

Corso di laurea in Scienze della Comunicazione
LINGUA INGLESE
PROVA INTERMEDIA
(INTERMEDIATE LEVEL)
Prova conclusiva del ciclo di 5 laboratori

Version with answers

II ANNO

PRACTICE EXAM 2

Lingua Inglese - a.a. 2012/13

TOPIC 1 (intermediate level): BASIC SYNTAX OF CLAUSES I

- A. **Syntax of the subject:** *some of the following sentences are not well formed. Identify the incorrect ones and REWRITE them so that they are correct. In the case of sentences that you judge to be correct, simply tick the box marked 'CORRECT'. [4 points total]*
- a. [According to many economists,] an important change in income distribution is occurring in developed economies.
>> CORRECT
- b. [In a service economy,] it is normal that men's earnings decrease and those of women increase.
>> CORRECT
- c. [According to many economists,] it is occurring an important change in income distribution in developed economies.
>> CORRECT
>> INCORRECT -----> **REWRITE:**
.....an important change in income distribution is occurring in developed economies.
.....an important change is occurring in income distribution in developed economies.
- d. Given that the economy is always changing, is inevitable that the relation between men's and women's pay will change.
>> CORRECT
>> INCORRECT -----> **REWRITE:**
... it is inevitable that the relation between men's and women's pay will change.
- e. [Most economists agree that] it is only in a service economy that women have a good chance of increasing their earnings substantially.
>> CORRECT
- f. Inequality of earnings between men and women should be kept to a minimum,

because leads to slower economic growth.

>> [] CORRECT

>> [x] INCORRECT -----> **REWRITE:**

...because it leads to slower economic growth.

- g. Introducing equal pay for men and women across the board, as many economist argue, is simply not possible.

>> [x] CORRECT

- h. [In the opinion of certain economists,] it is not in the interests of society to continue paying women less than men.

>> [x] CORRECT

- B. **Passive clauses:** write the *PASSIVE* versions of the following sentences. Begin the passive sentence as shown. If no passive version is possible, write 'NOT POSSIBLE'. [2 points total]

- a. Most people consider **inequality of earnings** to be a bad thing.

>> **Inequality of earnings** is considered by most people to be a bad thing.

>> **Inequality of earnings** is frequently/widely considered to be a bad thing.

>> **Inequality of earnings** is considered by most people a bad thing.

>> **Inequality of earnings** is considered a bad thing by most people.

- b. Many people refer to **the United States** as an example of a society with a very high degree of inequality.

>> **The United States** is referred to by many people as

>> **The United States** is frequently/widely/commonly referred to as

>> **The United States** is referred to frequently/widely/commonly as

- c. In European countries people attach **considerable importance** to income equality.

>> In European countries **considerable importance** is attached to equality of income.

>> In European countries **considerable importance** is attached by people to equality of income.

- C. **Order of elements in the predicate (VP):** some of the following sentences are not well formed. Identify the ones that are incorrect and *REWRITE* them. If you think that a sentence is well-formed, simply simply tick the box marked 'CORRECT'. [2 points total]

1. Some governments try to reduce through taxation income inequality.

>> [] CORRECT

>> [x] INCORRECT -----> **REWRITE:**

Some governments try to reduce income inequality through taxation.

2. Some women do not object strongly to the fact that their pay is lower than that of men.

>> [x] CORRECT

3. [In the US income inequality is very strong,] and analysts attribute to this basic fact a large number of social problems.

>> [] CORRECT

>> [x] INCORRECT -----> **REWRITE:**

.. and analysts attribute a large number of social problems to this basic fact.

4. Recently certain analysts have been arguing forcefully that income inequality is responsible for a series of social problems.

>> [x] CORRECT

TOPIC 2 (intermediate level): BASIC SYNTAX OF CLAUSES II

A. **Syntax of the negation:** each of the sentences that follow contains an error that has to do with the negation. In each case, REWRITE the sentence so that it is correct. [$\frac{1}{2}$ point for each item]

1. [*It is not at all clear why] women generally haven't success in politics.
>> It is not at all clear why women generally **don't have** success in politics.
2. [Until recently politics was totally monopolised by men. *It has to be admitted that] they didn't very much to promote questions of women's rights.
>> It has to be admitted that they didn't **do** very much to promote questions of women's rights.
3. [??Milton Friedman used to say that the problem of poor people is that] they haven't money.
>> they **don't have** money.
4. [*Fifty years ago,] nobody found nothing particularly unusual about a woman getting lower pay than a man for the same job.
>> nobody found **anything** particularly unusual about a woman getting lower pay than a man for the same job.

B. **Order of elements - position of adverbs:** in each item you are given a sentence (in the box on the right) and an adverb (in the box on the left). REWRITE the sentence so that it contains the adverb. [$\frac{1}{2}$ point for each item]

1.

almost certainly

Women continue to earn less than men in many fields.

