SESSION ONE

The University of the State of New York

REGENTS HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

IN

ENGLISH

SESSION ONE

Tuesday, January 22, 2008 — 1:15 to 4:15 p.m., only

The last page of this booklet is the answer sheet for the multiple-choice questions. Fold the last page along the perforations and, slowly and carefully, tear off the answer sheet. Then fill in the heading of your answer sheet. Now circle "Session One" and fill in the heading of each page of your essay booklet.

This session of the examination has two parts. Part A tests listening skills; you are to answer all six multiple-choice questions and write a response, as directed. For Part B, you are to answer all ten multiple-choice questions and write a response, as directed.

When you have completed this session of the examination, you must sign the statement printed at the end of the answer sheet, indicating that you had no unlawful knowledge of the questions or answers prior to the session and that you have neither given nor received assistance in answering any of the questions during the session. Your answer sheet cannot be accepted if you fail to sign this declaration.

The use of any communications device is strictly prohibited when taking this examination. If you use any communications device, no matter how briefly, your examination will be invalidated and no score will be calculated for you.

DO NOT OPEN THIS EXAMINATION BOOKLET UNTIL THE SIGNAL IS GIVEN.

Part A

Overview: For this part of the test, you will listen to an account by Kenneth E. Behring, answer some multiple-choice questions, and write a response based on the situation described below. You will hear the account twice. You may take notes on the next page anytime you wish during the readings.

The Situation: Your social studies class is studying Americans who have had a positive effect on the lives of others. You have decided to write a report about Kenneth E. Behring. In preparation for writing your report, listen to an account by Kenneth E. Behring and how he has had a positive effect on the lives of others. Then use relevant information from the account to write your report.

Your Task: Write a report for your social studies class about Kenneth E. Behring and how he has had a positive effect on the lives of others.

Guidelines:

Be sure to

- Tell your audience what they need to know about Kenneth E. Behring and how he has had a positive effect on the lives of others
- Use specific, accurate, and relevant information from the account to support your discussion
- Use a tone and level of language appropriate for a report for a social studies class
- Organize your ideas in a logical and coherent manner
- Indicate any words taken directly from the account by using quotation marks or referring to the speaker
- Follow the conventions of standard written English

NOTES

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

Multiple-Choice Questions

Directions (1–6): Use your notes to answer the following questions about the passage read to you. Select the best suggested answer and write its number in the space provided on the answer sheet. The questions may help you think about ideas and information you might use in your writing. You may return to these questions anytime you wish.

1 Kenneth E. Behring tells of his encounter with the Vietnamese girl, Bui Thi Huyen, to illustrate the effect of a

(1) gift
(2) hug
(3) prediction
(4) wish

2 When at age sixty-five the speaker had achieved success, he realized that he felt

(1) unappreciated
(2) tired
(3) cheated
(4) unfulfilled

3 The speaker states that he became "very determined and driven" after he was exposed to

(1) unfair wages
(2) political oppression
(3) human distress
(4) personal disappointment

4 The old man whom the speaker met in Romania was crying because the speaker had

(1) restored his mobility
(2) saved his life
(3) rescued his family
(4) helped his friends

5 According to the account, Kenneth E. Behring's new cause is to help all people to have

(1) clean air qualities
(2) safe water supplies
(3) free health services
(4) safe school buildings

6 The speaker invites the members of his audience to join his

(1) international company
(2) extended family
(3) upcoming voyage
(4) charitable work

After you have finished these questions, turn to page 2. Review **The Situation** and read **Your Task** and the **Guidelines.** Use scrap paper to plan your response. Then write your response in Part A, beginning on page 1 of your essay booklet. After you finish your response for Part A, go to page 5 of your examination booklet and complete Part B.

Part B

Directions: Read the text and study the chart on the following pages, answer the multiple-choice questions, and write a response based on the situation described below. You may use the margins to take notes as you read and scrap paper to plan your response.

The Situation: Your community youth group has been researching environmental problems that affect the quality of contemporary life. As a result of your research, you have decided to give a presentation to members of your community youth group about the health risks associated with indoor pollutants and the ways these risks can be reduced.

Your Task: Using relevant information from ***both*** documents, write a presentation for members of your community youth group in which you explain the health risks associated with indoor pollutants and suggest ways these risks can be reduced.

