ADMISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Admissions 2014

Applicant’s surname and name .................................................................
Applicant’s ID Number .............................................................................
Applicant’s telephone number .................................................................
Date of examination ..................................................................................
Course of studies ......................................................................................
Shift ...........................................................................................................

For examiners’ use only

Written exam ............
Oral exam .............
Driving in the desert

My family are farmers in France, and by the age of ten, I could manoeuvre a tractor into a field to pick up straw bales. For my driving test, I learned how to reverse into a parking space by practising between two tractors.

I'm the extraterrestrial of the family: I've always needed to prove that I can adapt to new situations. I'd never left France until 1998 – and then I went to Australia, the most distant country possible. I worked on a sheep farm there, driving a 4x4 all the time, and spent four months driving around the country on my own. That was when I first came into contact with the desert, and I wanted to return to it.

But it was my competitive spirit that drew me to the all-female Gazelles Rally in the Moroccan desert. I did it to see if I could survive in the desert and not be afraid. Taking part in the rally involves spending eight days in the desert, including two sets of two-day marathons when you're on your own overnight with your team-mate. The rally will push you to the limits of your physical and mental capacity, so it's very important to choose the right team-mate, to make sure you have the same goal and the same way of working. But the key thing is for you both to keep your courage and remain confident.

Participants – known as the gazelles – drive 4x4s, quad bikes, motorbikes or trucks, and use a compass and a map to navigate their way to marker flags that have been planted in the desert - always in places that are really difficult to get at. You have to drive up and down huge sand dunes, the highest of which are about twenty metres. Every morning at base camp you have to prepare your maps, by marking the position of the day's flags. Then you have to plan the best route to them. It takes time to learn how to do this, how to understand the landscape, because you are all alone in the emptiness - there are no landmarks, it is all just flat. On our first day, my team-mate and I felt quite frightened by it – we thought we'd get lost. So we decided to drive in a straight line for half an hour in search of geographical features. Then we found some mountains.

It rained a lot during the rally, and the thing that scared us most was the thought of not being able to get out of the mud. Some women were stuck for about twelve hours overnight before the mud dried. My team-mate and I managed to get through, though, because we set off first, when the ground was less damaged. Each vehicle carries a satellite tracking system with it, and every half-hour the rally organisers use this to check on you: if a car isn't moving, they go to the rescue. Once, we were all alone in our tent in a storm, and feeling a bit scared. An official rally vehicle came and reassured us that we wouldn't be washed away.

I had great difficulty finding a sponsor – it costs about €6000 to hire a vehicle and €14,000 to participate in the rally, plus you have to hire safety equipment. It's always the people you least expect who help you most. The big dealers for four-wheel-drive vehicles refused to finance what they called 'a girls' jaunt in the desert'. It was a small, independent garage that provided us with an 11-year-old 4x4 for nothing – and we didn't have a single breakdown.

Speed is not a factor in this competition. Men have a tendency to drive a bit faster than women. They're so sure they've chosen the right route that they're less good at anticipating problems. A man who was doing a television programme on the rally refused to believe that it was difficult or that women could sometimes be better than him.
I want to do the rally again next year. Taking part in it puts life's problems into perspective, and it's also a big thing on my CV: it shows people I can see a project through. When I meet the top people in my company now, I feel far more self-assured.

1. Why did the writer go to Australia?
   A  to further develop her driving skills.
   B  to get practice in driving in desert conditions.
   C  to visit members of her family who farmed there.
   D  to experience living in an unfamiliar environment.

2. In the writer’s opinion, the ideal rallying team-mate is someone who
   A  will keep you from feeling afraid at night.
   B  can make up for any weaknesses you have.
   C  does not take the competition too seriously.
   D  will share your general aims and attitudes.

3. What does the word ‘this’ in paragraph 4 refer to?
   A  driving in difficult places.
   B  finding important landmarks.
   C  deciding which route to take.
   D  drawing flags on a map.

4. The writer’s greatest fear in the desert was that she might
   A  lose her way in bad weather.
   B  become stuck in wet ground.
   C  damage her vehicle in the mud.
   D  have to be rescued by other competitors.

5. What does the writer say about the cost of the rally?
   A  Hiring a vehicle was her biggest expense.
   B  Safety equipment was provided by the organisers.
   C  She was surprised that a small garage sponsored her.
   D  A new vehicle would have reduced her maintenance bill.

6. By using the phrase ‘a girls’ jaunt’ (paragraph 6), the big dealers showed that they felt
   A  unimpressed by the writer’s driving skills.
   B  a lack of respect for this particular event.
   C  sure that the writer wouldn’t complete the rally.
   D  an unwillingness to sponsor rallying in general.

7. According to the writer, men rally drivers
   A  fail to realise when something is about to go wrong.
   B  tend to feel overconfident when driving at speed.
   C  seem to have fewer problems with navigation.
   D  refuse to accept the advice of women.
8. In the last paragraph, the writer suggests that taking part in the rally
   A has improved her career prospects.
   B has impressed her superiors at work.
   C is something that she will do every year.
   D is creating certain problems in her private life.

