

Level: 3ASS-3ASGE-3ASM

School Year : 2011-2012

First Term English Exam

Second subject

**Text:**

**Read the text then do the activities:**

The story is one of tragedy and fraud. **It** started in May 1981, when travelling salesmen in Northern and Central Spain started selling cheap olive oil. **They** guaranteed that it was pure, and had sold vast quantities around Madrid, Valladolid and León, before anyone realized that anything was wrong.

Like most Mediterranean countries, Spain uses olive oil in its cooking; and when people started falling ill in May, nobody suspected that it was the cooking oil which was the cause of the illness. It was a medical mystery: doctors and scientists were completely baffled by the soared of the strange disease.

There were several theories about what was happening. At first, it was thought that bad fish caused the food poisoning and later, that it was rotten fruit. It wasn't until June that a children's doctor in Madrid made the connection between the sickness and the oil. Immediately the government started issuing public warnings, and offered to take any suspect oil, giving pure oil in exchange. This stopped the spread of the poison. But it was too late for the thousands of people who had already eaten the contaminated substance. People who had been affected could not eat or sleep, had pains all over their body suffered from headaches and fevers, and had difficulty in breathing. Some of them even died.

Doctors and scientists were still not sure what the poison was. The most popular theory was that a Spanish company imported some industrial oil from France and tried to remove the impurities by boiling it at 200°C. They mixed it with a small amount of olive oil to give it a taste and then sent it to the salesmen to sell it as pure olive oil. When they boiled it however, **they** created a new substance, which was poisonous and unknown to the medical authorities. At one time, twenty thousand people in Spain were analyzing the oil, trying to find a cure for the poison. By March 1982, they had still not found a way of curing the illness caused by the oil. The Spanish Health Ministry admitted that all antidotes so far tried, had been unsuccessful. While the medical authorities were carrying out the various analyses, the police arrested fourteen people suspected of being responsible for the oil poisoning.

Adapted for Modern English  
International- Number5, May 1982

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Turn the page

**I- Comprehension and interpretation**

**1- Circle the letter that corresponds to the right answer: the text is:**

- a- Argumentative
- b- Narrative
- c- Expository.

**2- Are the following statements "true" or "false":**

- a- Like Spain, Algeria uses olive oil in it's cooking.
- b- Bad fish and rotten fruit caused the food poisoning.
- c- The government took measures to stop the spread of the poison.
- d- Later on, an antidote was found.

**3- Put the following sentences in the right order as they appear in the text:**

- a- The poison's spread was stopped but lot of people were affected.
- b- The tragedy happened in different parts in Spain.
- c- The medical authorities weren't able to find a remedy to the disease.
- d- It was an unusual sickness.

**4- "Who" or "What" do the underlined words refer to in the text:**

It = (\$1)..... they=(\$1)..... they= (\$4)

**B- Text Exploration:**

**1- Find in the text words whose definition follow:**

- a- A terrible event that causes great sand ness (\$1)=.....
- b- Something that can not be understood or explained (\$2)=.....
- c- A substance causing death or serious illness (\$3)=.....

**2- Combine the following sentences using "so..... that"/ such....that"/ " as a result".**

- a- The weather was terrible/we couldn't drive.
- b- He is a famous person/He attracts a large buying public.
- c- The traffic was heavy /we didn't manage to arrive on time.
- d- The political party was powerful/It won the election.

**3- Rewrite the second sentence so that it means the same as the first one:**

- Specialist's consultancies will help multinational company's
- Multinational companies.....
- The government is making a lot of efforts to fight counterfeiting.
- A lot of efforts.....

Fill in the table with the missing word category:

Verb	Noun	Adjective
..... To know .....	..... ..... .....	Poisonous ..... Successful

**Fill in the gaps with four words only so that the text makes sense**

Health- contamination- poison- has- investigating- research  
 Dr Tom Connors, a director of the Medical Research Council's Toxicology Department in Surrey, England, which is .....the Spanish Scandal on behalf of the World.....Organization, says that nobody.....come up with a persuasive alternative to the hypothesis of Oil.....

**Part Two: Written Expression**

Choose one of the following topics:

**Topic one:**

People say: "Honesty is the best policy". Do you agree with this point of view? Use the following notes to write a composition in which you explain your opinion on:

- Few people care for moral values.
- Most think only about profit and material wealth.
- There certainly are remedies (solutions).
- A sense of responsibility.

**Topic two:**

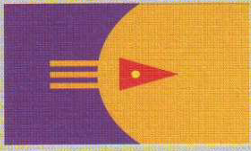
Imagine you are a worker in a food company in Algeria. Give your own suggestions to improve the quality of the company's products.

Good luck

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End

M/D



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The correction

2<sup>nd</sup> subject

- 1- The text is expository.
- 2-
  - a- True
  - b- False
  - c- True
  - d- False
- 3-
  - a- \$3
  - b- \$1
  - c- \$4
  - d- \$2
- 4- Reference words  
It (\$1) → the story  
They (\$1) → Salesmen  
They (\$4) → the workers of the Spanish company.

**B- Text exploration:**

- 1- Synonyms:
  - a- Tragedy
  - b- Mystery
  - c- Poison (poisonous)
- 2- Combining the sentences
  - a- The weather was so terrible that we couldn't drive
  - b- He is such a famous person that he attracts a large buying public
  - c- The traffic was so heavy that we didn't manage to arrive on time.
  - d- The political party was powerful. As a result, it won the election.
- 3- Passive voice
  - a- Multinational consultancies are helped by specialists
  - b- A lot of efforts are being made by the government.



4- The table:

Verb	Noun	Adj
To poison	Poison	Poisonous
To know	Knowledge	Knowledgeable
To succeed	Success	Successful

5- Gap filling:

a- Investigation

b- health

c- has

d- Contamination

**Part two:** Written Expression: 2 Content

2 Coherence