

Samples 3 Of Exams : (Taken from the internet “Najah.com”)

Oprah’s Latest Project is One for the Books

Two thousand and six was the year Africa went Hollywood: Madonna, Clooney, Brangelina. And now, in 2007, the most exclusive spot on the continent will undoubtedly be in the town of Henly-on-Klip, about 40 miles outside Johannesburg. Set on 22 lush acres and spread over 28 buildings, the complex features oversize rooms done in tasteful beiges and browns with splashes of color, a yoga studio, a beauty salon, indoor and outdoor theaters and sidewalks speckled with colorful tiles. By now, you're probably wondering how much a spread like this goes for per night. Actually, it's free. There's only one catch you have to be a 12- or 13-year-old African girl to get in. As spectacular as this place sounds, it's not a resort. It's a school: The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls.

Winfrey has spent five years and \$40 million building the school to her own specifications. The talk-show diva always does things in grand style, of course. But \$40million for a school for impoverished girls in Africa does seem a bit extravagant. In fact, the South African government had planned to build the school with her, but it pulled out amid reported criticism that the academy was too elitist and lavish for such a poor country. "The country is very obviously poor, and so few children have a chance at education," says one

South African school official . "It is hard not to see that many feel that what Ms Winfrey is doing is too much." Oprah's response was: " I understand that many in the school system and out feel that I'm going overboard, and that's fine. This is what I want to do. I wanted to give the girls that 'It' quality and give them an opportunity to make a difference in the world."

Oprah says she decided to build her own school because she was tired of charity from a distance. "When I first started making a lot of money," she says, "I really became frustrated with the fact that all I did was writing check after check to this or that charity without really feeling like it was a part of me. At a certain point, you want to feel that connection." Oprah calls the school "the fulfillment of my work on earth." She personally chose the pleated uniforms, the sheets and the beds – she actually sprawled out on each one to check for comfort. There is no official motto at her academy, but it could well be DREAM BIG. As she planned her academy, Oprah discovered that the local architects weren't interested in her version of girl power. "From the very beginning, the developers sent me plans for the school that resembled a chicken coop," she says. "It was clear that the attitude was 'These are poor African girls. Why spend all this on them?' It was unbelievably upsetting."

Oprah asked the various South African tribes and communities to nominate girls with exceptional leadership potential; her plan is to educate the best and brightest and hope that, **after being Oprahcized**, they will lead their country out of poverty. More than 3,500 girls applied for 152 spots - that's a 4 percent acceptance rate. Oprah interviewed all of the 500 finalists herself, though the students weren't told they'd be meeting her. Most were understandably stunned when they walked into the interview room. To weed through the finalists, she asked each applicant a series of questions about her background and dreams. There were so many heart-breaking stories that Oprah stopped asking the girls about their backgrounds. "I see myself in all these girls – the struggles and the

hardships that just seem unbearable,” she says. “I have nothing but respect for them.” **Newsweek**, January 8, 2007

I-Comprehension Questions

A/ Match each paragraph with its corresponding subtitle; there is an extra subtitle.

Write the letters only.

Paragraph Subtitle Answer

- § 1 A- Oprah’s personal involvement.
- § 2 B- Oprah’s selection criteria
- § 3 C- A resort-like Academy
- § 4 D- A dream school for the wealthy.
- E Oprah’s project raises opposition.

§ 1 ... § 2 ... § 3 ... § 4 ...

B/ Fill in the table with information about the school.

Name
Country
Number of students
Students’ social status

C/ For each of the following false statements find a detail/sentence in the text showing it is false.

1- Oprah’s project gained unanimous approval.

.....

2- All the designs suggested by the architects translated Oprah’s vision of the school.

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3- The girls were selected at random.

.....

D/ Answer the following questions.

1- What is Oprah’s aim behind setting up her school?

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.....

2- What kind of life did she herself lead when she was these girls’ age?

.....
.....
E/ Tick the most appropriate alternative.

“... after being Oprahcized” (**last paragraph**) means

- a- after being given Oprah’s looks
- b- after leading a luxury life like Oprah
- c- after being educated according to Oprah’s standards

F/ How do you find Oprah’s project - humanitarian, elitist or extravagant? Give a justified answer.

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II-WRITING

ACTIVITY 1:

Use the notes below to write a brief biography of **John Steinbeck**, the famous novelist.

Date of birth : 1902

Place of birth : Salinas, California

Father : county treasurer

Mother : teacher Steinbeck learned to love books

Studies : marine biology / Stanford University. No degree

Occupations : apprentice painter, caretaker, surveyor, fruit picker.

Famous works: *Tortilla Flat*, *The grapes of Wrath*, *Travels with Charley*

Awards : Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962

Death : Dec. 20, 1968 (heart attack)

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ACTIVITY 2: You are the personnel manager of a company which intends to open night courses for its staff (English language, ICT and marketing). Deliver a speech in which you state the benefits of lifelong learning and incite the employees to enroll in such courses.

III-LANGUAGE

A/ Fill in the blanks with 10 words from the list below.
portrayed /stage/ at / literary /whose / as /devotion / beloved / around / who / won

The Royal Shakespeare Company in association with Canada's National Arts Centre present Margaret Atwood adaptation of *The Penelopiad* The Swan Theatre in Stratford. As..... in Homer's Odyssey, Penelope - wife of Odysseus and cousin of the beautiful Helen of Troy - has become a symbol of wifely duty and....., enduring twenty years of waiting when her husband goes off to fight in the Trojan War..... she tries to protect herself from the attentions of a hundred greedy suitors, travelling minstrels (singers in the Middle Ages) regale her with news of Odysseus' epic adventures the Mediterranean. When Odysseus finally comes home, he kills her suitors and then inexplicably hangs Penelope's twelve..... maids. Now, Penelope and her chorus of wronged maids get the chance to tell their side of the story, through song, dance and storytelling in a new version by Margaret Atwood of her own wry, witty and wise novel. Margaret Atwood is an accomplished novelist and poet many works include *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Alias Grace*, *Oryx and Crake* and *The Blind Assassin* for which she..... the Man Booker Prize. A fellow of The royal Society of Canada, she has been awarded the Norwegian Order of..... Merit and French Chevalier dans l'ordre des art set des lettres.

B/ Underline the right option.

Australia is known for its vocational education. There are many private and government vocational institutes. Courses have a practical focus and many **(afford / provide / enroll)** work placements. They **(design / are designing / are designed)** with professional and industry bodies to meet the current needs of the **(marketplace / workforce / staff)**.

There are courses for careers in every industry from engineering to computer programming, cookery to hotel **(managers / management / managing)**. There are **(either / neither / both)** private and government universities in Australia. These universities offer “under graduate” and “post graduate” programs. Australia is a popular place for international students to study English, whether it’s for education, career or travel purposes. Australia is renowned **(for / of / about)** its English language courses. English is the national language of the country, so students can learn the language from **(native / mother / home)** speakers inside and outside the classroom. The criteria for enrolment in a university **(varies / vary / is varied)** depending **(on / of / in)** the institution. But generally besides the official **(interpreted / translated / explained)** documents, foreign students need to show evidence of English language knowledge and high school qualifications.