



**INVALSI** Istituto nazionale per la valutazione del sistema educativo di istruzione e di formazione

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# **ESEMPI DI DOMANDE INVALSI DI INGLESE READING COMPREHENSION**

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**B1 Overall Reading Comprehension (Common European Framework):**  
Can read straightforward factual texts on subjects related to his/her field and interests with a satisfactory level of comprehension.

### 1. TASK IDENTIFIER

TITLE	<b>How I became a Wildlife Photographer</b>
NUMBER OF WORDS	384
READING BEHAVIOUR	Careful reading
GENERAL FOCUS	Reading for main ideas and supporting details
CEFR LEVEL	B1
TEST METHOD	Multiple Choice Questions
NUMBER OF ITEMS	7



## How I became a Wildlife Photographer

Read the text about how a man's love for photography grew, then choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for questions 1-7.

Only one answer is correct.

The first one (0) has been done for you.

First, I've always loved and "lived for" animals—ever since I was a kid. I remember when I was 5 years old, I'd feed the stray kittens on my street. Or, when I was 13, I joined the hiking club at my school; but while everyone else was admiring the mountains and valleys, I was busy looking under the rocks for snakes and scorpions...

Even then, I knew I wanted to work with animals when I grew up. So, while working a full-time job and raising my two kids, I attended veterinary school and received my diploma in 2002. I dreamed of becoming a wildlife veterinarian, but practicing in New York City makes this a bit difficult, so I treat primarily dogs and cats.

The next ingredients any wildlife photographer needs are a deep love, respect and curiosity for nature and seeing new places. During a hiking trip to South America in 1995, I was "infected" with the "travel bug". Since then, I've made it my mission to see and experience as many places as possible, especially those that have wildlife.

The last part of the equation is a passion for photography. I've always liked it, but never studied it in a serious way until I bought my first "zoom-y" camera before a safari trip to Kenya with my son and my best friend. That was one of the most special trips of my life. I discovered that, because I'm a veterinarian and know animals so well, I'm able to anticipate their behavior and capture some very special moments. Unfortunately, when I got home I saw that—even though I got some incredible shots—the image quality wasn't there. So I invested in a better camera, and taught myself the basics of photography. The more I learned and practiced, the more I fell in love with it, and the better I became. When one of my shots, "Near and Far", was selected by National Geographic as their Photo of the Day, I was inspired to take things to the next level and make the transition from amateur to professional photographer.

If you combine all my passions—animals, traveling and photography—it's only natural that I became a wildlife photographer. I see this as another way of helping animals—the ones I can't treat medically.



**0** When the author was a teenager, he

- A was very careful when walking in the mountains.
- B was terrified of wild animal species.
- C developed an interest for natural landscapes.
- D had different interests from his mates.

**Q1** The author's love for animals

- A was the reason why he chose to do further studies.
- B immediately became his occupation.
- C was negatively influenced by his personal life.
- D started with his university studies.

**Q2** The author's present job as a vet in New York

- A can be difficult due to the area where he lives.
- B is his very first dream come true.
- C is mainly connected with making pets healthy.
- D involves driving around a lot.

**Q3** In 1995, the author

- A went on his first trekking adventure.
- B joined a professional photographic mission.
- C caught a very dangerous disease.
- D realised he had discovered a new passion.

**Q4** The author's interest in photography

- A was born after an expedition into the wild.
- B was influenced by a friend of his.
- C changed after he bought some equipment.
- D arrived suddenly and without warning.

**Q5** The pictures the author takes

- A are taken from a very short distance.
- B are influenced by a specific ability he has.
- C have proved as good as those of others.
- D show ordinary instants in the life of animals.

**Q6** After buying a new camera, the author

- A started making better pictures immediately.
- B saw his interest become stronger.
- C did not need to improve his technical knowledge.
- D took private lessons in photography.



