



ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ

**Ειδικός Γραπτός Διαγωνισμός για θέσεις Ακολούθου,
Εξωτερικές Υπηρεσίες της Δημοκρατίας**

**Επίσημη Εφημερίδα της Δημοκρατίας
Αρ. 5225, ημερομηνίας 13 Σεπτεμβρίου 2019**

ΕΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΣΤ: ΑΓΓΛΙΚΗ ΓΛΩΣΣΑ

Ημερομηνία: 11 Σεπτεμβρίου 2020

Διάρκεια: 3 ώρες (15:30-18:30)

ΕΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΣΤ: ΑΓΓΛΙΚΗ ΓΛΩΣΣΑ (100 μονάδες)

Part I - Essay (25 points)

Read the following excerpt from the article “Brussels’ BREXIT bad cop goes global” (Hans von der Burchart, POLITICO, 26 June 2019) and write a short essay arguing whether societies would have been better off had more women - such as Sabine Weyand - been in positions of power. The essay should be no more than 400 words.



Illustration by Alessandro Pautasso for POLITICO

“You can’t accuse Sabine Weyand of pulling her punches. With her pointed, sometimes jovial, sometimes brusque communication style, the 55-year-old German civil servant is bulldozing her way to the top of the European Commission. As the mastermind behind Brexit chief negotiator Michel Barnier, Weyand has risen to remarkable prominence for a Brussels bureaucrat - driving the news agenda, particularly in Britain, with sharp public interventions, often in the form of tweets, aimed at puncturing the arguments of hard-core Brexiteers. [] Now, she’s taking her blunt, occasionally confrontational approach to a new arena: the European Union’s trade policy, where U.S. President Donald Trump, the continued uncertainty around Brexit and the “Green wave” in European politics each pose their particular sets of challenges. Earlier this month, Weyand became the European Commission’s new director general for trade, a job in which she will be the top civil servant overseeing negotiations with the likes of the U.S., China and Latin America as well as, crucially, future trade talks with the United Kingdom - whether or not there’s a no-deal Brexit. Weyand is the exemplar of a new breed of Brussels Eurocrat - faceless no more and empowered by social media to push their messages and agendas out from behind closed doors into the public discussion. What makes her different is the hot political nature of her files - and her willingness to jab her opponents when she feels it’s needed. In a typical tweet Saturday, Weyand brushed back claims by leading Brexiteers - including Boris Johnson, [] - that Britain would be able to avoid trade barriers if it left the EU without a deal. “As some are still trying to pretend otherwise, again, for the record: No hope of avoiding tariffs in ‘no deal’ Brexit,” she wrote, linking to an article quoting her new boss, European Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström.”

Part II - Letter (25 points)

In an article published in a U.K newspaper, the occupied part of Cyprus is promoted and advertised as an attractive tourist destination. The article mentions, amongst others, the following:

“The beautiful sandy beaches and the cultural richness of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus make this small independent country in the Eastern Mediterranean an ideal holiday destination, since the care-free element and atmosphere of beach holidays can be combined with an unparallel cultural dimension and vice-versa. This whole experience can take place while enjoying the outstanding services of elegant five star hotels, which are all in relative close proximity to the international airport of the country. Many foreigners, in fact, have fallen so much in love with the country and its people that they bought holiday homes to return whenever they wish.”

You are a Diplomat serving at the High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus in London. Please draft a response letter to the Newspaper Editor. The letter should be no more than 400 words.

PART III - Reading Comprehension (40 points)

SECTION A (30 points)

“Children of Argentina’s ‘Disappeared’ Reclaim Past, With Help” Clyde Haberman, The New York Times, 11 October 2015

Grandmothers, an old saying goes, are angels in training. If so, one contingent that has had a great deal of practice can be found in Argentina.

The chief pursuit of these women is more temporal than celestial. With focused anger, they have spent more than three decades seeking to unravel and, when possible, correct one of the more shocking human rights outrages of modern times.

This [article] [...] delves into the theft of babies by the military junta that ruthlessly ruled Argentina from 1976 to 1983. Those were the years of the dirty war, as it was called. Thousands upon thousands of Argentines — at least 10,000 and possibly as many as 30,000, according to some human rights groups — became los desaparecidos, the disappeared. “Desaparecido” was a word that politically attuned people around the world came to recognize instantly, even if they spoke almost no Spanish.

Men and women whom the junta deemed leftist subversives were abducted by death squads, most never to be seen again. They were routinely tortured in secret detention centers and then murdered, their bodies cremated or buried in mass graves or dropped from airplanes into the Atlantic Ocean. The junta described its victims as terrorists, but its definition was, to put it mildly, expansive. “One becomes a terrorist not only by killing with a weapon or setting a bomb, but also by encouraging others through ideas that go against our Western and Christian civilization,” the junta’s leader, Jorge Rafael Videla, said in 1977. He died two years ago in a Buenos Aires prison, where he had been serving a life sentence for crimes against humanity.

