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La leçon se déroule en anglais. Elle est suivie d'un entretien en français.

SUBJECT:

As Max and Adrian were talking, the daylight was fading from the West. Clouds were gathering and there was a chill in the air. They decided to end their conversation. Lights were shining from a passing steamer. Pessimistic thoughts filled the minds of both men, but Adrian pushed them aside as being merely the result of his tiredness. Besides, he had sand in his shoes.

"Pronouns are used to stand in place of complete Noun Phrases. In the above passage, *they* stands for *Max and Adrian*, *them* stands for *pessimistic thoughts*, and *he* stands for *Adrian*. Substituting single words like these is an important test for whether a sequence of words constitutes a phrase or not. In substituting a pronoun, we test more specifically whether the phrase is a Noun Phrase or not."

Noel Burton-Roberts, *Analysing Sentences. An introduction to English Syntax*, London & New York: Longman, 1997, p. 58.

Discuss.

Candidates will use relevant excerpts from the following corpus to address the above topic.

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Excerpt 1

The blast had killed the friend and left the 25-year-old Mohammed Ahmed too badly injured to flee the scene. Now, flanked by police officers with assault rifles, he lay on a rickety iron bed in the northern Nigerian city of Kaduna, enduring the whispered taunts of strangers, blood seeping through the bandages on his deeply burned legs. He insisted he had nothing to do with bombmaking and was only keeping his friend company. The police saw it differently. "We think he was part of a team," a detective standing nearby explained, over the din of excited children. "We went into the house. We saw everything: wires, batteries, pliers, chemicals. They were making them there. This was a network ... a terrorist organization."

Newsweek, January 9 & 16, 2012

Excerpt 2

Of course, the notion that there is a strong and constant relationship between the language we use in a particular situation and certain features of that situation is no new one. It lies behind the rhetorics of ancient Greece and Rome, the mediaeval lists of 'hard words', eighteenth-century English hand-books on Polite English, and the present series of technical dictionaries by Penguin books: *Dictionary of Sailing*, *Dictionary of Psychology*, etc. However, to assert that we all use similar language in similar situation is not, of course, to claim that we all use the same language in the same situation. The claim is more modest but more important. It is not so naïve as to fail to recognize the ultimate uniqueness of any instance of language, but it is concerned with what any instance of language shares with some other instances, and the important predictability patterns that can be traced between situation and language.

Michael Gregory & Susanne Carroll, *Language and Situation. Language varieties and their social contexts*, 1978

Excerpt 3

My imaginary furniture remained intact for almost a year. Then, in the spring of 1967, Uncle Victor died. This death was a terrible blow for me; in many ways it was the worst blow I had ever had. Not only was Uncle Victor the person I had loved most in the world, he was my only relative, my one link to something larger than myself. Without him I felt bereft, utterly scorched by fate.

Paul Auster, *Moon Palace*, 1989

Excerpt 4

Amsterdam. They pulled that city out of mud and water and, a few centuries later, the first monasteries came, the first markets, the first ships. A few more centuries and the city on the Ij and the Amstel was a world metropolis, rich and powerful. Hundreds of ships anchored there, transferring their cargo onto smaller boats, which sailed into the city on an inland waterway that is now filled in and called Damrak. That semicircle is both a labyrinth and an image of the highest order. The innermost circle, Singel, was once a defensive barrier against water and enemies. Then the second canal was dug, Herengracht, the gentlemen's canal, its name evidence of a new and assertive bourgeoisie.

Newsweek, December 5, 2011

Excerpt 5

I saw that so much politics was involved with moviemaking. I thought it was all about hard work and actors like Al Pacino and Robert De Niro. But you can be mediocre and still be a movie star. To me, when I learned that, it ruined everything. Then I hated it. I went off the tracks right away. I didn't care about the consequences.

Mickey Rourke, *Newsweek*, November 28, 2011

Excerpt 6

There is an opposite bias in women's errors. They tend to undervalue signs that a man is interested in a committed relationship. That, the idea goes, is because a woman who guesses wrongly that a man intends to stick around could end up raising a child alone. On looks, however, men and women make the same error. So go on, pluck up your courage: you may think the competition is frighteningly hot, but then so does she.

