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

SUBJECT:

"*One* is termed a prop-word when it has the important function of serving as primary on which to hang a secondary which, for some reason or other, cannot very well or conveniently stand alone as a primary. In the following passage from *Hamlet*:

"Denmark is a prison." "Then is the world one." "A goodly one, in which there are many confines, wards, and dungeons ; Denmark being one o' th' worst"—

we see first *one* standing by itself to represent the previously mentioned word with the indefinite article *a prison*, then preceded by the article and an adjective, and finally followed by a prepositional group; by this means the clumsy repetitions "a prison," "a goodly prison" and " a prison of the worst (prisons)" are avoided.

One, of course, is originally a numeral, but when used as a prop-word its meaning is often more or less dissociated from that of the numeral [...]."

Otto Jespersen, *Essentials of English Grammar*, London: George Allen & Unwin, 1933, p. 83.

Discuss.

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

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Excerpt 1

On the other hand, some writers take a more interrogative approach, grilling their beleaguered subjects from a prepared list of queries like a policeman in search of a conviction. From a personal point of view, the best interviews are the ones which become conversations, discussions which proceed on an equal basis, that are informal but still retain some kind of shape.

Norton York, *The Rock File: Making It in the Music Business*, 1991

Excerpt 2

'A gift from Dysart was a gesture of friendship, from Minter an act of corruption.' 'As a parting thought, Harry.' 'Yes?' 'This photograph Rex Cunningham supposedly saw in Clare's possession: the one of Jack Cornelius. Don't place too much store by such evidence.'

Robert Goddard, *Into the Blue*, 1990

Excerpt 3

What forced this massive block upward is a mystery, but Euboea Montes may reveal something about the internal makeup of Io. The upper crust may be layered, with a thin, weaker layer overlying a stronger one. Asked to speculate on the composition of the weak layer, I might suggest that it could be a thick accumulation of ash from the plumes or perhaps interbedded lavas of different compositions, including sulfur.

Paul M. Schenk, 'The mountains of Io', *Astronomy*, January 1995

Excerpt 4

Life just had to be raced and there really was no way of climbing through the lavatory window to get out of it. Then a man with more than a few hairy 10 notes sticking out of his ears said, "We'll build a factory there, and another one over this hill here. The first one is to manufacture the people to buy the moderately priced poison that's brewed in the second one."

Ron Geesin, *Fallables*, 1975

Excerpt 5

As with the compromise approach the voting approach is designed to sooth the egos of those involved and not to solve the problem. There is no reason at all why the solution chosen by the majority has to be the best one. Indeed, there is a case for supposing that in complicated matters it is likely to be the worst one.

Edward de Bono, *Atlas of Management Thinking*, 1988

Excerpt 6

He knew the river folk pretty well; he could guess what they had said. 'I'm sure they meant well.' 'Each and every one had a different idea about how I should get rid of the dog,' Anabelle told him. 'I hate to say it, Uncle Alfred, but some of the things they said were not very nice at all – starving, poison, ambush and attack.'

Stephen Lawhead, *A tale of Anabelle Hedgehog*, 1990

Excerpt 7

'Well, I'd better get looking at her, hadn't I?' Charlie turned to face his friend and his shadow was short and black against Jack's long one. He raised his hard little hand and brought it down on Jack's resoundingly. 'I'll be off, then.' 'I reckon you'd better, Charlie.'

Ruth Rendell, *The Best Man to Die*, 1981

Excerpt 8

Then my supermarket replaced the pitted olives with whole olives, otherwise the same, but somehow not. It didn't seem like it would be hard to find a device that would extract the pits for me. The first one I bought couldn't handle olives the size I was buying. So I found a bigger one. It did little but smash the olive, at which point I had to peel the smushed flesh off the pit. Not what I was looking for. There were other failures before I found this instrument of torture, which would often push about half the fruit out with the pit, then quarter whatever was left, and often pinch a finger in the process. It was the best of the lot, and it has been sitting in the back of a drawer, unused, for about 10 years.

'A Clean Sweep', *Washington Post*, March 28, 2012

Excerpt 9

'Hey. Are you OK?' She looked at Trish, forced herself to smile. 'I'm fine.' It was, he thought, one hell of a place for a man to spend a Thursday evening. Not that he didn't like women. Nicolo Sabatini permitted himself a little smile. Damn, no. No one would ever accuse the Prince of Cordia of that. The trouble was, there were too many of them packed into this room. Beautiful ones. Homely ones. Young ones. Old ones. And all of them had one thing in mind. The Fabbiano Collection.

