Ascentis Anglia Language Examinations

Ascentis Level 3 Certificate in ESOL International
(Ofqual Accreditation No. 500/4063/7)

Masters Level (C2)

Speaking Test

Paper A 2010

Instructions for Students

- **The test will take 20 minutes.**
- **You will take the test with another student.**
- **The test will be recorded for moderation purposes.**

Ascentis, WEST LODGE, QUERNMORE ROAD, LANCASTER, LANCASHIRE, LA1 3JT, ENGLAND

CHICHESTER COLLEGE, WESTGATE FIELDS, CHICHESTER, WEST SUSSEX, PO19 1SB, ENGLAND

Procedure

The Ascentis Anglia Proficiency Speaking Test consists of three tasks and should take *approximately* 20 minutes to complete. There are two candidates at each session. The examination is recorded onto a cassette tape, CD or MP3. Recordings are sent to Chichester College for moderation.

AFTER the examination, you must not return to the area where candidates yet to take the test are still waiting.

Preparation

Choose one of the cards, A, B or C and be prepared to talk about any of the four statements on the card for about three minutes, then be prepared to engage in discussion on that topic.

Task One: up to 4 minutes

The examiner will ask you to talk about who you are, why you are taking the examination and so on.

Task Two: up to 8 minutes

The examiner will ask you to talk briefly about the article you have chosen to prepare, and then you must be prepared to discuss the issues arising from it.

Task Three: up to 8 minutes

The examiner will indicate to you which of the statements on your chosen card you should talk about. You will be given your three minutes to talk alone and then you must be prepared to engage in discussion about the proposition in the statement.

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Task Two: Readings for Discussion

READING ONE

CITIES OF THE FUTURE

As temperatures rise and ice melts, it has become clear that Man's attempt to impose his will on Nature has gone awry. A new breed of scientists is beginning to approach our myriad problems from a new, humbler perspective; how, they ask, can we learn from Nature and borrow some of its extraordinary inventiveness in the fight against climate change?

The deep ocean is an unlikely source of inspiration for one project, which aims to make our cities alive and glowing. The plan sounds almost biblical; the lighting of the world from a multitude of fish. Dr Rachel Armstrong, an architectural researcher from University College London, wants to transform buildings from being sterile, inert objects into entities that interact and evolve with the natural environment. She sees this as the fulfilment of what architects have always seen as the purpose of their work. "We've likened the city to an organism, but so far it has been a symbolic description. In the future, architecture will be literally alive," she said.

Imagine the cityscape of the future. Forget skyscrapers studded with undimmed lights. Instead, think of crystal whites and luminous blues forging the city's silhouette. Picture a city that sucks in carbon and uses bacteria harvested from dead fish to light the darkness. The city as a living character will no longer be a literary conceit, but a reality. From metaphor to concrete in one generation. One of her projects starts with a simple premise. Leave a fish rotting in a bowl of water for long enough and it will begin to glow. The light comes from bacteria in the fish. In certain species, such as the flashlight fish and the anglerfish, a symbiotic relationship with this bacteria, *Vibrio phosphoreum*, allows the fish to glow and flicker in the deep ocean. But how have scientists leapt from flashes of light in the sea to a new vision for our cities? Welcome to the world of nanoarchitecture.

With her colleagues at the Bartlett School of Architecture, Armstrong is focusing on cheap and relatively simple solutions to global warming. One intriguing possibility is the use of bioluminescent bacteria, organisms that give off a blue-green glow, as low-energy urban lighting. In the US, urban lighting accounts for more than 8 per cent of the country's total electricity consumption. The sides of buildings and billboards could be covered in sparkling bacteria, such as *Vibrio phosphoreum* — the fish bacteria. This produces light automatically when a pigment contained in the bacteria called *luciferin*, from the Latin meaning light bringer, reacts with oxygen in air or water. At present, the light emitted is not strong enough to illuminate a street, but scientists believe that it could be engineered to do so. Another possibility is using bacteria to metabolise carbon dioxide through photosynthesis so that the bacterial coating would effectively eat up carbon dioxide by turning sunlight into energy.