Guidelines:

Be sure to

- Tell your audience what they need to know about the health risks associated with indoor pollutants
- Suggest ways the health risks associated with indoor pollutants can be reduced
- Use specific, accurate, and relevant information from the text ***and*** the chart to support your suggestion
- Use a tone and level of language appropriate for a presentation to members of a community youth group
- Organize your ideas in a logical and coherent manner
- Indicate any words taken directly from the text by using quotation marks or referring to the author
- Follow the conventions of standard written English

Text

Indoor Air Quality Concerns

All of us face a variety of risks to our health as we go about our day-to-day lives. Driving in cars, flying in planes, engaging in recreational activities, and being exposed to environmental pollutants all pose varying degrees of risk. Some risks are simply unavoidable. Some we choose to accept because to do otherwise would restrict our ability to lead our lives the way we want. And some are risks we might decide to avoid if we had the opportunity to make informed choices. Indoor air pollution is one risk that you can do something about.

In the last several years, a growing body of scientific evidence has indicated that the air within homes and other buildings can be more seriously polluted than the outdoor air in even the largest and most industrialized cities. Other research indicates that people spend approximately 90 percent of their time indoors. Thus, for many people, the risks to health may be greater due to exposure to air pollution indoors than outdoors.

In addition, people who may be exposed to indoor air pollutants for the longest periods of time are often those most susceptible to the effects of indoor air pollution. Such groups include the young, the elderly, and the chronically ill, especially those suffering from respiratory or cardiovascular disease.…

What Causes Indoor Air Problems?

Indoor pollution sources that release gases or particles into the air are the primary cause of indoor air quality problems in homes. Inadequate ventilation can increase indoor pollutant levels by not bringing in enough outdoor air to dilute emissions from indoor sources and by not carrying indoor air pollutants out of the home. High temperature and humidity levels can also increase concentrations of some pollutants.

There are many sources of indoor air pollution in any home. These include combustion sources such as oil, gas, kerosene, coal, wood, and tobacco products; building materials and furnishings as diverse as deteriorated, asbestos-containing insulation, wet or damp carpet, and cabinetry or furniture made of certain pressed wood products; products for household cleaning and maintenance, personal care, or hobbies; central heating and cooling systems and humidification devices; and outdoor sources such as radon, pesticides, and outdoor air pollution.

The relative importance of any single source depends on how much of a given pollutant it emits and how hazardous those emissions are. In some cases, factors such as how old the source is and whether it is properly maintained are significant. For example, an improperly adjusted gas stove can emit significantly more carbon monoxide than one that is properly adjusted.

Some sources, such as building materials, furnishings, and household products like air fresheners, release pollutants more or less continuously. Other sources, related to activities carried out in the home, release pollutants intermittently. These include smoking, the use of unvented or malfunctioning stoves, furnaces, or space heaters, the use of solvents in cleaning and hobby activities, the use of paint strippers in redecorating activities, and the use of cleaning products and pesticides in housekeeping. High pollutant concentrations can remain in the air for long periods after some of these activities.

If too little outdoor air enters a home, pollutants can accumulate to levels that can pose health and comfort problems. Unless they are built with special mechanical means of ventilation, homes that are designed and constructed to minimize the amount of outdoor air that can "leak" into and out of the home may have higher pollutant levels than other homes. However, because some weather conditions can drastically reduce the amount of outdoor air that enters a home, pollutants can build up even in homes that are normally considered "leaky."

How Does Outdoor Air Enter a House?

Outdoor air enters and leaves a house by: infiltration, natural ventilation, and mechanical ventilation. In a process known as infiltration, outdoor air flows into the house through openings, joints, and cracks in walls, floors, and ceilings, and around windows and doors. In natural ventilation, air moves through opened windows and doors. Air movement associated with infiltration and natural ventilation is caused by air temperature differences between indoors and outdoors and by wind. Finally, there are a number of mechanical ventilation devices, from outdoor-vented fans that intermittently remove air from a single room, such as bathrooms and kitchen, to air handling systems that use fans and duct work to continuously remove indoor air and distribute filtered and conditioned outdoor air to strategic points throughout the house. The rate at which outdoor air replaces indoor air is described as the air exchange rate. When there is little infiltration, natural ventilation, or mechanical ventilation, the air exchange rate is low and pollutant levels can increase.

What If You Live In An Apartment?

