

LÍNGUA INGLESA - Grupo F - Gabarito

Read the texts below and answer the questions that follow. Write in **English**.

TEXT I

From the Editor

5 History is full of bad intentions, and this month's cover story on poison is a perfect illustration of that dismal principle. For about as long as humans have been around, poison has been a means to malicious ends. Ancient Athenians accused Spartans of poisoning their wells. Medieval Tartar warriors used plague victims as poison, catapulting them over enemy walls to spread disease. Even today poison seems to be the weapon of choice for some international troublemakers.



10 Take the news from Ukraine that recently elected President Viktor Yushchenko was the victim of dioxin poisoning. The plot – a real-life crime story complete with a string of strange symptoms, including physical disfigurement – could have come straight out of 15th-century Italy, where poisoning was not only a science but an art.

But while poison can kill, it can also cure. Name your poison, and there's probably a healing side to it. Arsenic has been used to treat leukemia. Mercury was an early treatment for syphilis. It's a matter of dose, and, most of all, it's a matter of intent.

15 That's the paradox of poison: It occupies the thin line that separates our loftier instincts and achievements from our more sinister side. It's all in the dose.

(Adapted from *National Geographic*, May 2005)

Glossary

dismal: sad and depressing
wells: holes in the ground to keep water
catapulting: throwing violently through the air
healing: cure
loftier: more noble and admirable

TEXT II

The text below is a short extract from the famous tragedy
Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

[Enter Apothecary]

Apothecary: Who calls so loud?

Romeo: Come hither, man. I see that thou art poor;

5 Hold, there is forty ducats; let me have

A dram of poison, such soon-speeding gear

As will disperse itself through all the veins

That the life-weary taker may fall dead,

And that the trunk may be discharg'd of breath

10 As violently as hasty powder fir'd

Doth hurry from the fatal cannon's womb.

Apothecary: Such mortal drugs I have; but Mantua's law
Is death to any he that utters them.

[...]

Apothecary: Put this in any liquid thing you will,

15 And drink it off; and, if you had the strength

Of twenty men, it would dispatch you straight.

Act V - Scene I

Glossary

apothecary: chemist
hither: here
thou: you
art: are
ducats: gold coins used as money
gear: device
fir'd: fired
doth: does
utters: speaks

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TEXT III

Concert in b

One of the world's premier concert pianists, Leon Fleisher, was talking about the aftermath of a day in 1965 when his career so carefully administered unexpectedly ended. Fleisher recalls: "I had noticed the fourth and fifth fingers on my right hand curling under involuntarily."

A career ruined. A marriage wrecked. Thoughts, even, of suicide.

5 After decades a diagnosis emerged. Fleisher was afflicted with focal dystonia, a brain disfunction that causes muscles to contract into abnormal, and sometimes, painful positions. He was then referred to a clinical treatment where botulinum toxin was being tested as a remedy for the disabling contractions.

A gram of botulinum toxin, if dispersed and ingested, could kill 20 million people. In extremely dilute form, the poison has proved effective and safe.

10 Fleisher is performing and touring again and has recently released his first two-handed recording in 40 years.

(Adapted from *National Geographic*, May 2005)

Glossary

aftermath: period that follows difficult events

curling under: curving

wrecked: ruined

disabling: physically limited

1st QUESTION: (2,0 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

How is the paradox of poison linguistically expressed in: "[...] while poison can kill, it can also cure." (Text I, line 11)?

The paradox is expressed by the contrasting verbs "kill" and "cure", supported by "while" and "also", respectively.

2nd QUESTION: (2,0 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

The editor (Text I) comments on the uses made of poison throughout the world history. Cite 2 of these cases: a more ancient and a more recent one.

The more ancient cases:

The Ancient Athenians accused Spartans of poisoning their wells.

or

Medieval Tartar warriors used plague victims as poison...

The more recent case:

Recently elected President Viktor Yushchenko was the victim of dioxin poisoning.

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3rd QUESTION: (2,0marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

In Text II the apothecary is cautious to sell Romeo the poison. What is the apothecary's justification for his prudence?

The law in Mantua prohibited selling poison. (“[...] Mantua’s law is death to any he that utters them.”)

4th QUESTION: (2,0 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

In view of the argumentation in Text III, explain what is conveyed by: “Thoughts, even, of suicide.” (line 4).

In view of his physical problem, the pianist considered the possibility of killing himself/committing suicide.

5th QUESTION: (2,0 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

How is the paradox of poison (referred to in Text I) evidenced in Texts II and III?

Text II and Text III reflect the paradox of poison argued in the editor letter. While poison in *Romeo and Juliet* kills, in the case of the pianist, poison was a cure to his ailment.