

*Ces exemplaires du “Listening Comprehension Test” sont une transcription intégrale de l’épreuve proposée aux candidates. En conditions réelles d’examen, tous les éléments de sujet (conversation, textes...) sont enregistrés sur un CD.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING. On behalf of the Concours Pass flight crew, let me welcome you aboard PASS-PORT English. During our flight together you will have a series of exercises to help determine your proficiency in both written and spoken English. For the entire test please remember that you are asked to choose just one answer for each question according to what you have read or heard. Then you should mark that answer clearly on your answer sheet by filling in the corresponding space. The sample question has been done for you to use as an example. Takeoff will be in just a few seconds, so fasten your seatbelts and enjoy your flight!

## PART I

### Directions

*In Part I you will hear short dialogues between two people. Each dialogue is followed by one question. Neither the dialogues nor the questions will be repeated. In your test book you will read the question heard on the CD and four answers to that question.*

### Now listen to a sample question

Man. – I just don’t know what to do for my next vacation!

Woman. – Why don’t you come with us to Morocco?

Man. – Unfortunately, hot weather really isn’t my cup of tea.

Narrator. – What does the man mean?

### In your test book you read:

What does the man mean?

- |                                       |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. He has never been to a hot country | B. He would love to go  |
| C. He does not like hot weather       | D. He takes his tea hot |

*The best answer to the question “What does the man mean?” is choice C, “He does not like hot weather.” Therefore, you should choose answer C.*

### Questions 1 through 20.

*Now begins Part I.*

1. Woman. – So, what do you think about George?  
Man. – Well, one thing I can say is that he sure is absent-minded.  
Narrator. – How does the man describe George?  
A. Forgetful  
B. Relaxed  
C. Proud  
D. Egotistical
  
2. Man. – Oh no!  
Woman. – What's the matter?  
Man. – I just remembered that I forgot to turn on my answering machine.  
Narrator. – What is the man's problem?  
A. He does not feel turned on  
B. He is worried about not receiving messages  
C. He does not know the answer  
D. He will be late for a meeting
  
3. Woman. – Ben, do you think you could come over this weekend to help me out?  
Man. – Sure I will... unless you try to pay me like last time.  
Narrator. – What does the man mean?  
A. He does not want to help  
B. He will help if the woman pays  
C. He will help for free  
D. He does not have very much time
  
4. Man. – Do you think you could type this letter for me?  
Woman. – Of course, but can it wait until after I've finished this report?  
Man. – Sure, as long as we mail it by tonight.  
Narrator. – What is the woman's job?  
A. Mail carrier  
B. Secretary  
C. Reporter  
D. Waitress
  
5. Woman. – So, what do you think?  
Man. – I have to say it's not as tasty as I had hoped.  
Woman. – Really? I could go for another serving in a heartbeat!  
Narrator. – What are the speakers talking about?  
A. The lack of hope nowadays  
B. The speed of the service  
C. The quality of the food  
D. The art in the restaurant

- # ANGLAIS

11. Man. – I don't know what to think about tonight's seminar. It sounds a bit boring.  
Woman. – Are you kidding? I've been looking forward to it all week!  
Narrator. – What does the woman say about the seminar?  
A. It will be the best of the week  
B. She has done much research on it  
C. She is impatient to go to it  
D. It will be boring
12. Woman. – I think it's a great idea for the group to go together to the U.S. this summer. I hope  
I can get a cheap plane ticket.  
Man. – I bought mine 9 months ago.  
Woman. – Yeah, that's what I should have done.  
Narrator. – What do we know about the woman?  
A. She is going to buy a plane ticket this summer  
B. She has bought a plane ticket  
C. She regrets not having bought her plane ticket in advance  
D. She is too cheap to buy her own ticket
13. Man. – So, what do you think, Jill?  
Woman. – It's an interesting discussion. I'd like to take part in it, if you don't mind.  
Narrator. – What does the woman mean?  
A. She agrees with what was said  
B. She wants to participate  
C. She minds their discussion  
D. She wants to take in the discussion
14. Woman. – Where do you want to sit?  
Man. – Why not up here at the front, Mr. Harris has a pretty soft voice.  
Woman. – Good idea! He writes pretty small too.  
Narrator. – Where are the speakers?  
A. In a classroom  
B. At the hair dressers  
C. In a cinema  
D. At a concert
15. Man. – I think the kids are wonderful.  
Woman. – Come spend the whole weekend with us then, and you'll see how they'll get on your nerves.  
Narrator. – What does the woman mean?  
A. He could be helpful with the kids  
B. The kids would enjoy spending time with him  
C. The man would enjoy spending time with the kids  
D. The man could change his opinion

