

EXAME TIPO

TO THE STUDENT

1. Read the text and the instructions to the questions very carefully.
2. Answer all questions in English

The English are the only race in the world who enjoy dying. Most other peoples contemplate death with abject and rather contemptible fear; the English look forward to it with pleasure.

They speak of death as it were something natural. Foreign insurance agents speak of "certain possibilities" and the "eventuality" that "something might happen to you"; the English make careful calculations and the thought that the insurance company will have to pay up always sweetens their last hours. Nowhere in the world do people make so many cruel jokes about the aged and the weak as here. In Continental families you simply do not refer to the fact that a parent or a grandparent is not immortal. But not long ago my two children burst into my room and asked me:

"Daddy, which of us will get your camera when you die?" "I'll let you know" I replied. "By the way I am sorry to be still alive. It's not my fault. I can't help it." They were a little hurt. "Don't be silly. We don't really mind at all. We only wanted to know who'll get the camera."

And when the moment comes, the English make no fuss. Dead or alive, they hate being conspicuous or saying anything unconventional. They are not a great people for famous last words.

I shall never forget the poor gentleman who once travelled with me on the Channel boat. Only the two of us were on the deck as a violent storm was raging. A tremendous gale was lashing mountainous seas. We huddled there for a while, without saying anything. Suddenly a fearful gust blew him overboard. His head emerged just once from the water below me. He looked at me calmly and remarked somewhat casually:

"Rather windy, isn't it?"

QUESTION 1 (1 MARK)

Write a title in English which best summarises the story.

QUESTION 2 (1 MARK)

Explain in English the meaning of the following phrases from the text:

- a) "look forward to it"
- b) "I can't help it"

QUESTION 3 (1 MARK)

Answer in English the following question, **IN YOUR OWN WORDS** as far as possible: In what respect are the English a race apart?

QUESTION 4 (1 MARK)

Answer in English the following question, **IN YOUR OWN WORDS** as far as possible: What comfort do the English find in their last hours?

QUESTION 5 (3 MARKS)

Complete the following sentences. Your answer must **be related to the ideas contained in the text**:

- a) "which of us will get your camera when you die?". They asked their daddy which of.....
- b) "English people face death as if....."
- c) The more you speak of death....

QUESTION 6 (3 MARKS)

6. Imagine a supposed frightening story with a funny end. Describe it in not more than 100 words (minimum 70). Use your own words in English.