Keynote Proficient End-of-course Test A

Paper 2: Writing

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Name: _____

Total score: _____ / 40

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this question paper until you are told to do so.

Read the instructions for each part of the paper carefully.

Answer the Part 1 question and **one** question from Part 2.

Write clearly in pen, not pencil. You may make alterations, but make sure your work is easy to read.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Each question in this paper carries equal marks.

© National Geographic Learning 2016

Part 1

Read the two texts below.

Write an essay summarizing and evaluating the key points from both texts. Use your own words throughout as far as possible, and include your own ideas in your answer.

Write your answer in **240 – 280** words on a separate sheet of paper.

1

Are you happy?

We live in a society which is obsessed with being happy. 'Are you happy?', characters in films and on TV programmes are frequently asked; 'I just want them to be happy,' say parents about their children; 'Am I happy?', we question ourselves. But what does happiness mean? Is it a feeling of contentment and satisfaction with one's life? Can one be truly 'happy' when there are still things to strive for, achieve, possess? It certainly seems to me that happiness is elusive and the harder we try to reach that state, the further away it seems to be.

Happiness and everyday life

As someone with inherent optimism, I am bound to believe that happiness is possible. But rather than it being an end in itself, it is a by-product of our experiences which can be found if we look for them in the fleeting moments of everyday life: noticing a beautiful sunset, tasting delicious fruit picked fresh from the garden, spending time with friends and family. Appreciating these things does not end suffering in the wider world; what it does is prompt us to actively seek out moments of happiness amongst everything else that is going on around us.

Write your **essay**.

Marks (out of 20) = _____

© National Geographic Learning 2016

Part 2

Write an answer to one of the questions **2 – 4** in this part. Write your answer in **280 – 320** words in an appropriate style on a separate sheet of paper.

---

2 An English-language magazine is inviting readers to submit letters on the subject of creativity. You decide to send in a letter briefly describing a creative pursuit that you have, such as writing music or making clothes. In your letter you should explain why having creative pastimes is important for people, and consider how creativity can be useful in other areas of life.

Write your **letter**.

3 An English-language newspaper is publishing a series of articles about breaking out of your comfort zone. Readers have been asked to submit articles entitled 'It is only by doing things which make us feel uncomfortable that we develop as a person'. You decide to write an article evaluating the truth of this statement. You should also discuss why it is that some people like to push themselves to the extreme.

Write your **article**.

4 Your place of work has asked employees to submit a proposal for improving communication between different departments. You decide to submit a proposal explaining what you think the current difficulties are and recommending a course of action. Your proposal should also explain the importance of maintaining good communication in the workplace.

Write your **proposal**.

Marks (out of 20) = _____

© National Geographic Learning 2016