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

**SUBJECT:**

“‘Equal to’ may be defined as the quantitative application of the qualitative ‘same as’, ‘more than’ and ‘less than’ being the two possible kinds of quantitative ‘different from’.”

Edward SAPIR, “Grading, A Study in Semantics”, *Philosophy of Science*, Vol. 11, No. 2 (Apr.), 1944, p. 105.

Discuss.

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

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### Excerpt 1

The old woman gave a scream of outrage and began raining slaps on Martha's head. Feeling her strength almost equal to Nana's, Martha thrashed her arm to break her grasp.

Celia Brayfield, *The Prince*, 1990

### Excerpt 2

The houses were each slightly different from each other; here a window was larger, there a door had been moved round the corner – no one family's was quite the same as his neighbour's. In spite of which, the impression they gave was of being identical, and it was left to the owners to give their property whatever signs of individuality they could, by making neat little gardens, or by not doing so, by cleaning the windows once a month, or by not doing so.

Robert Barnard, *Posthumous Papers*, 1992

### Excerpt 3

The two men were now staring fixedly at each other. It was almost impossible to tell them apart. Their hair was slightly different lengths and their clothes were different. But other than that they were identical.

Alistair Potte, *Nasty Little Stories: Very Short Stories*, 2002

### Excerpt 4

The past was not so simple as some would have us believe. Perhaps the present is also more complex than we think.

*American Scholar*, 2001, COCA

### Excerpt 5

Environmental Working Group publishes a sunscreen guide stating that U.S. sunscreens are less effective than products available in Europe.

*San Francisco Chronicle*, 2011, COCA

### Excerpt 6

He is taller than most boys his age, the height of a small man.

*Feminist Studies*, 2006, GloWbE

### Excerpt 7

The dealer is a giant with a body like a bear's. I'm a good-sized man but the dealer is taller and substantially heavier. Big as he is, his voice is even bigger and compels you to listen to it.

John Frizell, *Fly for Your Life*, 2010, COCA

### Excerpt 8

The coming of the holidays had turned his thoughts backward to the care-free days of boyhood and he longed for the holidaying provender of his youth with a longing that was as wide as a river and as deep as a well.

<http://fullonlinebooks.com>, GloWbE

### Excerpt 9

Every so often I've caught a post-war French film that seemed to be deep but was as shallow as a politician's principle.

<http://theconversation.edu.au>, 2012, GloWbE

### Excerpt 10

Please stop fidgeting like that. Since you are a wizard of sorts, you are of course aware that we live upon a world shaped, as it were, like a disc? And that there is said to exist, towards the far rim, a continent which though small is equal in weight to all the mighty landmasses in this hemi-circle?

Terry Pratchett, *The Colour of Magic*, 1983

### Excerpt 11

They had things in common and, in this environment, found more. To begin with, they were of a similar age: Jane's children were older because she had started to breed younger.

Jean Bow, *Jane's Journey*, 1991

### Excerpt 12

He had been under the erroneous impression that Europe was just one big common market, similar in size to the United States, operating under free trade concepts, and with common laws, rules and regulations. He had therefore assumed that the preparation of a European plan would be broadly similar to the planning practices normally followed in the United States. In consequence, he had read the two hundred page European Plan with open-mouthed incredulity. It was a totally different planning world from the United States.

Mike Kilby, *Man at the Sharp End*, 1991

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**Excerpt 13**

Mercury is the smallest planet in the solar system.

*NPR\_Science, 2009, GloWbE*

**Excerpt 14**

The approach being used to explore at Mahogany is far different from what was typically employed in the past, when a well was simply drilled if some formations looked promising. Costs were not as high as today because the drilling didn't have to go as deep.

*New York Times, 1995, COCA*

**Excerpt 15**

Praise be to God, the winter was not as long as it was cold.

<http://ebckazanlak.wordpress.com>, 2013

**Excerpt 16**

The mass extinction at the end of the Permian geological period was the worst such event Earth has ever endured. It was far worse than the better-known extinction 65 million years ago that ended the dinosaur era.

*Astronomy, 2008, COCA*

**Excerpt 17**

I came from an abused background as a child, and so I think I just seek that attention. I sought out what would make me look, appear, you know, above and beyond all of my peers, kind of that goal that I was reaching for through school and more importantly just really putting all of my time into that more than anything else. And I think once that goal was achieved, I think I realized, like, oh wow, the chase was much better than the catch.

*NPR\_TalkNat, 2011, COCA*

**Excerpt 18**

Rafa is less stupid than stubborn. He complains about the schedule but insists on playing tournaments he can skip.

[www.nadalnews.com](http://www.nadalnews.com), accessed 2014

**Excerpt 19**

"He told me what he wanted was an opinion that was short, highly readable, that could be published in newspapers, and that would be understood by the average American," Pollock says. "He wanted it as little legalistic as possible."

*Washington Monthly, 2002, COCA*

**Excerpt 20**

When someone comes forward for the first time 15 years after an incident which was as very public as this one was and provides what on the face would be significant information which relates to a homicide [...].

*CBS\_48Hours, 2008, COCA*

**Excerpt 21**

Bassist Rika Hamamoto, barely as tall as her instrument, combines with drummer Sudo to form Hell's rhythm section, flexible, powerful, agile and ultimately, magnificent.

*Chicago Sun-Times, 1996, COCA*

**Excerpt 22**

DARRELL-HAMMOND-C: Good, sir. How are you? LEMON: I'm great. I love the glasses. I have some very similar. They call them my breaking news specs.

*CNN LIVE EVENT/SPECIAL, 2012, COCA*

**Excerpt 23**

"Ma -" Janet said, "the truth is you probably don't have more than six months to live."

*Southwest Review, 2001, COCA*

**Excerpt 24**

Miss Kenton and my father had arrived at the house at more or less the same time - that is to say, the spring of 1922 - as a consequence of my losing at one stroke the previous housekeeper and under-butler.

Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*, 1989