

**ENGLISH**  
**Written Matura Examination**  
**(4 hours)**

Name of candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

This exam consists of two parts. Keep to the suggested time limits.

**Part I:**

Suggested time: **ca. 2 ½ hours**

- **No aids** are allowed in PART I.

This part contributes 60% to the final examination mark.

- |   |                                                |      |           |
|---|------------------------------------------------|------|-----------|
| - | Section A: <b>Listening Comprehension</b>      | max. | 24 points |
| - | Section B: <b>Reading Comprehension</b>        | max. | 16 points |
| - | Section C: <b>Vocabulary</b>                   | max. | 9 points  |
| - | Section D: <b>Grammar &amp; Use of English</b> | max. | 46 points |
| - | Section E: <b>Translation</b>                  | max. | 35 points |

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Total:		max.	130 points
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As soon as you have handed in PART I you will be given the ESSAY TOPICS on a separate sheet (Part II).

**Part II:**

Suggested time: **ca. 1 ½ hours**

- **Essay Writing**

This part contributes 40% to the final examination mark.

You may now collect your **English-English dictionary** and use it.

Please write legibly, put your name on all your sheets and leave a wide margin.

**Good luck!**

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

<b>PART I</b>
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<b>SECTION A: LISTENING COMPREHENSION</b>	<b>(24 points)</b>
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**Computer Games****1. Complete the statements about the radio programme. (4 points)**

- 1) The radio programme is about the link between computer games and ...
- 2) Helena Brook is a ...
- 3) Jim Edwards is a ...
- 4) The first person who telephones the programme is from ...

**2. Decide whether the statements are true or false [T] / [F] and add a sentence from the radio programme that supports your decision. (14 points)**

- 1) Marion Jeffries thinks her son spends too much time playing computer games. [ ]  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) She is worried because her son doesn't mix with other children. [ ]  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Helena Brook thinks Marion has good reason to be worried about her son's behaviour. [ ]  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Helena Brook expects Adam to lose interest in computer games soon. [ ]  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5) According to Jim Edwards, children who play computer games do badly at school. [ ]  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Jim Edwards advises Marion to take the game away from the boy. [ ]  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7) According to the mentioned research, computer games affect everyone in the same way. [ ]  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Give a synonym or a brief definition for the word or phrases in *italics*. You must not use the asked for word (or parts of it) in any way. (6 points)**

- 1) If I shout to get his attention, he *loses his temper*.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) When he's finished, he's completely *uncommunicative*.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Obsessions like this are a *passing phase*.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) It might just *do the trick*.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ... if he continues to play for hours *on end*.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) You'd be *asking for trouble*.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

**PART I  
READING TEXT**

- Read the text carefully and **fill in** the ten gaps with suitable **PREPOSITIONS (max. 5 points)**
- Turn to **SECTION B** of this Exam and Answer the **COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**.

**End of the Road**

By Marcel Theroux/ Newsweek International / April 10-17, 2006 issue

5	<p>Far is not so far anymore. When I took my first long trip to India in 1986, I didn't speak _____ [1] to my parents for five months because the phone lines were so bad. I collected my mail _____ [2] the Poste Restante counter each time I arrived in a new town, and wrote home on crinkly airmail paper to save postage.</p>
10	<p>_____ [3] thirty-seven, I am not yet old – but these details already belong _____ [4] a very old-fashioned world. E-mail and Internet cafés have made the letter home seem as quaint as sealing wax. And if a young traveller went five months without calling nowadays you would assume the worst. Stealthily, the world is converging, thanks _____ [5] to cheap flights and computers, cable television, mobile-phone networks and the spread of commercial franchises that have put Irish pubs and pizzerias in cities as far apart as Baku and Tegucigalpa. And yet, the purpose of travel remains the same—to encounter the unfamiliar, to get Elsewhere. It's a place of enchantment and transformation which can be arduous to reach, but which promises to enrich your understanding of the world, and reflect your own life back at you. Prospero's island in Shakespeare's play "The Tempest" is the epitome of Elsewhere. No one went there to get a suntan, and there's tension between the locals and the outsiders, but almost everyone went home a little altered.</p>
15	<p>Throughout history the existence of Elsewhere has been a given. Traditionally, it was very close, rarely more than a day's walk away. But the same global culture that now draws us together also threatens to tame Elsewhere with uniformity. After all, Prospero's island wouldn't seem quite so magical if there were a Club Med on it.</p>
20	<p>I travelled by biplane through a wilderness of snow in 2002 to visit the Even, a group of reindeer-herding near-nomads in northern Siberia, only to find myself in a wooden hut watching a Hollywood submarine movie with them. I wanted to eat ritual hallucinogens and talk about shamanism; they wanted to drink whisky and discuss Mr. Bean.</p>
25	<p>Our appetite _____ [6] more and more exotic destinations is partly driven by this sense that Elsewhere is vanishing, like a once common animal, retreating further into the woods as its numbers dwindle. It's almost a relief when you come across indisputable national traits: lachrymose Russians quoting Pushkin, Argentines dancing the tango. Yet you half expect those characteristics to peel off like fake adobe on a Mexican restaurant in a shopping mall.</p>
30	<p>The danger is that as travel becomes easier, and places change to accommodate the homogenized appetites of global tourism, we will lose the sense _____ [7] wonder that travel</p>

