

Year 2024

Otsuma Nakano Junior High School

Entrance Exam

October 21, 2023

English

Attention:

1. This test has two reading tasks and one essay writing task.
2. Write your name and your application ID number on the booklet and your answer sheet.
3. The test duration time is 40 minutes.
4. Write your answers on your answer sheet.
5. The full score scale of this test is 60 points.

Application ID. No.		Name in Kanji	
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1-A. Reading

Instructions: Read the passage carefully. Answer each question by choosing the correct letter.

The Greek Philosopher, Aristotle

Aristotle lived long ago. He was born in a colony controlled by Greece approximately 350 B.C. His father, Nichomachus, was a physician for the king Macedonia. Unfortunately, Nichomachus died when Aristotle was quite young. He was sent to Athens when he was seventeen years of age. Athens was a center of learning and he joined the Academy and studied for twenty years under Plato, who was the foremost philosopher and teacher of that time. When Plato died Aristotle left Athens and went to Mysia, where he taught for three years in the king's court and married the king's daughter Pythias. They had a daughter and Pythias died when she was a young woman. Some writers claim that Philip, king of Macedonia, invited him to come and teach his son Alexander, who was thirteen years old at that time. He tutored him for five years. This same Alexander would later go on to conquer the then-known world. He returned to Athens. Aristotle set up his own school, the Lyceum, he would teach there for thirteen years. The school he started continued for more than two hundred years. Aristotle was a genius. He studied several different subjects such as science, vegetation, animals, the human body, weather, the earth, the heavens, politics, government, ethics, and philosophy. He taught moderation, urging his students to follow the middle of the road between extremes. He defined morality as the attitude of the mind that promotes human growth. Aristotle thought common men of goodness were able to control themselves. He died soon afterward in 322 B.C. at 62 years of age.

1. In which Greek colony was Aristotle born?
 - a. Macedonia
 - b. Mysia
 - c. Athens
 - d. The colony isn't stated.

2. What was his occupation in Mysia?
- a. He was a teacher for three years.
 - b. He played on a court in Mysia.
 - c. He became friends with the king.
 - d. He studied under Plato.
3. In line 7 what does the pronoun they refer to?
- a. Aristotle and Plato
 - b. Aristotle and his wife
 - c. Aristotle's wife and the child
 - d. The king and Pythias
4. In which city did Aristotle establish his school?
- a. Lyceum
 - b. Mysia
 - c. Athens
 - d. The king's court
5. Aristotle urged his students to follow_____.
- a. a few subjects
 - b. moderation
 - c. common men
 - d. promotion

1-B. Reading

Instructions: Read the passage carefully. Answer each question by choosing the correct letter.

Once in a Blue Moon

Have you ever heard someone use the phrase “once in a blue moon?” People use this expression to describe something that they do not do very often. For example, someone might say that he tries to avoid eating sweets because they are unhealthy, but will eat chocolate “once in a blue moon.” Or someone who does not usually like to go to the beach might say “I visit the shore once in a blue moon.” While many people use this phrase, not everyone knows the meaning behind it.

The first thing to know is that the moon itself is never actually blue. This is just an expression. The phrase “blue moon” actually has to do with the shape of the moon, not the color.

As the moon travels around the earth, it appears to change shape. We associate certain names with certain shapes of the moon. For example, when we can see a small part of the moon, it is called a crescent moon. A crescent is a shape that looks like the tip of a fingernail. When we cannot see the moon at all, it is called a new moon. When we can see the entire moon, it is called a full moon. Usually, there is only one full moon every month. Sometimes, however, there will be two full moons in one month. When this happens, the second full moon is called a “blue moon.” Over the next 20 years, there will only be 15 blue moons. As you can see, a blue moon is a very rare event. This fact has led people to use the expression “once in a blue moon” to describe other very rare events in their lives.

1. Which of the following would be a good example of someone doing something “once in a blue moon”?
 - a. Mary likes to go to the mountains every weekend.
 - b. Tom rarely remembers to take out the trash.
 - c. Cindy hates to wash the dishes, nevertheless, she does it every day.
 - d. Mike sometimes forgets to do his homework.

2. When does a blue moon happen in nature?
- a. when there are two full moons in one month
 - b. when the moon has a blue color
 - c. when we cannot see the moon at all
 - d. when we can only see a small part of the moon
3. Using the passage as a guide, which of the following sentences does NOT contain an idiomatic expression?
- a. Thomas has lost his mind.
 - b. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
 - c. I'll paint the house this summer.
 - d. The English exam was a piece of cake.
4. In the final paragraph, the author says: "During the next 20 years, there will be only 15 blue moons." This means that during the next 20 years, a blue moon will happen____.
- a. once a year
 - b. less than once a year
 - c. more than once a year
 - d. not enough information is provided
5. In the final sentence, which is the opposite of rare?
- a. infrequent
 - b. strange
 - c. colorful
 - d. common

2. Writing

The purpose of this essay is to test your ability to write in English.

Instructions:

Read the following writing prompt and answer the question in English (100-150 words):

**If you could be any animal for a day, which animal would you choose to be and why?
Please give three reasons.**

You may use the space below to plan your essay.