

OAJ, 23.ročník, krajské kolo 2012/13, kategória 2B

READING COMPREHENSION

Task 1: Read the text carefully. There is one task to do on the next page.

His Literary Success

**John Garth describes the literary success of Prajwal Parajuly,
one of Oxford's current Creative Writing MSt students**

A student on Oxford's Creative Writing MSt course has signed a record-breaking two-book deal with UK publisher Quercus. The five-figure deal makes Prajwal Parajuly, 27, Quercus's youngest author and the youngest Indian ever to sign an international book contract.

A short-story collection, *The Gurkha's Daughter*, was published in December 2012 and a novel, *The Land Where I Flee*, is due out in 2013.

Parajuly grew up in Sikkim in north-eastern India, the son of an Indian father and a Nepalese mother. As a teenager, he wrote for the state's first independent newspaper. He studied at Truman College in Kirksville, Missouri, where he was involved in student publishing, and later became an advertising executive for New York's *Village Voice* before giving up work to travel and then becoming a full-time writer. "Writing the book stemmed from a dead-end job, looking at myself in the mirror with self-loathing," he said.

His writing deals with the experience of the Nepalese in Nepal, India, Britain and the United States. "It captures slices of lives – the rich, the poor, people who have fled from their country and are trying to acclimatise themselves to their new lives," he said. A particular concern is the plight of Bhutan's 106,000 refugee exiles.

He writes in English – the primary language of his public school in Gangtok, Sikkim – because it will enable him to reach a wider audience for whom Nepalese culture has hitherto been a closed book. "I wanted to give the world a taste of my culture, my world, my people. We have fascinating cultures, great stories, wonderful history, but much of our literature has been closeted because it has been written in Nepali."

The Quercus deal came after he met agent Susan Yearwood at the London Book Fair. It has hurled him into the limelight, with major write-ups in India's top-selling newspapers and elsewhere. "In the beginning I was a little shocked by it all, but I try not to think about it," he said.

The Masters course has forced him to tackle poetry, which he credits with bringing beauty to his prose. For his second-year project he is adapting one of his short stories, *The Immigrants*, into a screenplay.

Quercus editor-in-chief Jon Riley said, "The colour and intensity of Prajwal Parajuly's language, and the world he peoples his work with, make him an astonishingly accomplished young writer and one we are excited to be publishing."

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READING COMPREHENSION – TASKS

Task: Based on what you have read in the article, decide whether the statements below are true (T) or false (F). Circle one of the two letters. Be careful, sentences do not follow in the same order as the information in the article.

1. In his fiction, Parajuly focuses exclusively on the poorest stratum of society. **T / F**
2. Parajuly's parents have the same nationality. **T / F**
3. In his fiction, Parajuly describes adaptation of the people from Nepal to the new environment of different countries. **T / F**
4. Parajuly writes his prose in a bilingual way. **T / F**
5. Parajuly has concluded a contract for two books with a UK publisher. **T / F**
6. Parajuly is engaged in writing a film script based on his short story. **T / F**
7. Parajuly tends to promote Nepalese culture through his books. **T / F**
8. Parajuly met the UK publisher's agent in Oxford. **T / F**
9. His experience with publishing is connected with his studies in Missouri. **T / F**
10. Parajuly worked for New York's *Village Voice* after he came back from his travels. **T / F**

..... / 10 pts

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V O C A B U L A R Y

Task 1: Choose the most suitable word or phrase. Circle the corresponding letter.

1. The manager that all the customers should be searched.
A. obliged B. insisted C. told D. predicted
2. The policeman me off with a warning as it was Christmas.
A. set B. gave C. let D. sent
3. It's time you about organising your programme.
A. got B. took C. put D. set
4. The film didn't really our expectations, unfortunately.
A. meet with B. fall short of C. put in for D. come up to

Task 2: Fill each blank space in the article below with the correct form of the word in capital letters.

DRUGS AND ADDICTION

In recent years it has become possible to synthesise many drugs previously obtained from plants and animal products. A small number of drugs can become addictive if taken (5), that is either too frequently, or in doses larger than recommended for medical use. Drugs intended as painkillers, or drugs with a (6) effect used as sleeping pills, can both become addictive if abused. It is important to emphasise the fact that it is the abuse of drugs which has become a (7) social problem in many societies, and that the drug itself may have many (8) effects when used medically. This is why many drugs are (9) only through prescription from a doctor. Some people would argue that addiction to drugs involves both psychological and social factors, since those people who become addicts may do so in order to find some relief from personal or social (10)

EXCESS

HYPNOSIS

SPREAD

BENEFIT

OBTAIN

ADEQUATE

..... / 10 pts

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G R A M M A R

Task 1: Fill each of the numbered blanks in the passage with one suitable word.

SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

EXAMPLE: (0) of

Successful marriage is the most effective form (0)..... social support. While many studies have shown the great importance of social support, it is still not clear what exactly it means. Most likely it consists of (1)..... a sympathetic listener or offering helpful advice; providing emotional support and social acceptance; giving actual help or financial help; and simply doing ordinary things together, (2)..... eating and drinking.

Husbands seem to benefit much more (3)..... marriage than wives do. Married women are (4)..... better physical and mental health, and are happier than single women, but these effects are nearly twice (5)..... great for men. Various explanations have been considered but the most plausible (6)..... is that wives provide more social support than husbands. Perhaps men need it more? They are more exposed (7)..... stress at work, and have worse health, and die earlier than women.

(8)..... addition, when women get married, their way of life is subject to much greater change and this often leads to boring and isolated work in the home for (9)..... they are ill-prepared. (10)..... the benefits of marriage, women find it stressful, and are in better shape if they also (11)..... jobs; their earnings and status increase their power, and they (12)..... also get social support at work.

.... / 12 pts

Task 2: Complete each sentence in such a way that it means exactly the same as the sentence above it.

13. I felt that it had been a mistake to help her in that matter.

I regretted ever

14. Everyone said that the accident had been Jill's fault.

Jill was

15. This will be the band's first concert in Latin America.

This will be the first time

.... / 3 pts

Participant's number:

L I S T E N I N G

You will hear a radio programme discussing Jessica Ennis, a young talented athlete from Great Britain. Jessica will talk about her life philosophy. Listen to the programme twice and fill in the missing information. The number of words to be filled in is indicated.

1. Jessica competes in the heptathlon, which also includes javelin, long jump and 100m *(1 word)*

2. Jessica says that you do not have to succumb to from others. *(1 word)*

3. Jessica thinks you need to view things in *(1 word)*

4. Jessica felt disappointed after she had to
of the Olympics in 2008. *(2 words)*

5. Jessica is confident about the way she has been able to cope with
(1 word)

..... /5 pts

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