35	<p>has always inspired. And if we lose sight of Elsewhere, then we are no longer provoked _____</p> <p><b>[8]</b> its unfamiliarity, challenged to open our eyes and look _____ <b>[9]</b> our own lives afresh [...].</p> <p>Nothing lifts your heart like the first sight of home after time spent Elsewhere—those initial moments when the known is strange again. Our native planet never seemed so spectacular as when we first saw it _____ <b>[10]</b> the moon.</p>
40	<p>Yet the answer is not to take to space tourism, but to recognize that the close and familiar can have as much power to surprise us as the temples of Angkor Wat, or the snowy Andes, or any other Elsewhere you choose. I recently returned home after a weekend spent walking with three friends. We covered 60 kilometres in three days—it would have taken 45 minutes in a car. But at our slow pace, the hills and churchyards and soft rain of north Devon gave me a greater sense of Elsewhere than I ever got from my first and somewhat disappointing glimpse of the Taj Mahal.</p>

**SECTION B: READING COMPREHENSION****(16 points)**

Max. 12 pts for content plus 4 pts. for accurate language &amp; style

- Write your text-based answers in your own words and in complete sentences on a separate sheet.
- No points will be given for sentences or parts of sentences that are just copied from the text.
- Answer efficiently, i.e. try not to write more than say 30 to 40 words per question.

- 1) Name the main differences between travelling in the 1980s and today as described by the author Marcel Theroux.
- 2) What has the ultimate purpose of travelling been?
- 3) Explain why this understanding of travelling is endangered according to the author.
- 4) What solution does the author suggest to the problem?

**SECTION C: VOCABULARY****(9 points)****1. Provide a context-bound SYNONYM (multi-word expressions possible):****(5 points)**

- |                 |           |         |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|
| 1) trip         | (line 01) | = _____ |
| 2) to encounter | (l. 13)   | = _____ |
| 3) unfamiliar   | (l. 13)   | = _____ |
| 4) arduous      | (l. 15)   | = _____ |
| 5) altered      | (l. 19)   | = _____ |
| 6) driven       | (l. 30)   | = _____ |
| 7) vanishing    | (l. 31):  | = _____ |
| 8) dwindle      | (l. 32)   | = _____ |
| 9) traits       | (l. 33)   | = _____ |
| 10) initial     | (l. 42)   | = _____ |

**2. Supply a brief context-bound DEFINITION or EXPLANATION of the following words:****(4 points)**

- 1) postage (l. 5)

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2) assume the worst (l. 9):

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3) indisputable (l. 34)

\_\_\_\_\_

- 4) glimpse (l. 52):

\_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION D: GRAMMAR & USE OF ENGLISH****(Max. 46 points)**

**1. Prepositions [1] to [10] => See text gaps in reading comprehension text (5 points)****2. Word Formation**

Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word which fits in the space on the same line. You **must** change the word.

**(4 points)****Kitchen Hygiene**

The next time you go to the supermarket don't forget to buy the biggest bottle of kitchen

cleaner you can to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ your work surfaces. INFECT

The kitchen is often the most unhygienic of all the rooms in the home.

The combination of food, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ from the cooking process and dampness means the kitchen is HOT

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ a breeding ground for bacteria that can cause stomach disorders and vomiting. POTENTIAL

The study at the University of Arizona examined 15 homes over 30 weeks. Levels of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ were certainly not below average, yet cutting CLEAN

boards and dishcloths were found to contain bacteria in far greater number than elsewhere in the home.

