

# Block 3

2010-10-23

Svarshäfte nr.

# Högskoleprovet

## DELPROV 5

## ELFb

Delprovet innehåller 20 uppgifter.

### Anvisningar

Detta prov innehåller ett antal engelskspråkiga texter av olika längd. Till varje text hör en eller flera uppgifter, var och en med fyra svarsförslag. Endast ett är rätt, nämligen det som passar **bäst** i det givna sammanhanget.

**Observera att du ska lösa uppgifterna med ledning av den information som ges i respektive text.**

Alla svar ska föras in i svarshäftet. Det ska ske **inom** provtiden.

**Markera tydligt.**

Om du inte kan lösa en uppgift, försök då att bedöma vilket svarsförslag som verkar mest rimligt.

Du får inget poängavdrag om du svarar fel.

På nästa sida börjar provet som innehåller **20 uppgifter**.

**Provtiden är 35 minuter.**

**BÖRJA INTE MED PROVET FÖRRÄN PROVLEDAREN SÄGER TILL.**

Tillstånd har inhämtats att publicera det upphovsrättsligt skyddade material som ingår i detta prov.

# Eyak

Beyond the town of Cordova, on Prince William Sound in south-eastern Alaska, the Copper River delta branches out in silt and swamp into the gulf. Marie Smith, growing up there, knew there was a particular word in Eyak, her language, for the silky, gummy mud that squished between her toes. It was *c'a*. The driftwood she found on the shore, *u'l*, acquired a different name if it had a proper shape and was not a broken, tangled mass. If she got lost among the flat, winding creeks, her panicky thoughts were not of north, south, east or west, but of “upriver”, “downstream” and the tribes, Eskimo and Tlingit, who lived on either side. And if they asked her name it was not Marie but *Udachkuqax\*a'a'ch*, “a sound that calls people from afar”.

Upriver out of town stretched the taiga, rising steadily to the Chugach mountains and covered with black spruce. The spruce was an Eyak dictionary in itself, from *lis*, the neat, conical tree, to *Ge.c*, its wiry root, useful for baskets; from *Gahdg*, its blue green, flattened needles, which could be brewed up for beer or tea, to *sibx*, its resin, from which came pitch to make canoes watertight. The Eyak were fishermen who, thousands of years before, were thought to have crossed the Bering Strait in their boats. Marie's father still fished for a living, as did most of the men in Cordova. Where the neighbouring Athapaskan tribes, who had crossed the strait on snowshoes, had dozens of terms for the condition of ice and snow, Eyak vocabulary was rich with particular words for black abalone, red abalone, ribbon weed and tubular kelp, drag nets and dipping nets and different sizes of rope.

This universe of words and observations was already fading when Marie was young. In 1933, there were 38 Eyak-speakers left, and white people with their grim faces and intrusive microphones, as they always appeared to her, were already coming to sweep up the remnants of the language. At home her mother donned a *kushsl*, or apron, to make cakes in an *ixab*, or round mixing bowl; but at school “barbarous” Eyak was forbidden. It went unheard, too, in the salmon factory where Marie worked

after fourth grade, canning – in industrial quantities – the noble fish her people had hunted with respect.

Marie Smith herself seemed cavalier about the language for a time. She married a white Oregonian, William Smith, and brought up nine children, telling them odd Eyak words but, finding they were not interested, Eyak became a language for talking to herself, or to God. Only when her last surviving older sister died, in the 1990s, did she realise that she was the last of the line. From that moment she became an activist, a tiny figure with a determined jaw and a colourful beaded hat, campaigning to stop clear-cutting in the forest (where Eyak split-log lodges decayed among the blueberries) and to get Eyak bones decently buried. She was the chief of her nation, as well as its only fullblooded member.

She drank too much, but gave it up; she smoked too much. Most outsiders were told to buzz off. But one scholar, Michael Krauss of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, showed such love for Eyak, painstakingly recording its every suffix and prefix and glottal stop and nasalisation, that she worked happily with him to compile a grammar and a dictionary; and Elizabeth Kolbert of the *New Yorker* was allowed to talk when she brought fresh halibut as a tribute. Without those two visitors, almost nothing would have been known of her.

