



2	المعامل:		اللغة الانجليزية	التخصص:
ساعتان ونصف	مدة الإنجاز:		تحليل نص لغوي	مادة الاختبار:

### I. COMPREHENSION (10 POINTS)

Read the following text and answer the questions below.

[1] Memories are our most enduring characteristic. In old age we can remember our childhood eighty or more years ago; a chance remark can conjure up a face, a name, a vision of sea or mountains once seen and apparently long forgotten. Memory defines who we are and shapes how we act more closely than any other aspect of our personhood. All of life is a trajectory from experienced past to unknown future, illuminated only during the always receding instant we call the present, the moment of our actual, conscious experience. Yet our present appears continuous with our past, grows out of it, is shaped by it, because of our capacity of memory. It is this which prevents the past from being lost, as unknowable as the future. It is memory which thus provides time with its arrow.

[2] For each of us, our memories are unique. You can lose a limb, have plastic surgery, a kidney transplant or a sex-change operation, yet you are still in an important sense recognizably yourself as long as your memories persist. We know who we are, and who other people are, in terms of memory. Lose your memory and you as you, cease to exist, which is why clinical cases of amnesia are so endlessly fascinating and frightening. Advocates of cryonics, that Californian fantasy of quick-freezing the dead until future advances in medical technology can bring them back to life, recognize this; they propose a computer backup store for the frozen corpse's memories which may somehow be read into the revived body at a future time. But our own human memories are not embedded in a computer, they are encoded in the brain, in the ten billion nerve cells that comprise the human cerebrum – and the connections and pathways between these cells. Memories are living processes, which become transformed, imbued with new meanings each time we recall them.

[3] Most of us worry that we have a poor memory, that we forget faces, vital appointments. Yet the scale and extent of what anyone of us can remember are prodigious. Imagine sitting down and looking at a photograph for a few seconds. Then another, then another... Suppose that a week later I show you the photographs again, each accompanied by a new, different one, and ask you to say which you had seen before. How many photographs do you think you could identify correctly before your memory ran out or you became confused? When I asked my colleagues in the lab, their guesses ranged from twenty to fifty. Yet when the experiment is done in reality most people can identify at least *ten thousand* different photographs without showing any signs of 'running out' of memory capacity.

[4] Do we then really forget at all? Are all our past experiences, as some schools of psychoanalysis maintain, encoded in some way within our brains, so that, if only we could find the key to accessing them, every detail of our past would become as transparent to us as is the present moment of our consciousness? Or is forgetting functional, so that we record and remember only those things which we have reason to believe are important for our future survival? If that were so then to have a perfect memory would not be a help but a hindrance in our day-to-day existence, and the long search for techniques or drugs to improve our memory – a search which goes back far into antiquity – would be at best a chimera.

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the old of memory

[5] Above all, how do we remember at all? How can the subtleties of our day-to-day experiences, the joys and humiliations of childhood; the trivia of last night's supper or the random digits of a passing car's number-plate become represented within the mix of molecules, of ions, proteins and lipids that make up the ten billion nerve cells of our brain? It is hard enough to envisage such a great number of cells, it is enough to note that each human brain contains getting on for three times as many nerve cells as there are people alive on the earth today, and that if you were to begin counting the connections between them at the rate of one every second, it would take you anything from three to thirty million years to complete your tally. Enough here perhaps to store the memories of a lifetime...

[6] And yet there is another problem. During a human lifetime every molecule of our body is replaced many times over, cells die and are replaced, the connections between them are made and broken thousands, perhaps millions of times. Yet despite this great flux which constitutes our biological existence, memories remain. No memory within a computer could survive such complete turnover of all the machine's constituent parts. Somehow just as the shapes of our bodies persist despite the ceaseless ebb and flow of their molecular components, so do our memories, embedded in the structure and processes of the brain.

**A. Answer the following questions. (5 pts)**

1. Why is memory described as our most enduring characteristic?
2. What doubts does the author have about cryonics?
3. What is shown by the experiment using photographs?
4. According to the author, how does the human brain differ from a computer?
5. In paragraph 6, what does the author describe with the words, *flux*, *ebb and flow* and *turnover*?

**B. What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2 pts)**

1. they
2. that

**C. Choose the best definition which best fits these words or phrases as they are used in the text. (3 pts)**

1. conjure up ( Paragraph 1, line 2)
 

a- make you enjoy	b- make you resist	c- make you remember	d- make you forget
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2. vital (Paragraph 3, line 1)
 

a- useless	b- unforgettable	c- enjoyable	d- important
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3. chimera ( Paragraph 4, line 8)
 

a- dream	b- opportunity	c- consequence	d- incident
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**D. Rewrite the following sentences beginning with the words given. (5 pts)**

1. The wedding ceremony will be held next summer, irrespective of the couple's state of readiness.

Whether .....

2. If the city council hadn't assisted financially, the project would never have been completed.

Had it .....

3. Although I expected him to be late, Rachid arrived at the restaurant in good time.

Contrary.....

4. The jury was so impressed with Khaoula's work that they recommended publishing her thesis.

So .....

5. Achraf has never, on any occasion, gone against his parents' wishes.

On no.....

**III. WRITING (10 POINTS)**

Choose ONE of the following topics.

1. Many people believe that universities should aim to provide a good education that equips students for the rest of their lives. Write a short article explaining how this can be achieved.

2. Some people believe that technology has made the world a better place to live in. Others say it has made life more complex and stressful. Which point of view do you agree with? Write a short article explaining your arguments.