

**GENERAL EDUCATION DIPLOMA EXAMINATION  
ELECTIVE ENGLISH  
SEMESTER TWO — FIRST SESSION**

TIME: 3 hours

TOTAL MARKS: 70

This paper has 3 pages

**READING 1 (Items 1 – 6)**

For each question, write a short answer (**not more than THREE WORDS**).

Agatha Christie was the most successful writer of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, selling over one billion books, translated into at least forty-three languages. Most of these books were detective stories, and for this reason she is known as the “Queen of Crime”.

She was born in 1890 in Torquay on the south coast of England. Her parents were wealthy, and she was educated at home and never attended school. As a child, she was a very talented musician, who played the piano and had an excellent singing voice, but she did not make a career of music because she was too shy to appear in public. It was her mother who encouraged her to write instead.

However, her career was interrupted in 1914 by the outbreak of the First World War. She joined the army as a nurse. She also got married to a pilot, although this marriage later ended unhappily.

After the war, she read some Sherlock Holmes stories and then decided to create her own ‘great detective’, a Belgian called Hercule Poirot, who was extremely intelligent, but had a very high opinion of himself. The first of her many Poirot novels, “The Mysterious Affair at Styles”, was published in 1920.

Seven years later, she went on to create her second famous detective, an elderly unmarried woman called Miss Jane Marple. Despite Poirot’s huge popularity with her readers, Agatha Christie always used to say that she didn’t really like him and greatly preferred Miss Marple. The two never appeared in the same novel.

Agatha Christie wrote her last Poirot and Marple stories in 1944, although they were not actually published until 1976, shortly before her death at the age of 85.

As well as her 124 detective stories, Agatha Christie left behind one real-life mystery. In 1926, after an argument with her husband, she disappeared! After a nationwide police search lasting eleven days, she was eventually found in a hotel in northern England, safe and well but suffering from loss of memory. To this day, nobody knows exactly what happened during these eleven days...

1. Why did she **not** become a professional musician? Because she was \_\_\_\_\_
2. What job did she do during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War? She was \_\_\_\_\_
3. When did she publish her first Miss Marple stories? \_\_\_\_\_ (year)
4. Who was her favourite detective? \_\_\_\_\_
5. When did she stop writing detective stories? \_\_\_\_\_ (year)
6. What strange event happened in 1926? Agatha Christie \_\_\_\_\_

**READING 2 (Items 7 – 10)**

Read each text. Then, for the numbered statement, write 'True' or 'False'.

I spend a lot of time with Carlos. What I like about him is that he always makes me laugh — even when I'm feeling depressed! He's full of jokes and amusing stories, and keeps all of us entertained. I don't know what we'd do without him...

7. Carlos has a great sense of humour. \_\_\_\_\_

For centuries now, the village of Phetburi in northern Thailand has been famous for its high-quality, beautifully-painted, wooden umbrellas. Its craftsmen have been able to maintain this tradition despite recent competition from cheap, factory-made products.

8. Making umbrellas is a new industry in the village. \_\_\_\_\_

As the storm approached, the sky was getting darker and darker. First, there were a few drops of rain, and then a really heavy downpour. It was obviously not safe to drive. But what else could I do? I had promised to visit my parents — and a promise is a promise...

9. Because of the weather, the writer decided to stay at home. \_\_\_\_\_

The Grand Hotel was built back in the 1930s, and many people now prefer to stay in more modern places. It's true, the rooms are rather small and dark, but for me it's worth staying there just for the beautiful views in every direction. The scenery is fantastic!

10. The main advantage of the hotel is its location. \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITING 1 — ASSESSMENT REPORT**

- Situation: *Managers at your company often travel by air, so your boss has asked you to write an ASSESSMENT REPORT about a new airline called **Aerofleet**.*
- *In your report, use ALL the information in the box.*
- *Your writing should be clear, correct and well-organised.*

<b>1) Introduction</b>	
<b>2) Main Body</b>	*modern planes/ latest technology                      *excellent safety record
	*no flights to Africa/ South America
	*10% discount / Business Class tickets                      *staff/ well-trained, efficient
	*food/ boring, low quality                      *started business/ March this year
	*baggage allowance/ 50 kg                      *good reputation/ flights on time
<b>3) Conclusion</b>	

## **WRITING 2**

*Complete the following task. Write at least 75 words.*

**Situation:** Imagine that you are Badr/ Badriya Al-Riyami. You have bought a new television set. The set was delivered six weeks ago, but since then you have had several problems with it. Write a **letter of complaint** to the manager of the shop:

- Describe the problems that you have had
- Say what you think the shop should do

Your letter should be formal, polite, correct and clear. Do **not** use your own name.

## **WRITING 3**

*Write at least 100 words on the following topic:*

**“People should not receive a driving license  
until they are 21.”**

— Do you agree or not? Give your reasons.

*Your writing should be clear and interesting.*

***Write your answers on your answer paper.***