As a child she had longed to be a pilot, flying boat-planes between the islands of the Sound. An impossible dream, she was told, because she was a girl. As an old woman, she said she believed that Eyak might be resurrected in future. Just as impossible, scoffed the experts: in an age where perhaps half the planet's languages will disappear over the next century, killed by urban migration or the Internet or the triumphal march of English, Eyak has no chance. For Marie Smith, however, the death of Eyak meant the not-to-be-imagined disappearance of the world.

THE ECONOMIST

## Questions

**1. What is implied about the Eyak language?**

- A It attracted attention only when a comprehensive dictionary was published
- B The vocabulary is heavily influenced by the environment of the Eyak people
- C The vocabulary of Eyak is restricted to concrete objects
- D It was so spread out that different dialects of the language emerged

**2. What are we told about Eyak people?**

- A They lived on what the sea had to offer
- B They were hunters of wildlife animals
- C They were extremely flexible in their lifestyle
- D They had lived off the fertile soil for thousands of years

**3. What are we told about white people in this text?**

- A They documented the Eyak language for some time
- B They have kept ignoring the Eyak's unique language and life style
- C They came to the Eyak to learn more about the intricate ways of fishing around Prince William Sound
- D They were always of special interest to Marie Smith

**4. What are we told about Marie Smith in her adult life?**

- A She insisted on using the Eyak language in as many contexts as possible
- B She was a feminist who fought for Eyak women's rights
- C She turned into an enthusiastic fighter for the Eyak cause
- D She gave up all interest in Eyak issues when she married

**5. What was Marie Smith's view of the future?**

- A She realized the impossibility of the survival of the Eyak language
- B She hoped for improved communications between the Alaskan islands
- C She was convinced that her children would move away from Alaska
- D She could not picture a future without the Eyak language

# Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy

A review of a book by Simon Louvish

The American journalist and film critic James Agee pinpointed the essence of their comedy: “Laurel and Hardy are trying to move a piano across a narrow suspension bridge. The bridge is slung over a sickening chasm between a couple of Alps. Midway they meet a gorilla.” In their more than 100 films together, spanning three decades (1921–51), Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy’s impeccably constructed comic mayhem carried them to the highest level of popularity and a fame that easily crossed international borders.

There is nothing as succinct as Agee’s statement in *Stan and Ollie*, Simon Louvish’s biography of two of Hollywood’s greatest clowns. Where Agee selects one bizarre moment that reveals everything, Louvish provides a distant analysis: “There is a clear taste emerging in these movies for highly eccentric gags, which we would today call ‘surreal’ and which involve ordinary ideas and gestures carried to literally lunatic extremes.” Louvish is not wrong, and he cares about getting it right, but where’s the double take? Where’s the laugh? Of all the slapstick artists in history, surely Laurel and Hardy deserve a book that is as fun to read as it is informative.

To his credit, Louvish, who has also written books about W. C. Fields and the Marx Brothers, has researched his subjects thoroughly. He provides detail on their backgrounds, lists influences on their careers, and discusses their work as individuals. He assumes no prior knowledge for the reader.

Louvish is at his best in discussing how Laurel and Hardy, unlike most of the great silent-film comedians, had no trouble making the transition to sound. Physical comedy, which had once seemed safe, even dreamlike, suddenly became painful when the sounds of the whacks and bonks were alarmingly presented. Laurel and Hardy’s films cleverly exaggerated the noise to cartoon level. A blow on the head became a reverberating gong, repeated in an echo chamber – a comfortable laugh rather than an alienating shock.

Today, Laurel and Hardy do not receive the same adoration and scholarly attention given to Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin and Harold Lloyd. After a brief flurry

of interest during the 1970’s, they have more or less been returned to the shelf labeled “fan favorites.” It is said that no one loves them but the public, and it is true that they are not especially witty, emblematic or even sympathetic. They are just funny, very funny.

