

**DOMANDE UFFICIALI DI
INGLESE
DEL CONCORSO ORDINARIO
DOCENTI
CON SOLUZIONI**

Prefazione

Questo documento contiene un Paniere di 50 domande di inglese uscite nell'ultimo concorso ordinario docenti e raggruppate in base alle varie prove delle classi di concorso come da sito del Ministero dell'istruzione e del Merito.

N.B.: LA SOLUZIONE AD OGNI DOMANDA è SEMPRE LA LETTERA [a]

Lexis

In today's busy world, it is always a good idea to slow down and _____ time with your family.

- [a] spend
- [b] do
- [c] save
- [d] allow

Grammar

When I was little, my father _____ take me to the park after school.

- [a] used to
- [b] won't
- [c] will
- [d] ought to

Content comprehension

The growing presence of digital technology in the educational field has introduced the blended learning approach which is used in many of today's classrooms and at all levels of instruction. Without the limitations of all in-person or all online classes, this approach uses a combination of methodologies that satisfies the different learning modalities of students, whether they choose to learn in a traditional classroom or in a virtual environment. To support blended learning, teachers experiment with a lot of digital tools to develop personalized lessons and create a productive space where each learner is engaged. (Adapted from *Blended Learning Organization*, 4 March 2016)

Blended learning in educational contexts

- [a] takes into consideration a variety of learning preferences.
- [b] does not allow teachers to experiment with different tools.
- [c] adopts only a single approach to teaching and learning.
- [d] has a lot more limitations than traditional approaches.

Lexis in context

It might be tempting to soften historical atrocities in the name of making them more easily digestible for children but that slows down our ability to understand and learn from our history. As Vietnamese American refugee Viet Thanh Nguyen recently told me, "We have to try to make our nation confront what it doesn't want to remember." Yet, local schools in the US are still excluding controversial books from their reading lists (Adapted from *The Washington Post*, 8 Feb 2022)

"slows down" in this context means

- [a] limits
- [b] assists
- [c] facilitates
- [d] retains

Content comprehension

Bullying is a form of violence used to dominate individuals considered inferior or weak and can happen in childhood and in adulthood too. Some research studies have found that if bullying occurs in early childhood years, victims can develop depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts, and can become more vulnerable to these mental illnesses in adulthood. These studies also suggest that bullying could reduce processes of adaptation to adult roles, including forming lasting relationships and being economically independent. (Adapted from *The National Center for Biotechnology Information*, 11 February 2022)

Research studies reveal that childhood bullying

- [a] can expose victims to poor mental health as they age.
- [b] increases chances of becoming economically independent.
- [c] accelerates the process of becoming responsible adults.
- [d] reinforces long-term relationships in adulthood.

Lexis

The music filled the night, _____ louder and louder.

- [a] growing
- [b] decreasing
- [c] falling
- [d] raising

Grammar

We are pleased to offer a 10% discount on all purchases of more than €80.00, _____ these are made before the 12th May.

- [a] provided
- [b] as long
- [c] in case of
- [d] until

Content Comprehension

The almost constant usage of technology by today's young people is thought to be leading to concentration difficulties among students. Microsoft, in fact, conducted research that compared overall attention spans between the years 2000 and 2015. They found that people concentrated less, the average spans had reduced by an alarming four seconds - from twelve to eight seconds. Millennials, born at the end of the 20th century, report that they can concentrate for longer periods of time, however, if the material is engaging with visuals or a clear storyline. (Adapted from *time.com* 4 May 2015)

Attention spans

- [a] have decreased since the year 2000.
- [b] have increased among elderly people.
- [c] have not been affected by technology.
- [d] have decreased when looking at images.

Lexis in Context

Italy is certainly famous for its high-quality ice cream. Ice was used in Roman culinary art, but in the Middle Ages it was only used in Eastern cuisine. Iced delicacies were introduced at that time from the Arab world to Sicily and then mainland Italy. Marco Polo, in fact, is thought to have brought back recipes for frozen rice and milk desserts and even ice cream, on his return from China in the 13th century.