16. Woman. – I just love the new color.  
Man. – It's flashy enough, but I miss the old one.  
Narrator. – What does the man say?  
A. He prefers the old color  
B. He prefers the new color  
C. He never saw the old color  
D. The old design was flashier
17. Man. – What about bringing Tom along with us?  
Woman. – That isn't such a bad idea.  
Narrator. – What does the woman mean?  
A. It would be a mistake to bring Tom with them  
B. Tom would never come with them  
C. Tom does not have any ideas  
D. Bringing Tom is a good idea
18. Woman. – Did you hear that Mike is running for president?  
Man. – He doesn't stand a chance!  
Narrator. – What does the man mean?  
A. He can not stand Mike  
B. Mike does not have enough luck to become president  
C. He should stand before he runs  
D. Mike will most probably not become president
19. Man. – So, how's your report coming along?  
Woman. – So far, so good.  
Narrator. – What does the woman mean?  
A. She is far from finished  
B. The progress is good up to this point  
C. It is too good to be true  
D. Poorly
20. Woman. – Call everyone and tell them that tonight's meeting has been rescheduled.  
Man. – I don't think they're going to be too happy.  
Woman. – Well to tell you the truth, at this point I really don't care!  
Narrator. – What is the news?  
A. There will be no meeting  
B. The meeting will take place at a different time  
C. The meeting will take place more than once  
D. The woman is having a bad hair day

**PART II****Directions**

*In Part II there are 20 incomplete sentences, each with four words or phrases given beneath. You are to choose the one word or phrase that best completes the sentence. You will have 15 minutes to complete Part II, and the time remaining will be given after 10 and 14 minutes. You may now begin.*

21. The man got angry ..... we were making too much noise.  
A. so                      B. because                      C. while                      D. for
22. If there ..... better opportunities here, I would not move so far away.  
A. were                      B. would be                      C. is                      D. will be
23. It's midnight and he hasn't finished ..... !  
A. still                      B. already                      C. yet                      D. neither
24. He's a very good team player; ..... he always listens carefully.  
A. nevertheless  
B. on the other hand  
C. for example  
D. in spite of
25. Since 1999, they ..... to very few countries.  
A. travel  
B. are traveling  
C. have traveled  
D. will have traveled
26. Have Mr. Smith..... the email before he goes home this evening.  
A. send                      B. sending                      C. sent                      D. has sent
27. The negotiations will take place ..... Boston.  
A. to                      B. in                      C. the                      D. at
28. If the general public ..... less TV, advertisers will have to find a new means of communication.  
A. will watch  
B. has watched  
C. watched  
D. watches

29. Personal income has risen significantly less than the cost of .....  
A. live                      B. life                      C. lived                      D. living
30. Culture ..... as the act of developing intellectual and moral faculties, especially by education.  
A. definable              B. it is defined              C. can be defined              D. to be defined
31. We were not able to make a copy because the printer was out of .....  
A. print                      B. order                      C. working                      D. work
32. The rules are established by the director ..... are not negotiable.  
A. and                      B. or                      C. to                      D. by
33. Mr. Jones and I will ..... a meeting sometime next month.  
A. arrange                      B. apply                      C. arrive                      D. argue
34. Some companies are facing serious challenges in an ..... competitive global market.  
A. increasing                      B. increasingly                      C. increase                      D. increases
35. There is not only a strong need for us to rethink our whole supply chain, but also the way our company.....  
A. organized                      B. organizer                      C. organizes                      D. is organized
36. We apologize for the ..... during our store renovation.  
A. inclination                      B. acclimation  
C. inconvenience                      D. incentive
37. .... he had shown significant improvement, he still wasn't able to pass the exam.  
A. Although                      B. However                      C. But                      D. Meanwhile
38. We have seen a dramatic increase in the number of households with broadband internet connections .....  
A. late                      B. latest                      C. lateness                      D. lately
39. If my best friend ..... in trouble, I would be the first to know.  
A. is                      B. were                      C. will be                      D. would be
40. .... person who learns English runs the risk of forever falling in love with this beautiful language.  
A. All                      B. Every                      C. Some                      D. Most

