

Entrance Test EN 113 FCE intensive

This entrance test consists of two parts, a reading task with multiple choice questions and a gap filling exercise that tests grammar and vocabulary. Try to do both parts of the test without any help. Use the separate answer sheet for your answers. Please return the answer sheet only to KBZ Zug, Aabachstrasse 7, 6300 Zug or send it per email to regula.frank@zg.ch.

Part one - Reading

You are going to read an article about a company called Icy Glamour, which puts on ice-skating shows. After reading the text, look at the multiple choice task and choose for each question the answer which you think fits best according to the text, A, B, C or D.

Text

Icy Glamour

Why is this ice-skating show so successful? Dan Brawley tries to find out.

On a dark and cold December evening, thousands of people are making their way across a huge car park. They're not here to see a film, or the ballet, or even the circus. No, they are all here for what is, bizarrely, a nationwide phenomenon – they are here to see Icy Glamour. Given that most people don't seem to be acquainted with anyone who's ever been, the show's statistics are extraordinary: Nearly 200 million people have seen Icy Glamour since it began more than five decades ago.

What is the secret of the show's success? And why are so many people prepared to spend their lives travelling through the United States in caravans in order to appear in it? It can't be glamorous, and it's undoubtedly hard work. The backstage atmosphere is an odd mix of gym class and workplace. A courtained-off section at the back of the arena is laughably referred to as the girls' dressing room, but is more accurately described as a corridor, with grey, cracked walls and cheap plastic chairs and tables set up along the length of it. Each girl has a small area littered with brushes, make-up, mascara and long false eyelashes.

Icy Glamour must rank pretty low down the scale of attractive places to work: The area round the ice-rink is grey and mucky with rows of dirty yellow plastic seating and green carpet tiles. It's an unimpressive picture, but the production itself is an unquestionably vast, polished enterprise: The lights come from a firm in Alaska, the people who make the audio system are in Rome, but Los Angeles supplies the smoke effects. Former French Olympic skater Jean LeBon is now creative director for the company and conducts a vast master class to make sure they're ready for the next performance.

When the music finally blares out from the sound system the cast start to go through their routines under LeBon's direction. LeBon says, 'The aim is to make sure they're all still getting to exactly the right place on the ice at the right time – largely because the banks of lights in the ceiling are set to those places, and if the skaters are all half a metre out they'll be illuminating empty ice. Our challenge,' he continues, 'is to produce something they can sell in a number of arenas throughout the country at the same time. My theory is that

you take those things that people want to see and you give it to them, but not in the way they expect to see it, you try to twist it. And you have to find music that is challenging to the skaters, because they have to do it every night.'

It may be a job which he took to pay the rent, but nobody can doubt his enthusiasm. 'The only place you'll see certain skating moves is an ice show,' he says, 'because you're not allowed to do them in competitions. It's not in the rules. So the ice show world has things to offer which the competitive world just doesn't.' LeBon knows what he's talking about because he skated for Icy Glamour himself when he stopped competing – he was financially unable to retire. He learnt *the hard way* that you can't put on an Olympic performance every night. 'I'd be thinking, these people have paid their money, now do your stuff, and I suddenly thought, I really can't cope. I'm not enjoying it.' The solution, he realised, was to give only 80 per cent every night rather than striving for the sort of twice-a-year excellence which won him medals.

That's why for those of us whose only experience of ice-skating is watching top-class Olympic skaters, some of the movements might look a bit amateurish, but then, who are we to judge? Equally, it's impossible not to be swept up by the whole show, you'd have to try really hard not to enjoy it.

Questions

1) What surprises the writer Dan Brawley about the popularity of Icy Glamour?

- a) Few people know someone who has seen it.
- b) Icy Glamour has not changed since it started.
- c) Ice-skating is not a popular hobby in the USA.
- d) People prefer film, ballet or the circus.

2) Dan Brawley describes the backstage area in order to show

- a) the type of skaters that the show attracts
- b) how much fun the cast have during the show
- c) the conditions that the skaters put up with
- d) how much it takes for a performance

3) What does Dan Brawley highlight about the performance in the third paragraph?

- a) the standard of the professional support
- b) the difficulty of finding suitable equipment
- c) the range of companies involved in the production
- d) the variety of places in which the show has staged

4) For Jean LeBon, creative director of Icy Glamour, the key point when rehearsing skating routine is

- a) the skaters' position on the ice
- b) the handling of the light equipment
- c) getting used to the music
- d) filling all available space on the ice

5) LeBon believes that he can meet the challenge of producing shows for different audiences

- a) by putting on excellent performances every night
- b) by presenting familiar material in an unexpected way
- c) by varying movements to suit local tastes
- d) by choosing music that is typical of a certain region

6) What does LeBon suggest in paragraph 5 about skating in shows?

- a) It can be as competitive as other forms of skating.
- b) It allows skaters to try out a range of ideas.
- c) It enables skaters to visit a lot of different places throughout America.
- d) It is particularly well paid.

7) What is meant by 'the hard way' in paragraph 5 (printed in italics)?

- a) through difficult personal experience
- b) through making a lot of errors
- c) by over-estimating the ability of others
- d) by misunderstanding the expectations of others

8) What conclusion does Dan Brawley draw about Icy Glamour?

- a) It is more enjoyable to watch than formal ice-skating.
- b) It requires as much skill as Olympic ice-skating.
- c) It is hard to know who really enjoys it.
- d) It is difficult to dislike it.

Part two – Grammar and Vocabulary

Complete the text below. Use only **one word** in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Are you a morning or an evening type?

Do you read the newspaper (0)while you have breakfast? If you do, then you (1) be a 'lark', or morning type of person. 'Owls', or evening types, tend not to spend much time over breakfast. They (2)little appetite then, and, (3) they are usually late risers, they are short (4) time anyway. Around half of the adult population are either morning (5) evening types; the rest fall somewhere (6) the middle. (7) can be up to a twelve-hour difference in the time of day when the two types reach the point when they are most alert and mentally at their (8) Larks tend to reach this point in the late morning, while owls (9) it around 10 pm. For reasons (10) are unknown, evening types tend to be more adaptable (11) morning types. For example, evening types can usually cope much better with shift work and jet lag, and (12) is easier for an evening type to become a morning type than the other way (13) Are we born (14) these differences, or are they just formed (15) habit? We don't really know.