

The Classic ESOL International Examinations



SAMPLE PAGES

C2 Level

Practice Tests **the Classic Way**

BOOK 2

student's book

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Reading Task 2

Read the article and answer the questions below.

Circle the correct option, a, b, c or d. An example has been done for you.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

You probably know (or suspect) that most fairy tales have their roots in folk tales, myths and legends, orally handed down from generation to generation, encouraging people to be proud of their long history. There is one fairy tale however which, although popular worldwide, has a relatively short history. It is Beauty and the Beast, which obviously explores universally popular themes, which could even be described as typical: the victory of virtue over envy and the triumph of true love that does not take into account the appearance of the lover, but rather his or her inner self and personality. It is also evident that the story includes elements from folklore. But Beauty and the Beast has a distinct history starting in the not so distant 1740 with Madame Gabrielle-Suzanne de Villeneuve.

Everything points to the fact that Madam Villeneuve's story is a tale which has deep roots in ancient myths and folklore just like any other fairy tale. And it actually does. Many researchers and scholars have pointed out that the tale possibly originated around 4,000 years ago. So, what makes this fairy tale different? The answer is Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont. It is her version of the story that we are so familiar with today. Published a few years later than the original one, Beaumont's shortened version does not actually change the main plot of the tale, but rather intentionally omits the lengthy parts of the characters' backgrounds. The first main difference is that the beginning of Beaumont's tale is in an urban setting, in stark contrast to the palaces or the magnificent natural settings of other fairy tales. The second and most significant difference is the social status of the characters. Belle is neither royalty nor a peasant, but the daughter of a bankrupt merchant with six children.

Beaumont's approach depicts the social unrest that was evident in France at that time - approximately thirty years before the French Revolution. It was a period marked by the weakening of the power of the monarchy and the church and an obvious rise of nationalism and democracy among the French. In the middle of an economic crisis, after many years of bad harvests and two expensive wars, the public hated the privileged aristocracy and the clergy, and demanded change based on the ideals and ideas of equality and fraternity of people. The portrayal of Belle as a common, working class girl who eventually dominates over the aristocratic beast, is a wonderful illustration of the social issues of the period.

The universality of the myth clearly explains the reason why so many later variations of the tale exist in many parts of the world. In Russia, China, India and Greece, the beast is replaced by a snake, in Denmark by a horse and in Switzerland by "The Bear Prince". Although there is an English version where the French Beast is a small-toothed dog, the best-known English version is the translation of the tale in 1889 by Andrew Lang, which largely sticks with the original French plot and characters. Interestingly enough, however, there is a much older English translation of Villeneuve's tale in 1757 by J. R. Planché. In this version, the Beast does not ask Belle to marry him every night, but rather he asks: "May I sleep with you tonight?" The Beast's demand may sound bold at first, but Belle's refusal indicates control of her body, something considered illegal for a woman given to a husband at that time.

5) How has the 20th century contributed to the importance of the tale?

- a) It modernized its themes.
- b) It gave it room to expand.
- c) It respected its originality.
- d) It proved its historical value.

6) What is true about Cocteau's 1946 film?

- a) It heavily criticized WWII.
- b) It depicted the Beast in a more humane way.
- c) It was the basis for Disney's animated film.
- d) It tried to connect men with animals.

7) What could be an alternative title for the article?

- a) Fairy Tales in the Cinema.
- b) Literature in the French Revolution.
- c) The Origins of Fairy Tales.
- d) The History Behind the Tale.

8) What is the main purpose of the article?

- a) To analyse the themes of a literary piece.
- b) To persuade young people to read the fairy tale.
- c) To analyse the importance fairy tales in literature.
- d) To review the main points of the fairy tale.



(8 marks)

Writing Task 1

Choose ONE of the following two topics: A or B

A. "Cheating on exams in some cases can be justifiable". Write an essay discussing this statement.

In your essay, remember to:

- write an introduction
 - structure your writing in a logical way
 - present arguments in support, including reasons and examples
 - present arguments against, including reasons and examples
 - write a clear conclusion
-

B. Write an article for a local newspaper entitled "Can the problem of child obesity be dealt with?".

Remember to:

- choose the style appropriate to your audience
- structure your writing in logical way
- use relevant information / explanation / persuasion
- include opinions and/or examples where appropriate
- write a clear conclusion

Which topic have you chosen: A or B? _____

Write a minimum of 240 words.

Listening Task 1

Listen to the recording and circle the correct option – a, b, c, or d. ;

An example has been done for you.

You have one minute to read the questions before the recording is played.

You will hear the recording twice.

Example: What is true about the woman?

- a) She is not unemployed any longer.
- b) She has been unemployed for 3 years.
- c) She has been unemployed for 6 months.
- d) She has been unemployed for 15 years.

1. What was the woman's profession?

- a) Graphics designer.
- b) Secretary.
- c) Business woman.
- d) Book publisher.

2. What happened to the company the woman was working for?

- a) It completely went out of business.
- b) It fired 210 people and managed to survive.
- c) It expanded its business abroad.
- d) It reopened after 3 years.

3. What happened when the woman lost her job?

- a) She was rejected by numerous companies.
- b) She couldn't get over her shock for a long time.
- c) She decided that she didn't want to be depressed anymore.
- d) She tried to support other unemployed people.

4. Why did the woman decide to take some seminars?

- a) To acquire some more skills as a secretary.
- b) Out of habit.
- c) She predicted a change in the advertising sector.
- d) She had a lot free time as she was unemployed.

5. What did the woman invest the first money she earned on?

- a) She advertised her business.
- b) She employed some staff.
- c) A new website.
- d) More seminars.

Listening Task 3

Listen to the recording and answer the questions below.

There are 4 speakers.

An example has been done for you.

You have one minute to read the questions before the recording is played.

You will hear the recording twice.

Which speaker...

- Example:** believes that today's educational system must not involve exams? Speaker 2
1. believes that taking a test is more important than the results? Speaker ____
 2. says that exams can be annoying for teachers too? Speaker ____
 3. believes that children receive contradicting messages about exams? Speaker ____
 4. doesn't associate test taking with a child's future career? Speaker ____
 5. supports that test taking is a highly debatable issue? Speaker ____
 6. gives examples of successful people who didn't do well at tests? Speaker ____
 7. believes that exams restrict the pleasure of learning? Speaker ____
 8. says that taking test is a lifelong practice? Speaker ____



Speaking Task 3: Discussion

The examiner is going to describe a situation to you. Then you will talk about it together.

Your teacher has asked you to talk about ways to improve road safety. Visual Prompts for Speaking Task 3

Higher fines for offenders



Stricter tests for new drivers



Better policing



Road safety in schools



*Do it the
Classic Way!*

The Classic ESOL International Examinations

C2 Level Practice Tests The Classic Way, book 2

KEY FEATURES:

- **5 COMPLETE PRACTICE TESTS DESIGNED TO PREPARE THE STUDENTS FOR THE CLASSIC ESOL EXAMINATIONS**
- **C2 READING - WRITING - LISTENING - SPEAKING PRACTICE**
- **TRANSCRIPTS OF THE LISTENING TASKS OF EACH TEST**
- **AUDIO RECORDINGS OF THE LISTENING TASKS OF THE TESTS**

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