Apartments can have the same indoor air problems as single-family homes because many of the pollution sources, such as the interior building materials, furnishings, and household products, are similar. Indoor air problems similar to those in offices are caused by such sources as contaminated ventilation systems, improperly placed outdoor air intakes, or maintenance activities.…

Indoor Air and Your Health

Health effects from indoor air pollutants may be experienced soon after exposure or, possibly, years later.…

The likelihood of immediate reactions to indoor air pollutants depends on several factors. Age and preexisting medical conditions are two important influences. In other cases, whether a person reacts to a pollutant depends on individual sensitivity, which varies tremendously from person to person. Some people can become sensitized[1] to biological pollutants after repeated exposures, and it appears that some people can become sensitized to chemical pollutants as well.

Certain immediate effects are similar to those from colds or other viral diseases, so it is often difficult to determine if the symptoms are a result of exposure to indoor air pollution. For this reason, it is important to pay attention to the time and place the symptoms occur. If the symptoms fade or go away when a person is away from the home and return when the person returns, an effort should be made to identify indoor air sources that may be possible causes. Some effects may be made worse by an inadequate supply of outdoor air or from the heating, cooling, or humidity conditions prevalent in the home.…

[1]sensitized — to make irritated

Identifying Air Quality Problems

Some health effects can be useful indicators of an indoor air quality problem, especially if they appear after a person moves to a new residence, remodels or refurnishes a home, or treats a home with pesticides. If you think that you have
90 symptoms that may be related to your home environment, discuss them with your doctor or your local health department to see if they could be caused by indoor air pollution. You may also want to consult a board-certified allergist or an occupational medicine specialist for answers to your questions.…

—United States Environmental Protection Agency
excerpted from "The Inside Story — A Guide to Indoor Air Quality"
April 1995

CHART BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE.

CHART

Major Indoor Air Pollutants, Sources, Health Effects and Control

Pollutants	Sources	Health Effects	What to Do
By-products of combustion such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen oxides	Unvented kerosene and gas heaters, gas appliances, wood- and gas-burning fireplaces, leaking chimneys and furnaces, tobacco smoke, automobile exhaust in attached garages	Eye, nose, and throat irritation, impaired lung function and respiratory function in children, bronchitis, lung cancer, flu-like symptoms.	1. Avoid use of unvented gas or kerosene space heaters 2. Keep gas appliances and furnaces properly adjusted 3. Install and use exhaust fans 4. Change filters on heating/cooling systems and air cleaners 5. Increase of supply of outside air 6. Proper location of air intakes to avoid exhaust from vehicles
Environmental tobacco smoke	Cigarettes, cigars, pipes	Eye, nose, and throat irritation, headaches, pneumonia. Increased risk of respiratory and ear infections in children. Lung cancer and increased risk of heart disease.	1. Stop smoking 2. Discourage others from smoking 3. Isolate smokers outdoors
Formaldehyde	Pressed wood products (hardwood, plywood wall paneling, particleboard, fiberboard) used in buildings and furniture, urea-formaldehyde foam insulation, permanent press textiles, glue, ETS [environmental tobacco smoke], vehicle exhaust, stoves, fireplaces	Eye, nose, and throat irritation, coughing, fatigue, rashes, and allergic reactions. Causes cancer in animals. Death at very high concentration.	1. Use products with lower emission rates of formaldehyde 2. Keep humidity low in house 3. Increase ventilation 4. Aging or baking of products
Other volatile organic compounds	Paints, solvents, wood preservatives, aerosol sprays, cleaners and disinfectants, moth repellents, air fresheners, hobby supplies, and dry cleaned clothes	Eye, nose, and throat irritation, headaches, loss of coordination; nausea, damage to kidney and central nervous system. Some cause cancer in animals. Some may cause cancer in humans.	1. Buy only what you need 2. Read labels and follow instructions 3. Use in well-ventilated areas or outdoors 4. Hang dry cleaned clothes in an open area for about 6 hours.

