

Academic Year: 2012 / 2013

English Unified Exam

Duration: 2 hours

Level: Common core

Student's name:

Class:

Learning from morning till night!

Geoff Hardy-Gould explains the benefits of living and learning with your English teacher.

The traditional method of learning English in most speaking countries is to live with a host family and attend a language school every day. In the past few years, however, a new way of learning has been growing in popularity: living and learning in an English teacher's home. Instead of going to school the student has individual lessons at home on what is known as a "homestay" course.

This type of course is highly attractive as the student is exposed to English from morning to night. Learning takes place in formal lessons, but there are also additional opportunities for language practice at meal times, and while on social activities with the teacher in the afternoon and at weekends. The combination of one-to-one teaching and total immersion means that the students can improve quickly and gain a valuable insight into how English is used naturally. The course can also be a fascinating window onto life and culture in an English speaking country.

What makes a course in a teacher's home special is the relationship that develops between the student and the teacher. They get to know each other well, which can make the course highly enjoyable as well as being helpful in the learning process. Language mistakes made outside lessons can be corrected immediately or discussed in more detail in a following lesson. The student has the teacher's undivided attention and will have little or no contact with other students. As a result, they are unlikely to speak their mother tongue for the duration of the course, quite unlike the experience most students have at a language school.

In spite of their higher cost, homestay courses are attractive to wide range of clients, including business professionals, children and retired people. Clients also included people with disabilities, who find that their needs are more easily met in the home of environment. Normally, courses are for one or two students, although some teachers can accommodate larger groups or families.

Most homestay teachers are aged between 40 and 60. They will have a spacious house or apartment and be skilled at welcoming foreign guests into their home.

The Guardian Weekly

June 20, 1999.

I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS)

{Base all your answers on the text}

A Answer these questions: (3 pts)

1 How are homestay courses different from the traditional method of learning?

.....
.....

2 Why can homestay students learn quickly?

.....
.....

3 Do homestay students have the opportunity to use their native language? Explain.

.....
.....

B Pick out from the text the expressions which show that: (3 pts)

1 Homestay teachers are mature professionals.

2 Homestay courses are expensive.

3 Homestay courses are not popular.

C Are these statements true or false? Justify. (3 pts)

1 In a homestay course, the student lives with a host family and goes to a language school everyday.

.....
.....

2 There are no formal lessons in homestay courses.

.....
.....

3 A homestay course can be attended by more than one student.

.....
.....

D What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3pts)

1 **which** :

2 **their** :

3 **They** :

E Find in the text words or expressions which mean the same as: (3pts)

1 Ameliorate (paragraph 2) :

2 Customers (paragraph 4) :

3 Experienced (paragraph 5) :

LANGUAGE (15 points)

1. Use words in capitals at the end of each sentence to make words which fit in the spaces. (4 points)

a. It's totally _____ that you stayed at home when you were sick.
UNDERSTAND

b. Don't laugh at his stupid jokes! You'll only _____ him to say them again. COURAGE

c. I hate being around Mary Lou, she is so _____ FRIEND

d. When you work at a nuclear power plant, you have to be extremely _____ CARE

2. Rewrite the sentences in passive forms. (4 points)

a. Jane will buy a new computer.

b. We had lost the key.

c. We were not painting the gate.

d. The government must change this inefficient educational system.

3. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.(3points)

a. Alice didn't get a good grade. She wishes she (work) _____ harder.

b. Tom likes football very much. He wishes he (become) _____ a professional football player.

c. I stayed late at work and missed the last bus. I wish I (not/stay) _____ late at work.

4. Circle the correct modal verb. (4points)

a. I **would** / **might** be able to help you, but I'm not sure yet.

b. Already as a child Mozart **could** / **should** play piano beautifully.

c. I **mustn't** / **couldn't** move the table. It was too heavy.

d. Telephone callers **must** / **should** give their names.

III WRITING (10 points)

Imagine you have seen a short story competition in a magazine. The prize for the best story is £500. To enter the competition, you must write a story entitled: ***The house with a secret.***

Write your story for the competition. (110-130 words)