THE SEVENTH CANTONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETITION
Secondary Schools 2009

GRAMMAR SECTION

Read the questions carefully and choose the best answer.

1 ___ TV for the last four hours? Turn it off and get some exercise!
   a) Do you watch
   b) Are you watching
   c) Watched you
   d) Have you been watching

2 At first I ___ starting work so early but this has changed.
   a) didn't use to
   b) wouldn't
   c) didn't have to
   d) wasn't used to

3 I don't agree with the article about public transport ___ in last week's Evening Echo.
   a) which published
   b) published
   c) was published
   d) that was publishing

4 By the summer, I _____ English for ten years!
   a) am going to study
   b) will study
   c) will be studying
   d) will have been studying

5 Which is the correct order?
   a ______ cake that was in the baker's window
   a) chocolate, delicious, round, mouth-wateringly
   b) round, mouth-wateringly, delicious, chocolate
   c) mouth-wateringly delicious, round, chocolate
   d) mouth-wateringly, chocolate, delicious, round

6 I wasn’t simply pleased when she told me her wonderful news; I was absolutely ______.
   a) delighted
   b) amazed
   c) fantastic
   d) fascinating

7 This country has been hit by two economic ___ in the last ten years.
   a) crisis
   b) crises
   c) criisses
   d) crissi

8 I've visited quite a few _______ but I've never seen such cute _______ and _______ before.
   a) zoos / monkeys / gorillaes
   b) zooes / monkeys / gorillas
   c) zoos / monkeies / gorillas
   d) zoos / monkeys / gorillas

9 Jack has some unusual pets. His favourites are his three pet ________.
   a) goose
   b) gooses
   c) geese
   d) geeses

10 Following the flood, ___ in the area ___ major repair work.
   a) each of building / needs
   b) every building / need
   c) each buildings / need
   d) every building / needs

11 I told him that he couldn’t hope to catch a big fish ___ a small rod like that, but he insisted ___ trying.
   a) with / on
   b) by / about
   c) with / about
   d) by / on

12 Most fast food _____ to be unhealthy but I’m not sure that’s true.
   a) said
   b) it is said
   c) has said
   d) is said

13 Today, many serious childhood diseases ___ by early immunization.
   a) are preventing
   b) can prevent
   c) prevent
   d) can be prevented

14 Those books I ordered should _____ by now.
   a) be delivering
   b) have delivered
   c) have been delivered
   d) have been delivering

15 Please don’t forget _____ your essays during Friday’s lesson.
   a) handing in
   b) to hand in
   c) hand in
   d) to handing in

16 The Northern Hemisphere has mostly westerly winds ___ the rotation of the earth toward the east.
   a) due to
   b) because
   c) therefore
   d) so

17 The shot was ___ quick for the goalkeeper and the ball hit the back of the net.
   a) so
   b) such
   c) enough
   d) too
18 We were disappointed that ___ of the members came to the youth club party.
   a) few b) a few c) little d) a little

19 What did you do while ___ for the others to come?
   a) were you waiting b) you were waiting c) had been waiting d) you had been waiting

20 When I last saw Carrie, she told me she ______ of buying a house, but now she’s changed her mind.
   a) thought b) is thinking c) was thinking d) has been thinking

21 ____ an Oscar last year, she’s now one of the most powerful movie stars in the industry.
   a) She won b) To win c) The winning of d) Having won

22 The prize is ___ unique opportunity to travel the world!
   a) a b) an c) the d) -

23 ‘What ___ about the new simplified tax law?’
   ‘It’s more confusing than the old one.’
   a) are you thinking b) have you thought c) do you think d) have you been thinking

24 ‘Ms Jones, please type those letters before noon.’
   ‘They’ve already ____., sir. They’re on your desk.’
   a) typed b) been typed c) being typed d) been being typed

25 She _____ much better since she left the hospital last week.
   a) is feeling b) feels c) felt d) has been feeling

26 Two climbers are reported to ____ during the storm last night.
   a) die b) have died c) had died d) died

27 Choose the incorrect one.
   a) I never thought that I would be spending my holiday in hospital, but there I was.
   b) I’m sorry. I didn’t think the noise will disturb anyone.
   c) The council has announced that the housing estate is to be demolished.
   d) I was about to report him missing, when he walked through the door.