## PART III

**Directions**

*In Part III you will hear three short news stories from the show “True News”. Each story is followed by three questions. The news stories are about a number of different subjects and will not be repeated. In your test book you will read the questions and four proposed answers to each question. The question numbers will be said by the narrator in order to indicate how much time you have.*

**Questions 41 through 43 refer to the following news story.**

Freiburg, Germany – A cheating husband was exposed after his wife's parrot imitated him calling out another woman's name.

Frank Ficker, was having an affair with a woman named Uta. His romantic rendez-vous were observed and apparently “recorded” by the family's pet parrot, Hugo.

Petra Ficker, said, “Hugo always liked to mimic Frank and he could do his voice perfectly.” The parrot could “do” Frank asking who's at the door and yelling at the nephews, however one day Petra heard Hugo “doing” something she had never heard before.

“I heard him doing Frank's voice, but saying ‘Uta, Uta’,” said Petra.

Petra turned the house upside down and found two plane tickets for a weekend break in Paris booked for her husband – and a mystery woman named Uta.

“I kicked him straight out. It's just me and my parrot now,” said Petra.

41. What is the subject of this news story?
- A. A parrot that learns to call out his master's name
  - B. An unfaithful parrot
  - C. A man and his helpful parrot
  - D. An unfaithful husband and how he was caught
42. What do we learn about the parrot?
- A. Its name is Uta
  - B. It began to speak when it saw something unusual
  - C. It has been able to say various things for quite some time
  - D. It will soon be going to Paris
43. Who does Petra live with?
- A. A mystery woman named Uta
  - B. A man named Frank
  - C. A parrot
  - D. All of the above



*Questions 44 through 46 refer to the following news story.*

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind. – A woman says she was suspended from her job for spending too much time trying to rescue a squirrel trapped in the ceiling of the library where she works.

Cindee Goetz said she contacted a friend who owns an animal-removal business about the animal after a company hired by the library tried using a trap that would kill it.

“It’s a real pickle to be in, me being compassionate toward animals,” Goetz said. She was officially accused of going around the chain of command and paying more attention to the animal than her job.

Judy Hamilton, the library's executive director, said the suspension followed other animal problems with Goetz and called it a "severe situation" she simply couldn't ignore.

Goetz said that she was reprimanded last year for caring for an abandoned bird during work, but also said she planned to return to her job after the one-week suspension.

44. What is the subject of this news story?
  - A. A woman in trouble for abusing animals
  - B. A woman in trouble for taking care of animals
  - C. A woman rewarded for abusing animals
  - D. A woman rewarded for taking care of animals
45. What exactly did Ms. Goetz do?
  - A. She tried using a trap that would kill a squirrel
  - B. She neglected her work while trying to save animals
  - C. She tried to create an animal shelter at her workplace
  - D. None of the above
46. What is Ms. Goetz's professional situation today?
  - A. She quit her job at the library
  - B. She lost her job at the library
  - C. She was promoted at her job at the library
  - D. She was suspended at her job at the library

**Questions 47 through 49 refer to the following news story.**

A new beer has been launched in Germany which contains nicotine and 6.3 per cent alcohol.

Alcohol Healthwatch in New Zealand said drinking three 250ml cans was the equivalent of smoking three packets of cigarettes.

Alcohol Healthwatch director Rebecca Williams said the new beer was seen overseas as a way of getting around smoking bans in public places.

There was no sign yet of it being introduced in New Zealand where smoking has been banned in public bars since December last year, forcing smokers in bars to go outside for a cigarette.

Ms. Williams said she would oppose the introduction of beer containing nicotine.

She said alcohol was a depressant and the other drugs and additives were stimulants and the impact on users was not well known and that therefore she had no choice but to be against such a new product.