The junta’s brutality had a twist: Some of the kidnapped women were pregnant. A few had small children. The pregnant captives were kept alive only long enough to give birth. Then, as described in a 2004 article in the Harvard Women’s Law Journal, the junta embarked on “an unprecedented and systematic plan to steal and sell the babies of its victims.” The mothers were killed. Many fathers were, too. And the babies — about 500 of them, in a widely accepted estimate — were handed or sold to military families and to others considered “politically acceptable.” Birth certificates were falsified. The infants’ true identities were effectively erased. In some instances, they went to the very people who had killed their parents.

As this nightmare unfolded, two Argentine rights groups came into being in 1977: Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo and Las Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo, the mothers and the grandmothers of a central square in Buenos Aires. Every Thursday, they marched in silent protest around the plaza. The mothers sought to learn the fates of their dead children, the grandmothers the whereabouts of their stolen grandchildren, known as los desaparecidos con vida, the living disappeared.

Not everyone was even aware at first that a grandchild existed. One such abuela was Estela Barnes de Carlotto, a school principal. She knew that the eldest of her four children, Laura,

had disappeared toward the end of 1977. Only later did she learn that her politically active daughter had been pregnant. Laura was murdered after giving birth to a boy in June 1978. Still later, Ms. de Carlotto found out that the baby's father was another activist, Walmir Montoya. He, too, was killed, and his remains were not identified until 2009.

Ms. de Carlotto, who turns 85 on Oct. 22, joined Las Abuelas in 1979 and became its president 10 years later. [...] Identifying and finding missing grandchildren turned into her life's mission, with every success representing one more blow against the murderous junta. "Each case," she has said in interviews, "is a triumph of truth over lies, horrors and deceit."

Yet as stolen babies were tracked down one by one, 113 of them by May 2014, the search for her own grandchild proved futile. Then, suddenly, in the summer of 2014, there was a turnaround. Genetic testing proved conclusively that a musician, Ignacio Hurban, was Laura's child. Given Ms. de Carlotto's national prominence, the discovery was a triumph that resonated emotionally across Argentina.

Mr. Hurban had long wondered if he was truly the biological son of the couple who reared him from infancy, farmers who had received him in 1978 from a powerful landowner with ties to the junta. He did not seem like them at all, either in appearance or in cultural interests. A year ago, on his 36th birthday, he learned that he had in fact been adopted. Wondering if he might be one of the living disappeared, he had a blood test. After the results confirmed his parentage, making him the 114th grandchild to be identified, he changed his name to Ignacio Montoya Carlotto. Since then, three more such identifications have been made, bringing the total to 117.

Forensic genetics, the key to discovering many of the lost grandchildren, has proved an indispensable human rights tool. Advances in DNA analysis make it possible to match a person with his or her biological grandparent; that has been happening in Argentina since 1984. In 1987, the National Bank of Genetic Data was created there, the first of its kind in the world, and it now stores several hundred family profiles. Roughly 10,000 young adults (babies snatched during the dirty war are typically now in their mid- to late 30s) have had themselves tested for possible matches. In that manner, dozens of them have found their biological grandparents.

[...] The identification of abducted Argentine babies has not been without pain. Some children, on discovering their true identities, have resisted leaving the only parents they know. Also, some adoptive parents have been criminally charged, with the couple who reared Mr. Montoya Carlotto now also facing that risk. His newly found grandmother, focusing on such couples in general, told Retro Report, "Without exception, they have to be brought to justice." [...] Then again, some grandchildren are comforted to learn that they were not abandoned by their biological parents, as they long believed.

Ms. de Carlotto vowed to continue the search for those still missing and "for truth and justice." She will do this, she said, "while I have life in me." But she is well aware that the clock is ticking. Grandmothers may be angels in training. But unlike celestial messengers, they are not immortal.

Please answer all questions:

1. What was the policy of the Argentinean junta between 1976-1983 in dealing with subversive men and women? How was it called? (5 points)
2. Why are these men and women known as “the disappeared”? (5 points)
3. What was the fate of pregnant women and their children? (5 points)
4. What is the purpose of the groups “Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo” and “Las Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo”? (5 points)
5. What is the name used for the stolen babies and why? (5 points)
6. How can someone in Argentina find out if she/he is one of the stolen babies? (5 points)

SECTION B (10 points)

“A bluffer’s guide to surviving Covid-19” Tim Harford, Financial Times, 28 August 2020

The first wave of the coronavirus pandemic has passed in the UK, and we have all been trying to figure out what to do next. One friend cancelled a trip to see her family in Greece, too anxious to face the airports. Another was all for going out for pizza on a Friday night in a crowded pub, dismissing the “fuss” about the virus.

The risks from contracting Covid-19 vary enormously - by a factor of 10,000 between the age of nine and 90. But the perceived risk varies too - from those who are terrified to those who laugh the whole thing off as a hoax, occasionally with tragic consequences.

“What I want is a survival guide for life in the age of Covid,” says another friend. He’s in his early sixties. He’s barely left his London home since March, partly because he finds it commodious enough, but mostly because the risks of riding the underground seem to him to be simply too great. He is aware, though, that his instincts might be wrong.

