Test di lingua INGLESE

Identificativo test: 000481

Fac simile

Attenzione: leggere attentamente le istruzioni.

Non è permesso l’uso del dizionario.

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1. A: Your English is perfect, Mario. How long ... here in Birmingham?
   A. have you lived
   B. do you live
   C. did you live

2. I'd love to go to Paris for the weekend but I haven't got ... money.
   A. many
   B. some
   C. any

3. A: Would you like to live abroad and learn a new language?
   B: Yes, ...
   A. I like.
   B. I do.
   C. I would.

4. Hello? Is that the Russian Tourist Office? I'm thinking of going to Moscow for my Easter break. Could you give me ... information about hotels and flights, please.
   A. some
   B. an
   C. the

5. I've never forgotten that wonderful teacher ... taught us English grammar.
   A. who
   B. what
   C. which

6. I had a great summer. I went to Scotland ... holiday.
   A. for
   B. in
   C. on

7. A: Was the party good?
   B: Yes, I can't remember the last time I ... such a great evening.
   A. have
   B. had
   C. had had

8. Poor old Mary! She broke her leg while ...
   A. she was skiing.
   B. she skied.
   C. she's skiing.

9. Don't go out without your coat and scarf. You ... catch cold.
   A. should
   B. might
   C. must

10. I think European cinema is often much ... stimulating than most Hollywood films.
    A. more
    B. as
    C. so

11. My brother lives in Australia. I haven't seen him ... seventeen years.
    A. from
    B. for
    C. since

12. I'd love to go riding this summer. I ... a lot when I lived in the country.
    A. used to ride
    B. am used to riding
    C. used to riding

13. I've got no idea what ... this time next year. I might be studying in Holland.
    A. I did
    B. I do
    C. I'll be doing

14. What an idiot! If I hadn't changed that number on the lottery ticket, I ... millions!
    A. had won
    B. would have won
    C. would win

15. I've had an awful journey! The plane was five hours late and no one even told us the reason ... the delay.
    A. of
    B. by
    C. for
Leggete il testo e svolgete gli esercizi che seguono.

The black hole in our history

October 2001 is the first black history month in Britain. In the US, black history has been recognised annually since 1926, when the first “negro history week” was held. The study of black history is largely due to Dr Carter G. Woodson, whose parents were former slaves, and who worked when young in Kentucky coal mines. Aged 20, he enrolled at high school, graduated, and eventually achieved a PhD from Harvard. He was concerned that black America was little documented in history, so in 1915 he established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History).

Britain’s major role in the slave trade is well-known. Cities such as Liverpool and Bristol first grew rich directly and indirectly from its profits. Today, 5.7% of the British population is black, but British black history is still rarely discussed or studied, and many of us are under the misapprehension that our black history began only with the slave trade. Research by the British Library has proved otherwise. There was a black millionaire, Caesar Picton, who lived near London in the 1620s, while John Blanke was a trumpeter in Henry VIII’s court in the early 16th century. Perhaps as many as 15,000 black people lived in London by 1772.

Many other prominent black figures have been ignored. In the 18th century, for example, Ottobah Cuggano came to England from Grenada as a slave. Upon being set free, he took the name John Steuart and published Thoughts and Sentiments of the Evil and Wicked Traffic of Slavery and the Commerce of the Human Species.

More recently, prominent black voices have ensured that no longer is the black figure in books an illustration of social inferiority; and such eminent people as the poet Maya Angelou and the writers Alice Walker and Toni Morrison have done much to illuminate the role and history of black women.

In British politics, the number of black and Asian ministers has risen since the 1997 election. But we have yet to see a black prime minister, or a black US president. In the most recent elections in the US, Colin Powell (now Secretary of State) was persuaded not to run for the presidency by his wife, who feared he might be assassinated.

Today, black presence in politics, sport, arts and entertainment is indisputable. And rap music celebrates black culture aloud for all to hear—proud, unequivocal and uncompromising as the words of the boxer Muhammad Ali: “I am America. I am the part you won’t recognise. But get used to me.”