Researchers say (5) \_\_\_\_\_ is the cause of the problem and point out that (7) \_\_\_\_\_ cleaning can lead to IGNORE ADEQUATE

serious food (7) \_\_\_\_\_ POISONOUS

The (8) \_\_\_\_\_? Make sure you clean all work surfaces daily and keep an eye on that dishcloth! SOLVE

**3. Gapped text (7 points)**

Fill in a suitable word (one word only). The first gap has been filled in as an example.

**Too Good to be True**

Some say you can do it in seven days, others promise success (0) within 24 hours, or you may prefer to take more time and do it in 5 weeks. What are we talking about? Believe it or

(1) \_\_\_\_\_, these periods of time refer to language learning courses

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ promise excellent results in as (3) \_\_\_\_\_ time as it takes to say 'Bonjour'!

Honestly, the advertisements of these companies are not necessarily the best guide for language learners and if you don't know (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to look for in a good course, you could be left with nothing (5) \_\_\_\_\_ a large bill.

Recently, a complaint was successfully placed (6) \_\_\_\_\_ 'SpeedLearn Systems' and this company has been (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to remove its claim that its technique is

ten times better than any (8) \_\_\_\_\_ method. The managing director of 'SpeedLearn Systems' said, "(9) \_\_\_\_\_ we still believe our claim is true, we are willing to change our advert. But the fact remains that if you study a language with our method say for three hours (10) \_\_\_\_\_ day, you will soon be speaking that language. What we (11) \_\_\_\_\_ have done was to make (12) \_\_\_\_\_ clearer in the advert. Then we wouldn't (13) \_\_\_\_\_ had (14) \_\_\_\_\_ an annoying complaint".

#### 4. Tenses and Forms

(36 gaps => 18 points)

*Put the verbs in brackets in the correct form (tense forms, active/passive, gerunds/infinitives)*

##### Travelling by Train

There was a couple who lived in Newcastle. The husband had a job down in London, which meant \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) there during the week. The wife \_\_\_\_\_ (just/ give) birth to their first-born but her husband was at work in London.

On \_\_\_\_\_ (inform) about his first daughter's birth, he immediately rushed to King's Cross Station to catch a train home.

After he \_\_\_\_\_ (hop) on the first train north he tried \_\_\_\_\_ (calm) down but was too nervous. He just couldn't stand \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) there without \_\_\_\_\_ (do) anything. He considered \_\_\_\_\_ (strike) up a conversation with the woman who \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) opposite. However, he \_\_\_\_\_ (not/ seem) \_\_\_\_\_ (dare) \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) her right away that he was now the happy father of a new-born.

After a while she asked him why he \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) to Edinburgh. "I needn't go there, I live in Newcastle!" he \_\_\_\_\_ (reply) with a puzzled look. "But this is a through train that \_\_\_\_\_ (not/ stop) in Newcastle." On the instant the shocked man \_\_\_\_\_ (vanish) in search of the ticket collector.

Having finally found him he \_\_\_\_\_ (beg) the ticket collector \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) the train for him at Newcastle. But the train official refused \_\_\_\_\_ (comply) with any such wish. Even after \_\_\_\_\_ (offer) some money by the misfortunate father the train official couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ (persuade) \_\_\_\_\_ (do) so.

However, the official promised \_\_\_\_\_ (make) one little concession. He said he \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) the engine driver \_\_\_\_\_ (slow) down at Newcastle station to 15 m.p.h. so that the man would be able to jump off the train.

Two hours later, as the train \_\_\_\_\_ (approach) Newcastle Station, the ticket collector was ready \_\_\_\_\_ (open) a train door. The idea was that, with the help of two other passengers, the poor man \_\_\_\_\_ (hold) out of the door in mid-air.

At last the critical moment had come: The door stood open and the train \_\_\_\_\_ (pass) along the platform, when they \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) the man to start \_\_\_\_\_ (run), legs still dangling in mid-air. Then he \_\_\_\_\_ (drop) as gently as possible and had to run along the platform very fast.

The brakeman at the back of the train suddenly noticed the man \_\_\_\_\_ (run) along the platform. He promptly pulled him onto the train. "Luckily I saw you," he said to him. "If it \_\_\_\_\_ (not/ be) for me, you \_\_\_\_\_ (miss) this train."