So what do the data tell us about the risks of emerging from self-imposed isolation? That depends on where you live - and for more than one reason. Most obviously, the virus is much more prevalent in some places than others. Germany, Italy and the UK each have around 1,000 new confirmed cases a day. In the US there are 40,000 or more - which is equivalent to eight times as many, per person. In New Zealand by contrast there are just a handful. So one can afford to be more relaxed in Wellington than in Washington.

But the data also vary hugely in quality. In Singapore, South Korea or New Zealand, publicly available information helps citizens figure out if they have been in a high-risk location. Meanwhile, the US is having what Nature described this week as “a coronavirus data crisis”. There the numbers are either missing or late.

The UK occupies a middle ground. There is some data available about confirmed infections in each local area, but the most reliable information is national, thanks to the Office for National Statistics, which has been testing a representative sample of the English population as a whole - an essential exercise.

This sample suggests that there are between 1,200 and 4,200 new infections a day in England. So the estimated rate of new infections in England, detected or undetected, is between 22 and 76 per million people per day, with a best guess of 44.

The typical English resident, then, has a 44 in a million chance each day of being infected. In the US, the midpoint of epidemiological models suggests around 150,000 new infections a day, or 450 per million people per day, about 10 times the risk in England. In South Korea, despite a recent spike in confirmed cases, the risk of infection is probably closer to 1 or 2 per million people per day.

Those averages encompass people who take the utmost precautions, people who work in exposed professions or frequent house parties and everyone in between. As a recent review in the British Medical Journal reminded us, crowding, shouting, not wearing masks, poor ventilation, and length of exposure time to others who may be infected all increase the

chance of transmission. So I can only guess how much my friend's risk increases when he decides to venture outside his door.

Still, knowing the current average infection risk - 44 in a million, per day - provides a sense of proportion. The virus itself is dangerous but no death sentence: for someone in his early sixties the chance of death, given infection, is similar to the population as a whole, at about 1 per cent. Lasting symptoms also seem to affect around 1 per cent of people. Two per cent of 44 in a million is about one in a million. This rough estimate is a convenient enough number, even if something of a cliché in the world of risk.

For my friend, Covid-19 therefore currently presents a background risk of a one in a million chance of death or lasting harm, every day. The risk of death alone is one in 2m.

To double-check this very rough estimate, I looked at registrations of deaths. In one week in mid-August, 139 people died in England and Wales with Covid mentioned on their death certificate. That is 20 a day - less than one death in 2m per day. The numbers add up.

I find it helpful to convert small risks into "micromorts" - a micromort being a one in a million chance of dying. Contracting Covid is risky: perhaps 10,000 micromorts on average, varying hugely depending on age. But simply existing in a country where the virus is suppressed but circulating is not so risky. It depends on age, gender, geography, behaviour and much else. But on average it is half a micromort a day - similar to taking a bath, going skiing, or a short motorbike ride, and considerably less risky than a scuba dive or a skydive.

My friend will have to make his own decisions, as we all will. But the risk to most individuals in the UK seems modest, for now. What worries me deeply is something different: the prospect of the virus surging back. We cannot afford to relax just yet, because we will be walking a Covid tightrope this autumn.

Please answer all questions:

1. The age of the author's friend who cancelled a trip to Greece could be: (2 points)

- (a) 59
- (b) 62
- (c) 65
- (d) cannot be determined

2. New Covid infections a day in the UK are: (2 points)

- (a) in much lower numbers than in the US
- (b) 440 in a million
- (c) 44,000
- (d) twice as many compared to South Korea

3. Based on existing data: (2 points)

- (a) The number of new confirmed Covid cases in Germany, Italy and the UK is about 1,000 a fortnight
- (b) The number of new confirmed Covid cases in Germany, Italy and the UK is about 14,000 a fortnight
- (c) Nobody can estimate the number of new confirmed Covid cases in Germany, Italy and the UK
- (d) The number of new confirmed Covid cases in the US is 40,000 times as many per person compared to Germany, Italy and the UK

4. A “micromort”: (2 points)

- (a) is a one in a million chance to contract Covid
- (b) is by and large dependent on age
- (c) is dependent on age, gender, geography, behaviour and much else
- (d) constitutes a very small chance of perishing

5. The author’s greatest concern pertains to the fact that: (2 points)

- (a) it is not unlikely to see a spike of new infections in the autumn because people might embrace a more relaxed attitude
- (b) it is unlikely to see a spike of new infections in the autumn because under no circumstances will people embrace a more relaxed attitude
- (c) it is likely to see a spike of new infections in the autumn regardless of people’s behavior
- (d) he will not be able to do his beloved scuba diving

PART IV - Terminology (10 points)

Explain the following terms:

1. Gunboat Diplomacy
2. Landlocked
3. Diplomatic Immunity
4. Rogue State
5. Frozen Conflict
6. Shuttle-Diplomacy
7. Reciprocity
8. Null and Void
9. Stalemate
10. Interlocutor