

Grade: 12/ Sociology and Economics/ A-B-C

Time: 150 min.

English Language Final Exam

Part one: Reading

Score: 11/20

Read the following article issued by The Global Edition of The New York Times on Tuesday, December 30, 2008 that sheds light on smokers. When you are through with the reading, answer the questions that follow.

Giving up the smoking habit isn't easy- Just ask Obama

By Denise Grady and Lawrence K. Altman

- 1- Will one of President-elect Barack Obama's New Year's resolutions be to quit smoking once and for all?
- 2- His good-humored waffling in various interviews about smoking made it plain that Obama, like many who have vowed to quit at this time of year, had not truly done so.
- 3- He told Tom Brokaw of NBC News several weeks ago, for example, that he "had stopped" but that "there are times where I've fallen off the wagon." He promised to obey the no-smoking rules in the White House, but whether that meant he would be ducking out the back door for a smoke is not known. His transition team declined to answer any questions about his smoking, past or present, or his efforts to quit.
- 4- Anti-smoking activists would love to see Obama use his bully pulpit to inspire others to join him in trying to kick the habit, but he has not yet taken up their cause.
- 5- The last president to smoke more than occasionally was Gerald Ford, who was quite fond of his pipes. Jimmy Carter and both Presidents George Bush were reportedly abstainers, but Bill Clinton liked cigars from time to time – though he may have chewed more than he smoked.
- 6- Obama's heaviest smoking was seven or eight cigarettes a day, but three was more typical, according to an interview published in the November issue of Men's Health magazine. In a letter given to reporters before the election, Obama's doctor described his smoking history as "intermittent", and said he had quit several and was using Nicorette gum, a form of nicotine replacement, "with success." Obama was often seen chewing gum during the campaign.
- 7- His pattern matches that of millions of other people who have resolved but stumbled in their efforts to give up cigarettes. Today, 21 percent of Americans smoke, down from 28 percent in 1988.
- 8- Off-again-on-again smoking and serial quitting are common, as is the long-term use of nicotine gum and patches.
- 9- "It takes the average smoker 8 to 10 times before he is able to quit successfully," said Dr. Steven Schroeder, director of the Smoking Cessation Leadership Center at the University of California, San Francisco.
- 10- Schroeder said that counseling was helpful and that if Obama were his patient, he would urge him to try it, even if only by telephone, with nicotine replacements and counseling, quit rates at one year are 15 percent to 30 percent, Schroeder said, about twice the rates of people who try to stop without help.

- 11- But Obama has apparently been chewing nicotine gum for quite a while. Is it safe? Dr. Neal Benowitz, another specialist on nicotine addiction from the University of California, San Francisco, said that long-term use of the gum or patches, "if it keeps you off cigarettes, is O.K."
- 12- He said people had the best chances of quitting if they used more than one nicotine replacement at the same time—like wearing a patch every day, but also using the gum when cravings took hold.
- 13- Studies have found that 5 percent to 10 percent of people who tried nicotine replacements were still using them a year later, and nicotine itself appears not to be harmful, except possibly during pregnancy and for people at risk for diabetes, Benowitz said. The risks of cancer, lung disease and heart problems come from other chemicals in cigarette smoke.
- 14- "If nicotine is harmful, it is a minuscule risk compared to cigarette smoking," Benowitz said. "If people want to continue using gum or patches, and not cigarettes, their health will be enhanced."
- 15- Nicotine can speed up the heart rate somewhat, he said, and it may raise blood pressure very slightly.
- 16- More important, it can reduce the body's sensitivity to insulin and may aggravate diabetes or pre-diabetic conditions. It also constricts blood vessels in the skin and may interfere with wound healing.
- 17- But still, Benowitz emphasized, "If the choice is between taking nicotine or smoking, nicotine is far, far better."
- 18- Falling off the wagon is typical. Three months, six months and a year are major milestones, and most people who can quit for a year will be able to stay off cigarettes for good, Benowitz said. But about 10 percent relapse even after a year or more.
- 19- "It's generally prompted by a stressful situation, when they're fatigued and they need to concentrate and focus," Benowitz said. "Obama talked about that. People are used to having a cigarette in that situation."
- 20- Nicotine is strongly addictive for many people, and withdrawal can leave them irritable, restless, sleepless, depressed and struggling to concentrate. Some experts say it is harder to give up than cocaine or heroin.
- 21- "Then there is something called hedonic dysregulation," Benowitz said. "It involves pleasure. Nicotine involves dopamine release, which is key in signaling pleasure. When people quit smoking, they don't experience things they used to like as pleasure."