CHART *(Continued)*

Major Indoor Air Pollutants, Sources, Health Effects and Control

Pollutants	Sources	Health Effects	What to Do
Radon	Local geology, soil, water	Lung cancer, possibility of stomach cancer	1. Seal cracks and openings in the basement 2. Ventilate crawl space 3. Subslab suction 4. Increase ventilation
Pesticides	Garden and lawn chemicals, poisons for pest control	Eye, nose, and throat irritation, damage to central nervous system and kidney, cancer	1. Use nonchemicals if possible 2. Avoid storage in the house 3. Follow manufacturer's instructions 4. Increase ventilation
Asbestos	Deteriorating or damaged insulation, fireproofing, or acoustical materials	Cancer and lung diseases (smokers at higher risk)	1. Test the suspected material 2. Remove asbestos by a trained contractor or develop a maintenance plan 3. Encapsulation of material containing asbestos
Heavy metals	Paints, automobiles, tobacco smoke, soil, and dust	Headaches, irritation in mouth, rash, excessive perspiration, kidney damage	1. Vacuum regularly 2. Removal of lead based paint
Bioaerosols	Humans, pets, moist surfaces, humidifiers, ventilation systems, drip pans, cooling coils in air handling units, plants, outside air	Legionnaires' disease, humidifier fever, influenza	1. Remove the source 2. Maintenance of equipment 3. Humidity control to 40% to 60% 4. Use of filters in ventilation 5. Air cleaning by the use of disinfectants

Source: (adapted) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
and Consumer Product Safety Commission
Richard M. Stapleton, Editor in Chief
Pollution A to Z, 2004

Multiple-Choice Questions

Directions (7–16): Select the best suggested answer to each question and write its number in the space provided on the answer sheet. The questions may help you think about ideas and information you might want to use in your writing. You may return to these questions anytime you wish.

7 According to lines 1 through 7, health risks posed to individuals by indoor air pollutants can be

(1) lessened
(2) explained
(3) identified
(4) concealed

8 According to the text, outdoor air in large cities can be less polluted than air

(1) near large farms
(2) within some buildings
(3) around stagnant water
(4) above congested highways

9 Which group of people would be most likely to suffer harm from indoor pollutants?

(1) clerks in grocery stores
(2) secretaries in professional offices
(3) shoppers in retail stores
(4) residents of nursing homes

10 The amount of pollutant released by a household item is sometimes affected by the item's

(1) size
(2) cost
(3) age
(4) weight

11 According to the text, architects and builders may produce homes with high pollutant levels when they attempt to

(1) control spending
(2) increase weatherproofing
(3) speed up construction
(4) alter the landscape

12 According to the chart, one way to lessen the number of pollutants released by combustion is to

(1) replace heating system filters
(2) install pressed wood paneling
(3) use space heaters
(4) buy gas appliances

13 According to the chart, when clothes are first brought home from the dry cleaner, they preferably should be placed in

(1) an attic storeroom
(2) a clothes closet
(3) an open porch
(4) a large trunk

14 Use of gardening chemicals can cause damage to the human

(1) circulatory system
(2) skeletal system
(3) muscular system
(4) nervous system

15 Bioaerosols would most probably be found in areas that are

(1) dim
(2) damp
(3) unheated
(4) cluttered

16 One of the most common health effects of indoor air pollutants is

(1) throat irritation
(2) reoccurring nausea
(3) severe headaches
(4) Legionnaires' disease

After you have finished these questions, turn to page 5. Review **The Situation** and read **Your Task** and the **Guidelines**. Use scrap paper to plan your response. Then write your response to Part B, beginning on page 7 of your essay booklet.

Tear Here

The University of the State of New York

REGENTS HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION IN ENGLISH

SESSION ONE

Tuesday, January 22, 2008 — 1:15 to 4:15 p.m., only

Session One – Essay A	_____
Essay B	_____
Session Two – Essay A	_____
Essay B	_____
Total Essay Score	
Session One –	
A–Multiple Choice	_____
B–Multiple Choice	_____
Session Two –	
A–Multiple Choice	_____
Total Multiple Choice	
Final Score	

ANSWER SHEET

Student ..... Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female

School ..... Grade ..... Teacher .....

Write your answers to the multiple-choice questions for Part A and Part B on this answer sheet.

Part A	**Part B**
1 _____	7 _____
2 _____	8 _____
3 _____	9 _____
4 _____	10 _____
5 _____	11 _____
6 _____	12 _____
	13 _____
	14 _____
	15 _____
	16 _____

HAND IN THIS ANSWER SHEET WITH YOUR ESSAY BOOKLET, SCRAP PAPER, AND EXAMINATION BOOKLET.

Your essay responses for Part A and Part B should be written in the essay booklet.

I do hereby affirm, at the close of this examination, that I had no unlawful knowledge of the questions or answers prior to the examination and that I have neither given nor received assistance in answering any of the questions during the examination.

_____

Signature

Tear Here

COMPREHENSIVE ENGLISH SESSION ONE

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