

Eurocity

Kiegészítő füzet



Euroexam C1

✓ Reading - Task 3



Reading Task Three
a 2024 júliusában vizsgázók számára

Reading Task Three Prepare & Practice

Mind and Body

Real World Link

Some dense texts need to be read and re-read before you can work out exactly what the message is. You may sometimes find that you need to read every word carefully (or even whisper them to yourself) before you can satisfactorily "unpack" the precise meaning.

"A man who has been the indisputable favourite of his mother keeps for life the feeling of a conqueror, that confidence of success that often induces real success."

Sigmund Freud

EXAM TASK

Multiple-Choice Reading

The candidate reads two texts (ca. 400 words each) of which one is a formal article. Both texts have a shared theme. Each text has three multiple-choice questions. Five questions test understanding of detailed information. One question relates to understanding the text as a whole. The candidate may use a dictionary while doing this task.

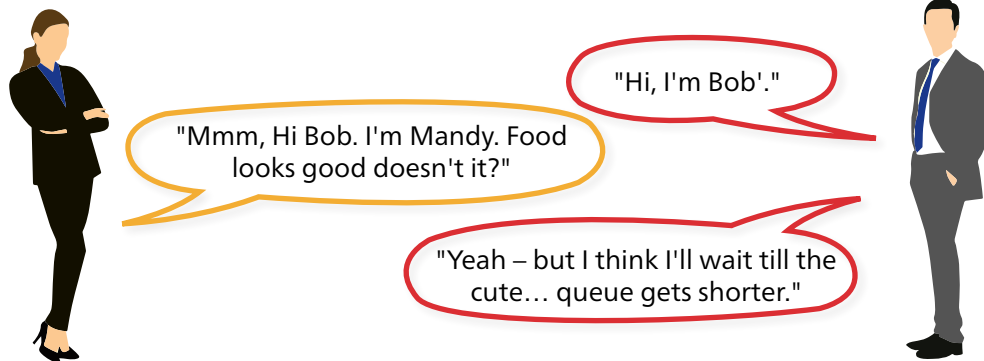
1 Afraid of Freud?

- a. What is a "Freudian slip"? Can you explain it using these two examples?

TV News Reporter: *"There may be elephants within... elements within the royal family that don't want things to change."*



The second dialogue is between two people meeting at a conference buffet meal.



- b. Who was Sigmund Freud? Discuss with your partner what you know about him already. Look at the words below and say or guess how they are related to Freud's life.

| Moravia | Vienna | law | anti-Semitism | London | torture |

2 Multiple-Choice Questions

- a. Get into groups of three. Your group will work with Text A or Text B. Write two multiple-choice questions on your text for another group to answer.
- b. Give your multiple-choice questions to the other group. Answer the questions you receive. Underline the evidence in the text. Do the questions work? If not, why not?

Text A - The Young Freud

Sigmund Freud was born on 6 May 1856 to Galician Jewish parents in the Moravian town of Příbor, then in the Austrian Empire, but now in the Czech Republic. His father Jakob was a wool merchant, and had two children by a previous marriage. His mother Amalié (née Nathansohn), was Jacob's third wife and twenty years his junior. He was the first of their eight children and, owing to his precocious intellect, his parents favoured him over his siblings from the early stages of his childhood. Despite their poverty, they sacrificed everything to give him a proper education. Due to the economic crisis of 1857, Freud's father lost his business, and the family moved to Leipzig before settling in Vienna. In 1865, Sigmund entered the *Leopoldstädter Kommunal-Realgymnasium*, a prominent high school. Freud was an outstanding pupil and graduated in 1873 with honours. After planning to study law, Freud joined the medical faculty at the University of Vienna to study under Darwinist, Prof. Karl Claus. Freud's early research was not on humans but eels. At that time, eel life history was still unknown. In search for their male sex organs, Freud spent four weeks at the Austrian Zoological Research Station in Trieste, dissecting hundreds of eels without finding more than his predecessors had. In 1876 he published his first paper about "the testicles of eels" in the *Mitteilungen der österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften*, conceding that he could not solve the problem. Frustrated by the lack of success that would have given him fame, Freud chose to change his course of study.



