

First Foreign Language

Duration: 120 Minutes

Grade: 9

In the 2-hour period allotted for the following test, you are to respond to the questions of two main parts: *Reading* and *Writing*. You are advised to time your performance reasonably - spending about 55 minutes on the Reading, Vocabulary and Structure part, and 55 minutes on the Writing part. See that you reserve some time for *proofreading* since your paper will be assessed for both content and form. Make sure that your answers are set in tidy and legible handwriting

Read the following instructions carefully before you start.

- **Skim through the entire test before you attempt any question.**
- **Go through the reading text thoroughly and carefully.**
- **Do exactly as the directions require.**
- **Start with the questions that you find easy, then attempt the remaining ones.**
- **Use complete sentences in your answers, unless you are instructed otherwise.**
- **You will not be allowed to ask questions or make comments during real test sessions.**

Read through the following passage. Then work out the activities that follow.

Launching a New Currency

1. The Arab countries should think of launching a single currency for the members of the Arab World. What could be expected is that the new currency launched hopes for a better, prosperous, more united Arab world and ultimately more peaceful. Subsequently, The Arabs should start feeling Arabian, instead of Lebanese, Syrian, Egyptian, Saudi Arabian, ... If The monetary authority is given up to the Arab central bank, it becomes impossible for the members to solve economic problems by changing the value of their currency, which the central bank is allowed to do. But the question, at the moment, is how far the Arab countries are willing to travel down the unity road.

2. The Arabs have never been entirely sure about what they want from such a union, which at first may come in the form of an economic agreement among its nations. It will end rivalries and forge a common market able to stand its ground against America, China, Europe, ... The union also has to deal with more than just economics. Things must change in the 21st century.

3. Walid Al-Maalem, The Syrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, once explained, "To be Arabian in the 21st century means that people have to find some harmony between their own identity and the realization of the Arab World's becoming one. This definitely is not easy at all. This challenge poses important political and ethical questions that will have a profound bearing on the future of political reforms in the Arab World."

4. The new currency will help accomplish such a change. A single currency will stabilize prices and create favorable conditions for trade all around the Arab World. Consequently, investment, development, and employment will increase and thrive. Ultimately, The citizens of the Arab World will also benefit from these economic policies. As many Arabs spend their vacations outside their home countries, now they don't have to exchange their money to do so.

5. One can't stop wondering about what would happen in the future. It is difficult to make a prediction about the long-term economic and political future of the Arab world, since we are living in an age of remarkable changes in all fields of human activities, including international relationships. However, one could imagine the following scenario for the Arab World in the year 2040: After successfully achieving monetary union and, hopefully, political union soon afterwards, with a strong defense and common foreign-policy component, it is logical to assume that the Arab world will emerge as one of the most powerful economic and political forces in the world. Everyone wishes the Arab World Union would come into existence as soon as possible.

I. Answer the following questions about the reading passage. (4.5 pts.)

1. What goal will the Arab World Union at first serve?
2. What is the greatest challenge the Arab World Union will face?
3. How will the single currency influence trade around the Arab World?
4. What attitude does the writer have towards the Arab World Union? Support your answer with two pieces of evidence from the passage.
5. What purpose and pattern of organization does the passage convey?

II. The following statements are false. Rewrite each statement so that it harmonizes with what the writer says or implies in the passage. (1 pt.)

1. It is hoped that the single currency will end wars in the Arab World.
2. The writer makes clear that, at this moment, the Arab countries don't want to become one.

III. One of the Arab countries may decide not to join the union. Fill out the chart below with one advantage and one disadvantage that country will encounter as a result of such a decision. (1.5 pts.)

Advantage	Disadvantage

IV. Pick from paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 words to complete the sentences below. (2 pts.)

1. The bank manager believes that the new credit cards will be of extra to all customers who travel abroad.
2. Many people do still believe it is possible for different ethnic groups to live together in
3. Many economists and political groups believe that a country's economy could without adopting the single currency.
4. The revival in the country's economy has come about because of the introduced over the past three years.

V. Each of the following ideas can be found in one of the paragraphs of the reading passage. For each statement, indicate the paragraph number you can find each idea in. (0.75 pt.)

1. The Arab World Union should deal successfully with the competition among countries within the Arab World.
2. Because of the introduction of a single currency, people will have a better chance of finding jobs.
3. Because we are living in a fast changing world, it is difficult to say in which way the Arab World will change if the union comes into existence.

VI. Rewrite the following statements, starting as indicated. (2.25 pts.)

1. The union will end rivalries and forge a common market.
Rivalries ...
2. "The citizens of the Arab World will also benefit from these economic policies" stated the author.
The author stated that ...
3. The Arab countries don't give up their own identity because it is rooted in their own national history.
If ...

Writing Part (8 pts.)

The Lebanese citizens are facing big problems on the economic level and in more than one sector- trade, tourism, agriculture, ... In a well-organized essay, discuss at least three economic problems and suggest practical solution through which the economic situation would improve.

First, outline your ideas. Then develop them into an essay, provided with a title. Take good care of your handwriting.

- Score: 2 pts. for the outline
- 4 pts. for the content (ideas, vocabulary, originality, ...)
- 2 pts. for the form (grammar, sentence structure, organization, ...)

Subject: Answer Key of the Third Common English Test
Grade: Nine
School Year: 2007-2008

I.

- 1- The Arab World Union will end rivalries and forge a common market able to stand its ground against America, Europe, China, ...
Score: 0.5 pt. for the idea
0.25 pt. for the sentence structure

- 2- The greatest challenge is that people have to find some harmony between their own identity and the realization of the Arab World's becoming one.
Score: 0.5 for the idea
0,25 pt. for the sentence structure

- 3- A single currency will stabilize prices and create favorable conditions for trade all around the Arab World.
Score: 0.5 pt. for the idea
0.25 pt. for the sentence structure

4. The writer is supportive and excited about establishing such a union. Diction conveys such an attitude, "The Arab countries should think ..." and "everyone wishes the Arab World Union would come into existence."
Score: 0.5 pt. for identifying the attitude
0.5 pt. for the pieces of evidence
0.25 pt. for the sentence structure

5. The writer's purpose is to persuade the Arab citizens and the decision-makers in the Arab World that establishing the Arab World Union is of great importance. The pattern of organization is cause-effect
Score: 0.5 pt. for identifying the purpose
0.25 pt. for identifying the pattern
0.25 pt. for the sentence structure

II.

1. It is hoped that the single currency will make the Arab World more peaceful.
2. The writer makes clear that, at this moment, it is a question of how far the Arab countries are willing to travel down the unity road.
Score: 0.5 for correcting each false statement

III.

Advantage	Disadvantage
This country will have the right to change policy on economic matters, not the Arab central bank-change the value of its currency.	This country's citizens have to exchange their money if they go on vacation in any other Arab country.

Score: 0.75 pt. for each idea; 0.25 pt. is deducted for mistakes in grammar, structure

IV.

1. benefit
2. harmony
3. thrive
4. reform

Score: 0.5 pt. for each correct word

V.

1. paragraph 2
2. paragraph 4
3. paragraph 5

Score: 0.25 pt. each correct answer

VI.

1. Rivalries will be ended, and a common market will be forged by the union.

Score: 0.25 pt. for each underlined item

2. The writer stated that the citizens of the Arab World would also benefit from those economic policies.

Score: 0.25 pt. for each underlined item

- 3- If it were not rooted in their own national history, the Arab countries would give up their own identity.

Score: 0.5 pt. for each underlined part