47. What is the subject of this news story?
- A. A new and controversial beer from Germany.
  - B. The history of German beer.
  - C. A new study showing the effect of mixing alcohol with drugs and additives.
  - D. Smoking being banned in public bars.
48. Drinking one can of the beer mentioned is said to be the equivalent of:
- A. Twice the alcohol of a normal beer
  - B. One packet of cigarettes
  - C. Three packets of cigarettes
  - D. Three times the price of a normal beer
49. Why does Ms. Williams say she opposes the drink?
- A. Because it seems crazy
  - B. Because it is banned in public bars.
  - C. Because it has very negative results on one's health
  - D. Because we don't know the results on our health

## PART IV

### Directions

*In Part IV you will read a letter from a faithful True News listener, Mr. Wrong. Due to his imperfect English and his enthusiasm, Mr. Wrong made a mistake in each sentence of his letter. These sentences containing an error are numbered with four parts underlined. It is your job to find which part of the sentence is responsible for creating an incorrect sentence. You will have 10 minutes to complete Part IV, and the time remaining will be given after 5 and 9 minutes. You may now begin.*

Dear True News,

50. Before going any further, I would like to say that I'm a faithful listener of your show for over five years now.

A                      B                      C

D

51. For much of this time I was holding the opinion that your show was superior in every way.

A                                      B                                      C

D

52. Now, although, I'm afraid I have to say that I'm much more than just disappointed.

A                                      B                                      C                                      D

53. You promised you would always report the funniest news finding in newspapers from around the world.

A                                      B                                      C

D

54. I almost fell asleep while listening your last show on the radio because it was not as interesting as before.

A                                      B                                      C

D

55. Anyway, here are some examples of news from this week that remember me of the True News we all used to love:

A                                      B                                      C

D

56. Tourism authorities in Switzerland decided to wrap an entire glacier in PVC foam for to try and stop it melting during the summer months.

A

B                                      C                                      D

57. A South Carolina sheriff's deputy was suspended by his boss after the officer's pistol went off during a gun safety class at a school when a student pulled the trigger as the deputy was showing the kids how hard it was taking a gun from an officer's holster.

A

B                                      C                                      D

- Sincerely,  
Mr. Wrong

Woman. – Well, Mr. McGill, you've come to the right place. We here at World Travellers are specialized in organizing travel arrangements for the most demanding

customers. Unfortunately I was attending another client when you came in, so why don't you just sit down and make yourself comfortable and I'll be back to serve you in just a few minutes.

60. Where does this conversation probably take place?  
A. Bus stop                      B. Airport                      C. Restaurant                      D. Travel agency
61. What kind of travel arrangement is the man NOT looking for?  
A. Inexpensive  
B. Relatively near  
C. A seaside resort  
D. Relaxing
62. Why does the woman not help the man immediately?  
A. She is busy with another customer  
B. She is waiting for another customer  
C. He seems uncomfortable  
D. He is too demanding

*Questions 63 through 65 refer to the following conversation.*

Woman. — Sorry for the delay Mr. McGill, now let's see what we can find.

Man. — None too soon, I've been waiting for half an hour.

Woman. — I'm sorry — now let's look at this month's special promotions. Look, here's a special offer for one week in a small village on Crete. That should be very relaxing.

Man. — I've been there, and I can tell you that I'll never set foot on the place again!

Woman. — Really? That's surprising.

Man. — Listen, it's a long story. What else have you got?

Woman. — A week in a castle in Scotland?

Man. – Now that sounds interesting... how much would that come to?

Woman. – Well, if you opt for the six day stay, excluding Saturday, you would pay just over half price of the 1000 euro rate... and it's a four-star hotel.

Man. — Listen, could I reserve that? That ought to work out just fine.

Woman. – Ok, you'll be leaving on the 19th and returning on the 25th of February.

63. How can we best describe Mr. McGill?
- A. Relaxed  
C. Talkative
- B. Impatient  
D. Enthusiastic
64. Why does the man refuse the trip to Crete?
- A. It is too far  
C. It is too small
- B. He does not like walking  
D. He does not say

65. How much will the stay in Scotland cost?
- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A. Between 0 and 500 Euros     | B. Between 500 and 1000 Euros |
| C. Between 1000 and 2000 Euros | D. Just over 2000 Euros       |

**Questions 66 through 68 refer to the following conversation.**

Woman. – Good morning, World Travellers. How may I help you?

Man. – Good morning, may I speak to Mrs. Johnson, please?

Woman. – Speaking.

Man. – Young lady, this is Mr. McGill. May I have a word with you?