"desserts" in this context means

- [a] a type of cold food
- [b] warm sugary powder
- [c] the name of a city
- [d] a type of Eastern clothing

Content Comprehension

Will we still even have physical school buildings in 2050, or might our entire education system have changed? Traditional models that have flourished over the past two hundred years in many parts of the West have remained remarkably fixed. Social, economic and technological changes, however, may dictate changes to existing models as technology provides the potential for more students to gain greater access to education and everyone may be provided with more personalized learning paths and flexible choices in what and how we study. (Adapted from *Interesting Engineering* 8 June 2021)

Our education system

- [a] may change to a different model in the future.
- [b] has changed continuously over the past few centuries.
- [c] will only change as a result of advances in technology.
- [d] will probably not change at all in the future.

Grammar

Karen has an 18-year-old son _____ ambition is to become a travel blogger.

- [a] whose
- [b] that
- [c] who
- [d] which

Content Comprehension

The celebrity chef Jamie Oliver has joined hundreds of school leaders to ask the government to improve the quality of school lunches. Many believe that food quality has declined because too little money is invested in school food. Indeed, the amount of money paid daily for each child's food is £2.34, and this has remained unchanged since 2011. Moreover, students complain that there are no healthy options: some schools used to offer plenty of fruit and vegetables, but they have now stopped, and what is available these days is just junk food.

(Adapted from *The Guardian* Jan 26, 2022)

The decline in the quality of school lunches

- [a] is upsetting school leaders and students.
- [b] is now being debated in Parliament.
- [c] has been criticised by some Hollywood film stars.
- [d] depends on the rising cost of food.

Lexis in Context

Dublin is where you need to go to if you wish to celebrate James Joyce's *Ulysses*. You can follow the same route taken by the protagonist Leopold Bloom on 16 June 1904, by looking for the fourteen brass plaques laid in the pavement in 1988, which will help you find traces of the protagonist's journey at lunchtime. Although

many of the buildings and businesses mentioned in the novel have changed, the streets are still more or less the same.

(Adapted from *The Guardian* Feb 2, 2022)

In this context, "traces" are

- [a] visible signs
- [b] food waste
- [c] road signs
- [d] printed marks

Content Comprehension

Fathers living with a partner and dependent children spend more time at work than other working men, although their hours have decreased in the last decade. Recent research indicates that 30% of fathers in this type of family work 48 hours each week, while 10% work more than 60 hours a week. This research also found that more and more fathers were working longer hours in comparison with women. Mothers, on the other hand, are becoming increasingly responsible for earning money. (Adapted from *BBC News* June 15, 2013)

Men

- [a] with dependent children work longer hours than other people.
- [b] with dependent children now work longer hours than 10 years ago.
- [c] without dependent children would like to work 30 hours a week.
- [d] without dependent children earn less money than mothers.

Lexis

In today's busy world, it is always a good idea to slow down and _____ time with your family.

- [a] spend
- [b] do
- [c] save
- [d] allow

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Lexis

John _____ the exam but his friend failed.

- [a] passed
- [b] sat down
- [c] took up
- [d] didn't pass

Grammar

Houses along the coast are _____ as they are in the north of the country.

- [a] twice as expensive
- [b] twice the price
- [c] twice inexpensive
- [d] twice more expensive

Content comprehension

Standing outside the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, it is hard to believe that twenty years ago this was a post-industrial wasteland. This Basque city had to find a new direction. It reinvented itself as a hi-tech hub, and the centerpiece of this regeneration wasn't a new factory but a new art gallery. Frank Gehry's Guggenheim is as startling to the eye as the Eiffel Tower or Frank Lloyd Wright's 1959 Guggenheim in New York. But while these two buildings stand in contrast to their surroundings, this new Guggenheim deliberately embraces the site's past industrial life. (Adapted from *BBC Arts*, Oct 16 2017)

According to the text, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao

- [a] is appropriate for the area around it.
- [b] looks like the Guggenheim in New York.
- [c] contrasts sharply with its surroundings.
- [d] is entirely conventional on the inside.

