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**ESAME DI STATO DI ISTRUZIONE SECONDARIA SUPERIORE**

**SECONDA PROVA SCRITTA**

**LINGUA E CULTURA STRANIERA: INGLESE**

**PART 1 – COMPREHENSION AND INTERPRETATION**

**Question A**

**Read the text below**

That was a very strange night. I do not know what I had expected, death perhaps and shooting in the dark and running, but nothing happened. We waited, lying flat beyond the ditch along the main road while a German battalion passed, then when they were gone we crossed the road and went on to the north. We were very close to Germans twice in the rain but they did not see us. We got past the town to the north without seeing any Italians, then after a while came on the main channels of the retreat and walked all night toward the Tagliamento. I had not realized how gigantic the retreat was. The whole country was moving, as well as the army. We walked all night, making better time than the vehicles. My leg ached and I was tired but we made good time. It seemed so silly for Bonello to have decided to be taken prisoner. There was no danger. We had walked through two armies without incident. If Aymo had not been killed there would never have seemed to be any danger. No one had bothered us when we were in plain sight along the railway. The killing came suddenly and unreasonably. I wondered where Bonello was.

'How do you feel, Tenente?' Piani asked. We were going along the side of a road crowded with vehicles and troops.

'Fine.'

'I'm tired of this walking.'

'Well, all we have to do is walk now. We don't have to worry.'

'Bonello was a fool.'

'He was a fool all right.'

'What will you do about him, Tenente?'

'I don't know.'

'Can't you just put him down as taken prisoner?'

'I don't know.'

'You see if the war went on they would make bad trouble for his family.'

'The war won't go on,' a soldier said. 'We're going home. The war is over.'

'Everybody's going home.'

'We're all going home.'

'Come on, Tenente,' Piani said. He wanted to get past them.

'Tenente? Who's a Tenente? A basso gli ufficiali! Down with the officers!'

Piani took me by the arm. 'I better call you by your name,' he said. 'They might try and make trouble. They've shot some officers. We worked up past them'.

'I won't make a report that will make trouble for his family.' I went on with our conversation.

'If the war is over it makes no difference,' Piani said. 'But I don't believe it's over. It's too good that it should be over.'

'We'll know pretty soon,' I said.

'I don't believe it's over. They all think it's over but I don't believe it.'

'Viva la pace!' a soldier shouted out. 'We're going home!'

'It would be fine if we all went home,' Piani said. 'Wouldn't you like to go home?'

'Yes.'

'We'll never go. I don't think it's over.'

'Andiamo a casa!' a soldier shouted.

'They throw away their rifles,' Piani said 'They take them off and drop them down while they're marching. Then they shout.'

'They ought to keep their rifles.'

'They think if they throw away their rifles they can't make them fight.'

In the dark and the rain, making our way along the side of the road I could see that many of the troops still had their rifles. They stuck up above the capes.

'What brigade are you?' an officer called out.

'Brigata di Pace,' someone shouted. 'Peace Brigade!' The officer said nothing.

[571 words]

Ernest Hemingway (1899 - 1961), *A Farewell to Arms* (1929)

**Read the following statements and say whether each one is True (T), False (F) or Not Stated (NS). Put a cross in the correct box.**