Everything Laurel and Hardy try goes wrong, but they never give up, seeming not to grasp the concept of failure. Their very incompetence becomes their most useful weapon for destroying the middle-class smugness that greets their efforts. The assault on the bourgeoisie is not uncommon in American comedy, but Laurel and Hardy attack it with unparalleled passion, inviting the audience to join in and approve. No matter what befalls them, they find new and fabulous ways to retaliate.

The art of Laurel and Hardy – and it is an art – is beautiful because it is so simple, so reliable. They always start out as if their day will make sense. When things go wrong, they look at each other, study the situation carefully and then slowly, calmly do something really hideous about it. And when someone is mean to them, they become inspired.

Audiences around the world still love Laurel and Hardy. Their popularity gave rise to an international fan club called the Sons of the Desert, named for one of their most successful features. The group has a constitution that declares that “the officers and members of the board shall have absolutely no authority whatsoever” and that the club motto will be “two minds without a single thought.” Before he died, Laurel gave his approval to the formation of the group, saying that the only thing he insisted on was that “everybody have a hell of a lot of fun.” Fun is the last word on Laurel and Hardy, and sadly, despite his solid research and obvious appreciation of their work, fun is the key thing missing in Louvish’s book.

JEANINE BASINGER, THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

## Questions

**6. Why does the reviewer mention two different characterizations of Laurel and Hardy's films?**

- A To indicate the absurdity of trying to capture the fun of comedy movies in words
- B To suggest that Agee's description is more in keeping with their films than Louvish's
- C To demonstrate the impossibility of combining serious film research with writing in an entertaining way
- D To show that Louvish has not really understood what their movies were about

**7. What is said about Louvish's treatment of Laurel and Hardy's careers?**

- A It gives an accurate account that is accessible to non-specialist readers
- B It presents a number of previously unknown facts about their personal lives
- C It is based on careful research but may be too demanding for many readers
- D It is less scholarly than might be expected from a well-known film researcher

**8. What is implied about Laurel and Hardy's sound-film work?**

- A They would have found it difficult to be funny without the aid of sound
- B It was in some ways less innovative than their silent films
- C It was characterized by a realistic view of its obvious limitations
- D They made the most of the possibilities offered by the new medium

**9. Which of the following alternatives reflects some of the key elements in Laurel and Hardy's films?**

- A Nasty aggressiveness coupled with a big heart
- B A taste for revenge and a high degree of predictability
- C Verbal cleverness and political clear-sightedness
- D A lack of success together with sentimentality

**10. How can the reviewer's overall impression of Louvish's book be summarized?**

- A It is likely that Laurel and Hardy would have been bored by it
- B It fails to show whether Louvish actually likes Laurel and Hardy's films
- C It would have made Laurel and Hardy look at each other in approval
- D It seems to reveal a certain lack of interest on the part of the author

**AND HERE ARE SOME SHORTER TEXTS:**

## Strategic Teaching

Some people argue that teachers should be assigned students to their courses who have been previously selected to ensure a similar level and range of abilities. This is seldom the case, and the mixed-ability class that many teachers are presented with demands extra thought, planning and work. Teachers need management strategies to hold the class together in a semblance of lockstep for the duration of the class, and they need pedagogic strategies to encourage maximum learning both during and, more importantly, outside lesson time.

## Investments

Some of the prices people have paid for paintings at recent auctions might remind many longtime collectors of the dangers incurred in the 1980's, when many people bought paintings for more than they could ever hope to resell them. Consequently, some of those collectors turned away from collecting art, at least for investment's sake, which, of course, they never should have been doing anyway. The market has a way of evening itself out over a period of time.

## Ailments

At the faded one-story medical clinic in a fishing and farming village in India, people with depression and anxiety typically got little or no attention. Busy doctors and nurses focused on physical ailments – children with diarrhea, laborers with injuries, old people with heart trouble. Patients, fearful of the stigma connected to mental illness, were reluctant to bring up emotional problems. Last year, two new workers arrived. Their sole task was to identify and treat patients suffering depression and anxiety. The workers found themselves busy. Almost every day, several new patients appeared. Depressed and anxious people now make up “a sizeable crowd” at the clinic, said the doctor in charge.

