

English Language Exam

Part one: Reading

score: 11/20

Read the article below that appeared in Outlook Newspaper, issued in March 2010 in which the writer confesses his ideas on V-Day issue. When you are through with the reading, answer the questions that follow.

Confessions of a Valentine

- 1- February 14 1946, ENIAC, the first general-purpose electronic computer, is unveiled. February 14 1989, the first of 24 satellites of the Global Positioning System are placed into orbit. February 14 1929, seven people, six of them gangster rivals of Al Capone's gang, are murdered in Chicago, Illinois. February 14 2010, Valentine's Day. Propelled by the curiosity and deep boredom on such a jolly occasion, I have decided to figure what makes us humans tick on that very day.
- 2- Meet Joe, a computer whiz who has probably spent more time online than he has with his mother. The man has become a guru in fixing up dates and rendezvous with girls he just met online. Joey's ways never came to my likings, but nonetheless, the man was definitely a credible reference when it came to human social dynamics (ironically). He simply puts it, "Valentine's Day is nice and red, girls feel left out if they don't have a valentine, and that's why all the nice guys (me) tell all the lonely girls that she is my valentine."
- 3- Meet David, a natural. He lost his innocence to an older girl at the tender age of 13, and took on dating instead of therapy ever since. Being the heir to a huge business, David developed the habit of breaking every task and interaction down to an investment and potential revenue situation. Having settled down with a girl for quite a while now, he gave me an alternative perspective, "I hate Valentine's Day! It was created for business! For selling balloons, flowers, and perfume to guys trying to prove their worth to women and attempting to improve their chances of getting lucky (no matter the definition of "lucky") by fulfilling their materialistic needs."
- 4- I was starting to form a pretty dark prejudice of this whole V-Day issue. Are these few credible testimonies, indeed representative of the majority of society's stereotypes, I had to have some more faith in humanity! So I turned to my final source of February 14 knowledge.
- 5- Rachel is a feisty petite brunette with a chemical engineering degree. Men usually gave her their phone number and she reciprocated by leaving many restless souls wondering for long sleepless nights whether she was in fact too much of a challenge to keep up with. Rachel's green eyes sparkled as she described all the emotions that gushed in when she had her first date on that very day, many years back. She ranked her best Valentine's as the day she received only a flower. No canned compliments, no gifts, just a sincere expression of affection- the memory of which still gives her butterflies.
- 6- I find it fair to give credit for all the "V-Day-ers" out there, who put much effort and thought into rendering this day as a success (for themselves at least, or themselves first in some cases). Some thrive to be the smoothest and the others choose to flaunt the biggest egos. They all seem to want one thing, though, and that is acknowledgement. Which leads me to believe that by the end of the day, Valentine's Day exists so Joe can expand his phonebook, David can outsmart the system, and for Rachel's heart to skip a beat whenever she remembers that date...

Elie El Khoury

- A) Answer the following set of questions using your own words.
- 1- What conception does Joe have on Valentine's Day? (0.75 pt)
 - 2- How does David's conception differ from Joe's? (0.75 pt)
 - 3- Who does Rachel share her ideas on Valentine's Day, Joe or David? Explain. (0.75 pt)
 - 4- What do Joe, Rachel, and David have in common with respect to Valentine's Day? (0.75 pt)
- B) 1-Identify the writer's attitude in paragraph 4.Justify with evidence. (0.75 pt)
 2-What is the function of the introductory paragraph of this article? (0.75 pt)
 3-Identify the writer's tone in paragraph 2. Give pieces of evidence. (0.75 pt)
- C) 1-What is the thematic organization of paragraph 3? (0.75 pt)
 2-Based on the ideas presented in the text, decide which of the sentences is true or false. (0.5 pt)
- a- The writer underestimates the human value of the V-Dayers.
 - b- Rachel's green eyes sparkle because she longs for another Valentine's Day.
- D) Based on the information presented in paragraph 1 fill in the chart. Copy the chart on your booklet. (2 pts)

Year	Event

- E) Write paragraph 5 in one-sentence summary. (0.5 pt)
- F) Find word in paragraphs 3+4+5+6 which likely have the meaning of the following. (1 pt)
- a- Innocent
 - b- Negative
 - c- Certificate
 - d- Just
- G) What do the following pronouns refer to? (1 pt)
- a- They/ paragraph 2
 - b- I/ paragraph 3

- c- My/ paragraph 3
- d- That/ paragraph 5

Part Two: Writing

Score: 9/20

A good relationship is based on social standards. The stronger the standards are, the more successful the relationship is. In your opinion, what three social standards do you believe can make a successful relationship? Discuss your ideas in an essay of three body paragraphs. See that you put the reader in the general atmosphere of your topic by writing a clear thesis statement in the introduction which must be backed up with relevant details in the body paragraphs and end with a conclusion. Draft, revise, and proofread your essay. Your writing will be assessed as follows:

5 pts for content and organization;

3 pts for language and style, and 1 pt for tidiness and legibility.

Good Work

Answer Key

A)1-Joe dedicates his time to fix dates for girls. He is very active in this sense especially when it comes to Valentine's Day which he views as extraordinary day for its lovely girls who must not be alone but be Joe's "Valentines".

2-David used to celebrate Valentine's Day fully. Now his ideas have changed. He believes that this day is pure industry to sell merchandise.

3-Rachel shares her ideas on Valentine's Day with David. Although she is charming and surrounded by many men who are willing to join her the moment she signals to them, she believes that Valentine's Day is illustrated in a flower only.

4-Joe, David, and Rachel have one common thing related to Valentine's Day which is "acknowledgement". "Joe can expand his ... she remembers that day." (Paragraph 6 /last sentence).

B)1-The writer's attitude in paragraph 4 is positive since he, previously, had a negative idea about V-Day but then, he says, "I turned to my final source of February 14 knowledge."

2-The introductory paragraph serves 3 functions:

- Arouses reader's interest with February 14.
- Gives background information about certain events in February 14.
- Presents thesis statement. (last sentence)

3-The writer's tone is ironical since he says that Joe "Probably spent more time online than he has with his mother" + last sentence.

C)1-Thematically, paragraph 3 is organized in a cause-effect manner. David used to be involved in investing Valentine's Day. Because of settling down with one girl, he has changed his perspective.

2-a-False. The writer gives them credit because they ranked themselves first on Valentine's Day.

b-False. Her eyes sparkle when she remembers one Valentine's Day.

D)

Year	Event
1929	Murdering six gang rivals
1946	Unveiling ENIAC
1989	Placing 24 satellites into orbits
2010	Valentine's Day

E) El-Khoury in paragraph 5 of his article entitled "Confessions of a valentine" presents the psychological transformation of Rachel. The pretty girl, who first views Valentine's Day as a celebrated one, but later she is satisfied with only a flower which gives her all the pure meaning of that day.

F)a-Tender/ paragraph 3

b-Dark/ paragraph 4

c-Degree/ paragraph 5

d-Fair/ paragraph 6

G)a-Girls

b-David

c-Author

d-emotions