**Q7** When he got press recognition for his work, the author

- A decided to make photography more than a hobby.
- B saw his life change in a variety of ways.
- C thought this was very likely to happen.
- D realised photography was the only way to help wildlife.



## 2. TASK IDENTIFIER

TITLE	<b>Dippy the dinosaur</b>
NUMBER OF WORDS	345
READING BEHAVIOUR	Quick selective reading
GENERAL FOCUS	Reading for specific information and important details
CEFR LEVEL	B1
TEST METHOD	Short Answer Questions
NUMBER OF ITEMS	9



## **Dippy the dinosaur**

**Read the text about a famous dinosaur, then answer the questions (1-9) using a maximum of 4 words.**

**Write your answers in the spaces provided.**

**The first one (0) has been done for you.**

### **Dippy the dinosaur to be 'flat packed' as he waves goodbye to the Natural History Museum in preparation for UK tour**

The famous Dippy the Diplodocus has spent the past 112 years of his life in The Natural History Museum, and welcomed visitors into his home from the entrance hall since 1979.

If you have ever visited the museum in Kensington, you will not have been able to escape his grandeur.

Standing at an impressive 21.3 metres long, 4.25 metres high, and 4.3 metres wide, he was a favourite of many visitors to the museum.

Fossilised bones of a Diplodocus were unearthed in America in 1898, a replica was then built out of plaster, creating Dippy.

He is one of 10 replicas in the world including those in Paris and Moscow.

Dippy is a Diplodocus, a species which lived around 150 million years ago and belongs to a group called sauropods, which means "lizard feet".

However, Dippy has now left Hintze Hall to prepare for his tour across the country.

"We wanted Dippy to visit unusual locations so he can draw in people who may not traditionally visit a museum" said museum director, Sir Michael Dixon.

"Making iconic items accessible to as many people as possible is at the heart of what museums give to the nation, so we have ensured that Dippy will still be free to view at all tour venues."

He adds that the project is all about "encouraging children from across the country to develop a passion for science and nature."

On his 2018 tour, the plaster cast model, which is made up of 292 bones, will visit eight venues across Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and all five regions of England.

### **What does the dismantling process consist of?**

The process to prepare Dippy for his tour started many years ago, and takes place after hours, when the doors of the museum were closed to the public.

Twice a year for the past 112 years, Dippy has been polished to perfection to ensure that he is always looking in tip-top condition for visitors.

A special vacuum is used to remove the dust and Dippy is then polished with conservation-grade brushes with natural fibres.



<b>0</b>	Where has Dippy the Diplocodus been on display?	<i>The Natural History Museum</i>
<b>Q1</b>	What is the length of the dinosaur?	
<b>Q2</b>	When were the original Diplodocus remains found?	
<b>Q3</b>	What cities have copies of the dinosaur? (Give <u>two</u> answers)	a. b.
<b>Q4</b>	What is the meaning of “sauropods”?	
<b>Q5</b>	What does Sir Dixton do?	
<b>Q6</b>	How much will it cost to see Dippy?	
<b>Q7</b>	What might children become interested in thanks to Dippy’s tour?	
<b>Q8</b>	When did Dippy’s preparation for the tour begin?	
<b>Q9</b>	How often has Dippy been cleaned every year?	





### 3. TASK IDENTIFIER

TITLE	<b>Cats' dreams</b>
NUMBER OF WORDS	275
READING BEHAVIOUR	Careful reading
GENERAL FOCUS	Reading for main ideas and supporting details
CEFR LEVEL	B1
TEST METHOD	Multiple Matching
NUMBER OF ITEMS	7



## Cats' dreams

Read the text about what cats dream about.

Parts of the text have been removed.

Choose the correct part (A-J) for each gap (1-7).

There are two extra parts that you should not use.

The first one (0) has been done for you.



Most of us have probably seen the YouTube clip of **(0)** \_\_\_\_\_. The sleeping kit trembles like a little branch in the wind. His mother, curled up next to him, senses his distress and pulls him against her. His quivering stops: all is right with his world.