>> Women **almost certainly** continue to earn less than men in many fields.

2.

frequently

Women are preferred in service industries.

>> Women are **frequently** preferred in service industries.

3.

supposedly

Women have a higher standard of general education than men.

>> Women **supposedly** have a higher standard of general education than men.

4.

evidently

The EU Commission is strongly committed to the principle of equal pay and conditions for women

>> The EU Commission is **evidently** strongly committed to the principle of equal pay and conditions for women.

>> The EU Commission, **evidently**, is strongly committed to the principle of equal pay and conditions for women.

5.

probably

Certain EU politicians do not believe in quotas as a way of achieving greater representation of women.

>> Certain EU politicians **probably** do not believe in quotas as a way of achieving greater representation of women.

C. **Order of elements - interrogative clauses.** *TRANSFORM the sentences or clauses in bold type into polar interrogatives ('yes-no questions').* [½ point for each item]

EXAMPLE:

[People in Europe are wondering:] **the economic situation will be better next year.**

>> ... will the economic situation be better next year?

1. [Regarding the labour market in the 19th century, the question which one has to ask is:] **women had the same advantages that they have today.**

>> **did** women have the same advantages that they have today?

2. [Women are still seriously under-represented in politics and on the boards of major companies, and one naturally asks:] **they have really made all the progress that they could have made.**

>> **have** they really made all the progress that they could have made?

3. [The EU Commission talks a lot about equality for women, but] **they really do their best to help women achieve equality.**

>> **do** they really **do** their best to help women achieve equality?

4. [It is true that women remain poorly represented in politics.] **But they need a quota system.**

>> But **do** they need a quota system?

D. **Syntax of auxiliary verbs:** *each of the sentences that follows contains an error. REWRITE them so that in each case the error is removed.* [½ point for each item]

1. *Since the 1990s the proportion of women elected to the national parliaments of EU countries **is increased** only very slightly.

>> ..**has increased** only very slightly

2. [*Most people agree that women's representation in politics is still inadequate, and say that the progress made over the last twenty years] **should been** greater.

>> ..**should have been** greater

E. **Verb agreement:** in each of the sentences that follow the verb is given in the infinitive form (in square brackets). The task consists in writing it in the correct form (for the sentence in question). [$\frac{1}{2}$ point for each item]

1. [Why don't they ask us women about quotas?!] The majority of us **think** [THINK - *simple present*] that they are a bad idea.

>>

2. More than half of the women that we have interviewed **think** [THINK - *simple present*] that quotas are a bad idea.

>>

- A. *Use of determiners: the text extract that follows contains a number of items in square brackets. These contain nouns (in some cases together with modifiers) but no determiners. The task consists in formulating them as full Noun Phrases (NPs), **adding a determiner if necessary**. INSERT one of the following: the, a, some, ∅ (= no determiner - NB: if you mean 'no determiner' you must use this symbol; a space left blank will be interpreted as 'no answer'). Write your answers directly in the spaces provided **inside** the square brackets. [1/3 point for each item]*

The gender gap: when will it disappear?

The situation we see today is a very mixed one. On the one hand the general trend is undoubtedly towards more equality in [∅ **society**] and employment. On the other hand, [∅ **progress**] remains slow in everything to do with eliminating or reducing gender inequalities in particular. Clearly, if women (and men) are to exercise control over their lives and make genuine choices, they need to achieve [∅ **economic independence**]. From this point of view, it is significant that [∅ **women's employment rates**] range from around 40% to 75% across the EU, while [the **EU average for men**] is 75.8% - all these figures are for [∅ **2009**].

To reach the 'Europe 2020' target of [a **75% employment rate for both women and men**], a special effort needs to be made in order to ensure that various groups of women who are currently excluded from [the **labour market**] - or not well represented in it - are able to participate fully. In addition to older women and those with a disability, this means women who belong to [∅ **ethnic minorities**] and of course those who are single parents. It is still the case that [∅ **parenthood**] has very different effects on the lives of men and women: only 65.6% of women with children under [∅ **age 12**] work, as opposed to 90.3% of men.