"When dealing with climate change we don't always have to invent something new, we have to think very cleverly about what we already have," Armstrong said. "It doesn't take a massive leap of imagination to envisage how much more useful the surfaces of our buildings could become if covered in bacteria that glow in the dark or remove pollutants from the atmosphere."

Adapted from article October 14th 2009 www.timesonline.co.uk

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Task Two: Readings for Discussion

READING TWO

A ONE-WAY TICKET INTO OUTER SPACE

Outer space is often described as "the final frontier", and not just by those who follow the adventures of Captain Kirk in Star Trek. The phrase, though, may take an even more literal meaning for those exploring space in the future. A senior NASA official has revealed that the world's space agencies, or the commercial firms that may eventually succeed them, could issue one-way tickets to space, with the travellers accepting that they would not come back. Dr John Olson, NASA's director of exploration systems integration, talks about NASA's plans for the moon, Mars and one-way tickets into space. "The prospect of spending years cooped in a spacecraft would not deter people from applying," he said. "It's really no different than the pioneering spirit of many in past history, who took the one-way trip across the ocean, or the trip out west across the United States with no intention of ever returning."

In May 1961, President John F. Kennedy challenged the US to put a man on the moon by the end of the decade and return him safely to Earth. In an effort costing $1.4 trillion in 2009, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to set foot on the moon. Now, NASA hopes to reignite the public's interest and win support for a massive investment in new trips to space.

Since Kennedy's speech, the US has lost 17 astronauts. "NASA is currently bound by Kennedy's directive to bring its astronauts home," Olson said. But the other nations rapidly developing space programmes may shed the constraint, as could the commercial companies that may supplant national efforts. "Space is no longer for power; it's truly for economic benefit," the Apollo 11 flight director Eugene Kranz said. "The technology that emerges from high-risk, high-profile, extremely difficult missions is the technology that will keep the economic engine of our nation continuing to go through the years."

If, as Olson predicts, humans reach Mars by the middle of this century, engineers and astronauts may then set their sights on the frozen planets, fiery moons and stars beyond. "We're going back to the moon for a sustained presence," Olson said. "We're going to use the moon as a stepping stone to Mars and we're going to look at other exciting places to go in this solar system." With currently foreseeable technology, a round trip to Mars launched from a lunar outpost would take two to three years – a journey of six to nine months each way and a year-long mission on the surface. The star nearest Earth's solar system, Alpha Centauri, is 4.37 light years away, or more than 2.5 trillion miles, and a round-trip spacecraft would have to carry enough fuel to brake and propel itself back to Earth. Robert Park, a physicist and prominent critic of manned space flight, said that even a one-way trip to Alpha Centauri was beyond the laws of physics. The energy required to push a spacecraft up to the speed needed to get to the star within 50 years was so great as to be barely conceivable. He described the measurement as a fantastic multiple of the energy consumed by the entire world in a year. "We don't have a warp drive," he said, referring to the interstellar engines of Star Trek fantasy. "A multigenerational space ark would doom the children raised to continue the mission never to see Earth and would decide their destiny before their birth, raising profound ethical questions." Rather than devote immeasurable resources to sending humans into space, Park said science should instead build stronger telescopes to better study distant stars and planets.

Adapted from article July2 2009 www.timesonline.co.uk

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TASK THREE

STATEMENT 1

Wealthy countries should pay more for environmental damage.

STATEMENT 2

Foreign aid helps donor countries more than the recipients.

STATEMENT 3

Governments of ALL countries should make education compulsory for children between the ages of 5 and 15.

STATEMENT 4

It is better for students to study at university in their own country rather than abroad.

A

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TASK THREE

STATEMENT 1

You can tell a lot about a country from the way its animals are treated.

STATEMENT 2

Wild animals should never be kept in captivity.

STATEMENT 3

Health care is a basic human right and should be free for everyone.

STATEMENT 4

Some people receive a lot more medical care than others. Individuals should pay for the health care they receive.

B