It's a scene guaranteed to melt any animal lover's heart in nano-seconds. But some questions remain. What do cats and kittens dream about? And are their dreams really **(Q1)** \_\_\_\_\_?

### The landscape of dreaming

Cats sleep roughly 16 to 18 hours a day. Like humans, they experience Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep. The REM stage is **(Q2)** \_\_\_\_\_, although some does happen in the non-REM stage as well. The non-REM dreams are more fragmentary and less visual.

With kittens, the amount of "dream" or REM sleep will decrease as they mature. So will a lot of the muscle-twitching that goes along with it.

Feline **(Q3)** \_\_\_\_\_ that much from ours, according to Matthew Wilson, an associate professor of brain and cognitive sciences at MIT's Picower Institute for Learning and Memory. They, too, dream about **(Q4)** \_\_\_\_\_ - playing, stalking prey, etc.

The hippocampus, which governs memory, is wired the same in almost **(Q5)** \_\_\_\_\_. "If you compared a hippocampus in a rat to a dog, in a cat to a human, they contain all of the same pieces," explains Wilson. The electrical activity pattern in a sleeping cat's brain is remarkably similar to that of **(Q6)** \_\_\_\_\_.

We're apt to read the slightest physical movements —, quivering whiskers, twitching paws or tail — **(Q7)** \_\_\_\_\_. This "is misleading where cats are concerned," says researcher David Greene. "The most significant indication of dreaming is an utterly slack and relaxed condition."



A	as signs that our cats are dreaming
B	affecting their movements
<del>C</del>	<i>the kitten having a nightmare</i>
D	when they wake up
E	the stuff of their day-to-day lives
F	all that different from ours
G	dreams don't differ all
H	where most dreaming occurs
I	all vertebrates and mammals
J	a sleeping human's

<b>0</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q5</b>	<b>Q6</b>	<b>Q7</b>
C							



**B2 Overall Reading Comprehension (Common European Framework):**

Can read with a large degree of independence, adapting style and speed of reading to different texts and purposes, and using appropriate reference sources selectively. Has a broad active reading vocabulary, but may experience some difficulty with low-frequency idioms.

**4. TASK IDENTIFIER**

TITLE	<b>The Last Review</b>
NUMBER OF WORDS	617
READING BEHAVIOUR	Careful reading
GENERAL FOCUS	Reading for main ideas and supporting details
CEFR LEVEL	B2
TEST METHOD	Multiple Choice Questions
NUMBER OF ITEMS	9



## The Last Review

**Read the text about a music critic, then choose the correct answer (A, B, C, D) for questions 1-9.**

**Only one answer is correct.**

**The first one (0) has been done for you.**

Tom Bates had been music critic at The Herald for almost all of his working life. As an enthusiastic young journalist, he had stepped into the shoes of Bob Black when the respected old music critic dropped dead on his way home from a performance of Fidelio.

That was the only performance that was not reviewed in the whole history of the newspaper. Bob's column was one of The Herald's most popular features and the editor demanded that somebody take over from Bob right away. The problem was that old Bob had had a string of music qualifications to his name. There was nobody at The Herald to match.

"What about you, Bates?" asked the editor. "Know anything about music?" Seeing an opportunity not to be missed, Tom said that he played the piano.

"Splendid!" was the editor's reply. "The next concert's some piano thing. Make up an impressive-sounding pseudonym and get going."

To say he played the piano had actually been a slight exaggeration as Tom's musical career had come to an end at the age of ten over the tricky fingering in Für Elise. The pseudonym hadn't been a problem, though. Tom decided to call himself Major Third. He had no idea what it meant but it was a term he remembered his long-suffering piano teacher using. It had a sophisticated ring to it that would appeal to the elderly readers of the music column, he felt.

