Air-conditioned Clothes in Japan

A damaged Fukushima nuclear plant, severely limiting Japan’s power supply, has forced the country to reduce power usage. With restricted use of electricity, many people are looking for alternative ways to cool off in the hot Japanese summer. Hiroshi Ichigaya, engineer and president of the Japanese company “Kuchofuku”, meaning air-conditioned clothing in Japanese, has invented a must for hot summers: the “Kuchofuku” jacket. The idea of “personal air-conditioning” struck Ichigaya in the 1990s, when he worked for Sony, trying to invent an air conditioner that would use little electricity. “It came to me that we don’t need to cool the entire room, just as long as people in it feel cool,” he said.

Kuchofuku jackets come equipped with a pair of battery-operated fans which draw air in, giving the jacket a puffed-up look. Ichigaya says the constant breeze inside the jacket helps evaporate all the sweat and creates a personal cooling system in the process. The goal is not to lower temperatures outside the body but expand the body’s comfort zone, and eliminate the need for energy-consuming air conditioners.

Ichigaya’s first collection only featured the standard air-conditioned jacket, but his collection has slowly expanded, along with the company. The Kuchofuku catalog now features air-conditioned cushions, shirts and pants, with fans installed in each pocket. Nearly 1,000 companies in Japan use Kuchofuku, including automobile giants, steelmakers, food companies and construction firms. The shirts and jackets are far from fashionable, but demand for them is soaring because they are not just economical. They also help boost worker productivity and aid in the fight against global warming.

QUESTIONS

1. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE.

   a) The name of the company is related to the product it manufactures.
   b) Ichigaya’s air-conditioned jackets are very stylish.

   (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

2. In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text.

   a) What made Hiroshi Ichigaya decide to invent air-conditioned clothes?
   b) Explain how the Kuchofuku jacket works.

   (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

3. Find the words in the text that mean:

   a) decrease (paragraph 1)
   b) whole (paragraph 1)
   c) objective (paragraph 2)
   d) grown (paragraph 3)

   (Puntuación máxima: 1 punto)

4. Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given.

   a) Air-conditioned clothing is often used _____ workers at hot construction sites. Last summer, many of Sony’s employees _____ (wear) Kuchofuku jackets.
   b) Temperatures in Iraq range from 48 degrees _____ the summer _____ below freezing. Soldiers operating in this kind of environment would benefit _____ (great) from air-conditioned clothing.
   c) Another Japanese company, _____ name is CoolBiz, is also manufacturing air-conditioned clothes.
   d) Have you ever _____ (think) about _____ (buy) an air-conditioned jacket?

   (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

5. Write about 100 to 150 words on the following topic.

   Describe an invention that you think is important and explain why you chose it.

   (Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos)
INSTRUCCIONES GENERALES Y VALORACIÓN
1. El alumno dispone de dos opciones para contestar (A y B). Debe escoger sólo una de ellas.
2. Lea todo el texto cuidadosamente.
3. Lea atentamente todas las preguntas de la prueba.
4. Proceda a responder en lengua inglesa a las preguntas en el papel de examen.
TIEMPO: 1 hora y 30 minutos.
CALIFICACIÓN: La puntuación máxima de la prueba es de 10 puntos.

Mozart Bananas

Although there is no research data to back the surprising claim that Mozart's music can have an effect on food, one reason for its popularity can be found in the theory that high frequency sounds have relaxing and rejuvenating effects on humans. The music of Mozart happens to be rich in such frequencies, but do bananas ripened to the tunes of Mozart taste better?

A Japanese fruit company, Toyoka Chuo Seika, says they do. Arriving as ordinary unripe bananas from the Philippines, "Mozart bananas" are in for a surprise. "Piano Concerto 5 in D major", among other works, plays continuously for one week in their ripening chamber. The result, the company says, is a sweeter banana. And consumers agree: "Mozart bananas", which made their debut last July, are more expensive than ordinary bananas, but sales are sky-rocketing.

Even tomatoes are listening to Mozart in Japan. Hiroko Harada, the manager of Star Drop Tomatoes, has placed speakers throughout nine greenhouses, quietly streaming Mozart for about 10 hours a day, from October through May. "The most important thing," said Harada, "is that the music creates a relaxed and comfortable environment for us to work in, and that has a positive effect on the tomatoes." They have three times more iron and vitamin C than regular tomatoes and Harada feels that Mozart, along with skilled organic farming, plays a role.

