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

**SUBJECT:**

Prepositions do not form a strict closed class of uninflected elements, as sometimes hastily presented by grammarians. Most languages with prepositions have a rather limited set of single word prepositions, in general between 40 and 120, although there are divergences among grammarians on the exact nature and definition of a preposition.


Discuss.

Candidates will use relevant excerpts from the following corpus to address the above topic.
Excerpt n°1
She managed to spend a little more time with Saul before he went back to his afternoon's work and to give him a thick packet of meat and pickle sandwiches, in case he got hungry before his tea time.

House of Hate, Percy Janes, 1992

Excerpt n°2
I do not complain that The Smurfs were up for awards. I do not mind that Mickey Rourke left cinema, and has now returned with the face of a sponge. Nor do I mind that Jeff Bridges got an Oscar nomination for mumbling. All this I can tolerate.

http://www.guardian.co.uk, 23 February 2010

Excerpt n°3
Benjamin notes that, according to a leaked 2007 report from the Red Cross, doctors were present at the sessions and measured detainees' blood oxygen levels, allowing interrogators to bring detainees "close to death — but help them from crossing the line."

http://rawstory.com, March 9, 2010

Excerpt n°4
Gaudí fans can sit on wooden benches designed by the great Catalan architect at this restaurant within a building he designed for a textile manufacturer a century ago.

http://articles.latimes.com, 14 March 2010

Excerpt n°5
I lay down next to them in my ocean bath, gazed at the golden sand and waving palms, wondered if getting any closer to heaven while wearing only swimming shorts might not be a bit indecent, and waited too.

http://www.timesonline.co.uk, February 2, 2010

Excerpt n°6
Bits of evidence Barsanti cited included a bloody footprint matching the size of Hamilton's work boots, an unexplained three-hour absence during the time of the murder, the lack of forced entry at Beck's apartment and cell phone records putting Hamilton within 1.5 miles of Beck's house near the time of the murder.

http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com, March 12, 2010

Excerpt n°7
It is said that the fire was occurred due to short-circuiting. Army men cordoned off the whole area just after the incident and started rescue efforts. Dead bodies and injured girls were shifted to Military Hospital (MH) and Combined Military Hospital (CMH). Security forces were not allowing any body to go near to the building.


Excerpt n°8
They cared for no one else; they felt only the pressure of each other, and so progressed, silent and oblivious, across the land. He felt them to be nearer the truth than Shelley. Even if they suffered or quarrelled, they would have been nearer the truth.

The Longest Journey, E.M. Forster, 1907

Excerpt n°9
I caught up with the Black Eyed Peas frontman at Elton John's Oscar party last week and he was virtually jumping for joy that Cheryl's back on the market. "It's great news." he grinned. "I'm texting her right now actually."

http://www.newsoftheworld.co.uk, February 18, 2010

Excerpt n°10
But his demeanour has changed and his eyes have become bold. For he is no longer a homeless black man only, but has become a gay, homeless black man who lives on a red bench.

http://www.timeslive.co.za, March 8, 2010
Excerpt n°11
Ray Pierce stood under a blue construction scaffolding outside a club on 4th Street, smoking a damp cigarette. Beneath the soles of his shoes, through the concrete, he could feel the pounding party music, like the heart of a caged animal.

*Hardcore Romeo*, Mark Nadja, 2006

Excerpt n°12
Suddenly, with a flaunt of its bushy tail and a daring, backward glance, it scampered under the gate into Miss Ainsley’s garden and Winfield laughed aloud.

*Lavender and Old Lace*, Myrtle Reed, 2007

Excerpt n°13
Just before 10, minutes before the polls closed, Sue Nye, a close aide of Brown, came into the room to say that there was a phone call from James Purnell, the Work and Pensions Secretary. This bright young protégé of Tony Blair had always thought Brown would be a disastrous Prime Minister, an expectation that had been amply confirmed by serving in his Government.

http://www.guardian.co.uk, 28 February 2010

Excerpt n°14
He confided to a few close friends that he simply could not stomach the thought of appearing before television cameras on Friday morning to express his support for a Prime Minister in whom he had lost all confidence.

http://www.guardian.co.uk, 28 February 2010

Excerpt n°15
At first light he would creep into the thicket, squeeze between the twisted stems, ensconce himself so deep that only a crawler like himself could come through, and that crawler would be jabbed.

*Lord of the Flies*, William Golding, 1954

Excerpt n°16
He pours a little tonic water into each bowl and I ask him to add more to mine. Then he throws into each glass a slip of lemon from another bowl giving it a little squeeze between thumb and forefinger before letting it drop, and stirs.

*Anthills of the Savannah*, Chinua Achebe, 1988

Excerpt n°17
The interchange became increasingly bitter after Cameron was heckled from the Labour benches over the fact that the military chiefs he had cited as criticising Brown were “Tories”. Banging his papers on the dispatch box, Cameron demanded an apology for this “disgraceful slur” on the former defence chiefs’ patriotism and integrity.

http://www.guardian.co.uk, March 10, 2010

Excerpt n°18
In the first few months of life, babies sleep between 12 and 18 hours over the course of a 24 hour day.

*The Cleveland Clinic Guide to Sleep Disorders*, Nancy Foldvary-Schaefer, 2009

Excerpt n°19
"We stand by the principle that there is a legitimate claim, it should be respected and it should be negotiated," said Steve Watson, national representative for the Canadian Auto Workers, who was at the head of 15 activist union members.

http://www.brantfordexpositor.ca, March 9, 2010

Excerpt n°20
In 1973 I was cutting the grass around the flats with a 30 inch mower. These machines by their very nature are noisy. One chap arrived semi naked on his balcony shouting at me, he said: "Would I please go away with that
noisy machine because it was having an effect on his love life..." or words to that effect — I have cleaned it up for publication.

http://www.middletonguardian.co.uk, March 11, 2009