

FORM TP 2006190



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MAY/JUNE 2006

CARIBBEAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
ADVANCED PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION
COMMUNICATION STUDIES

PAPER 03/B

1 hour 30 minutes

10 MAY 2006 (a.m.)

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer ALL questions.

NOTHING HAS BEEN OMITTED

SECTION A

MODULE 1 – GATHERING AND PROCESSING INFORMATION

1. Read the information below and answer the questions that follow.

In half a dozen fishing villages in a remote part of central Siberia, the Middle Chulym people are losing their language, one of hundreds of tongues likely to vanish around the globe during the next half century. Among the Middle Chulym, who survive by ancestral ways of hunting, gathering and fishing, only about 40 out of 426 people continue to speak the native language, according to K. David Harrison, a linguist at Swarthmore College, who travelled to the region last year to document two Turkic languages in imminent danger. He found that no one under the age of 52 can speak Middle Chulym fluently, and the rest speak only Russian. "Each language that vanishes without being documented leaves an enormous gap in our understanding of some of the many complex structures the human mind is capable of producing," Harrison says.

VALUABLE LOSS

Number systems, grammatical structures and classification systems not found in other languages can be lost, along with knowledge about medicinal plants, animal behaviour, weather signs and hunting techniques.

Another Siberian language called Tofa also is threatened, with only 35 out of 600 people in the community still able to speak it. When such native languages die, Harrison said recently at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the villagers lose an oral history as well as detailed knowledge of the local environment.

*Earl Lane, "Linguists work to head off loss of languages".
Sunday Gleaner, Vol. 65 No. 12, March 21, 2004.*

You have discovered the above article, while doing research on the death of languages.

- (a) In no more than 60 words, summarize the arguments put forward in the article. [5 marks]
- (b) In no more than 150 words, write an evaluation of the article **in point form** that explores the credibility of the information. [15 marks]

Total 20 marks

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SECTION B

MODULE 2 – LANGUAGE AND COMMUNITY

2. Read the excerpt below then answer the question that follow.

They lived in a tenement yard in August Town. An L-shaped row of rooms housed several families, each family occupying one room, and all sharing a long, red-tiled verandah that ran along the building.

Mrs Jackson had cooked rice and peas and fried chicken, a real Sunday meal made a day too early. Carrot juice sweetened with condensed milk was already in a plastic jug on the table.

‘Sit down, sit down, please,’ Mrs Jackson said. ‘Sorry the place not bigger.’

‘It’s nice, it’s nice,’ Andrea assured her. ‘And what a lovely bedspread.’

‘Yes, is real linen, you know. My sister in England sent it for me.’

‘It’s lovely.’

They ate. The food was spicy and delicious. Andrea chewed slowly; she didn’t want to offend by not eating enough but she also wanted them to have some food left for tomorrow.

‘Heat up, heat up,’ Mrs Jackson said. ‘I don’t have no fridge, so if we don’t heat everything, it qwine spoil.’

‘The word is “eat,” mama, not “heat”,’ Natasha corrected her mother sternly. Mrs Jackson looked at her with pride.

‘You know, Natasha always comes first or second in her class. The only thing her teacher say is that she talk too much.’

The child tightened, her face scornful and angry as she looked at her mother. Mrs Jackson smiled gently and several emotions went across Natasha’s face. Andrea watched her, knowing she loved her mother but was ashamed of her. She, too, had felt that way, until her mother died when she was sixteen, three years ago. But her reasons had been different. Mrs Jackson didn’t seem the type who could drink white rum like a man and go to bars where she was the only woman. Andrea closed her eyes briefly.

‘You’ve decorated your home so nicely, Mrs Jackson,’ she said. ‘Have you lived here long?’

‘Thank you, love. I been living here since Natasha born. Her father abroad, you know. He working so he can send for the two of us.’ Natasha had heard this since she was old enough to ask where her father was.

*Adapted from Alecia McKenzie, “Natasha”,
Satellite City and Other Stories, Longman, 1992, p. 34 - 35.*

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In an essay of no more than 300 words, write an analysis of the above excerpt taking into consideration

- (i) dialectal variation
- (ii) attitudes to language
- (iii) communicative behaviours.

Total 20 marks

SECTION C

MODULE 3 – SPEAKING AND WRITING

3. Read the extract below then answer the question that follow.

Tobago is an island that has to be experienced to be believed; a tiny magic kingdom with a wealth of everything that matters.

Whether you're seeking sunsets or suntans, recreation or relaxation, this is a place that can probably fill the bill. You can wander through towering forests and listen to mysterious birdsong; you can drive to the very edge of the world and wonder what lies beyond the horizon; you can plunge into an amazing underwater universe. Or you can just lie in your hammock and do – nothing at all.

Whatever your choice, Tobago and her people will take it in stride. This is an island that has already taken many things in its stride, from a turbulent history of conquest and counter-conquest (the island changed hands forcibly at least 25 times) to today's (immensely more agreeable) invasion of sun-seeking visitors. Through it all, Tobagonians have maintained a remarkable aplomb, a sense of humour and dignity that allows them to accept and welcome you into their domain.

*Donna Yawching, "And now for something completely different".
Discover Trinidad and Tobago, Media and Editorial Projects Ltd., 1998, p. 61.*

In an essay of no more than 250 words, discuss:

- (i) The writer's level of emotional involvement with the subject
- (ii) The intended audience
- (iii) What the writer hopes to achieve
- (iv) TWO suitable contexts for this piece, other than a travel guide.

Total 20 marks

END OF TEST

The Council has made every effort to trace copyright holders. However, if any have been inadvertently overlooked, or any material has been incorrectly acknowledged, CXC will be pleased to correct at the earliest opportunity.