Lexis in context

The word 'news' comes from the late 1300s from the French word 'nouvelle'. News is simply new information about something that has happened. It is unusual in English because the word 'new' is an adjective, but 'news' is not an adjective, it is a noun, an uncountable noun, and even though it has an S, it is singular. (Adapted from *BBC Learning English*, May 20 2020)

"unusual" in this context means

- [a] uncommon
- [b] unexceptional
- [c] unremarkable
- [d] unextraordinary

Content comprehension

Language certainly figures centrally in our lives. We discover our identity as individuals and social beings when we acquire it during childhood. It serves as a means of cognition and communication: it enables us to think for ourselves and to cooperate with other people in our community. It provides for present needs and future plans, and at the same time carries with it the impression of things past. But although language is clearly essential to humankind and has served to extend control over other parts of creation, it is not easy to specify what exactly makes it distinctive. (Widdowson H. G. 1996. *Linguistics*, pp. 6-7)

According to H.G. Widdowson the function of language is

- [a] that of reasoning and communication.
- [b] that of reasoning only.
- [c] only that of communicating.
- [d] that of expressing creativity.

Lexis

When planning a new event, it is always essential to work _____ the total costs in advance.

- [a] out
- [b] in
- [c] under
- [d] away

Grammar

This is the most expensive mobile _____ they had in store. I only buy the best technology at this point.

- [a] that
- [b] than
- [c] then
- [d] thus

Content comprehension

Parents or teachers of teenagers may find it hard to believe that sarcasm is a sign of a flexible and inventive mind. Yet, that is exactly what psychologists and neuroscientists have been arguing. They have found that sarcasm requires the brain to create numerous connections to arrive at a correct interpretation, requiring more brainpower than literal statements. Although it is often considered juvenile irreverence, sarcasm is actually evidence of maturity – because it takes years for a child's developing brain to fully understand and master it. (*bbc.com/future*, Jan 12 2022; adapted)

Research suggests that sarcasm in teenagers

- [a] is a sign of intelligence and of a maturing brain.
- [b] denotes a lack of respect for people and things.
- [c] requires a child's brain to be better understood.
- [d] is evidence that a teenager's brain has not developed yet.

Lexis in context

Despite the chaos of lockdown, by the end of 2020 overall sales of print books in the UK were up 5% year-on-year, according to industry watchers Nielsen BookScan. More particularly, fiction did extremely well – adult fiction increased 8% in volume terms, with 147 million books sold. So too did children's books, up 7%, to 109 million books. Overall, the British public spent £1.8 billion on 202 million print books. Digital sales soared, ebooks growing 16% and audiobook sales 21% year on year. (*The Guardian*, Dec 11 2021; adapted)

"soared" in this context means

- [a] went up quickly
- [b] stayed the same
- [c] dropped steadily
- [d] decreased slightly

Content comprehension

The long wait is over for students and academics, who return to face-to-face teaching this term, in a place that truly has the benefits of meeting in the real world. The new Marshall Building, which looks out over Lincoln's Inn Fields like a shiny white palazzo, houses some of the finest spaces that any London university has to offer. The project is the latest addition to the London School of Economics' (LSE) impressive stable of recent commissions, which comprise the Centre Building's steel-framed blocks. (*The Guardian*, Jan 31 2022; adapted)

The Marshall Building is

- [a] LSE's latest architectural project.
- [b] going to replace the Centre Building.
- [c] London University's new headquarters.
- [d] home to LSE's Department of Law.

Lexis

If you want to _____ time and money, you can shop online.

- [a] save
- [b] empty
- [c] show
- [d] stay

Grammar

_____ disturbances in using smartphones within a classroom environment, proper rules should be established.

- [a] To avoid
- [b] Avoided
- [c] Avoid
- [d] Should avoid

Content comprehension

Today's classrooms have a diverse student population, and teachers try very hard to explore ideas that encourage an inclusive and multicultural environment. In truth, multicultural education has many advantages. Firstly, it prepares students of every age and from all cultural backgrounds to continue their education in any school of their choice, at home or abroad. Secondly, by focusing on ethnic, language, and gender issues that can marginalize groups of people, multicultural education can help students acquire the knowledge, attributes, skills, and attitudes needed to function in adult life and in a democratic society while feeling respected and heard. (adapted from the *Canadian International School*, 11 February 2022)

Multicultural education

- [a] can facilitate a student's educational career.
- [b] can neglect and marginalize adult ethnic groups.
- [c] focuses only on adult learning approaches.
- [d] can make students feel judged and marginalized.