There was no denying that Tom had a way with words; his writing was eloquent. However, he had no knowledge of music whatsoever and his first reviews were met with a storm of disapproval. "The Major is a charlatan. Are you even aware that Wolfgang Amadeus and Mozart were one and the same person, sir?" was a typical response to his weekly review on the letters page.

Tom Bates, alias Major Third, was a fraud, but he persevered. He did his homework, checking encyclopedias for important facts before concerts, and in time he got to know names and faces on the classical music scene. As the years passed, the old generation of Bob's fans died out, Tom charmed the new wave of readers with his elegant prose, and by the time he was a senior at The Herald, there was hardly anybody left who remembered the day he had taken over from Bob Black. Major Third's opinion was respected and quoted at dinner parties and no one seemed to notice that he knew next to nothing about the subject he wrote so convincingly about.



It was around the time that the internet became popular that Tom stopped going to the concerts, some of them at least. He soon realized that with a little cyber surfing and a couple of CDs, he could write just as good a review without leaving his own fireside. On a cold winter's night he could have his review written and be sitting watching his favourite detective series on TV before the audience at the concert had even struggled to the bar for their drinks at the interval.

It was unfortunate that the night the young Albanian soprano Edona Luga was due to sing the lead in Handel's *Semele*, Tom decided to go to the performance. If he had stayed at home, he would have heard on the news that Edona had tripped getting off the plane and broken her ankle and that the opera company would be staging Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* instead. It was doubly unfortunate that Tom arrived a little late for the performance and didn't get a programme. Major Third's review in *The Herald* next day was as eloquent and inspired as ever but, sadly, it was to be his last.



- 0** Tom Bates became music critic at The Herald
- A because he was an experienced journalist.
  - B because Bob Black gave up the job.
  - C when The Herald's music critic retired.
  - D when something unexpected happened.
- Q1** The most important thing for The Herald was that
- A they found somebody similar to Bob.
  - B Bob was replaced immediately.
  - C somebody wrote about Fidelio immediately.
  - D Bob was replaced by somebody younger.
- Q2** Tom got the job because
- A nobody else had the time or the interest.
  - B the editor had known he played an instrument.
  - C he was good at inventing names.
  - D he claimed to have a relevant skill.
- Q3** Tom chose the name Major Third because
- A it had been his piano teacher's name.
  - B it sounded appropriate for a music critic.
  - C the older generation were often snobs.
  - D a musical name was best for a music critic.
- Q4** When Tom started the job,
- A many readers were annoyed.
  - B readers protested after a concert of Mozart.
  - C nobody realized how well he could write.
  - D it was clear he would succeed eventually.
- Q5** Tom soon started
- A meeting performers.
  - B doing research.
  - C going to concerts after work.
  - D to accept he was no good.
- Q6** After a while, Tom managed to
- A become more popular than Bob Black.
  - B learn everything about music.
  - C write in exactly the same way as Bob Black.
  - D make people think he was a music expert.



**Q7** Finally, Tom stayed at home to write his reviews because

- A recordings were better than live music.
- B he hated queuing for drinks at the concerts.
- C it was easier than doing his job properly.
- D he preferred to watch Sherlock Holmes on TV.

**Q8** The opera company changed their plans

- A and the time of the performance.
- B and showed an opera Tom wanted to see.
- C because of an unforeseen problem.
- D because the soloist had missed her flight.

**Q9** Tom's last review showed that he

- A did not know which opera he had seen.
- B was not such a good writer after all.
- C knew L'Orfeo better than Semele.
- D was too good a critic for The Herald.





## 5. TASK IDENTIFIER

TITLE	<b>Seven ways to save on groceries</b>
NUMBER OF WORDS	351
READING BEHAVIOUR	Quick selective reading
GENERAL FOCUS	Reading for gist
CEFR LEVEL	B2
TEST METHOD	Multiple Matching
NUMBER OF ITEMS	6



## Seven ways to save on groceries

Read the texts about what to watch out for when shopping.