The Guardian October 2001

Dal testo sono stati cancellati i titoli dei paragrafi. Completatele scegliendo il titolo giusto fra quelli che seguono.

A Blacks in political life
B The voice of black women
C An early campaigner against slavery
D British blacks before the slave trade
E The role of popular black culture
Secondo il contenuto del brano, completate le affermazioni scegliendo l’alternativa giusta.

21 Britain  
A dedicated a month to black history in 2001 for the first time.  
B has celebrated black history every October since 1926.  
C still does not recognise black history.

22 Dr Carter G Woodson  
A was the son of a Kentucky coal miner.  
B was a slave.  
C was the son of people who had been slaves.

23 Dr Woodson  
A is one of the most significant figures in the study of black history.  
B is solely responsible for creating the study of black history.  
C is one of many black historians of his period.

24 Many British people think that  
A the majority of blacks lived in cities like Liverpool and Bristol.  
B there were no blacks in Britain before slavery.  
C most blacks in Britain became rich through slavery.

25 Black people began coming to Britain  
A only after the end of the slave trade.  
B before the slave trade.  
C only as a result of the slave trade.

26 Ottobah Cuggano  
A wrote a book condemning slavery.  
B was a slave trader.  
C belonged to the slave owner, John Steuart.

27 Maya Angelou, Alice Walker and Toni Morrison  
A regard themselves as socially inferior despite their achievements.  
B are all black women.  
C illustrate history books about black people.

28 Britain  
A has a decreasing number of non-white politicians in important positions.  
B has an increasing number of black ministers.  
C has had a black prime minister.

29 The wife of Colin Powell  
A wanted her husband to become US president.  
B wanted to become US president.  
C discouraged her husband from trying to become US president.

30 According to Muhammad Ali,  
A only black people represent American culture.  
B black people do not belong to American culture.  
C black people are not accepted by American culture.
Leggete il testo e svolgete gli esercizi che seguono.

‘AMERICAN PATRIOTS: THE STORY OF BLACKS IN THE MILITARY’ By Gail Buckley

In most of the country’s wars, American blacks fought for two victories: the first was against the designated enemy, while the second was against their own side’s racism. It is bad enough that American forces were segregated until after the second world war – that during that war black soldiers were still housed in separate, inferior quarters; that they were given separate, often inferior training and weapons; that in some army camps they even had to sit behind prisoners-of-war for entertainment events. It is still worse that black military heroes were airbrushed out of their country’s history much the same way as purged communist leaders were in Stalin’s Soviet Union.

Gail Buckley sets out to correct this injustice in a book that has taken her 14 years to research and write. Like her mother, the singer Lena Horne, who sang for the troops, Ms Buckley is as patriotic as they come. She is a journalist, not a professional historian, and her lack of thoroughness sometimes shows. She does not realise, for example, that it was Herbert Hoover, not Alf Landon, who ran against Roosevelt in the 1932 elections.

But she more than makes up for such slips by telling an important story well. She shows how blacks have had a significant role in nearly all America’s wars, starting with the one against George III. Soon after George Washington, a Virginia slave-holder, took command of the Continental army in 1775, blacks were forbidden to serve in it. Military exigencies forced a change of tack. Midway through the war of independence, some 15% of the Continental army were black men, and, wrote a contemporary observer, “they mix, march and sleep with whites.”

But Washington’s was the last mixed army for 175 years, though even during the civil war, a conflict in which both sides started committed to wage a “white man’s” war, pressure of events in the end forced the recruitment of blacks. To the horror of the confederacy, the union eventually went so far as to send armed black soldiers into battle, most famously Colonel Robert Shaw’s 54th Massachusetts regiment.