Lexis in context

The Immigration Act 2014 introduced a prohibition on renting flats for use as their only or main home to adults who do not have a right to stay in the UK. This is to discourage illegal immigration and stop illegal immigrants from accessing UK's finite number of flats and houses. It will also help ensure that those people who do not have the right to be in the UK cannot live a settled life here. Landlords who break this prohibition may be subject to a civil penalty. (*Gov.uk*, 2014, *Code of Practice for Landlords*, p. 6)

"flats" in this context means

- [a] apartments
- [b] domiciles
- [c] seats
- [d] neighbours

Content comprehension

As most students already have mobile phones, many educational institutions are using them as classroom learning aids. Yet, while mobile phones can be used as valid learning tools, they can easily turn into a classroom disruption. Teachers repeatedly need to remind students to turn their devices off, if they are not using them for school activities. Mobile phones can also increase the risk of cyberbullying, or violence online, which is not easily recognized, making it difficult for teachers to stop it when it is happening. (Adapted from *Frontiers in Education*, 25 February 2020)

Using mobile phones in the classroom

- [a] can lead to a range of problems.
- [b] is not a good learning activity.
- [c] is always allowed during the lesson.
- [d] protects students from cyberbullying.

Lexis

Don't expect him to be _____ to your problems. It's not in his nature. He has no interest in others.

- [a] sympathetic
- [b] merciful
- [c] friendly
- [d] understanding

Grammar

Sculptures make _____ a large proportion of the museum collection.

- [a] up
- [b] out
- [c] off
- [d] on

Content comprehension

Several common educational strategies favour the idea that, in the classroom, challenge and struggle are vital to learning. John Hattie, the director of the Melbourne Educational Research Institute at the University of Melbourne, in Australia, spent 15 years studying the educational factors that most influence learning. In 2017, he published "10 Mindframes for Visible Learning," which identified the factors that work best to accelerate learning. One of these factors is actually having to cope with problems and not "just doing your best." (Adapted from *The New York Times*, 8 April 2022)

According to John Hattie,

- [a] dealing with difficulties is important for learning
- [b] educational strategies can help avoid problems
- [c] there are 15 factors that can favour learning
- [d] learning is mostly supported by constant application

Lexis in context

UN scientists have revealed a plan that they believe can limit the causes of dangerous climate change. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has now published its guidance on what the world can do to avoid an extremely dangerous future. They say in their report that there must be "rapid, deep and immediate" reductions in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. Global emissions of CO₂ would need to peak within three years to avoid the worst impacts. Even then, the world would also need technology to draw CO₂ from the skies by mid-century. (Adapted from BBC News, 4 April 2022)

"peak" in this context means:

- [a] reach the highest point before reduction
- [b] reach their lowest point and maintain it
- [c] rapidly drop to the lowest point
- [d] rise from the bottom

Content comprehension

Discovery Inc. and Warner Media are expected to complete their megamerger as soon as Friday afternoon, adding a new colossus to the entertainment industry. The two companies will combine television, movie and news operations, forming one of the biggest media companies in the country, with a profit of nearly \$50 billion. The decision by AT&T, WarnerMedia's parent company, to merge its entertainment division with Discovery - in a deal announced in May - will be felt throughout the media world in the months to come. (Adapted from The New York Times, 7 April 2022)

According to the text, the merger of Discovery Inc. and Warner Media

- [a] will soon give life to another giant media company.
- [b] was decided and completed in May last year.
- [c] will cost AT&T nearly 50 million dollars .
- [d] will not have great impact in the media world.

Lexis

World War I broke _____ in 1914.

