

Dhofar University Foundation Program  
English Level 3 (FPE 103C)  
Final Reading & Writing MOCK Exams  
Term 1, 2023-24

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ID \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions**

Turn off your mobile phone.  
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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Reading		
Passage		20
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>

Writing		
Task		20
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>

First Marker \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Second Marker \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

## MOCK READING EXAM

Passage • Questions 1-20

Grade \_\_\_\_/20

### Invasive species and Tesco

**A.** Invasive species are often the result of a good idea gone bad. Take Japanese knotweed, for example. Japanese knotweed was introduced to England in the 1800s by enthusiastic Londoners who saw it as a beautiful, leafy decoration in their gardens—and, they told farmers, a fast-growing cattle feed. But from the smallest scrap of root, Japanese knotweed can grow through pavement and pull down brick walls. Today, the weed is considered such a threat that planting it is a crime. Then there's the Nile perch, a freshwater fish that grows up to 2 m and 200 kg in size. (The Hausa people call it giwan ruwa, or 'water elephant'.) In 1954, it was introduced to Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake, which straddles Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Since then, it has pushed more than two hundred local fish species to near-extinction. And the cane toad, native to the jungles of South America, was turned loose in the Caribbean—ostensibly for pest control, since it eats a kind of beetle that goes after sugar cane crops. But it turned out to be noisy, more interested in eating rubbish, and poisonous: a bigger pest than sugar cane beetles ever were.

**B.** As in nature, so in the British economy. In the 1990s, town councils, lured by the promise of jobs, invited Tesco to set up shop. Tesco, of course, is a grocery store: the third-largest in the world, with an income of £3 billion a year, and a market capitalization that experts expect to hit £20 billion next year. But along the way, things fell apart, and Tesco has become the economic version of an invasive species: fast-growing, belligerent, and hungry for more. It has overpowered the grocery market, pushing past laws more easily than knotweed, swallowing up small family-run grocery stores (the so-called 'mom-and-pop' shops) that have stood for generations and are no more, like Nile perch—and, like the cane toad, doing more harm than good. Out of balance with the UK's economic ecosystem, they have driven their competitors to the brink of extinction.

**C.** The longest-running criticism of Tesco centres around its 'land banks'. The company has bought up 4.6 million m<sup>2</sup> of land in more than three hundred locations around the country, but isn't developing it. Critics say this amounts to hoarding, making it impossible for other grocery stores to get a foot in the door. Tesco spokesperson Bugsy Siegel says, 'At Tesco, we buy land with the goal of developing it. We own a pipeline of sites where we plan to build new grocery stores for our customers in the coming years. We can't build them all at once. If we decide not to develop a site, we sell it. But we will not let the government make our timeline for us.'

**D.** In 2001, ecologists Michael Rosenzweig came up with a new word to describe the globalization of the environment by a handful of super-species: the Homogocene era, when big, weedy, generalist species take over big chunks of the planet, leaving behind the mass extinction of small, niche species—basically 'homogenizing' the planet and minimizing biodiversity. In the same way, Tesco is driving the homogenization of the grocery market, pulling the UK down into a black pit of American-style shopping in ugly, box-like buildings and creating what Americans call 'dead zones' where people don't want to live or spend any more time than absolutely necessary to pick up a litre of milk and go home.

**E.** And Tesco is spreading in the same way that invasive species spread in nature, with no checks and balances. Along the way, it is smashing economic diversity. With more than seven thousand stores in the UK, a market

share of 28.4% as of this year, and a history of predatory growth, the Tesco brand is expected to double in the next decade and become a full-on monopoly: a company that has taken over its market, preventing any meaningful competition.

**F.** Bear in mind how invasive species work. They don't have natural predators—in economic terms, laws that hold them back. Like an invasive species, Tesco is tough as nails, with an army of lawyers and plenty of money to throw at any problem that might pop up. And it's a generalist. Want a fishing pole and baby shampoo to go along with your litre of milk? You can get it—and more—at Tesco.

**G.** If you want more than one kind of plant in your garden, fish in your lake, or toad in your shed, you've got to manage for that outcome. Like it or not—and this is an idea that town councils and economists argue about all the time—a market with weak laws opens the door to the economic version of an invasive species. This is the great irony of our time. Supporters of free markets argue against laws that limit the power of big companies like Tesco. But without these laws, those same big companies are free to take over the market—in which case the market is no longer free. Freedom is actually killed.

**H.** In some ways, we are returning to the early years of corporatism. In 1909, the American industrialist and carmaker Henry Ford, who invented the assembly line, said: 'A customer can have a car painted any colour he wants—as long as it's black.' Tesco's growing market share means that one day we'll be able to shop anywhere we like—as long as it's Tesco.

**Task 1: Questions 1-5** The reading passage has **eight** paragraphs, **A-H**. Choose the correct **heading** for **A-E** from the list of headings (**i-vii**) below. Write the **correct number, i-vii**. There are two headings you won't need.

Grade \_\_\_\_/5

1. Paragraph **A** \_\_\_\_\_
2. Paragraph **B** \_\_\_\_\_
3. Paragraph **C** \_\_\_\_\_
4. Paragraph **D** \_\_\_\_\_
5. Paragraph **E** \_\_\_\_\_

### List of headings

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Destruction of economic diversity</li><li>ii. Capturing lands</li><li>iii. Going back to corporatism</li><li>iv. Negative effects of homogenization of business</li><li>v. Examples of invasive species from nature</li><li>vi. Tesco's invasion of markets</li><li>viii. Lack of laws to control large businesses</li></ol> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Task 3: Questions 6-10** Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in the reading passage?

**Write**

**Grade \_\_\_\_/5**

**YES** if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer

**No** if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer

**NOT GIVEN** if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

6. Japanese knotweed was some popular cattle feed in the 1800s. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Introducing a new species is fine but it might lead to several problems to other local species.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Tesco allowed small business to survive. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Tesco is promoting economic diversity. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Tesco has 12 branches in Malaysia. \_\_\_\_\_

**Task 4: Questions 11-15** Complete the sentences below. Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

**Grade \_\_\_\_/5**

11. In the 1990s, \_\_\_\_\_ asked Tesco to open for business.
12. Tesco is the \_\_\_\_\_ of an invasive species.
13. Tesco has said it will \_\_\_\_\_ its sites on its own timeline.
14. Tesco have caused their \_\_\_\_\_ to become almost extinct.
15. Tesco spokesperson indicated they will not allow the government to fix a \_\_\_\_\_ for them.

**Task 5: Questions 16-20** Complete each sentence with the correct ending, **A-G**

**Grade \_\_\_\_/5**

- |                                      |                                                               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16. The term 'Homogocene era' _____  | A. prevent competition.                                       |
| 17. The monopolies _____             | B. dates back to the early years of corporatism               |
| 18. Milk is one item _____           | C. was invented in 2001.                                      |
| 19. Homogenization _____             | D. believe that no laws should reduce the power of companies. |
| 20. Supporters of free markets _____ | E. that you can buy in Tesco.                                 |
|                                      | F. includes mass extinction and low biodiversity.             |
|                                      | G. manages for that outcome.                                  |



