

**UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, JAMAICA
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS DIVISION
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TEST**

PAPER TWO

Time Allowed: 1 1/2 hour

SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION

Recommended Time: 1 hour

Instruction: Read the passage carefully and for each question, **SHADE** in the bubble representing the letter selected.

*“EL Chapo and the Sinaloa Cartel” Extract from “Cocaine Incorporated”
Patrick Radden Keefe, June 15, 2012*

1. Joaquín Guzmán, is the C.E.O. of Mexico’s Sinaloa cartel, a man recently described as the world’s most powerful drug trafficker. Guzmán’s organization is responsible for as much as half of the illegal narcotics imported into the United States from Mexico each year. Known as El Chapo for his short, stocky frame, Guzmán is 55, which in narco-years is about 150. He is a **quasi-mythical** figure in Mexico, the subject of countless ballads, who has outlived enemies and accomplices alike, defying the implicit bargain of a life in the drug trade: that careers are glittering but brief and always terminate in prison or the grave.
2. The state of Sinaloa, from which the cartel derives its name, lies wedged between the Sierra Madre Occidental and Mexico’s west coast. Sun-blasted and remote, Sinaloa is the Sicily of Mexico, both cradle and refuge of violent men, and the ancestral land of many of the country’s most notorious traffickers. Chapo was born in a village called La Tuna, in the foothills of the Sierra, in 1957. His formal education ended in third grade, and as an adult, he has reportedly struggled to read and write, prevailing upon a ghostwriter, at one point, to compose letters to his mistress. Little is known about Chapo’s early years, but by the 1980s, he joined the Guadalajara cartel, which was run by a former policeman known as El Padrino — the Godfather.
3. When Pablo Escobar was Chapo’s age, he had been dead for more than a decade. In fact, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration, Chapo sells more drugs today than Escobar did at the height of his career. To some extent, this success is easily explained: as Hillary Clinton acknowledged several years ago, America’s “insatiable demand for illegal drugs” is what drives the clandestine industry. It’s no accident that the world’s biggest supplier of narcotics and the world’s biggest consumer of narcotics just happen to be neighbors. “Poor Mexico,” its former president Porfirio Díaz is said to have remarked. “So far from God and so close to the United States.”
4. The Sinaloa cartel can buy a kilo of cocaine in the highlands of Colombia or Peru for around \$2,000, then watch it accrue value as it makes its way to market. In Mexico, that kilo fetches more than \$10,000. Jump the border to the United States, and it could sell wholesale for \$30,000. Break it down into grams to distribute retail, and that same kilo sells for upward of \$100,000 — more than its weight in gold. And that’s just cocaine.
5. Alone among the Mexican cartels, Sinaloa is both diversified and vertically integrated, producing and exporting marijuana, heroin and methamphetamine as well. Estimating the precise scale of Chapo’s empire is tricky, however. Statistics on underground economies are inherently speculative: cartels don’t make annual disclosures, and no auditor examines their books. Instead, we’re left with back-of-the-envelope extrapolations based on conjectural

data, much of it supplied by government agencies that may have bureaucratic incentives to overlay the problem.

6. *So in a spirit of empirical humility, we shouldn't accept as gospel the estimate, from the Justice Department, that Colombian and Mexican cartels reap \$18 billion to \$39 billion from drug sales in the United States each year.* Still, even if you take the lowest available numbers, Sinaloa emerges as a titanic player in the global black market. In the sober reckoning of the RAND Corporation, for instance, the gross revenue that all Mexican cartels derive from exporting drugs to the United States amounts to only \$6.6 billion. By most estimates, though, Sinaloa has achieved a market share of at least 40 percent and perhaps as much as 60 percent, which means that Chapo Guzmán's organization would appear to enjoy annual revenues of some \$3 billion — comparable in terms of earnings to Netflix or, for that matter, to Facebook.
7. The drug war in Mexico has claimed more than 50,000 lives since 2006. But what tends to get lost amid coverage of this epic bloodletting is just how effective the drug business has become. A close study of the Sinaloa cartel, based on thousands of pages of trial records and dozens of interviews with convicted drug traffickers and current and former officials in Mexico and the United States, reveals an operation that is global (it is active in more than a dozen countries) yet also very nimble and, above all, staggeringly complex. Sinaloa didn't merely survive the recession — it has thrived in recent years. And after prevailing in some **recent mass-casualty clashes**, it now controls more territory along the border than ever.
8. "Chapo always talks about the drug business, wherever he is," one erstwhile confidant told a jury several years ago, describing a driven, even obsessive entrepreneur with a **proclivity** for micromanagement. From the remote mountain redoubt where he is believed to be hiding, surrounded at all times by a battery of gunmen, Chapo oversees a logistical network that is as sophisticated, in some ways, as that of Amazon or U.P.S. — doubly sophisticated, when you think about it, because traffickers must move both their product and their profits in secret, and constantly maneuver to avoid death or arrest. As a mirror image of a legal commodities business, the Sinaloa cartel brings to mind that old line about Ginger Rogers doing all the same moves as Fred Astaire, only backward and in heels. In its longevity, profitability and scope, it might be the most successful criminal enterprise in history.