28 ______ not a very good car, but at least ______ mine.
   a) It's/it's b) Its/its c) It's/its d) Its/it's

29 If you want to leave your job you must give at least four ______ notice.
   a) the week b) weeks c) week's d) weeks'

30 The English ______ strong traditions.
   a) has many b) have much c) have many d) has much

31 Self-esteem is important. It’s important for people to like ___.
   a) oneself b) yourself c) him/herself d) themselves

32 What ___ you used in picking a winner in the art contest?
   a) is the criteria b) are the criteria c) are the criterion d) are the criterions

33 Which one is not correct?
   ‘The guidebook was full of useful ________, like where to find a good restaurant or a cheap place to stay.’
   a) advices b) pieces of advice c) tips and advice d) advice

34 Do you know __________?
   a) the station is where b) the station where is c) where is the station d) where the station is

35 When Mrs Jones got home, her house ________ burgled; she saw the thief in her bedroom.
   a) was b) had been c) was being d) had been being

36 He suddenly saw Sue ___ the room. He pushed his way _____ the crowd of people to get to her.
   a) across / through b) over / through c) across / across d) over / along
37 Which one is not correct?
‘Totally shoe crazy, she ______ more than 50 pairs!’
a) owns b) is owning c) owned d) must own

38 Anne hopes ___ to join the private club. She could make important business contacts there.
a) inviting b) being invited c) to invite d) to be invited

39 We didn’t have a very nice holiday. The weather was _____ awful.
a) completely b) totally c) absolutely d) terrible

40 Why did Beth ask you ____ a bicycle?
a) that if you had b) do you have c) that you had d) if you had

41 We ___ today and I got into trouble because I hadn’t done it.
a) had checked out homework b) had our homework checked c) were checked out homework d) have checking our homework

42 Tom is sitting at his desk. He’s reading his chemistry text because he has a test tomorrow. He ________.
a) could study b) should be studying c) will study d) must be studying

43 ‘Maybe that’s Stan at the door.’
‘No, it ____ be. He’s gone to Trevor’s for the weekend.’
a) can’t b) mustn’t c) shouldn’t d) wouldn’t

44 ‘It was hard work getting back from the hospital with my leg in plaster.’
‘You should ____ me. I’d have picked you up.’
a) call b) be calling c) have called d) have been calling

45 If I ____ the trick with my open eyes, I would never have believed it possible.
a) hadn’t been seeing b) hadn’t seen c) didn’t see d) wouldn’t have seen

46 ‘Shall I come over at nine?’
‘I’d rather ___ at ten instead.’
a) you come b) you will come c) you had come d) you came

47 Don’t drop your sweet wrapper on the floor, ___?
a) do you b) aren’t you c) will you d) won’t you

48 Our teacher made the whole class ___ after the lesson because we had been so noisy.
a) staying b) to stay c) for staying d) stay

49 I was enjoying my book, but I stopped ___ a program on TV.
a) reading to watch b) to read to watch c) to read for watching d) reading for to watch

50 Parents love and support their children ___ the children misbehave or do foolish things.
a) even if b) since c) if d) only if

51 I can’t get a car yet because I’m not ___ to drive.
a) enough old b) quite old c) so old d) old enough

52 Could you help me with _____ exercises I don’t understand?
a) few b) a few c) little d) a little

53 Mandela was ___ first President elected in ___ South Africa after ___ Apartheid was revoked.
a) a / the / the b) the / X / X c) a / X / the d) the / the / the

54 My family loves this house. It ______ the family home ever since my grandfather built it 60 years ago.
a) was b) has been c) is d) will be

55 It’s against the law to kill the black rhinoceros. They ______ extinct.
a) became b) have become c) become d) are becoming
56 ‘Are you still taking your exams?’
‘Yes, but by this time next week ___my last one!
  a) I’m finishing
  b) I’ll finish
  c) I’ll have finished
  d) I’ll have been finishing