A) Answer the following set of questions using your own words.

- 1- What function does the question in paragraph 1 serve? (1 pt)
- 2- Why is Obama always humorous in his interviews about smoking? (1 pt)
- 3- What evidence shows that Obama allows himself to smoke occasionally? (1 pt)
- 4- How do anti-smoking activists like to envisage Obama? (1 pt)

B) 1- Explain the writer's tone in paragraph 5. (1 pt)

2- What type of conclusion do the writers end their article with? (0.5 pt)

3- Identify the text type and justify your answer. (0.5 pt)

- C) 1-What is the thematic link between paragraphs 6+7? Write the indicator that shows this link. (0.5 pt)
 2-What is the organizational pattern of paragraph 8? (0.5 pt)
- D) Fill in the graphic organizer with the different parts of speech presented in paragraph 9. Copy the chart on your booklet. (1.5 pt)

Pronouns	
Verbs	
Article	
Adjectives	
Nouns	
Adverbs	
Preposition	

- E) Paraphrase sentence 1/ paragraph 10. (0.5 pt)
- F) Find words in paragraphs 11→ 14 that likely have the opposite of. (1 pt)
- a- Implicitly
 - b- Stopped
 - c- Abortion
 - d- Deteriorated
- G) What do the following pronouns refer to? (1 pt)
- a- He/ paragraph 15
 - b- It/ paragraph 16
 - c- They/ paragraph 19
 - d- Them/ paragraph 20

Part Two: Writing

score: 9/20

Smoking is absolutely a destructive habit and not only a bad one. How can smoking be healthily, socially, and financially harmful? Discuss your ideas in three body paragraph essay of 250-300 words. See that you put the reader in the general atmosphere of your topic by writing a clear thesis statement and that each of your body paragraphs starts with a topic sentence that must be backed up with relevant details and end with a proper conclusion. Draft, revise, and proofread your essay before you hand it in. 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-The question in paragraph 1 functions as a hook to attract the readers' attention and engage her/ him with the coming information about Obama's quitting smoking or not.

2-Obama is always humorous in his interviews about smoking because he isn't serious enough in taking his decision to quit smoking as if he blurs the audience.

3-The evidence which shows that Obama allows himself to smoke occasionally is in paragraph 3: " he wouldn't be ducking... known."

4-Anti-smoking activists like to envisage Obama as a typical model for his people in taking right decisions even on the private level so that others would follow him.

B)1-The writer's tone in paragraph 5 is critical. They are criticizing by listing previous presidents who adopted a bad habit which is smoking.

2-The writers wrote their conclusion in the form of an answer to the opening paragraph which was presented in the question type.

3-Text type: illustrative. The writers discuss the issue of smoking and decisions taken by those involved in this habit illustrating Obama as an example.

C)1-The thematic link between paragraphs 6+7 is an indirect link: pronoun "His".

2-The pattern of organization of paragraph 8 is comparison.

D)

Pronouns	It/ He
Verbs	Takes/ is/ quit/ said
Article	The
Adjectives	Average/ able
Nouns	Smoker/ times/ Dr. Steven Schroeder/ director/ smoking cessation Leadership/ university California/ San Francisco
Adverbs	Before/ successfully
Preposition	To/ of/ at

E) Grady and Altman in their article present Schroeder claiming that his advice worked successfully and could push Obama to abide by it if he were a patient.

F) a-Apparently (11)

b-Took hold (12)

c-Pregnancy (13)

d-enhanced (14)

G)a- Benowitz

b-Nicotine

c-10 percent of people

d-Many people