Questions

1. Based on the details provided in paragraph 1, what seems to be El Chapo's most baffling achievement?
 - a. He is the world's oldest drug trafficker.
 - b. He no longer has enemies and accomplices
 - c. He has achieved legendary status
 - d. He has escaped death or incarceration
2. What is the meaning of **quasi-mythical** as used in paragraph 1?
 - a. Nearly forgotten
 - b. Quite mysterious
 - c. Almost legendary
 - d. Half-human.
3. What emotion is the writer most likely trying to invoke with the view of Guzman given in sentence 4 of paragraph 2?
 - a. Sympathy
 - b. love
 - c. indifference

- d. anger
4. When compared to Joaquin Guzman, what quality/characteristic cannot be attributed to Pablo Escobar?
 - a. longevity
 - b. wealth
 - c. intelligence
 - d. immorality
 5. Which of the following best restates Hillary Clinton's comments in paragraph 3?
 - a. Drugs that are illegal attract Americans the most
 - b. The Mexican drug trade succeeds because of strong demand.
 - c. The drug trade benefits from being clandestine.
 - d. Americans' voracious appetite for hard drugs enriches the trade.
 6. Which of the following separates Sinaloa from other Mexican cartels (par. 5) ?
 - a. Its earnings are based on speculation.
 - b. The accounts are not checked.
 - c. Its control over production and distribution
 - d. It deals only in "hard drugs".
 7. The statement : *So in a spirit of empirical humility, we shouldn't accept as gospel the estimate, from the Justice Department, that Columbian and Mexican cartels reap \$18 billion to \$39 billion from drug sales in the United States each year,* (par. 6) could be considered:
 - a. An opinion
 - b. A fact
 - c. Both fact and opinion
 - d. An overstatement.
 8. Identify the literary device used in paragraph 6 where the writer mentions that "*Sinaloa emerges as a titanic player in the global black market.*"
 - a. Simile
 - b. Personification
 - c. Hyperbole
 - d. Metaphor
 9. Which of the following functions is served by the dashes used in the passage?
 - a. To provide additional information
 - b. To interrupt the flow of the sentence
 - c. To indicate a change of mind
 - d. To introduce an example
 10. What appears to be the purpose of the statistics given in paragraph 6?
 - a. To pinpoint how much the cartels earn globally.
 - b. To compare the Sinaloa Cartel to legitimate businesses
 - c. To emphasize how lucrative the Mexican drug trade is.
 - d. To estimate the amount of Sinaloa's annual earnings.
 11. "*mass-casualty clashes*" as used in in paragraph 7, most likely refers to :?
 - a. deadly altercations with Mexican border police
 - b. numerous deaths associated with drug wars
 - c. traffic accidents with multiple victims
 - d. violent attacks from U.S operatives

12. Choose the option which **best** describes the Sinaloa cartel as emphasized in paragraphs 7 and 8?
- A well-managed if violent organization.
 - A wide spread network of desperate men.
 - A business outfit run by a charismatic head.
 - A well-researched successful company
13. Identify the option which explains why the comparison of Chapo's network and those of Amazon and UPS could be considered most appropriate?
- They all serve the United States.
 - They all have a large network.
 - They are all doing dangerous work.
 - They all transport commodities.
14. Indicate the option which represents the main idea of paragraph 7.
- Sentence 1
 - Sentence 2
 - Sentence 3
 - Sentence 5
15. Identify the main rhetorical strategy that the writer uses throughout the passage:
- cause and effect
 - definition
 - examples/illustration
 - comparison/contrast
16. Which of the following most accurately explains the word **proclivity** as used in paragraph 8?
- deep loathing
 - characteristic
 - impatience
 - strong liking
17. Based on the language and style of the passage, who is the target audience likely to be?
- Politicians
 - General public
 - Financial sector
 - Social scientists
18. Which of the following options best expresses the true nature of el Chapo's personal existence? It is:
- doubly sophisticated, when you think about it
 - a constant maneuver to avoid death or arrest
 - driven and obsessive
 - a mirror image of a legal business
19. Which of the following statements best summarizes the writer's thoughts on the birthplace of El Chapo ?
- A hard place in which to survive.
 - A good place to hide.
 - An unlikely place for a drug lord to live.

d. A birth- to – death haven for patriots.

20. Based on the details given in the passage, what conclusion can be drawn about the Mexican Cartels.

- a. They exist in total anonymity
- b. They all had their beginnings in Sinaloa
- c. They make around \$39 million yearly
- d. They are complex and well organized

SECTION B-GRAMMAR (NOT INCLUDED)