In her efforts to restore balance to American history, Ms Buckley reminds us of the prejudices of the good and the great. She notes how Thomas Jefferson found blacks inferior “in endowments of both body and mind” and how Abraham Lincoln encouraged blacks to emigrate to Liberia. And Dwight Eisenhower, as president, lent an ear to the arguments of segregationist politicians, sympathising that their doctrine of “separate but equal” was necessary to national defence.

However, Ms Buckley does not give much sympathy to the plight of native Americans when she brags that in the winning of the west one out of every five soldiers was black. She seems to treat the elimination of the country’s indigenous people as a regrettable but necessary step.

That apart, American Patriots has a happy ending. After its harsh birth in the Korean war, and particularly its stormy adolescence in Vietnam, America’s fully-integrated army finally came of age in the Gulf war when blacks made up 30% of the army and 17% of front-line marines. What’s more, Colin Powell was secretary of state. In America’s armed forces, segregation was truly a thing of the past.

The Economist, May 2001

Scegliete quale parola, tra le 3 estratte dal testo (A, B, C), ha lo stesso significato (è sinonima) della parola data in grassetto.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parola</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 compensates</td>
<td>A makes up (13)</td>
<td>B reminds (riga 23)</td>
<td>C brags (riga 28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 approximately</td>
<td>A truly (riga 34)</td>
<td>B famously (riga 22)</td>
<td>C some (riga 17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 difficult</td>
<td>A significant (riga 14)</td>
<td>B harsh (riga 31)</td>
<td>C regrettable (riga 30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 rooms</td>
<td>A slips (riga 13)</td>
<td>B forces (riga 2)</td>
<td>C quarters (riga 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 composed</td>
<td>A came of age (riga 8)</td>
<td>B made up (riga 33)</td>
<td>C housed (riga 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 fight</td>
<td>A wage (riga 20)</td>
<td>B restore (riga 23)</td>
<td>C treat (riga 29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 difficulty</td>
<td>A training (riga 4)</td>
<td>B plight (riga 28)</td>
<td>C lack (riga 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 removed from</td>
<td>A airbrushed out (riga 6)</td>
<td>B encouraged (riga 25)</td>
<td>C forced (riga 20)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nel testo, a che cosa si riferiscono le parole che seguono?

39 second (riga 2)  
A victory  
B war  
C enemy

40 their (riga 6)  
A communist leaders  
B entertainment events  
C black heroes

41 her (riga 10)  
A Herbert Hoover  
B Gail Buckley  
C Lena Horne

42 one (riga 14)  
A Continental army  
B war  
C role

43 they (riga 18)  
A military exigencies  
B black men  
C whites

44 their (riga 26)  
A segregationist politicians  
B blacks  
C arguments

45 its (riga 32)  
A adolescence  
B American Patriots  
C army

48 60 Completate il brano che segue, scegliendo fra le parole date (A-T) nella colonna a destra.

A child of violence: Doris Lessing

Doris Lessing was born in Persia in 1919 and was .....46..... to Rhodesia when she was five. She spent her childhood on a farm there, apart from a bitterly .....47..... period when she was sent away to school. She .....48..... Africa in 1949 and moved to London, taking with her the .....49..... of her first novel, The Grass is Singing. This was published in 1950 with outstanding .....50..... in Britain, America and ten European countries.

Since then her reputation has continued to grow. Her work has touched on the most significant .....51..... of our time. The sequence, Children of Violence, draws on her experiences as a .....52..... Communist in colonial Africa, her sense of .....53..... as a woman and her arrival in post-war England. The final novel in the sequence .....54..... into the future to tackle nuclear war and scenarios that are found in .....55..... fiction more often than in traditional novels.

Lessing has .....56..... to use science fiction as a vehicle for ideas. One of her most recent novels, The Fifth Child, describes the fragility of modern capitalist society by .....57..... what would happen if a typical family finds a monstrous child at its.....58..... She is also a great lover of cats and has written wittily and with great insight about her many.....59....., from the earliest in Africa to more recent pets in London, where she .....60..... lives.