1. The narrator considers that night very strange because the fighting had ceased.

T                       F                       NS

2. Henry and his men succeed in avoiding the German troops hiding themselves behind large brambles.

T                       F                       NS

3. Aymo would have been taken prisoner if he had not been killed.

T                       F                       NS

4. Piani does not know whether the war is over or not.

T                       F                       NS

**Read the text again and answer the questions below. Use complete sentences and your own words.**

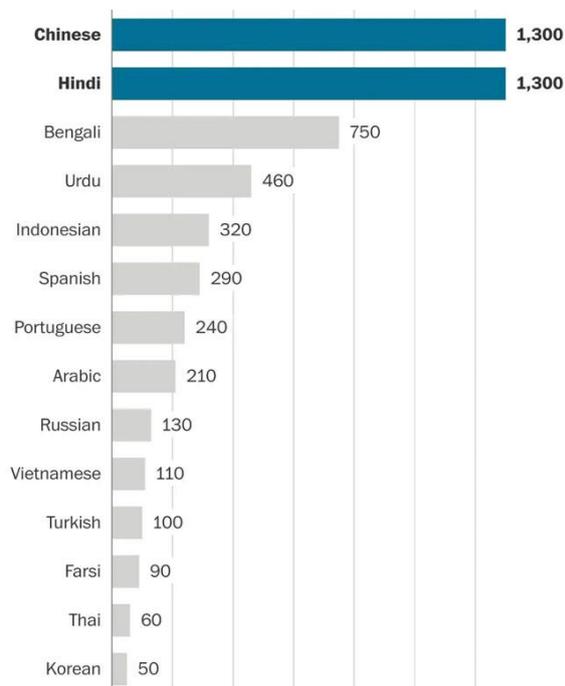
5. The first paragraph is characterized by short and simple sentences. What does this style succeed in communicating?
6. Who is the narrator of the passage?
7. The reader is given very little access to Henry's (the narrator's) feelings. There is, however, a sentence which conveys the protagonist's fear and tension. Identify it.
8. The second part is characterized by a straightforward conversation. What mood does this essential dialogue mirror?

### Question B

#### The Future of Language

We don't really know which languages will dominate the future as predictions mostly depend on why you need to learn a language.

*You want to make money in growth markets? These will be your languages.*



*You want to speak to as many people as possible? How about Chinese, Spanish or French?*

Recently German linguist Ulrich Ammon has analyzed the languages with the most native speakers and the most language learners around the world. The conclusions say Chinese, Spanish and French are the top three languages you should learn. Chinese has three times more native speakers than English, but it's rarely used in sciences. And it's difficult to read

and write. When it comes to French, it is thought that it could gain influence again if West Africa, where it is frequently spoken, were to become more politically stable and economically attractive. However, not everyone who lives in countries where French is spoken is actually fluent in French. Spanish is very popular as a second language but it doesn't have so many native speakers - just compare it with Chinese and you'll see the difference!

*What to learn if you're interested in culture?*

When assessing the world's major languages, you should consider the conclusions drawn by a group of researchers who have recently analysed 2.2 million book translations from around the world. They have seen that if a book is published in a smaller language, it is usually translated into a hub language. Hub languages are characterized by their multi-connectedness. Take, for example, books from Azerbaijan. They will nearly always be translated in Russian. From Russian, a book will most likely be translated into English. French, as well as other European languages, such as Italian, German or Dutch, are also particularly significant hub languages. What is interesting is that cultural significance does not appear to correlate with the most recent economic or demographic importance of a language.

[319 words]

**Read the following statements and say whether each one is True (T), False (F) or Not Stated (NS). Put a cross in the correct box.**

1. The text gives a clear-cut answer to the question "which languages should be learnt"

T                       F                       NS

2. Chinese is the most widely used language in economic contexts.

T                       F                       NS

3. Spanish is one of the most studied languages in the world.

T                       F                       NS

4. The economic importance of a language may be correlated with the cultural one.

T                       F                       NS

**Answer the following questions in your own words.**

5. According to Ammon, is it possible to identify Chinese, Spanish and French as the languages of the future? Explain your answer.
6. What is a "hub language"?
7. Is it easy to predict which language will be essential in the future? Give reasons.

## PART 2 – WRITTEN PRODUCTION

### Task A

*'Our generation has had no Great war, no Great Depression. Our war is spiritual. Our depression is our lives.* (Chuck Palahniuk, US writer)

Comment on the quotation contrasting the difficulties young people had to face in the 20th century with the new kind of obstacles the youth face in the 21st century.

**Write a 300-word essay.**

### Task B

Jodi Picoult (US writer) has written: *'It's about a girl who is on the cusp of becoming someone... A girl who may not know what she wants right now, and she may not know who she is right now, but who deserves the chance to find out'.*

**Choosing is a task young people are expected to face and they can find it quite difficult: what can possibly influence their choice? In your opinion, referring to your experience, what can be helpful in making an important decision?**

**Write a 300-word blog article.**