### Question

**11. What is suggested here?**

- A Some students may find too much or too little in courses to challenge them
- B Today's teachers often need better knowledge of their specific subjects
- C Most schools are well prepared to take care of all kinds of students
- D Teaching today is more stimulating to students than it used to be

### Question

**12. What can be concluded from this text?**

- A Art collectors from the 1980's are now starting to invest again
- B Buying art is not an ideal form of investment
- C The 1980's were troublefree times for private art collectors
- D The art market is likely to remain stable in the foreseeable future

### Question

**13. What is implied in the text?**

- A People used to hesitate to reveal their psychological disorders
- B People in India have always exaggerated their physical illnesses
- C The more medical staff, the more patients with bodily disorders seek help
- D Mental problems often have their origin in physical illnesses

## Henry James

A recent biography of Henry James (1843–1916) written by Sheldon M. Novick has its distinct virtues. Novick superbly parses James’s sometimes contradictory political views and his acquaintance with the politicians of the day. He is also very good on James’s approach-avoidance relationship to the world of the theater and on his highly ambivalent attitude toward his own Americanness. And when Novick discusses the late novels – which he clearly loves – the genius of James sometimes inhabits and energizes his prose.

## Japanese Women

The stark career-or-kids choice in Japan has created a demographic nightmare. Because Japanese women are expected to quit their jobs when they have children, a record number are foregoing marriage altogether. Today, some 25% of Japanese women in their early 30s are single, up from 14% a decade ago. As a consequence, Japan’s fertility rate fell to a record low of 1.29 in 2004 compared to 2.13 in the U.S., giving it one of the lowest birth rates in the world.

### Question

#### 14. What are we told about Henry James?

- A His political convictions were firm and consistent
- B His interest in the theater was mainly political
- C He was very proud to be born American
- D He was in two minds about his home country

### Question

#### 15. What is claimed here?

- A Japanese authorities seem unaware of the coming population crisis
- B Marriage laws in Japan discourage women from having many children
- C The low number of children born will cause serious problems for Japan
- D Increasing numbers of Japanese women are opting out of full-time jobs

*In the following text there are gaps which indicate that something has been left out. Look at the four alternatives that correspond to each gap and decide which one best fits the gap. Then mark your choice on your answer sheet.*

## Elephants on the Pill

An experiment in South Africa to give birth-control shots to elephants has heightened disputes over how to protect the species. Supporters of the pioneering project hope it can be developed into an effective and humane way of controlling elephant populations. But sceptics say widespread use of **16**\_\_\_\_\_ could rob rural communities of a valuable economic and nutritional resource.

The debate is likely to intensify over the next few months as southern African countries lobby for a relaxation of a worldwide ban on elephant products.

Twenty-one adult female elephants in South Africa's extensive Kruger National Park game reserve recently received the birth control vaccine PZP at the start of an experiment to test for **17**\_\_\_\_\_ and side-effects. The programme is administered by the Humane Society in the U.S. (HSUS).

The National Parks Board says the reserve can sustain no more than its current 8,000 elephants. Until now these numbers have been maintained by culling and relocating some **18**\_\_\_\_\_ to small private reserves. Officials have now agreed to the HSUS project, which will last for five years because of the elephants' long gestation period – 22 months.

The argument over how **19**\_\_\_\_\_ to conserve such species has been taking place across a North-South divide. Groups like HSUS believe that animals should be protected and left in peace. But they are opposed by groups such as the Africa Resources Trust (ART), a non-governmental organization which believes that wildlife can be used as part of sustainable rural development.

ART activists say elephants can provide income through sales of products and licences, and much-needed protein for communities bordering national parks. The same economic activities, they say, can also fund the upkeep of such **20**\_\_\_\_\_ .

### Alternatives

- 16.**  
A remedies  
B computers  
C contraceptives  
D projects

- 17.**  
A medication  
B knowledge  
C inspection  
D effectiveness

- 18.**  
A natives  
B animals  
C objects  
D pills

- 19.**  
A best  
B often  
C regularly  
D soon

- 20.**  
A groups  
B tasks  
C sales  
D parks

NEW INTERNATIONALIST