57 When I grow up, ______an inventor.
   a) I’m being
   b) I’m going to be
   c) I will have been
   d) I will be being

58 ______ to change his name by his agent, John Smith became Marvo The Magnificent overnight.
   a) Made
   b) Making
   c) Having made
   d) To make

59 If I hadn’t worked hard when I was young,
   I ______ where I am now.
   a) won’t have been
   b) would be
   c) hadn’t been
   d) wouldn’t be

60 The current constitutional problem is ___ by the top legal minds in the country.
   a) studying
   b) being studying
   c) being studied
   d) been studied

This is the end of Grammar Section. Now do the next section.

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥
VOCABULARY SECTION

Choose the word or phrase that best completes each sentence:

1. A good friend will always ………. you when you’re in trouble.
   a) stand by   b) stand up   c) stand for   d) stand up against

2. If there’s no coffee left, we’ll have to …… tea.
   a) do up with   b) make do with   c) do away with   d) make up with

3. ………. you’re a millionaire, you can’t buy health and happiness.
   a) Besides   b) Except that   c) Even if   d) Despite

4. Now that I’ve discovered  that I’m ……….. strawberries, I make sure I never eat them.
   a) allergic against   b) allergic from   c) allergic to   d) allergic with

5. Electronically stored information is easily ……….
   a) resumed   b) updated   c) predated   d) rebuilt

6. Traffic is being …….. from the main road while it’s under repair.
   a) averted   b) converted   c) diverted   d) perverted

7. As we get older it gets more difficult to keep up with the ……….
   a) present   b) times   c) moment   d) date

8. I’ve heard that joke before. It’s as old as the ……..
   a) hills   b) history   c) rocks   d) times

9. ……….. a week goes by without the teacher giving us a test.
   a) Infrequent   b) Hardly   c) Practically   d) No sooner

10. How are you ………. your studies? Do you feel that you’re making headway?
    a) getting down to   b) getting ahead of   c) getting on with   d) getting up to

11. You should start revising for your exam as soon as possible. Any delay will result in ………. time being lost.
    a) conclusive   b) vital   c) priceless   d) invaluable

12. Money is said to be the …… of all evil.
    a) source   b) reason   c) cause   d) root

13. The demonstrators carried banners with ……….. criticizing the police.
    a) mottos   b) inscriptions   c) slogans   d) notices

14. ……….., April tends to be a rainy month in England.
    a) As a rule   b) For a rule   c) In a rule   d) Like a rule

15. I’m absolutely ……….. about her but she doesn’t seem very interested in me.
    a) overwhelmed   b) crazy   c) infatuated   d) sick
16. If there’s one thing I can’t ……. it’s soggy vegetables.
   a) appeal to  b) bare  c) support  d) bear

17. Unless you give up smoking, you ……. the risk of damaging your health.
   a) bear  b) suffer  c) make  d) run

18. They heard the airplane go through the sound……..
   a) barrier  b) limit  c) junction  d) frontier

19. The proportion of elderly people in the population is steadily……. as they live longer.
   a) falling  b) growing up  c) raising  d) rising

20. The boss……. to his secretary using the office phone for personal calls.
   a) disapproves  b) criticizes  c) disagrees  d) objects

21. You’ll have to work hard to…… the rest of the class as they started studying before you.
   a) hold on to  b) catch up with  c) keep on at  d) reach out with

22. Suntan cream can prevent your skin from being damaged by the harmful effects of the sun’s……..
   a) beams  b) strokes  c) rays  d) waves

23. Wear warmer clothes to ……. yourself from the cold.
   a) defend  b) hide  c) protect  d) shelter

24. I bumped into her …….. to work this morning.
   a) on the way  b) on the contrary  c) on credit  d) on foot

25. When he made a ……. at her, she slapped his face.
   a) attempt  b) pass  c) offer  d) point

26. Be careful! You’re rushing around like a ……. in a china shop.
   a) cat  b) bull  c) bat  d) dog

27. As a result of all hard work they put in, the students reached a high ……. of achievement.
   a) level  b)note  c) grade  d) mark

28. I can’t turn my ……. on her now that she’s in so much trouble.
   a) foot  b) back  c) tongue  d) arms

29. Who is ……. that group of students?
   a) in the lead  b) in the end  c) in comparison with  d) in charge of

30. The ……. at the top of the page said “TALKS FAIL”.
   a) supplement  b) crossword  c) headline  d) editorial

This is the end of Vocabulary Section. Now do the next section.