Woman. – Oh, Mr. McGill, how is your vacation going?

Man. – That is precisely what I wanted to speak about. If I remember correctly, you promised top quality food, service, accommodations, and activities.

Woman. – Well, yes... it isn't what you expected?

Man. – No, it's much, it's... it's much more than what I had expected. I've never had such a wonderful vacation in my life!

Woman. – Well, I'm very glad to hear it.

Man. – Listen, there are a million things you didn't tell me about. There's a wonderful TV lounge where several of us meet up to watch our favorite game shows. The food is excellent – especially their English breakfast with tomatoes and beans. And best of all, every evening there's a scrabble tournament... I've won twice already!

Woman. – Well, I'm certainly happy to hear all is going well.

Man. – So, before I forget, could you check on availability here for a week in July, I might just come for my summer vacation too!

Woman. – Ok, I'll see what I can do.

66. When does this call take place?
- |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|
| A. Before the start of his vacation   |
| B. During his vacation                |
| C. During his trip back from vacation |
| D. After his vacation                 |
67. How does Mr. McGill describe his vacation?
- |   |
|---|
| A. It is not as good as he had hoped    |
| B. It is as good as he had hoped        |
| C. It is better than he had hoped       |
| D. It is the worst vacation of his life |
68. What does Mr. McGill tell the woman?
- |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| A. He will never go there again      |
| B. He will possibly go there again   |
| C. He will definitely go there again |
| D. He will never forget his vacation |

**PART VI****Directions**

*In Part VI you will read four short texts to help prepare for another trip, this time to Russia. Read each text and answer the corresponding questions on the basis of what you have read. You will have 20 minutes to complete Part VI, and the time remaining will be given after 10, 15 and 19 minutes. You may now begin.*

**Questions 69 through 73 refer to the following information. (181)**

Russian is a Slavic language in the Indo-European family. From the point of view of the spoken language, its closest relatives are Belarusian and Ukrainian. In fact, in many places in Ukraine and Belarus these languages are spoken interchangeably.

During the Soviet period, the unifying role and superior status was reserved for Russian. Following the break-up of 1991, several of the newly independent states have encouraged their native languages, which has partly reversed the privileged status of Russian.

In the United States, Russian is spoken at home by about 4.2 million people, giving it the ranking of tenth most spoken language. Significant Russian-speaking groups also exist in Western Europe. These have been fed by several waves of immigrants since the beginning of the twentieth century. Formerly, the descendants of the Russian émigrés tended to lose the tongue of their ancestors by the third generation. Now, when the border is more open, Russian is likely to survive longer, especially when many of the emigrants visit their homelands at least once a year and also have access to Russian websites and TV channels.

69. What is the main subject of this article?
- A. The history of Slavic languages
  - B. How to speak Russian
  - C. General information about the Russian language
  - D. Russia's linguistic policies
70. What is the status of Russian today in Ukraine and Belarus?
- A. Never spoken
  - B. Sometimes spoken
  - C. Often spoken
  - D. Has been significantly modified
71. What can be said about Russian's status in the newly independent states today?
- A. It has no more privileges in any of them
  - B. It has fewer privileges in all of them
  - C. It has fewer privileges in some of them
  - D. It has increased privileges in some of them

72. What is meant by “fed” (last paragraph)?
- |                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| A. Augmented          | B. Eaten    |
| C. Have been followed | D. Preceded |
73. Which of the following conclusions is true?
- A. In the future émigrés won’t speak Russian
- B. Russian will probably continue to be spoken abroad
- C. Russian will probably become the most widely spoken foreign language in the U.S.
- D. Television reduces the level of Russian spoken abroad

***Questions 74 through 78 refer to the following information. (208)***

People visiting Russia should try to speak in a calm, moderate, tone of voice at all times. Usually, your Russian colleagues will be delighted if you make the effort to speak even a few sentences of their language. Nevertheless, if your Russian party speaks your language, your decision to speak Russian may cause confusion (e.g. they might think that their English is not good enough).

Russians are sometimes very careful about what they say, and may revert to speaking metaphorically, symbolically, and perhaps even cryptically. Consequently, there is a great deal of reliance on nonverbal communication. At other times, however, they can be extremely frank; it all depends on the situation.