- B. **Structure of NP:** *each of the sentences that follow contains some incorrect Noun Phrase (NP) formulation. The first three cases have to do with the **countability of nouns**; the second three centre on **the Genitive Construct** and **the Nominal Premodifier**. In each case, **REWRITE** the appropriate part of the sentence so that it is correct. [1/3 point for each item]*
1. Most women are simply not interested in a career in politics: *this is **important aspect of the question** that some proponents of a quota system tend to overlook.
>> this is **an** important aspect of the question
 2. *On the website of the EU Commission you can find **all the informations you need** about women's rights and the 'gender pay gap'.
>> you can find all the **information** you need
>> you can find all the **items of information** you need
 3. *Last week all the UK daily papers gave considerable space to **an important new from Brussels**, specifically from the EU Commissioner for Justice, Viviane Reding.
>> to **some** important **news** from Brussels
>> to an important **item of news** from Brussels
 4. ***Several important EU Commission's documents on equality** are now available online.
>> Several important **EU Commission** documents on equality
>> Several important documents from/by/of **the** EU Commission on equality
>> Several important documents on equality from/by **the** EU Commission
 5. ***EU Commission's various important documents on equality** are now available online.
>> **the** EU Commission's various important documents on equality
>> **the** various important documents on equality by/from/of **the** EU Commission
 6. ***Various EU Commission important documents on equality** are now available online.
>> Various important **EU Commission** documents on equality
>> Various important documents from/by/of **the** EU Commission on equality
>> Various important documents on equality from/by **the** EU Commission

C. **Integrated Relative Clauses:** in each of the items you will find a sentence with a gap and (in square brackets below) some extra information. The task is to formulate this extra information as an integrated relative clause. **REWRITE** the whole sentence with the relative clause in place of the gap. [**½ point for each item**]

EXAMPLE: The **letter** contains a cheque.
[**x letter** arrived this morning]
>> The letter that arrived this morning contains a cheque.

1. **Two European countries** are Poland and Slovenia.
[**x European countries** have already introduced quota systems in their parliamentary elections]
>> **Two European countries** *that/which* have already introduced quota systems in their parliamentary elections

2. **The two major European countries** are France and Italy.
[women are severely under-represented in politics in **x European countries**]
>> **The two major European countries** *in which* women are severely under-represented in politics are France and Italy.
>> **The two major European countries** *where* women are severely under-represented in politics are France and Italy.
>> **The two major European countries** *in whose politics* women are severely under-represented are France and Italy.

3. **The question**..... is whether women will actually benefit from a quota system designed to help them.
[all political analysts point to **x question**]
>> **The question** *which* all political analysts point to is whether women will actually benefit from a quota system designed to help them.
>> **The question** *to which* all political analysts point is whether women will actually benefit from a quota system designed to help them.
>> **The question** *that* all political analysts point to is whether women will actually benefit from a quota system designed to help them.
>> **The question** all political analysts point to is whether women will actually benefit from a quota system designed to help them.

4. **The two European countries** are Slovakia and Ireland.
[the parliaments of **x two European countries** contain the lowest number of female members]
>> **The two European countries** *whose parliaments* contain the lowest number of female members are Slovakia and Ireland.
>> **The two European countries** *the parliaments of which* contain the lowest number of female members are Slovakia and Ireland.

>> **The two European countries** *in whose parliaments* one finds the lowest number of female members are Slovakia and Ireland.

TOPIC 4 (intermediate level): Verb Tenses

- A. **Selecting verb tenses:** the short text extract that follows has blank spaces in place of some of the original verbs (and their accompanying auxiliaries). In each case, the original lexical verb is given (as an infinitive) inside square brackets. The task is to INDICATE the correct form of the verb (adding any auxiliaries/modals that are necessary). Write your solution in the space provided. [½ point for each item]

The ‘gender pay gap’ over the decades

In the decades immediately following the Second World War, the gender pay gap (the difference between average pay for men and women)
.....**remained**..... [REMAIN] very strong. The war
.....**had been/was**..... [BE] a time of experiment, when women
.....**had replaced/replaced**..... [REPLACE] men in many
essential jobs and collectively**had achieved/achieved**..... [
ACHIEVE] an unprecedented presence in the workplace. As soon as the war ended,
however, there was a clear reversion to the old prewar model: men**went**
..... [GO] out to work, while women**stayed**..... [STAY] at
home, taking care of the house and the children. In those decades many governments
aimed to achieve what they called ‘full employment’. At that time the meaning of this
term was not in doubt: it**meant**..... [MEAN] full *male* employment.
Gradually, since 1970, this old model of employment
.....**has been breaking/has broken**..... [BREAK] down. Once again women
.....**have become/are becoming**..... [BECOME] an essential part
of the workforce, displacing men in many areas, in particular service industries. As a
consequence, the pay gap **has been reduced**..... [REDUCE -
passive]. Indeed, at present in certain countries it**has come**..... [COME]
down to levels no higher than 10%.

B. ***Verb tenses and time adverbials:*** each of the examples that follow contains an error in the use of verb tenses and time adverbials. In each case, **REWRITE** the sentence so that it is correct and so that the meaning is the one intended. **[2 points total]**

1. [*In the countries where a quota system has been tried out], fewer and fewer people are believing that it is the right solution.
>> fewer and fewer people **believe** that it is the right solution.
2. [The gender pay gap started declining in the 1980s;] ??by 2004, it dropped to 21 percent.
>> by 2004, it **had dropped** to 21 percent