Sandra Marton, *Roman Spring*, 1993

Excerpt 10

The boy saw through the fanaticism and found that his sense of chivalry was excited. One of the nastiest pseudo-religious books of the Victorian age helped to condition the impressionable mind of a future Christian leader of the next century. On top of all this was the constant need to defend his religion against a clever elder brother who was an atheist. The two brothers had conversation after conversation on the theme of religion, the younger one sticking to his guns. The elder said that reason dismissed religion. The younger said that religious experience was too valid to be dismissed by mere reason, that reason was not all of humanity.

Owen Chadwick, *Michael Ramsey: a Life*, 1991

Excerpt 11

Above all, one must avoid any tendency to equate the degree of harm with the degree of physical injury in a

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particular case, since the psychological harm may be far more severe. This chapter has dealt chiefly with the non-consensual offences, and this is important, because it is the absence of consent which is the crucial factor in many cases of sexual assault. Such offences attack the principle of freedom of choice in sexual matters, and this, together with the punishment of those who exploit the young, the mentally handicapped, and those for whom they have responsibility, should form the bedrock of the scheme of offences.

Andrew Ashworth, *Principles of Criminal Law*, 1991

Excerpt 12

Around the harbour, fishermen's tavernas still jostle side by side with the newer cafs and bars which have sprung up to cater for the younger market, and the main daytime activity seems to be relaxing over a quiet glass of something while watching the boats chug in and out. It's all here, a mixture of the old and the new. A combination of romance and excitement; fast food and long lunches; disco dancing and daytime drowsing; the beach and the bar.

Club 18-30 summer holiday brochure, 1990

Excerpt 13

The areas of learning and experience are those identified earlier, except that they added one more: technological. They admit that these represent only one, and not original, point of view. The elements of learning are the skills, attitudes, concepts and knowledge outlined in the last Curriculum 11-16 document.

R. McCormick & M. James, *Curriculum Evaluation in Schools*, 1990

Excerpt 14

Gina is wearing a satin waistcoat in red and imperial purple with a matching skirt. She understands the disasters ladies encounter with co-ordination. 'They can make dreadful mistakes with their hats. That's where we come in,' she says in hushed tones. 'Quite often the mother of the groom and the mother of the bride come in together because we can make sure they compliment each other. We take them by the hand. They need expert advice after all. When we are finished, they are each matching from head to toe.'

Scotsman, 1985-1994

Excerpt 15

Every person is different and each has her or his optimal strategy for survival. For some the best strategy is nine children; for others it may be one or two. The only humane population programme is one that expands people's opportunities so that large families are no longer necessary for survival.

New Internationalist, 1985-1994

Excerpt 16

He sniggers, and so does Gerald. But then these two do everything together. If one folds his arms, so does the other. If one crosses his legs, ditto. In 40 years of film-making they have had not one disagreement. Just bellyfuls of laughs – many of them totally unsuited to the big screen. One of the rare occasions on which they ventured beyond the studio was for Carry On Up The Khyber.

The Daily Mirror, 1992

Excerpt 17

Evil has such a strong hold on Gollum that he does not have control over his own mind any more. He is drawn to the Ring and his thoughts are tortured by it. It seems that the wise are the ones who are most afraid to take the Ring. Gandalf (a good and respected wizard), Elrond and Aragorn (friends of Frodo) all refuse to take it to Mount Doom. Elrond says 'I fear to take the Ring to hide it. I will not take the Ring to wield it'. Those who are afraid understand more fully the evil of the Ring.

Schoolgirls' essays, 1985-1994

Excerpt 18

There was a large, two-storey garage that when adapted would house a couple of students who would wait at table, and Nigel and I would cook. I would also grow all our own organic vegetables for the table. We completely ignored several facts. First, that Nigel would refuse entry to anyone to whom he took a dislike, and the ones he did like he wouldn't want to charge, a distinct disadvantage from a business point of view.

Jane Spottiswoode, *Undertaken with Love*, 1991

Excerpt 19

The smith's face stiffened. He turned to the other villagers.

"All right, the rain's stopping," he said. "Piss off, the lot of you. Me and—" he looked at the wizard with raised eyebrows.

"Drum Billet," said the wizard.

"Me and Mr. Billet have things to talk about." He waved his hammer vaguely and, one after another, craning over their shoulders in case the wizard did anything interesting, the audience departed.

Terry Pratchett, *Equal Rites*, 1987

Excerpt 20

'I didn't ask you here and I don't want to see you and I have nothing to say to you,' I said, showing her the door but, alas, she seemed to have no intention of going through it, so I capitulated rather too easily and offered her a drink from the mini bar. She said she'd have a sherry, a nebulous drink itself, so I poured her as dark and sweet a one as I could find in the little tight tiny rows of sinister bottles, and while she drank it I put on trousers and sweater.

Fay Weldon, *Darcy's Utopia*, 1991