You will sometimes find the Russians to be enthusiastic about discussing politics and the challenges of living in Russia. Participating in this kind of discussion and expressing your views (even if they are opposite) is more welcome than just being an active listener. Personal questions are best avoided, although you may be subject to these inquiries.

And to conclude, if the conversation becomes Greek to you - you can save yourself by asking your Russian friend to fill any gaps in your knowledge on various topics. He or she will be more than willing to do so.

74. Choose the best title for this article
- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| A. Etiquette in Russia         | B. Conversing with Russians             |
| C. Russian Culture and History | D. Complexities of the Russian Language |
75. Which of the following is the best advice for a visitor to Russia?
- A. Speak Russian if you have a very good level
- B. Never speak Russian
- C. Speak Russian if possible, but recognize their ability to speak English
- D. Speak English very loudly to be understood
76. What should one be prepared for in Russia?
- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. Indirect communication  | B. Direct communication |
| C. Nonverbal communication | D. All of the above     |





82. What is meant by “lavish” (paragraph 3)?  
A. Quick                      B. Long                      C. Copious                      D. Informal
83. What will happen after a dinner?  
A. Drinks will be served                      B. The host will pay  
C. The guest will pay                      D. No one will pay

***Questions 84 through 88 refer to the following information. (210)***

The foundations of Russian cuisine were laid by a mainly peasant population in an often harsh climate with a combination of plentiful fish, poultry, game, mushrooms, berries, and honey. Breads, soups and other dishes centered on seasonal or storable ingredients. These wholly native foods then evolved with the spices and techniques brought by the Mongol-Tartar invaders of the thirteenth century.

There is no other nation or region in the world that makes so much of soup. Russian regional cuisine features at least seven broad categories of soups, based on ingredients and regions. From thin vegetable broths flavored with herbs, to thick, hearty stews rich with meat and vegetables, soup is a mainstay of Russian cuisine.

Russia's great expansions of territory, influence, and interest during the eighteenth century brought more refined foods and culinary techniques. From the time of Catherine the Great, every family of influence imported both the products and personnel – mainly German, Austrian, and French – to bring the finest, rarest, and most creative foods to their table.

In the end, Russian cuisine is in reality a cornucopia of styles and recipes, with a dish in Siberia bearing little resemblance to the same dish in Leningrad. It is wonderful fare, as varied as its vast and multicultural expanse.

84. Choose the best title for this article.  
A. How to Cook Russian Food  
B. A Brief Overview of Russian Cuisine  
C. Nutritional Information for Russian Cuisine  
D. The Role of Class in Russian Cuisine
85. What can be said of soup in Russia?  
A. It is becoming more and more popular  
B. It is at the heart of Russian cuisine  
C. It has little flavor  
D. It lacks diversity
86. What influenced the base of Russian cuisine?  
A. Russia's great territory expansions                      B. Climate and available ingredients  
C. Mongol-Tartar invaders                      D. Western European chefs



And if that isn't enough to worry us about Anglo-French relations, don't forget that 2006 is a World Cup year and Thierry Henry won't be playing for England. Let's hope the two teams don't have to face each other. Otherwise, we'll just have to wait another year for warmer relations.

89. What is the main subject of this show?
  - A. Franco-British tourist information
  - B. How the British see the French
  - C. How the French see the British
  - D. How the British and French see each other
90. Which of the following statements is false?
  - A. Both France and the UK are popular tourist destinations for each other
  - B. The French are quite indifferent to the British
  - C. The British and the French actually like each other
  - D. The British believe the French deserve their negative stereotypes
91. Which of the following statements is true?
  - A. The French do not really have prejudices about the British
  - B. The French have a stronger conviction of their anti-British sentiment
  - C. The British have a stronger conviction of their anti-French sentiment
  - D. French stereotypes are disappearing in the UK
92. What is predicted?
  - A. A France-England World Cup match could damage relations
  - B. A France-England World Cup match could improve relations
  - C. It would be wise for Thierry Henry not to play in the World Cup this year
  - D. France will not win the World Cup this year