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥
READING COMPREHENSION

Read the texts below and choose the best answer, A, B, C or D.

I. The Taj Mahal
The Taj Mahal has a great deal to live up to. So much, indeed, that there can be few thoughtful visitors today who, knowing something of its reputation, do not fear the betrayal of expectation. How can anything justify the rhapsodies, the descriptions, the history, the legends, the very photographs? I confirm that it was in such a spirit, almost with fingers crossed behind my back, that I paid my two rupees, passed through the outer arch, and approached the inner, which serves, when you have advanced to the right point, as a frame for the picture before you. They told me that the Taj Mahal is beautiful, and they were right. They also told me that it is white, though here they were wrong, for white is almost the only colour it is not, except for a few minutes immediately after the sun goes down; at that point all the delicate blues and greys and yellows and pinks are drawn from it and leave it like a ghost, until it takes on its evening life and becomes as rich as the moon.

1. What does the writer say about the Taj Mahal?
A He believed it would surpass his expectations.  
B He had been misinformed about it.  
C It is at its best just after sunset.  
D Its charms had been exaggerated.

2. In describing the Taj Mahal, the writer's tone is
A lyrical.  
B critical.  
C ironic.  
D sentimental.

3. 'to live up to' in line one means:
A a lot of events taking place there.  
B to offer what people expect of it.  
C rich history.  
D to do to meet visitors' expectations.

II. A Magnificent Failure
Peter Calthorpe invited me to lunch. Together with architect-planners like Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Calthorpe is a founder and passionate advocate of the so-called 'New Urbanism': a search for a return to traditional urban forms and traditional ways of urban life. His most ambitious plan, and the one most often quoted, was for Laguna West, south of Sacramento. Over coffee, he bewailed what had happened to it. During the grim California recession in the early 1990s, the original developer went bust and the entire scheme was taken over by another less visionary one, who completed it in contravention of every New Urbanist principle. Don't go and see it, Calthorpe begged. I pondered, and finally failed to take his advice – but I was glad I went. The fact is that Laguna West is a catastrophic failure, but a magnificent one, even tragic in the strict sense of that overworked word. For it was an extraordinary concept. Had it been completed as Calthorpe planned it, it would have been one of the great visionary new towns of the 20th century. However, as things have turned out, Laguna West is just another conventional, car-dependent suburb. Only once did I see any evidence of public transport – one solitary bus shelter (later interrogation of the Sacramento transit website revealed a mere four buses out in the morning, four back at night.).

4. Why is Peter Calthorpe unhappy with the outcome of Laguna West?
A The project has suffered due to circumstances beyond his control.  
B His traditional ideas have proved unpopular with residents there.  
C The area has been criticised for its lack of transport provision.  
D His fellow-architects have failed to support his basic principles.

5. Which word (bolded in the text) is used by the writer to reinforce an earlier statement?
A so-called  
B grim  
C overworked  
D mere
III. Shaking hands
Is your grip limp or clammy or pulverising and purposeful? Is it accompanied by a vigorous shake or minimal movement? And how long can you keep it going?
Psychologists have concluded that your handshake does indeed reveal the truth about your personality. To the delight of business trainers who have long been urging us to get a grip, a firm handshake seems, well, unshakeably linked to a good first impression. And that first impression is more likely than not to be borne out of personality tests. A team led by an American professor shook the hands of 112 people who did not realise that their greeting was under scrutiny. This was not any old team, but fully trained professionals, schooled in handshaking for months before being let loose on the unsuspecting volunteers.
Men's handshakes were found to be generally firmer than women's, and people offering a strong, active, dry handshake together with direct eye contact left an impression of being more expressive and assertive than those with weaker grips.
The only trait that proved expectation wrong was the finding that men who were more open and liberal tended to have weaker handshakes and so left a lukewarm first impression. Women on the other hand who were more liberal and intellectual tended to have a firmer handshake and therefore were more likely to create a good first impression.