Choose the correct heading (A-I) for each paragraph (1-6).

There are two extra headings that you should not use.

The first one (0) has been done for you.



### 0 \_\_\_\_\_

In most grocery stores, advertised sales change every week, so the scanners have to be updated constantly. But surprisingly often, they're not, so they charge you the full amount, not the discounted price. To get the deal you're after, keep an eye on the price being registered by the scanner, whether you're operating it yourself or dealing with a cashier. Put all the week's specials in a corner of your cart and line them up on the checkout counter together so you can easily keep track of the prices you're being charged as the items are scanned.

### Q1 \_\_\_\_\_

After all, the person at the register may not know a pomegranate from a persimmon. On a recent shopping trip, I watched as a cashier entered my three-pound cabbage (39 cents per pound) as Brussels sprouts (\$1.89 per pound) – an overcharge of \$4.50. If I hadn't corrected him, my family would've eaten some very pricey coleslaw that night.

### Q2 \_\_\_\_\_

Many people don't know it, but big chains like Giant, Safeway, and Kroger will often give you an item for free if the scan shows a higher price than what's advertised. (Tobacco, alcohol, pharmacy items, and dairy are excluded).

### Q3 \_\_\_\_\_

If your grocer runs out of an advertised special, ask customer service for a rain check – a written promise to sell you the item at a lower price when it's restocked. Make sure the slip specifies the maximum number you can buy for the sale price (usually six). Ask about the time limit for using your rain check (it's usually 15 days).



**Q4** \_\_\_\_\_

Before you stash ten boxes of something on your shelves, check the sell-by date. Even seemingly ageless products like tea bags and toothpaste eventually expire – and you don't want to be stuck owning eight more when they do.

**Q5** \_\_\_\_\_

If you're buying a ten-pound bag of potatoes, put it on the scale before you put it in your cart. Many items weigh less than what the package says.

**Q6** \_\_\_\_\_

It's easier to pick up personal-care products and other nongrocery items at the supermarket. But this stuff often costs more than it does at a big drugstore chain.

A	Collect your payoff if there's a mistake.
<del>B</del>	<i>Watch the register.</i>
C	Don't pay extra for convenience.
D	Don't assume that regular-price items are being entered correctly.
E	Don't trust the scale.
F	Stock up, but wisely.
G	Be persistent.
H	Don't buy products that have expired.
I	Weigh before you pay.



## 6. TASK IDENTIFIER

TITLE	<b>How to travel cheaply</b>
NUMBER OF WORDS	579
READING BEHAVIOUR	Careful reading
GENERAL FOCUS	Reading for main ideas and supporting details
CEFR LEVEL	B2
TEST METHOD	Multiple Matching
NUMBER OF ITEMS	10



## How to Travel Cheaply

Read the text about travelling on a low budget.

Parts of the text have been removed.

Choose the correct part (A-M) for each gap (1-10).

There are two extra parts that you should not use.

The first one (0) has been done for you.

**Alex Boyland**, who won CBS's *The Amazing Race 2*, knows how to push the bounds of budget travel. Alex's latest project is *Around the World for Free*.

For half of the year, he and a video producer **(0)** \_\_\_\_\_, reporting in for regular live appearances on the CBS Early Show. Viewers were told to visit the website [AroundTheWorldForFree.com](http://AroundTheWorldForFree.com) and tell Alex where he should travel next. The goal was for him to rely on the kindness of strangers and **(Q1)** \_\_\_\_\_.

Now Alex and his team have edited the video shot during the journey through 16 countries- from the rural parts of the Dominican Republic through the backstreets of Calcutta to Kenya during political unrest. The resulting TV series will air on WGN America, starting in January.

