as the others
- 13) In Spain, what sort of people are allowed to work (as fruit-pickers) without losing entitlements?
- 14) Which government ministry seems to be unenthusiastic about letting workers from countries like Russia and Ukraine pick fruit in the UK?
- 15) If Alastair Brooks wants to employ a worker on his farm in May 2014, when must he decide to do so? a) in May 2014 b) in May 2013 c) in December 2013 d) in January 2014

The rise of Ukip is having unexpected consequences for Britain's countryside. Farmers fear that the political upstart's success has the government running scared on immigration, with the result that foreign workers could soon be absent from Britain's fields.

"We can see there's a toxic mix brewing," says Alastair Brooks, who employs

200 temporary foreign workers to pick strawberries and raspberries at Langdon Manor Farm in Faversham, Kent. "People have understandable concerns about immigration, but temporary migrant workers have got tied up in the debate," he said.

Brooks has 130 acres of his farm devoted to fruit. Without foreign workers, he says, he will have to cut production. Many are in a similar position, says the National Farmers Union, because

they fear that without foreign workers they will not have the staff to do the job.

It is not an idle concern. A shortage of foreign workers in 2007 and 2008 resulted in crops being left unharvested. Since then, the seasonal agricultural workers' scheme (Saws), which supplies about a third of the sector's temporary labour, has been open only to Romanians and Bulgarians. However, at the end of this year, both countries' citizens will gain full access to the EU job market.

There are concerns that many of the 21,500 on the scheme will look for permanent jobs rather than seasonal work.

However, Brooks questions whether many will even come to the UK, given that their countries are closer to a booming Germany. For this reason, the NFU warns that finding a successor to Saws is now critical if the UK's £3.1bn horticulture industry is going to thrive. The union's concerns are echoed by the government's migration advisory committee (Mac), which has warned that a shortage of seasonal migrant labour would lead to a 10% to 15% rise in supermarket prices.

But food inflation is the least of the fruit growers' concerns. Brooks believes that supermarkets would source from abroad rather than risk food inflation. East Anglia's salad industry would move to Hungary, the asparagus industry would struggle and many horticultural successes would be reversed.

"The Kent apple industry was on its knees and now it's coming back because they've got the workforce," Brooks says. His own industry - worth almost £1bn a year - would suffer dramatically. In 1988, when he started fruit farming, about 60% of strawberries consumed in the UK were imported. Today almost three quarters are homegrown. His concerns are shared by most farmers in his industry. An NFU survey found that more than 95% of growers who used Saws last year believed the end of the scheme would have a negative impact on business.

Finding employees locally is difficult because British workers are not interested in fruit-picking. Of the 25 non-Romanian and Bulgarian applicants who recently expressed an interest in picking fruit on Brooks's farm, 20 were British

and five were Polish. By the end of the week, only the Poles remained. The early start times, the weather and the hard work involved seems to put many Britons off. "It's understandable; British workers are looking for more permanent jobs," Brooks said.

The NFU has made tentative suggestions about hiring former prisoners and called on the government to follow Spain and allow benefit claimants to work without losing entitlements. There are hopes that new EU accession countries such as Croatia will be able to fill the gap, but it has a population of only 4.4 million and is relatively prosperous.

The migration advisory committee suggests the government may have to allow workers from non-EU countries such as Russia and Ukraine. However, this would play badly with voters now Ukip has made immigration a major issue, and the Home Office appears to be cool on the suggestion. "We shall consider the Mac's advice very carefully. However, in general we want to encourage employers to recruit from the resident labour market," a spokesman said.

The NFU says ending Saws would be bad for British jobs. For every 3.5 jobs created by Saws another is created for a British worker. Fruit farmers such as Brooks have to make hiring decisions a year ahead. They will soon have to decide whether to curtail their operations, something that would deal a major blow to the government's ambitions to make half of the fruit consumed in the UK grown domestically.

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3rd Year Exam

19/6/2013

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26/5/2013).

## Correct Answers

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- 2) Which county is Langdon Manor Farm located in? Kent
- 3) How big is Alastair Brooks's farm? a) 113 acres b) 130 acres c) 114 acres d) the text does not say how big the farm is
- 4) In what condition did a shortage of foreign workers in 2007 and 2008 leave crops in? – Unharvested
- 5) What will Romanians and Bulgarians gain full access to at the end of this year? The EU Job Market
- 6) How many foreigners are currently employed on the seasonal agricultural workers' scheme? – 21,500
- 7) What is the value of the United Kingdom's horticulture industry? 3.1 billion pounds
- 8) What does Alastair Brooks believe supermarkets would do rather than risk food inflation? Source from abroad
- 9) Where would East Anglia's salad industry move to? – Hungary
- 10) In 1988, what percentage of strawberries consumed in the UK were grown in the UK? a) 60% b) 16% c) 40%  
d) 14%
- 11) What percentage of growers who used Saws last year did not believe the end of the scheme would have a negative impact on business? 5%
- 12) Which of the following factors is the most important reason why British workers do not like fruit-picking? a) work begins early in the morning b) the meteorological conditions c) the work is physically demanding d) each of these factors is as important as the others
- 13) In Spain, what sort of people are allowed to work (as fruit-pickers) without losing entitlements? – Benefit claimants
- 14) Which government ministry seems to be unenthusiastic about letting workers from countries like Russia and Ukraine pick fruit in the UK? – The Home Office
- 15) If Alastair Brooks wants to employ a worker on his farm in May 2014, when must he decide to do so? a) in May 2014 b) in May 2013 c) in December 2013 d) in January 2014