Text B - The Old Freud

In 1930, Freud received the Goethe Prize in appreciation of his contribution to psychology and to German literary culture. Three years later the Nazis took control of Germany and Freud's books featured prominently among those burned and destroyed by the Nazis. In March 1938, Nazi Germany annexed Austria in the Anschluss. This led to violent outbursts of anti-Semitism in Vienna, and Freud and his family received visits from the Gestapo. Freud decided to go into exile "to die in freedom". He and his family left Vienna in June 1938 and moved to 20 Maresfield Gardens, Hampstead, London. (There is a statue of him at the corner of Belsize Lane and Fitzjohn's Avenue, near Swiss Cottage.) A heavy cigar smoker, Freud endured more than thirty operations during his life due to oral cancer. In September 1939 he prevailed on his doctor and friend Max Schur to assist him in committing suicide. After reading Balzac's *La Peau de Chagrin* in a single sitting he said, "My dear Schur, you certainly remember our first talk. You promised me then not to forsake me when my time comes. Now it is nothing but torture and makes no sense any more." Schur administered three doses of morphine over many hours that resulted in Freud's death on 23 September 1939. Three days after his death, Freud's body was cremated at Golders Green Crematorium in England during a service attended by Austrian refugees, including the author Stefan Zweig. His ashes were later placed in the crematorium's columbarium. They rest in an ancient Greek urn that Freud received as a present from Marie Bonaparte, and which he had kept in his study in Vienna for many years. After his wife, Martha Freud's, death in 1951, her ashes were also placed in that urn. Golders Green Crematorium has since also become the final resting place for his daughter, Anna Freud, and her lifelong friend Dorothy Burlingham, as well as for several other members of the Freud family.

3 Which Way Works for You?

The comprehension questions in this task are not very easy to answer, i.e. it is usually not possible to simply lift the information from the text.

One likely way of working would be to read the whole text – then read the questions, then read the text again, then read the questions again, then read parts of the text again, etc. However, as there is a fairly tight time limit (about 10 minutes per text) it is worth deciding on your initial strategy for approaching each text. For example, should you start by reading the text or the questions?

Try these two short texts using two different techniques. Some people may find that Technique A is more useful, others may prefer Technique B. When you finish, discuss which technique proved better for you – and why you favour it.

- a. Technique A: Cover up the question. First read the text, making sure you understand it quite well and only then read and answer the question below.

Freud initially attempted to subdivide the mind purely in terms of different levels of consciousness, emphasising the unconscious. Though he abandoned that theory in favour of his tripartite division into the id, ego, and superego, he held that the different functions of the mind operated at different levels. This was an important and forward-looking innovation in the scientific study of the mind, an innovation which Freud inferred from his studies in hypnosis. If the hypnotist could insert something into the subject's mind, which the subject was not conscious of, but which would still affect the subject's behaviour, then he reasoned, it was not a great leap of faith to look for other unconscious motivations which the individual would not be aware of but which would affect his/her behaviour nonetheless. Though few psychologists today agree completely with Freud's theories of the mind and on the psychosexual stages of development, nearly all now acknowledge that human consciousness is affected by underlying motivations or thoughts, the realm of the unconscious.

Freud's theory of the mind...

- A. replaced his earlier theory of id, ego and superego.
- B. gave an important role to the unconscious.
- C. is better valued today than it was in his days.
- D. resulted in regular use of hypnosis in medicine.

- b. Technique B: This time read (and check that you understand) the question & multiple-choice options first and only then read the text to try to find the answers.

Our mind...

- A. operates on three different levels.
- B. works only if we keep complete control of the conscious level.
- C. should not repress the unconscious.
- D. is controlled by a balance between our id and our ego.