- [a] out
- [b] in
- [c] off
- [d] through

Grammar

She warned her children _____ the wire

- [a] not to touch
- [b] to not touch
- [c] not touching
- [d] to not touching

Content comprehension

Two peaks that can be observed on the surface of the planet Pluto have perplexed planetary scientists for years. Some speculated it could be an ice volcano, erupting not lava but vast quantities of icy mud. Yet, no caldera could be seen. Now a full analysis of images and topographical data suggests it is not one ice volcano but a union of many – some up to 7,000 metres tall and about 10-150 km wide. Their discovery has opened another debate: what could be keeping Pluto warm enough to support volcanic activity. (*The Guardian*, March 29, 2022; adapted)

Recent analysis of Pluto's images and data

- [a] has led to another debate over the planet's volcanism.
- [b] shows calderas that are 7,000 metres tall and 150 km wide.
- [c] confirms a caldera with two submerged peaks of icy muds.
- [d] suggests that there is no volcanic activity on the planet.

Lexis in context

Latin teachers are being encouraged to use Taylor Swift's lyrics or fan fiction to help make Latin more accessible to their 21st-century students. Steven Hunt, who trains Latin teachers, says traditional teaching methods still have their place, but recommends a more imaginative approach to widen the subject's appeal. "Latin's role as the symbol of elite education is over, but involving more students, especially in state schools, remains a problem. The challenge for teachers is whether they are prepared to take these opportunities to present the subject differently, and widen the appeal for students, or whether they prefer to stick to familiar routines." (*The Guardian*, Apr 22, 2022; adapted)

In this context "stick to" means

- [a] adhere to
- [b] give up
- [c] keep up with
- [d] abandon

Content comprehension

Giraffe numbers have increased across Africa, new research shows. This is a rare spot of good news in the conservation world. According to a recent analysis of survey data from across the African continent, the total giraffe population is now around 117,000. That is, approximately 20 percent higher than it was thought to be in 2015, when the last major survey was published. This rise is a result of genuine growth in some areas. However, it also derives from more accurate data collection, says Julian Fennessy, executive director of the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, based in Namibia. (*National Geographic*, Jan 12, 2022; adapted)

The increase in giraffe numbers

- [a] is also linked to more accurate survey data.
- [b] amounts to 117,000 more giraffes than in 2015.
- [c] is twenty per cent less than it was in 2015.
- [d] depends on conservation difficulties in Africa.

Lexis

The price of petrol will probably not come _____ for some time.

- [a] down
- [b] off
- [c] about
- [d] over

Grammar

Neither you _____ I would like to be in that terrible situation.

- [a] nor
- [b] either
- [c] neither
- [d] not

Content Comprehension

Many consider education to be something for the young, something that takes place at school or university. It has, however, also been called the "social continuity of life" and is seen overall as a social benefit, extending beyond school and into the workplace. Education continues, in fact, throughout life, through programmes designed to build soft skills like problem solving or team building as well as in specific training days. In our world, continuing to ask questions, to study and to build our skills is increasingly becoming essential for all. (Adapted from <https://everfi.com/blog/workplace-training/importance-education-technology-workplace/>)

Education in our contemporary world

- [a] is not only connected to studying at school.
- [b] is always considered to be for the young.
- [c] is only connected to the workplace.
- [d] is limited to one specific time of life.

Lexis in context

With an elderly population which becomes smaller and smaller every year, the Southern Sicilian town Sutera sees Italy's immigrants as an opportunity. To Italy's anti-immigrant, political right, this community is a catastrophe: more foreigners and fewer Italians. But to local people, it represents an older Sicilian story migrants bring with them. The people of Sutera understand immigration and see their future in the hands of these young newcomers. (Adapted from *The Guardian*, 19th March 2018)

"right" in this context refers to

- [a] conservative opinions
- [b] something correct
- [c] something true
- [d] a moral liberty

Content comprehension

The owner of a mural, created by Banksy on the wall of a building in Wales, said he would like to give the artwork a new home in Ipswich. John Brandler bought the image of a boy, standing near a fire, shortly after it appeared on the side of a garage in Port Talbot in 2018. The art dealer said it was trapped in its current location because of complications but has said he would like to move it 270 miles (435km) to the University of Suffolk. The university has declined to comment. (Adapted from *www.bbc.com*, 25th January 2022)

The artwork by Banksy

- [a] Is difficult to move because of its location.
- [b] is in danger of being burned by a fire.
- [c] has been particularly complicated to create.
- [d] is currently located on a building in Ipswich.