FOR QUESTIONS 1-15, READ THE TEXT BELOW AND THINK OF THE WORD WHICH BEST FITS EACH SPACE. USE ONLY ONE WORD IN EACH SPACE. THERE IS AN EXAMPLE AT THE BEGINNING (0)

FIT FOR SPORTS

It’s not always easy to decide which sport to (0) take up. When choosing, it is important to remember that excellence in sport results (1) a number of factors. For some sports, the body shape and structure with (2) you are born are important. Top runners are typical examples of individuals (3) have selected a sport because of their natural body type. Many other sports are more dependent appropriate training programme should do well.

The aim of all sports training (4) to improve fitness and skills, and to develop training programmes that are both safe (5) effective. To do (6) properly, an understanding of (7) physical demands of sport is needed. All sports require a combination of strength, speed, endurance, agility and flexibility to varying degrees. (8) is important is how these elements are combined to build up the skills of the sport (9) question. Other factors to be (10) question. Other factors to be (11) into account in a training programme are diet, the importance of avoiding injuries, your general state of health, and the nature and role (12) other team players.

Bearing (13) consideration in mind, anyone prepared to work (14) it can expect to progress to a very reasonable competitive level, even (15) only a few people will go on to break world record.
THE SKY AT NIGHT

For anyone with a (0) fascination for the study of the night sky, Hawaii is one of the best places in the world to get a clear view of the stars and planets. This is because of the island’s geographical setting. Because it is a (1) area, situated is the middle of a large expanse of ocean, Hawaii is much less affected by light (2) than most other parts of the world.

Is you are (3) enough to go to the top of the dormant volcano known as Mauna Kea, the view is even more (4) . The volcano, which rises to a (5) of 4205 metres is one of the best places in the world to get (6) views of the night sky and therefore is the location for more than a dozen of the world’s finest telescopes.

Of special significance is the WM Keck Observatory where there are a pair of extremely large and (7) telescopes. In recent years these telescopes have been responsible for the (8) of around forty new planets beyond our solar system. By proving the (9) of these planets, astronomers have increased the (10) that one day another inhabited planet like our own will be found.
FOR QUESTIONS 1-15, COMPLETE THE SECOND SENTENCE SO THAT IT HAS A SIMILAR MEANING TO THE FIRST SENTENCE, USING THE WORD GIVEN. DO NOT CHANGE THE WORD GIVEN. YOU MUST USE BETWEEN TWO AND FIVE WORDS, INCLUDING THE WORD GIVEN. HERE IS AN EXAMPLE (0).

Example: 0 You must write all your personal details on this form.
    fill
    You must fill in this form with all your personal details.

1-  I’d love to go on holiday in March, but that’s my busiest month.
    wish
    I …………………………………… go on holiday in March, but that’s my busiest month.

2-  ‘Harry, I think you should cancel the concert if this rain continues,’ John said.
    advised
    John …………………………………… the concert if the rain continued.

3-  Not many students attended Dr Brown’s lecture on politics.
    number
    Only ……………………………… students attended Dr Brown’s lecture on politics.

4-  City residents are going to organize a campaign to reduce street noise.
    be
    A campaign to reduce street noise ……………………………… by city residents.

5-  After the accident Brenda was confused and did not recognise her brother.
    so
    After the accident Brenda ……………………………… did not recognise her brother.

6-  Peter hasn't seen his aunt Lucy for years.
    saw
    It's ……………………………………………………………………………………… his aunt Lucy.

7-  The police said John had stolen the money.
    accused
    The police …………………………………………………………………………… the money.
8- Tania has a mobile phone because her son may need to contact her.
   **in case**
   Tania has a mobile phone ...................................................... contact her.

9- The reason Gloria didn't tell us the truth is that she was afraid of our reaction.
   **if**
   Gloria would have told us the truth .................................. afraid of our reaction.

10- The students organised a show but they postponed it due to lack of funds.
   **put**
   The students organised a show but they ................................ of lack of funds.

11- 'Don't touch the cake, Toby, it's still hot,' said Mrs Smith.
   **not**
   Mrs Smith ............................................................... the cake because it was still hot.

12- Tamsin was the only student who hadn't done her homework.
   **apart**
   All the students ......................................................... done their homework.

13- I expect Lucy was pleased that she'd won the prize.
   **been**
   Lucy ................................................................. that she'd won the prize.

14- 'I will only work extra hours if I get paid at a higher rate.'
   **Unless**
   'I will .............................................................. I get paid at a higher rate.'

15- Max offered Gaby a lift to the station, but she didn't accept.
   **turned**
   Gaby ............................................................... offer of a lift to the station.
CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS AND WRITE ABOUT 150/200 WORDS.

A. Describe a person you admire.
B. Young people these days spend too much time in front of the TV.
C. “So up the stairs I went, and what did I find?”