The conscious level is the level on which all of our thought processes operate. Anything that is thought, perceived or understood resides in this conscious level. Below this level, so to speak, is that of the pre-conscious. Here reside memories and thoughts which may threaten at any moment to break into the conscious level, which are easily recalled, and which may strongly influence conscious processes. Below both of these levels, in the realm of the unconscious, lie the wishes, urges, memories and thoughts which represent the bulk of the individual's past experience. Here lie the impulses and memories which threaten to debilitate or destabilise the individual's mind if they break into consciousness; by means of repression the mind maintains its tenuous balance. The ego banishes the urges of the id to this level, where they cannot cause mental anguish but are still perfectly capable of causing great anxiety.

Which of the two above techniques worked best for you?

4 Reading Task 3: Multiple-Choice Reading



a. Decide on a technique.

Use the technique you chose on the following practice task. If you chose Technique B, skip ahead to the questions and read them first.

Read quickly the two texts on the following pages about dreams. Where would you find these texts? What's the difference in style between them? Answer the questions that follow them. The exam time limit is 20 minutes.

b. Now do the task.

Read the encyclopaedia entry and the magazine problem page.

- Answer the questions which follow each text.
- Place a X in the appropriate box on your Answer Sheet (not provided in this course book).

Text 1:

Encyclopaedia Entry: Falling Dreams

The sensation of falling in dreams is common for many people. There is folklore across the world to the effect that you will die if you don't wake up before you hit the ground during a fall; this is of course complete nonsense. The origin of such beliefs may well be religious mythology in which falling is associated with sin, and waking with moral enlightenment.

As with most common dream themes, there is a connection between the theme of the dream and aspects of the dreamer's life. Falling is an indication of insecurities, instabilities and anxieties. You are feeling overwhelmed and out of control in some situation in your waking life. You have lost your foothold and cannot hang on or keep up with the hustle and bustle of daily life. When you fall, there is nothing that you can hold on to. You are more or less forced toward this downward motion without any control. This loss of control parallels a situation in your real life.

Falling dreams are also often associated with a sense of failure or inferiority. It may be the fear of failing in your job or at school, loss of status, or failure in love. You feel shameful and lack a sense of pride. You are unable to keep up with the status quo or feel that you don't measure up. According to Freudian theory, dreams of falling indicate that you are contemplating giving in to a sexual urge or other impulse. In other words, you are facing a decision in your life and will take the easier or more pleasurable option.

Falling dreams typically occur during the initial stages of sleep. Dreams in this stage are often accompanied by muscle spasms of the arms, legs, and the whole body. These sudden contractions are also known as myclonic jerks. Sometimes when we have these falling dreams, we feel our whole body jerk or twitch and we awaken from this jerk. It is thought that this jerking action is part of an arousal mechanism that allows the sleeper to awaken and become quickly alert and responsive to possible threats in the environment.

1. In traditional belief systems falling dreams...

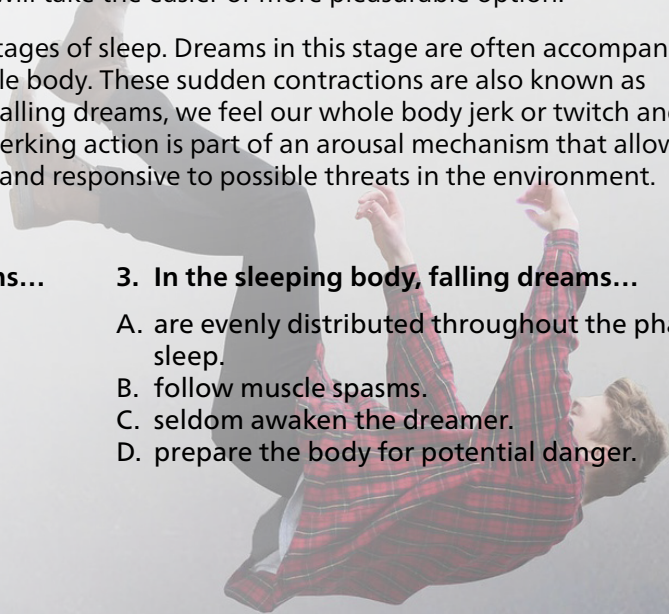
- A. are fatal unless the dreamer wakes up.
- B. are a sign of divine forgiveness.
- C. are only experienced by religious people.
- D. should not be interrupted.