6. In introducing the subject of shaking hands, the writer's tone is

7. What are we told about shaking hands?
A Practice is important to making a good impression. 
B Clever women make a better first impression than clever men. 
C It is not a reliable guide to personality. 
D Tolerant and broad-minded men are apt to have an unsatisfactory handshake.

8. 'let loose on' (bolded in the text) means:
A let uncontrolled B let one by one C allowed to deal with D refused by

IV. New York
I'm perfectly happy to be impressed by New York, but like any other first-time visitor who doesn't have a Venusan passport I can't help but arrive with a record of previous convictions gained from a million TV cop shows, Batman comics, magazines, novels, films, plays and songs. As soon as I arrive, I set out to find the Empire State Building. Suddenly there it is in front of me, disappearing miles up into the sky. It is some sight. I buy a ticket and head for the 86th floor in a lift that goes so fast the passengers have no time to get embarrassed with each others' company. From the top I can see the Chrysler building, the General Electric building and thousands of other buildings I don't know the names of yet, and far below the streets jammed with little winking toy yellow cabs pointlessly swinging out from one slow lane to the next. Over there is the Hudson, the East river, Central Park to the north, the Statue of Liberty, copper green against the bay, welcoming huddled masses on tiny tour boats. I remember someone in my guidebook saying that New York seems like chaos, but to me, from the air, it's a work of art.

9. What point is the writer making at the beginning of the paragraph on New York?
A It's good to visit somewhere new. 
B New York is not as dangerous as people think. 
C It's difficult not to have preconceived ideas about New York. 
D Tourists should find out as much as possible in advance.

10. What aspect of the traffic in New York strikes the writer most forcibly?
A the poor public transport system B the width of the streets C the low driving standards D the number of taxis

This is the end of the Test. GOOD LUCK! ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥
Additional task I

In most lines of the following text, there is one extra unnecessary word. It is either grammatically incorrect or does not fit in with the sense of the text. For each numbered line (1–16) find this word and then write it at the end of the line. Some lines are correct. Indicate these lines with a (√). The text begins with two examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Incorrect Word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>The alleged mystery of William Shakespeare has been</td>
<td><em><strong>been</strong></em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00</td>
<td>fascinated the world for more than a century. Did a lowly</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>commoner from Stratford-on-Avon with only a few years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>of public schooling really could write some of the greatest</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>works in the English language? Was he just a front man for</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>an aristocrat who wanted the anonymity? Today's authorities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>say that without a doubt, Shakespeare who was the true author.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>It is important to remember at the same time as that he did not</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>just create plays on his own. He had fulfilled commissions, he</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>contributed to plays which had scenes written by such different</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>dramatists and he revised other writers' work. Nor did Shakespeare</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>own of his manuscripts; they were the property of whichever acting</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>company he was writing it for. He probably got his information</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>on court intrigue from books and gossip but it is quite harder to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>imagine that an aristocrat reproducing the slang of the common</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>tavern which is as much characteristic of Shakespeare's plays as</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>courtly language. Most readers find out more questions than</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>answers in Shakespeare's plays, but whether they were written</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>by a certain hard-working man from Stratford is no mystery at all.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

