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GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION, SPORT, YOUTH
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
DEPARTMENT OF EXAMINATIONS

Qualifying Examination for Supply Learning Support Educators

November 2024

Subject: English Language

Date: 5th November 2024

Time: 09:00 – 10:30 (One hour and thirty minutes)

Instructions to candidates:

This examination paper consists of THREE sections. Read the instructions for each section carefully.

Answer Section A on the booklet provided, clearly indicating the question you are answering.

Answer Section B and C in the space provided on this paper.

Section A: Long Writing Task (40 marks)

Write between 180 and 200 words on ONE of the tasks below. You are advised to:

- pay attention to layout, paragraphing, vocabulary, grammar, spelling and punctuation;
- keep your writing to the number of words indicated.

You will be penalised if you write less than 180 or more than 200 words.

1. Working remotely is becoming increasingly popular, but it comes with its own set of challenges. Write an **article** for a local magazine which outlines both the benefits and drawbacks of working from home.

OR

2. You are the teacher representative in a middle school. You and the staff you represent would like to refurbish your staff room. Write a **proposal report** to the head of school, Sam Borg, outlining your suggestions for the necessary improvements.

Section B: Reading Comprehension and Summary (50 marks)

Read the following text carefully and answer all of the questions that follow on the lines provided.



POLITICS

ENTERTAINMENT

LIFE

PERSONAL

VOICES

SHOPPING

26 August 2024

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Myles Burke

The Walt Disney musical, *Mary Poppins*, **which** was based on stories written by P.L. Travers, had brought Julie Andrews overnight fame when it premiered in Los Angeles in 1964. *Mary Poppins* had also helped create the sweet, wholesome image that still defines her till this very day.

5 The film tells the story of an extraordinary nanny, Mary Poppins, **who** descends from the London skies, umbrella in hand, into the lives of the troubled Banks family in 1910, taking charge of **their** boisterous, if rather neglected, children. Through a series of adventures, with a dose of magic and common sense, Mary Poppins helps repair the family's relationships, getting them to embrace the joy
10 in their everyday lives.

The musical is an innovative blend of live-action and animation where children can magically jump into pictures and chimneysweeps dance with penguins. When it premiered in Los Angeles in 1964, the audience erupted into a spontaneous standing ovation that lasted five minutes.

15 In the early 1940s, Walt Disney had promised his daughters, **who** were fans of Travers's first *Mary Poppins* book, that he would adapt it into a movie. However, **he** spent the next 20 years trying to persuade Travers to sell him the screen rights. By the 1960s, the author's increasingly dire financial situation forced **her** to relent.

20 Despite Travers describing Mary Poppins in the books as being very plain, Disney had a clear idea about who he wanted for the 'practically perfect in every way' nanny – and that was Julie Andrews.

By this time, Andrews had already established a thriving stage career on both sides of the Atlantic. Born in 1935, in Surrey, in the United Kingdom (UK),
25 Andrews's parents, on discovering their daughter's exceptional singing ability, propelled her towards a career on stage. By the age of 12, **she** was astonishing West End audiences in London with her clear, melodic soprano voice. In 1954, she made her debut on Broadway in the United States of America (USA) in the immensely popular *The Boy Friend*, but **it** was her role as cockney flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, in the 1956 musical *My Fair Lady* that really brought her to
30 people's attention.

Disney felt the actress would be ideal for his adaptation of *Mary Poppins*. In 1962, after seeing her perform as Queen Guinevere alongside Richard Burton as King Arthur in the musical *Camelot*, he offered her the title role in his upcoming
35 film.

"I thought he was just being nice, and coming to visit," Andrews told BBC's *The One Show* in 2014, "but he asked if I would be interested in coming to Hollywood to see the designs and to hear the songs he was planning for this movie he intended to make. And I said, 'Oh Mr Disney, I would love it, but I
40 have to tell you, I'm pregnant'."

Disney was prepared to be patient to ensure he got what he wanted. "He said that's all right we'll wait," said Andrews.

45 So, right after giving birth to daughter Emma, Andrews and her then-husband Tony Walton – a designer who Disney also hired – arrived in Hollywood in 1963 to begin work on the film.

The role allowed her to demonstrate the full range of her dancing and comedy gifts. Her performance also brought authority, warmth and a slightly enigmatic air to the prim nanny, while songs like *A Spoonful of Sugar* showed off Andrew's easy charm and flawless voice.

50 *Mary Poppins* would go on to becoming the highest-grossing film in the USA in 1964, receiving 13 Academy Award nominations, winning five, including the best actress Oscar for Andrews and best song for *Chim Chim Cher-ee* sung with co-star Dick Van Dyke.

55 The following year, her portrayal of the governess Maria in *The Sound of Music* earned her another Oscar nomination and the film's worldwide success cemented Andrews's status as a major Hollywood star.