2. In Freudian theory, falling dreams...

- A. relate to a past weakness.
- B. indicate a forthcoming capitulation.
- C. are a prelude to taking tough action.
- D. signal the removal of pleasure.

3. In the sleeping body, falling dreams...

- A. are evenly distributed throughout the phases of sleep.
- B. follow muscle spasms.
- C. seldom awaken the dreamer.
- D. prepare the body for potential danger.



Text 2: Psychologist Dr. Sara Bloom interprets your dreams

Dear Sara,

I keep having these dreams about being chased. Each night it is a variation on a theme. I'm being chased by someone or by a group of people. And I'm always running towards my boyfriend. In my dream I feel like he is the only one who can protect me from the chasers. However, I can never reach him in my dream. Sometimes I'm running away from a jail, my teachers and sometimes my father, who in fact doesn't even look like my real father. These dreams are very upsetting for me, and I want to understand what is going on.
Mira

Dear Mira,

Recurring chase dreams often represent avoidance of difficult feelings, emotions or situations. Pay particular attention to what is happening in your waking life when you start having these chase dreams. Is there something that you are not confronting or trying to avoid? Let's take a closer look at what you are running from.

You run from jail. The jail could be symbolic of your home life. You may feel that you are a prisoner in your own home and are trying to escape. A situation or obligation may also make you feel that you are in the confines of a prison.

You run from your father. Your personal associations with your father are important in deciphering the meaning. Typically, the father is the enforcer of the rules of the house and the authority figure. So you may be running away from his strictness and authority.

In all these dreams, you are running to your boyfriend, who is the protector figure. He offers comfort and security. Being with him may give you a sense of being shielded from having to face the difficult feelings you are running from. However, you wake up before you reach him. Though your boyfriend may be wonderful and supportive, he may not necessarily be the answer. Instead of running to him you should turn around and face your problems - face your father for instance.

The fact that you wake up before you reach your boyfriend may have a physiological basis. Our body has an instinctual, natural and involuntary way of responding to threats in the environment. The "fight or flight" mechanism comes into play here. This is the mechanism that quickly alerts us to possible threats in the environment, thus causing you to wake up before you can reach your boyfriend.

Dr Sara Bloom

4. Mira says about her dreams that...

- A. they are identical.
- B. she is pursued by criminals.
- C. her boyfriend leaves her isolated.
- D. she dreams of escaping from authority figures.

5. About Mira's boyfriend, Dr Bloom says...

- A. the solutions to her problems lie in him.
- B. Mira has contradictory feelings towards him.
- C. he probably offers genuine support to Mira.
- D. Mira cannot reach an understanding with him.

6. Dr Bloom's reply...

- A. tells Mira what she already knows.
- B. relies heavily on jargon.
- C. suggests that Mira is suppressing her true feelings.
- D. does not deal with the specifics of Mira's dreams.

Answer Key

Mind and Body

1. *Afraid of Freud?*

a.

A "Freudian slip" is a slip of the tongue (something said unintentionally) that reveals subconscious feelings, attitudes or wishes.

b.

Moravia - Freud was born in this region.

Vienna - The family moved to Vienna.

law - Freud planned to study this subject.

anti-Semitism - This caused Freud and his family to leave Austria.

London - Freud died here.

torture - Freud described his cancer in this way.

3. *Which Way Works for You?*

a.

The right answer is B.

b.

The right answer is A.

4. *Reading Task 3: Multiple-Choice Reading*

a.

1-A; 2-B; 3-D; 4-D; 5-C; 6-C (*Overall understanding*)