The Economist, December 29, 2011

Excerpt 7

"Maybe they edited that out of you." More deeply than ever she frowned at that, then seemed to change her mind about what she was going to say. "You were the corporate ethicist," she went on. "Do you remember that?" "No." That made her agitated. She started tapping her forehead with her fingers until she asked, "Do you remember the first project we worked on? The one where we met?"

Jim Young. *The Whirlwind*. in *Fantasy and Science Fiction*. 2011 (COCA)

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Excerpt 8

"Women were always being told, 'you have you eat or else you're going to look like a stick,' and were encouraged to eat."

While that preference may still be strong, especially in rural areas and among the poor, the urban middle and upper classes seem to have adopted the global preferences for slimness. Monteiro noted that in Saõ Paulo there are now clinics that treat anorexia and bulimia, problems that barely existed 30 years ago but are appearing now because of the "mixed messages that are being sent" through the media about desirable types.

The New York Times, January 13, 2005

Excerpt 9

My husband put me in chains last night. It was wonderful. Has your husband done that to you lately?

J.K. Toole. *A Confederacy of Dunces*. 1980

Excerpt 10

'And then on the Löwenstrasse, just before we went up to Chernak's flat, I begged you not to make me go with you. I was convinced that if I heard any more you'd kill me. That's when you said the strangest thing of all. You said... "What you heard makes no more sense to me than it does you. Perhaps less..." I thought you were insane.'

'What I've got is a form of insanity. A sane person remembers. I don't.'

Robert Ludlum. *The Bourne Identity*. 1980

Excerpt 11

Midway down the block she was able to pull in at the curb. "Trevor, please, wake up!" She undid her seatbelt, twisted around to shake him. He did not respond. She drew back, staring at his immobilized figure. He was sitting upright, his gaze fixed, unmoving. Without warning, she began to weep, to sob, with her head against the steering wheel, clutching it hard with both hands. Her paroxysm of sobs eased and she groped in her bag for tissues. They couldn't be alone, she thought in despair.

Kate Wilhelm. *The Bird Cage*. In *Fantasy and Science Fiction*. 2011 (COCA)

Excerpt 12

"In Venice," Charlotte said, "you see funeral gondolas—black and gold, and a wreath on the prow. And these big, dark-suited men standing outside and some more dark-clad people inside, and they go zipping off to the cemetery island. The memorial stones are stacked in rows—from a distance it looks kind of like a big wall of drawers, a big filing cabinet for the remains." "Yeah?" said Fran. "Well. That's interesting," in a tone that said but not very. She was seated on a hassock in front of Charlotte, cutting Charlotte's toenails.

Jean Ross Justice. *Mysteries*. In *The Antioch Review*. 2010 (COCA)

Excerpt 13

Not every one who takes up 'snus' (smokeless tobacco neatly packed in tiny pouches that look like miniature used tea bags) is a smoker. And not everyone stops when they use it. A few continue to smoke daily, when others, like Froberg, smoke now and then. An estimated 5 percent of Swedish men quit smoking altogether in favor of snus.

International Herald Tribune, October 13, 2007

Excerpt 14

Green, 37, is a professor at Harvard and a leader in the field of moral psychology. He has been pursuing this line of study since college, when research first began to show that the brain operates fundamentally in two modes. One is automatic and emotional – in essence, a gut reaction. The other is slower, more reasoned. Today, this "dual-process theory" has become the dominant view of the brain.

Newsweek, January 23, 2012

Excerpt 15

The prosecutors said that the White House claim that Clinton was merely trying to save himself embarrassment cannot be made for his August 17 grand jury appearance. At that point, Clinton had already confessed his relationship to his family, and would shortly do so to the nation. He had no motive to continue his lie, they said, except to try to wiggle out of legal jeopardy—behavior particularly reprehensible from the nation's chief law enforcement officer.

San Francisco Chronicle, 1999 (COCA)