Playing two singing nanny roles in hugely successful movies so close together helped solidify a sweet, virtuous image of Andrews in the audience's minds.

60 In 1976, Andrews was questioned at length about whether she was frustrated with her sugary-sweet image.

"Do you ever wish you hadn't done it?" asked Lawley.

"No, never," said Andrews. "I must be truthful. Although I do giggle and there is an awful lot of teasing in the family about my image and things like that, I don't regret it at all."

65

Adapted from <https://www.bbc.com>

Underline the correct answer in questions 1-3.

(3 marks)

1. In which section of an online newspaper would you find this article?
 - a. News
 - b. Entertainment
 - c. Shopping

2. The main purpose of this article is to
 - a. persuade readers to take up acting in musicals.
 - b. give instructions on how one can spend their free time.
 - c. give information about the main character in a film.

3. Which title would best fit this article?
 - a. Julie Andrews in *Mary Poppins*
 - b. Walt Disney's Musical *Mary Poppins*
 - c. *Mary Poppins*: The beginning

4. Fill in the grid below about the film *Mary Poppins* with the missing information found in the text. The first one has been done for you.

(3 marks)

Genre of film	<i>Musical</i>
a) Name of film	
b) Name of main actor	
c) Date film premiered	
d) Name of producer	
e) Author of the original novel on which film is based	
f) Number of academy awards film won	

5. (a) What did Walt Disney promise his daughters? (1 mark)

(b) Why did Walt Disney promise them this? (1 mark)

6. Quote a sentence which indicates that Julie Andrews was famous in Europe and America. (1 mark)

7. Are the following statements True or False? Underline the correct answer and give a reason from the text. (9 marks)

a. In the *Mary Poppins* books, the nanny was very beautiful.

True / False because

b. At first, Walt Disney wasn't sure who to choose to play the role of Mary Poppins.

True / False because

c. Julie Andrews was born in the United States.

True / False because

d. Julie Andrews's parents encouraged her to perform and take up acting.

True / False because

e. Julie Andrews became famous after appearing in *My Fair Lady*.

True / False because

f. Walt Disney offered Julie Andrews the main part in *Mary Poppins* after he saw her acting in *The Boyfriend*.

True / False because

g. Julie Andrews immediately accepted Walt Disney's offer to play the role of Mary Poppins.

True / False because

h. Julie Andrews's husband was also an actor.

True / False because

i. Julie Andrews's family joked about her being a nanny.

True / False because

8. Give TWO reasons why Walt Disney had to wait before he started producing *Mary Poppins*. (2 marks)

i. _____

ii. _____

9. List FOUR positive things the film Mary Poppins revealed about Julie Andrews's abilities. (2 marks)

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____
- iv. _____

10. What does the author mean by 'the film's worldwide success cemented Andrews's status as a major Hollywood star' (lines 55-56)? (1 mark)

11. Underline the correct word. The audience looks at Julie Andrews (positively / negatively / indifferently). Quote the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

12. In your own words, how does Julie Andrews feel about her playing the role of a nanny in the musicals? Quote the text to support your answer.

(2 marks)

13. What do the following words in **bold** refer to in the passage? (4 marks)

- a. which (line 1) _____
- b. who (line 5) _____
- c. their (line 7) _____
- d. who (line 15) _____
- e. he (line 17) _____
- f. her (line 18) _____
- g. she (line 26) _____
- h. it (line 29) _____

14. Between lines 15 and 25, find ONE word which means: (3 marks)

- a. transform _____
- b. convince _____
- c. terrible _____
- d. change one's mind _____
- e. successful _____
- f. special _____

15. Match events in Column A with the year they happened shown in Column B by writing the correct letter in the middle column. The first one has been done for you. (4 marks)

	A		B
a.	Julie Andrews is born.		1965
b.	Julie Andrews's first appearance on Broadway.		1963
c.	Julie Andrews starred in <i>My Fair Lady</i> .		1976
d.	Julie Andrews starred in <i>Camelot</i> .	a	1935
e.	Julie Andrews starred in <i>Mary Poppins</i> .		2014
f.	Julie Andrews starred in <i>The Sound of Music</i> .		1962
g.	Julie Andrews appeared on BBC <i>The One Show</i> .		1954
h.	Julie Andrews met Lawley.		1964
i.	Julie Andrews had a child.		1956

16. Look at this photo. Underline the caption that fits best. (1 mark)



- a) Andrews starring as Mary Poppins
- b) An interview with Julie Andrews
- c) Meeting Walt Disney on stage

17. Tick (✓) the correct answer. Which one of the following videos would the readers of this article be interested in watching to help them understand this article better? (1 mark)



Mary Poppins Returns | Official Trailer :
18M views – 6 years ago



London Walking Tour | *Mary Poppins* (2004) :
37K views – 3 years ago



Julie Andrews forever | Documentary (2000) :
8.1K views – 3 years ago

