

## **English Language Exam**

### **Part one: Reading (score: 11/20)**

*Read the article below that appeared in Outlook Newspaper issued in April, 2010 in which the writer recalls Beirut's old days and blames the Lebanese for what turned into. When you are through with the reading, answer the questions that follow.*

### **Beirut, I Love You**

- 1- I was born in the wrong era. I long for the pearl of the Mediterranean that was Beirut. I miss her blinding lights, the warm summer nights, the immaculate architecture, dancing in the rain, and the long walks along cerulean shores were all the makings of a fairytale city.
- 2- These days, during this awful era, I dread going to Beirut. I hate having to face the heartbreakingly unorganized city overrun by hooligans posing as police officer. The blinding lights are no longer the shiny lure of Beirut; they are the headlights of corruption and the old guys' BMWs zooming the streets, trying to seduce girls. The weather now is bipolar. The rain now is a product of toxic fumes enveloping the atmosphere over Beirut, which eventually results in acid rain.
- 3- Long gone are the days of the antique buildings and traditional quarters. All you can see now are pubs, clubs and brothels. To put things in perspective, I'll quote what a good friend of mine once said. She affirmed that "Beirut has been transformed into an annoying, perverted, old city".
- 4- This makes me wonder, what the fudge cakes happened to the city everyone admired. This city used to be "Imm elfaqeer", as my grandmother so eloquently put it. What happened to the city that was rebuilt seven times, rising from the ashes of the war and oppression, soaring like a phoenix into the blurring sun of victory all I can say is now it's mostly filled with uncultured, ignorant, morally bankrupt, sorry excuses for citizens?
- 5- These people are completely defunct in terms of culture and intellect, but firmly believe that shiny, expensive material possessions make them the greatest people on earth. Regrettably, Beirut has become the next Los Angeles in the making, filled with fake noses, fake brands, and most importantly, fake people. I wonder how the city that survived thousands of wars could have, so easily, turned into miserable, lifeless one.

- 6- What happened to her cultural heritage, to her intellectual and artistic genius, to her simple yet beautiful visage? Who is the wrongdoer here? What caused this awful transformation, turning Europa of Tyre an insecure, soulless harlot?
- 7- It's entirely our fault. We stood by did nothing when our city was infested with all this corruption and turning it into impassive concrete jungle. Now it's up to us to fix what we broke. Let's bring back the good old Beirut again. Let's build a time machine and then "fill the streets with Fairouz and Tabbouleh and regain our glory days" as my awesome friend whispered with a sigh.

**Mohammad Yahia Hamade**

**Editor – in – chief**

- A. Answer the following set of questions using your own words.
- 1- Why does writer hate to go to Beirut? (1pt)
  - 2- What analogy did the writer use to describe Beirut?(1/2pt)
  - 3- Why, in your opinion, does the writer include a series of questions in p.6?(3/4pt)
  - 4- What are the views that replaced the attractive scenes of Beirut?(3/4pt)
- B. 1- Identify the writer's mood in p. 1. Give pieces of evidence. (1/2pt)
- 2- What function(s) does the conclusion of this article serve? (1/2pt)
  - 3- How does the writer achieve credibility in his article? (1 1/2pt)
- C. 1- How are Paragraphs 3 + 4 thematically linked? (3/4pt)
- 2- What is the thematic relation between p. 6 and 7? Explain.
- D. Use the ideas presented in p. 5 to fill in the first set of lines with causes and effects on the bottom line. Copy the organizer on your booklet.(1pt)

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- E. Write p. 1 in one-sentence summary.(1pt)
- F. Select from p.2 words that have positive / negative connotations.(1pt)
- G. What do the following pronouns refer to?(2pt)
- a. Them / p.5
  - b. One / p.5

- c. They / .2
- d. Which / P. 2

**Part two: writing (score 9/20)**

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Beirut has survived different kinds of disasters ranging from major earth quakes to civil strife. Many plans were set to help Beirut regain its role as an active cultural center in terms of economy, society, urban planning and education.

Choose three plans and discuss your choice supported by reasons and examples in an essay of 250-300 words. Start with an introduction in which you present your clear thesis statements that must be backed up with relevant details in the body paragraphs.

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.

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## Answer key

**A-** 1- The writer hates to go to Beirut because it has become unorganized, its lights are no more shiny, its guys are corrupting, and it rain is acidic.

2- The writer used the image of the phoenix that rose from ashes and soared in the blurring sun of victory. Beirut becomes like a phoenix that was rebuilt severed times in ancient history and come back to life after war.

3- The writer includes a series of questions in p6 to create a mental communication between the reader and the tent arousing the formers interest for two reasons:

a- to show that Beirut is totally disrupted in terms of heritage, genius, and visage.

b- To leave room to blame those who are involved in changing it into a deformed, insecure, and indecent place to live in.

4- Pubs, Clubs, and brothels replaced the attractive scenes of Beirut.

**B-** 1- The writer's mood in p1 is nostalgic since he says "I miss" the "Shiny light", "Summer nights", "architecture", "dancing in rain", and "long walks a long shores".

2- The conclusion of this article serves in:

a- presenting confession and blame.

b- Making a call to rebuild Beirut on its real cultural heritage.

3- The writer achieves credibility by following different methods of support such as:

a- comparison – contrast/ Beirut – Los Angeles.

B- quotation: s3 3+4+7.

C- examples: phoenix.

C- 1- Ps 3+4 are indirectly thematically linked by:

a- the use of pronoun "this".

b- synonym: Beirut – city.

2- The thematic relation between p5 6+7 is a question – answer. P6 sets a series of questions on the destiny of Beirut where as p7 answers these questions that show who were responsible about the fatal destiny of Beirut.

D-

Causes

Defunct people

Ranking possessions

Resemblance of Los Angeles

Miserable, lifeless city

E- Hamade in p1 of his article entitled "Beirut, I love you" believes that he was born during an inappropriate time because he wished he would have been born during the glorious days of Beirut to enjoy its vigor.

F- **Negative:** awful/ dread/ hate/ heart breakingly/ unorganized/ corruption/ seduce/ toxic/ acid.

**Positive:** shiny / lure.

G- a- people.

b- City / Beirut.

c- Lights.

d- Product.