

Third Common English Test
First Foreign Language

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.

Reading Part (12 pts.)

Read through the following text and work out the activities that follow.

A Wave Erases Lives Built Along Sea

1- The Christmas party started around midnight and continued until dawn. In the darkness beside their beachside shacks and small cabins, fishermen traded laughs and jokes.

2- Anthony Pereira, 52, fell asleep at dawn. His younger brother, Joseph, couldn't rouse him Sunday morning when the water started rising- the first sign a tsunami was about to hit. So Joseph, 35, gathered up his own wife and three sons and headed to high ground. He figured he could get back to Anthony later, but he never got the chance. At midmorning Sunday, a 30- foot wave slammed into their fishing village just outside his town on Sri Lanka's southwestern coast. Anthony Pereira drowned as he slept. He was buried in a small ceremony Tuesday.

3- By Tuesday, the number of Sri Lankans known to have been killed in Sunday's tsunami had risen past 21000.

4- Along that southwestern coast, Sri Lankans had learned to live with the sea. They built their houses on the beach. They put their coastal railway with 50 yards of the water. Many of them earned a living catching fish in the ocean or catering to tourists who came for diving and swimming. They were stunned when the waters suddenly rose up against them Sunday morning, smashing their homes, splintering their fiberglass boats and carrying away people they loved.

5- Residents say three waves hit the area Sunday morning starting around 9: 40. The first was 6 or 7 feet high. A second, about the same height, followed immediately. Nothing happened for about 4 minutes, a period which drew curious onlookers to the waterfront to see what was going on.

6- Suddenly, a 30- feet wall of water raced inland. Nobody could outrun the water. "We lost everything," said Irene Fernando. "We don't have money to buy new land. So we have to rebuild our home here. We are uneasy about that." It was really horrible; the devastation is apparent after just 10 miles, in the seaside town of Moratuwa. The tsunami crushed wooden houses and blasted through brick ones.

7- On Tuesday, motorized, three- wheeled rickshaws were flying white Buddhist flags of mourning. Naval guards in blue uniforms guarded store- fronts against looters. Young men in shorts and T- shirts poked absently through the debris. Near Kalutara, hundreds of homeless fishing families took refuge at a temple on a hillside a mile or two from the sea. Most of them slept on mats in the temple and relied on food donated by the Buddhists.

8- International aid groups are bringing in tents, blankets, towels, food, and medicine for the homeless. Across Sri Lanka, people worry about a shortage of water. Fresh water supplies in many cases have been contaminated by debris, dead bodies, and salt water left behind the tsunami. "It's all rotting and smelly," said Sukuman Rockwood, a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

I. What do the underlined pronouns in the text stand for? (0.75 pt.)

1. their (paragraph 1)
2. here (paragraph 6)
3. them (paragraph 7)

II. Answer the following questions about the text. (4.5 pts.)

1. What purpose does the text have?
2. What type of situations are presented in the first two paragraphs of the text? State them.
3. What work did the Sri Lankans have next to the waterline?
4. What mood does the seventh paragraph convey? Explain.
5. What were two things that made of the Sri Lankans' suffering less?

III. Skim the text for two social and two economic effects of tsunami on the Srilankan fishermen; then fill out the chart below. (2 pts.)

Social Effects	Economic Effects

IV. Skim paragraphs 2, 3, 4, and 5 to find words that have the following meanings. (1 pt.)

- 1- hit with force and loud noise
- 2- provide something needed
- 3- break into pieces
- 4- eager to know

V. "Suddenly, a 30 – feet wall of water raced inland," says the writer in the sixth paragraph. (1.25 pts.)

What is the figurative language device used in the sentence above? Explain.

VI. Restate the following sentences, beginning with the words given. (2.5 pts.)

- 1- Irene said, " We lost everything. We don't have money to buy new land, so we have to rebuild our home here."
Irene said that.....
- 2- Anthony Pereira was buried in a small ceremony yesterday.
Pereira's family.....
- 3- Nobody could outrun the water.
The water.....

Writing Part (8 pts.)

Visualize a situation other than the one in the text where you experienced a natural disaster firsthand.

Describe in detail how life was before that disaster, what happened during that disaster, and what effects that disaster had on the region.

First, fill out the chart below. Then develop your ideas in a 200-250 word-essay.

Your writing will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- 2 pts. for the graphic organizer
- 4 pts. for content (ideas, vocabulary, ...)
- 2 pts. for form (organization, sentence structure, ...)

Before the Disaster	During the Disaster	After the Disaster

Best Wishes

In His Name

Subject: Answer Key of the Second Common English Test

Grade: Nine

I.

1. their (paragraph 1) : fishermen
2. here (paragraph 6) : the place next to the waterline
3. them (paragraph 7) :fishing families

Score: 0.25 pt. for each correct answer

II.

- 1- The text is descriptive in nature. It sheds light on the catastrophic consequences of the tsunami and shows how it has influenced their lives.

Score: 0.5 pt. for the idea

0.25 pt. for the sentence structure

- 2- The writer presents 2 contrasting situations in the first two paragraphs of the text. In the first paragraph, there is an atmosphere of happiness and joy (Christmas party); in the second, it is a tragic atmosphere created by tsunami.

Score: 0.5 pt. for identifying the type of the situation

0.5 pt. for stating the two situations

0,25 pt. for the sentence structure

- 3- To earn their living, the Sri Lankans used to catch fish and cater to tourists.

Score: 0.5 pt. for the 2 jobs

0.25 pt. for the sentence structure

4. The seventh paragraph conveys a mood of sadness , melancholy, and depression/sorrow. Diction helps in depicting that mood "... flags of mourning," " poked absently through the debris," ...

Score: 0.5 pt. for identifying the mood

0.25 pt. for the clues

0.25 pt. for the sentence structure

5. What made the Sri Lankans' suffering less were the refuge they took at a temple at a hillside and the international aid they got.

Score:0.5 pt. for the two things

0.25 pt. for the sentence structure

III.

Social Effects		Economic Effects	
1-	Unemployment	1.	Depopulation and desertion
2-	Lack of money to survive or rebuild houses	2.	Loss of relatives and neighbors
3-	Destruction of houses, boats, ...	3.	Homelessness and misery

Score: 2 pts. for the four effects

IV.

1. slam
2. cater
3. smash / splinter
4. curious

Score: 0.25 pt. for each correct answer

- V. It is a metaphor. The writer is indirectly comparing the tsunami to an athlete/ runner. The word "racing" implies that the high wave is compared to a person who is running fast OR It is a personification . The huge wave is personified as a person who ...

Score: 0.5 pt. for identifying the figure of speech

0.5 pt. for proper justification

0.25 pt for the sentence structure

VI.

1. Irene said that they had lost everything. She added that they didn't have money to buy new land, so they had to rebuild their home there.

Score: 0.25 pt. for each underlined item.

2. Pereira's family buried him in a small ceremony yesterday.

Score: 0.5 pt. for the correct form of the verb

- 3- The water couldn't be outrun by anybody.

Score: 0.5 pt. . for the correct form of the verb