I recently spoke with Alex about what he and his producer Zsolt Luka **(Q2)** \_\_\_\_\_, plus his advice for budget travelers. Here's what he had to say:

Money can be a crutch that prevents you from a profound experience. While what I was doing was unusual, the same rule applies to everyone. When you're traveling cheaply, you're **(Q3)** \_\_\_\_\_ and really put yourself out there emotionally day after day, and that's the truly broadening part of travel.

To find out where's the best restaurant or the liveliest bar, **(Q4)** \_\_\_\_\_. It's a cliché but it's true. It's the critical piece here, but when you're traveling, don't ask the hotel porter and don't ask the leader of your walking tour or the information desk for the tourist office. During my trip, I would be asking someone - like the lady behind the counter making the tacos - "where do you go for dinner" or "where do you go for fun." She didn't know who I was and there was no camera equipment around or anything unusual about me. I was just a 30-year old from out of town. And she gave me great advice. Locals will just naturally **(Q5)** \_\_\_\_\_ and culture.

On our trip taping this show, we walked from Thailand to Cambodia, walking down dusty roads. A monk with broken English **(Q6)** \_\_\_\_\_. It was spontaneous generosity. When we were in the Maasai Mara in Kenya and Tanzania, we met with a guy named Freddie where we were staying. He says, "my boss has this campground in the park that you should check out." We agreed. He drove us there, and we passed through a Maasai warrior camp, with young guys carrying spears. It **(Q7)** \_\_\_\_\_. We'd never see it on typical travel TV documentary or on a trip taken in a group with a tour guide.



The world **(Q8)** \_\_\_\_\_ than many Americans realize. Media reports always play up the scary part. We went on this journey with a mindset that the world is a good place. We didn't seek outside security help of any kind. We **(Q9)** \_\_\_\_\_ we met to guide us about where to be safe, and when to scam. By making friends with them, they helped direct us. For example, when we were in Kenya, riots and protests broke out, but locals told us how to avoid the trouble spots. And crime wasn't a problem for us. Even though we were traveling the world with this expensive camera gear and laptops in our backpacks, we **(Q10)** \_\_\_\_\_. It's true that during the times when we had our camera out and we were shooting a scene, people were less likely to bother us. But most of the time we just looked like tourists. If we were safe, you will be safe, too.

A	guide you to the most authentic experiences
B	missed being alone
C	ask a local
D	witnessed and learned
<i>E</i>	<i>traveled the world as backpackers</i>
F	was real life
G	not pay for any part of his trip
H	relied on the locals
I	forced to interact with the locals
J	never had anything stolen
K	invited us into a hut
L	is generally a safer place to travel in
M	is more affordable than you might think

<b>0</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q5</b>	<b>Q6</b>	<b>Q7</b>	<b>Q8</b>	<b>Q9</b>	<b>Q10</b>
<i>E</i>										



## Keys

### B1 Reading Comprehension

#### 1. How I became a Wildlife Photographer:

0	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7
D	A	C	D	C	B	B	A

#### 2. Dippy the dinosaur:

0	<i>The Natural History Museum</i>
Q1	21.3 metres
Q2	1898
Q3	Two of the following cities: Paris, Moscow, London
Q4	Lizard feet
Q5	Museum director
Q6	Nothing; it will be free; free
Q7	Science and nature; science or nature (single or both answers acceptable)
Q8	Many years ago
Q9	2; 2 times; twice; twice a year



**3. Cats' dreams:**

<b>0</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q5</b>	<b>Q6</b>	<b>Q7</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>

**B2 Reading Comprehension**

**4. The Last Review:**

<b>0</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q5</b>	<b>Q6</b>	<b>Q7</b>	<b>Q8</b>	<b>Q9</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>

**5. Seven ways to save on groceries:**

<b>0</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q5</b>	<b>Q6</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>

**6. How to Travel Cheaply:**

<b>0</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q5</b>	<b>Q6</b>	<b>Q7</b>	<b>Q8</b>	<b>Q9</b>	<b>Q10</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>J</b>