Good morning, and welcome to Culture Culture on CPR. Today we'll be speaking about *Erasure*, the latest book by Percival Everett. In a word, this is an anything but subtle masterpiece about an African-American writer named Thelonius Ellison. Ellison is a very well-educated and talented writer but is not successful because he insists on writing

obscure literary papers. For this black man, his greatest obstacle to success is his white, intellectual style and his refusal to adopt a so-called “ghetto prose” that would make him a commercial success. He finally succumbs to temptation after seeing another highly-educated black author in her appearance on a talk show about her new book *We’s Lives in da Ghetto*. His response is a parody called *My Pafology*, spelled with an “f”, which he submits to his startled agent under a gangsta pseudonym. Ellison quickly finds himself with a huge check from a major house, a multimillion-dollar offer for the movie rights and a monster bestseller on his hands. The money helps with a family crisis, but the dark side of wealth surfaces when both the movie producer and talk-show host demand to meet the nonexistent author, forcing Ellison to put on a disguise and invent a dark, mysterious character to satisfy the public.

In conclusion, *Erasure* benefits from a rare satiric brilliance that guarantees it lasting literary recognition. My own prediction is that positive reviews, like this one here, may help this book be a success, but it’s passionate word of mouth that will help turn this book into a best-seller.

That’s all today for Culture Vulture. Stay tuned for Business Personalities.

93. The book *Erasure* is Everett’s:
- |               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| A. First book | B. Most recent book  |
| C. Best book  | D. Most obscure book |
94. How does Ellison, the book’s main character, begin the story?
- |                          |                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A. A successful writer   | B. An intellectual, black writer |
| C. A ghetto prose writer | D. A “gansta”                    |
95. What is one thing the main character does NOT do?
- |                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A. Become rich and famous     | B. Compromise his artistic integrity |
| C. Pretend to be someone else | D. Act in a movie                    |
96. What does the reviewer predict?
- |  |
|--|
| A. The book will have a short-lived success            |
| B. The book will have success thanks to public opinion |
| C. The book will have success despite negative reviews |
| D. The book will be made into a movie                  |

***Questions 97 through 100 refer to the following show.***

Hello, and welcome to *Business Personalities*, the show that tells you about the men and women behind famous companies. Today we’ll be speaking about Jake Burton Carpenter, of Burton Snowboards.

Born on April 29th, 1954 in New York City, and then moving to Cedarhurst, New York shortly after, Jake Burton grew up skiing. When he went to college at the University of Colorado in Boulder, he had aspirations to join the National Ski Team. But, perhaps by fate, Jake got in a car accident and broke his collarbone. After the accident, Jake moved to Virginia, worked on a horse farm for a few years, then enrolled at NYU. Graduating with a degree in economics, Jake moved to Vermont to pursue a childhood dream of creating his snowboard. His base of operations was his home and barn, where he did all of his work and manufacturing. Though he struggled for over 2 years, Jake managed to get snowboarders into ski resorts, and the sport exploded overnight.

Burton Snowboards has become the best selling snowboard company in the world to date, dominating over 38% of the market, and with annual sales of over \$30 million.

Jake Burton's dream of making snowboarding a phenomenon probably would not have happened without his family; not for their support, but because they thought that it was folly to play with snowboards and not get a real job. This motivated Jake to succeed in his dream and basically rub it in their faces when he became a millionaire.

Every day, Burton comes to the international Burton headquarters and speaks with his employees. He gives his employees the day off when it snows more than 60 centimeters and regularly rides at least 100 days per season. To Jake Burton, snowboarding is not just a business, it's a way of life.

97. Which of the following is NOT true about Burton?
- A. He learned to ski young
  - B. He was a member of the national ski team
  - C. He worked on a horse farm
  - D. He went to university
98. How did Burton Snowboards begin?
- A. Very difficult start, then rapid success
  - B. Overnight success
  - C. Rapidly after he opened his factory
  - D. After more than 20 years of difficulty
99. What was the role of his family in Burton's success?
- A. They gave him his initial capital
  - B. They gave him moral support
  - C. They gave him essential advice
  - D. They were skeptical, which motivated him
100. How can we best describe Burton's management style?
- A. Leading by personal example
  - B. Informal and personal
  - C. Authoritarian
  - D. Laissez-faire

Ladies and gentlemen, we've just landed at our final destination. I've turned off the seat-belt light, which means you are now free to get up from your seats and leave the cabin. All of us from Concours Pass cockpit and cabin crew hope you had a pleasant flight and wish you many more in the future...