The unfortunate father thought in desperation: "Both my wife and the wee one will surely be deep asleep by the time I \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) home."

**p.t.o.**

**5. Rephrasing****(12 points)**

Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first sentence. Use the word given (do not change it!) and any other words to do so (2-5 words on the whole).

e.g: Claire had never been away from home before.

(time): It was the first time Claire had been away from home

1. Why did you spend so much money on my birthday present, which wasn't necessary?

(need): You \_\_\_\_\_ so much money on my birthday present.

2. The police are interviewing the suspects.

(interviewed): The suspects \_\_\_\_\_ by the police.

3. I've tried again and again but I just can't do it.

(often) No \_\_\_\_\_ try, I still can't do it.

4. My landlady was very pleasant. We never met her husband.

(never) My landlady in \_\_\_\_\_ was very pleasant.

5. I didn't learn French and I can't understand what she's saying.

(learnt): If I \_\_\_\_\_ be able to understand what she's saying..

6. If he doesn't study harder, he won't pass the exam.

(unless): He won't pass the exam \_\_\_\_\_ harder.

7. I can't wait to lie on the beach again next July.

(forward): I'm \_\_\_\_\_ on the beach again next July.

8. I don't care what you do.

(concerned): As \_\_\_\_\_ you can do what you like.

9. 'Why don't we spend our holiday in Cornwall?' she asked her family.

(suggested): She \_\_\_\_\_ their holiday in Cornwall.

10. Sleeping on the floor seems to be natural for him.

(used): He seems \_\_\_\_\_ on the floor.

11. The last time I ate seafood was at my parents' wedding anniversary.

(since): I \_\_\_\_\_ any seafood \_\_\_\_\_ my parents \_\_\_\_\_ their wedding anniversary.

12. I regret losing my temper at Bob's party.

(only): If \_\_\_\_\_ my temper at Bob's party.

**SECTION E: TRANSLATION****(Max. 35 points)****Translation** (ca. 200 words)

Bernard Shaw ist einer der bekanntesten Dramatiker unserer Zeit. Nicht einmal die Theaterstücke eines so erfolgreichen Autors wie Shakespeare werden häufiger aufgeführt als diejenigen des kritischen und humorvollen Iren.

Kurz vor seinem Tod im Jahre 1950 sagte er einmal, er sei sein Leben lang nie imstande gewesen, eine Arbeit zu verrichten, wenn er sich nicht interessiert habe für sie.

Beispielsweise musste er als junger Mann eine Zeit lang seinen Lebensunterhalt als Büroangestellter verdienen. Obwohl er von seinem Arbeitgeber mehrmals wegen seiner Faulheit getadelt worden war, las er im Büro lieber Bücher und liess Geschäftsbriefe wenn immer möglich von anderen schreiben.

Shaw begann seine Laufbahn mit fünf Romanen, von denen keiner veröffentlicht wurde. Deshalb soll ihm eines Tages ein Freund geraten haben: „Es ist höchste Zeit, dass du aufhörst, deine Zeit mit Romanen zu verschwenden. Du tätest besser daran Theaterstücke zu schreiben.“

Shaw aber wollte sich von niemandem sagen lassen, was er zu tun habe. Er wurde Musikkritiker und war auch ein engagierter Politiker. Seine sozialistischen Ideen wurden von vielen abgelehnt, er wurde sogar als gefährlicher Revolutionär betrachtet, der ins Gefängnis hätte gesteckt werden sollen.

Was wäre wohl aus ihm geworden, wenn er sich als fast vierzigjähriger Mann nicht an den Ratschlag seines Freundes erinnert hätte?

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**PART II**  
**ESSAY WRITING**

- Write a text of about **350 words** on **one of the given topics**
- You may use your **English-English dictionary**.
- Writing time: **ca. 1 ½ hours**
- Put your **name** on every sheet of paper you hand in.
- Write with a **pen** in **blue** or black (no pencil).
- Leave a **margin** of about 5 cm on each sheet.
- Reserve enough time for **careful revision** work.

- 1) **“A life spent making mistakes is not only more honourable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing.”**  
(George Bernard Shaw)

Discuss and illustrate this quote critically

- 2) **Looking back**

- 3) **Children need more models than critics**

Discuss this topic also in view of your own experience and observation.