

Part One: Reading (Score: 12/20)

**Read this excerpt from Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela. When you are through with the reading, work out the activities that follow.**

### **Long Walk to Freedom**

1. AT MIDNIGHT, I was awake and staring at the ceiling - images from the trial were still rattling around in my head - when I heard steps coming down the hallway. I was locked in my own cell, away from the others. There was a knock at my door and I could see Colonel Aucamp's face at the bars. "Mandela," he said in a husky whisper, "are you awake?" I told him I was. "You are a lucky man," he said. "We are taking you to a place where you will have your freedom. You will be able to move around; you'll see the ocean and the sky, not just gray walls." He intended no sarcasm, but I well knew that the place he was referring to would not afford me the freedom I longed for.
2. I was driven with seven other prisoners to an old jail, where we were ordered to change the clothes of the old prison. When we got undressed, we were thrown the plain khaki uniforms of Robben Island. The regulations there extended even to clothing. All of us, except Kathy, the one Indian among us, received short trousers. Short trousers for Africans were meant to remind us that we were "boys." I put on the short trousers that day, but I vowed that I would not put up with them for long.
3. We were isolated from the general prisoners for two reasons: We were considered risky from a security perspective, but even more dangerous from a political standpoint. The authorities were concerned we might "infect" the other prisoners with our political views.
4. Robben Island had changed since I had been there for a fortnight's stay in 1962. In 1962, there were few prisoners; the place seemed more like an experiment than a full-fledged prison. Two years later, Robben Island was without question the harshest, most iron-fisted outpost in the South African penal system. It was a hardship station not only for the prisoners but also for the prison staff. The racial divide on Robben Island was absolute: There were no black guards, and no white prisoners.
5. From the first day, I had protested about being forced to wear short trousers. I demanded to see the head of the prison and made a list of complaints. The guards ignored my protests, but by the end of the second week, I found a pair of old khaki trousers unceremoniously dumped on the floor of my cell. But before putting them on I checked to see if my comrades had been issued trousers as well; however, they had not, and I told the guard to take them back. I insisted that all African prisoners must have long trousers. The guard grumbled, "Mandela, you say you want long pants and then you don't want them when we give them to you." The guard felt it was unpleasant to touch trousers worn by a black man, and finally the commanding officer himself came to my cell to pick them up. "Very well, Mandela," he said, "you are going to have the same clothing as everyone else." I replied that if he was willing to give me long trousers, why couldn't everyone else have them? He did not have an answer.

**A. Answer the following comprehension questions about the reading passage. (4 pts.)**

1. What is the reading passage about? Explain.
2. With reference to paragraphs 1 and 2, why didn't Mandela feel happy about being moved to a new place?
3. What did Mandela mean by saying, "Short trousers for Africans were meant to remind us that we were "boys"?"
4. What was Mandela's attitude towards the prison's rules and regulations? Support your answer with a piece of evidence from the reading passage.

**B. Fill out the following chart with two traits that best describe Mandela's personality. Support each trait with a piece of evidence from the reading passage. (1.5 pts.)**

Character Traits	Pieces of Evidence
1.	1.
2.	2.

**C. The following statements are false. Correct each so that it harmonizes with what the passage says or implies. (1 pt.)**

1. The prison guards on Robben Island were hard on both black and white prisoners.
2. When Mandela got his long trousers, he stopped complaining about the clothing he was given to wear.

**D. Pick from the passage the words that mean the same as follows. (2 pts.)**

1. words, behaviors, or attitudes that are unkind and scornful (paragraph 1)
2. make a promise to do something (paragraph 2)
3. complete and total (paragraph 4)
4. complain about something (paragraph 5)

**E. What do the underlined words in the reading passage refer to? (1.5 pts.)**

1. others (paragraph 1)
2. we (paragraph 3)
3. it (paragraph 4)

**F. Find the ONE grammatical mistake in each sentence below and correct it. (2 pts.)**

1. Mandela and the other prisoners were working for 9 hours in the sun when the guard gave them some water to drink.
2. When the prisoners will finish their work, the guards usually take them back to their cells.
3. Mandela was believing that the only way to change the prison regulations was to revolt against them.
4. Mandela have made up his mind not to wear the short trousers for long after he the guard passed them to him.

**Part Two: Writing (8 pts.)**

“**Nothing is Impossible**” implies that any person equipped with self-confidence and persistence can reach his/ her goals regardless of any difficulties.

In a three-paragraph essay of 150-200 words, discuss the importance of self-confidence and persistence in building up a successful future in the light of an experience you or someone you know (a prisoner, a handicapped person ...) went through.

Prepare an outline, and give your essay a suitable title.

Your essay will be graded according to the following criteria:

Outline and title (2 pts.)

Content (2 pts.)

Organization (2 pts.)

Language Structure (1 pts.)

Mechanics- spelling, punctuation, and capitalization (1 pt.)

**Subject: Answer Key of the First Common English Exam**

**Grade: Nine**

**A.**

- 1- The passage presents a brief account of how Mandela and the other black prisoners were ill-treated in prison and the path they had to go up to their freedom.

**Score: 1 pt. for the idea**

**0.25 pt. for the sentence structure**

- 2- He was driven only to another prison which wouldn't give him the freedom he longed for.

**Score: 0.5 for the idea**

**0.25 pt. for the sentence structure**

- 3- Giving Mandela and the other black prisoners short trousers was a sign of disrespect; it meant to humiliate them and make them feel ashamed and foolish.

**Score: 0.75 pt. for the explanation**

**0.25 pt. for the sentence structure**

4. Mandela used to criticize (against) the prison regulations which were all unjust and racial; he wanted to put an end to racism and make things different. His statement "The racial divide on Robben Island was absolute: there were no black guards, and no white prisoners" conveys this attitude.

**Score: 0.5 pt. for identifying the attitude**

**0.25 pt. for the piece of evidence**

**0.25 pt. for the sentence structure**

**B.**

<b>Character Traits</b>	<b>Pieces of Evidence</b>
1. Revolutionary	1. I vowed that I would not put up with them for long.
2. Unselfish	2. Why couldn't everyone else have them?

**Score: 0.5 pt. for each character trait**

**0.25 pt. for each piece of evidence**

**C.**

1. There were not any white prisoners on Robben Island; all prisoners were Blacks.
2. Mandela refused to wear long trousers as long as the prison authorities wouldn't give every other prisoner the same.

**Score: 0.5 pt. for correcting each statement**

**D.**

1. sarcasm
2. vow
3. absolute
4. grumble

**Score: 0.5 pt. for each correct word**

**E.**

1. others (paragraph 1): the prisoners
2. we (paragraph 3): Mandela and the seven other prisoners
3. it (paragraph 4): Robben Island/ the prison on Robben Island

**Score: 0.5 pt. for each correct answer**

**F.**

1. Mandela and the other prisoners were working for 9 hours in the sun when the guard gave them some water to drink. (had been working)
2. When the prisoners will finish their work, the guards usually take them back to their cells. (finish)
3. Mandela was believing that the only way to change the prison regulations was to revolt against them. (believed)
4. Mandela have made up his mind not to wear the short trousers for long after he the guard passed them to him. (made)

**Score: 0.5 pt. for correcting each error**