___/16 points
AN ANCIENT CURSE EXPLAINED

The archaeologist Howard Carter died in Egypt only five months after uncovering the tomb of King Tutankhamen in the Upper Valley of the Nile. Twenty-five others (0) involved in the project also died within a year of the excavation of the tomb. Newspapers at the time (1) blamed the deaths to the 'Mummy's Curse' after a journalist (2) claimed to have found a hieroglyphic inscription at the entrance to the tomb. The writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, (3) creator of the famous fictional detective Sherlock Holmes, also advanced the story, insisting that a 'pharaoh's curse' was (4) guilty for the deaths. Doctors have long speculated that they (5) became victim to some sort of bacteria, but now Dr. Nicola Di Paolo, a kidney disease expert and (6) amateur archaeologist, has obtained the first clinical proof of the (7) rapid growth of a (8) harmless toxic microscopic fungus. 'In tombs which have been closed for centuries, air and damp may penetrate minute cracks in the walls, (9) letting the growth of poisons moulds,' Di Paolo said recently. He speculated that an explorer who entered a tomb that had been closed for centuries without using a mask must have inhaled dust full of toxins from the mould. (10) Similarly, he said, researchers handling the mummy and other (11) goods found in Tutankhamen's tomb could have breathed in the toxic mould. While small (12) numbers are thought to be (13) harmless, Di Paolo said (14) lengthy exposure could be fatal, causing (15) grave degeneration of the kidneys and liver.
KEY - GRAMMAR SECTION

1 D 31 D
2 D 32 B
3 B 33 A
4 D 34 D
5 C 35 C
6 A 36 A
7 B 37 B
8 D 38 D
9 C 39 C
10 D 40 D
11 A 41 B
12 D 42 D
13 D 43 A
14 C 44 C
15 B 45 B
16 A 46 D
17 D 47 C
18 A 48 D
19 B 49 A
20 C 50 A
21 D 51 D
22 A 52 B
23 B 53 B
24 B 54 B
25 D 55 D
26 B 56 C
27 B 57 B
28 A 58 A
29 D 59 D
30 C 60 C
VOCABULARY SECTION

KEY

1A
2B
3C
4C
5B
6C
7B
8A
9B
10C
11B
12D
13C
14A
15B
16D
17D
18A
19D
20D
21B
22C
23C
24A
25B
26B
27A
28B
29D
30C
READING COMPREHENSION

Key

Text I (The Taj Mahal)
1B  2A  3B

Text II (Magnificent Failure)
4A  5D

Text III (Shaking hands)
6B  7D  8C

Text IV (New York)
9C  10D
Additional task I

In most lines of the following text, there is one extra unnecessary word. It is either grammatically incorrect or does not fit in with the sense of the text. For each numbered line (1–16) find this word and then write it at the end of the line. Some lines are correct. Indicate these lines with a (√). The text begins with two examples.

THE SHAKESPEARE CONTROVERSY

0 The alleged mystery of William Shakespeare has been ___been___0
00 fascinated the world for more than a century. Did a lowly ___√____00
1 commoner from Stratford-on-Avon with only a few years ___√____1
2 of public schooling really could write some of the greatest ___could__2
3 works in the English language? Was he just a front man for ___√____3
4 an aristocrat who wanted the anonymity? Today's authorities ___the__4
5 say that without a doubt, Shakespeare who was the true author. ___who____5
6 It is important to remember at the same time as that he did not ___as___6
7 just create plays on his own. He had fulfilled commissions, he ___had___7
8 contributed to plays which had scenes written by such different ___such__8
9 dramatists and he revised other writers' work. Nor did Shakespeare ___√____9
10 own of his manuscripts; they were the property of whichever acting _(first) of_10
11 company he was writing it for. He probably got his information ___it___11
12 on court intrigue from books and gossip but it is quite harder to ___quite__12
13 imagine that an aristocrat reproducing the slang of the common ___that___13
14 tavern which is as much characteristic of Shakespeare's plays as ___much__14
15 courtly language. Most readers find out more questions than ___out___15
16 answers in Shakespeare's plays, but whether they were written ___√____16

by a certain hard-working man from Stratford is no mystery at all.

_____/16 points
Additional task II

KEY
1 C
2 D
3 A
4 B
5 A
6 C
7 D
8 A
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15 A
### The Seventh Cantonal English Language Competition 2009 - Secondary Schools -

**Sedmo Kantonalno Takmičenje učenika srednjih škola iz engleskog jezika**

**Konačni rezultati 24.4.2009.**

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