QUESTIONS
1.- Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE.  
   a) The so-called “Mozart bananas” are grown in Japan.  
   b) Even though “Mozart bananas” are not more economical, sales are increasing.  
   (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

2.- In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text  
   a) How do Mozart bananas become sweeter?  
   b) What does Hiroko Hirada think about Mozart’s music?  
   (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

3.- Find the words in the text that mean:  
   a) support (paragraph 1)  
   b) rising rapidly (paragraph 2)  
   c) drinks (paragraph 2)  
   d) ordinary (paragraph 3)  
   (Puntuación máxima: 1 punto)

4.- Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given.  
   a) The manager of Star Drop Tomatoes first _____ (think) of the idea 15 years ago, after she ____ (hear) about cows whose milk production went up after _____ (listen) to Mozart.  
   b) According to many reports, listening to classical music is highly beneficial. _____ has positive effects _____ both plants and humans.  
   c) In 1996, a farmer in Spain said that his Mozart-listening cows produced 1 to 6 liters more milk per day _____ other cows.  
   d) Oranges have been grown in Brazil _____ the 16th century and many people think that they are the ____ (good) in the world.  
   (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

5.- Write about 100 to 150 words on the following topic. What kind of music do you like? Describe it and explain why you like it.  
   (Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos)
VALORACIÓN DE CADA UNA DE LAS PREGUNTAS:

**Pregunta 1:** Hasta 2 puntos. Se trata de medir exclusivamente la comprensión lectora. El alumno deberá decidir si dos frases que se le presentan son verdaderas o falsas, copiando a continuación únicamente el fragmento del texto que justifica su elección. Se otorgará 1 punto por cada apartado. Se calificará con 0 puntos la opción elegida que no vaya justificada.

**Pregunta 2:** Hasta 2 puntos. Se pretende comprobar dos destrezas: la comprensión lectora y la expresión escrita, mediante la formulación de dos preguntas abiertas que el alumno deberá contestar basándose en la información del texto, pero utilizando sus propias palabras en la respuesta. Cada una de las preguntas valdrá 1 punto, asignándose 0,5 puntos a la comprensión de la pregunta y del texto, y 0,5 a la corrección gramatical de la respuesta.

**Pregunta 3:** Hasta 1 punto. Esta pregunta trata de medir el dominio del vocabulario en el aspecto de la comprensión. El alumno demostrará esta capacidad localizando en el párrafo/s que se le indique un sinónimo adecuado al contexto, de cuatro palabras o definiciones. Se adjudicará 0,25 por cada apartado.

**Pregunta 4:** Hasta 2 puntos. Con esta pregunta se pretenden comprobar los conocimientos gramaticales del alumno, en sus aspectos morfológicos y/o sintácticos. Se presentarán oraciones con huecos que el alumno deberá completar/llenar. También podrán presentarse oraciones para ser transformadas, u otro tipo de ítem. Se adjudicará 0,25 a cada “hueco en blanco”, y en el caso de las transformaciones o ítems de otro tipo se concederá 0,5 con carácter unitario.

**Pregunta 5:** Hasta 3 puntos. Se trata de una composición -de 100 a 150 palabras- en la que el alumno podrá demostrar su capacidad para expresarse libremente en lengua extranjera. Se propondrá una única opción y se otorgarán 1,5 puntos por el buen dominio de la lengua –léxico, estructura sintáctica, etc.- y 1,5 por la madurez en la expresión de las ideas -organización, coherencia y creatividad.
SUGGESTED ANSWERS:

**Question 1**
a. True. … Japanese company "Kuchofuku", meaning air-conditioned clothing in Japanese, (has invented a must for hot summers: the “Kuchofuku” jacket.)
b. False. The shirts and jackets are far from fashionable, (but demand for them is soaring because they are not just economical.)

**Question 2** (Key Ideas)

a. In the 1990s, Ichigaya, who worked for Sony, wanted to discover an air conditioner that needed less electricity. He discovered that people need to be cool and not the room. After the Fukushima nuclear accident, electricity in Japan is scarce and Ichigaya’s jackets could help the Japanese keep cool using less electricity.
b. Kuchofuku jackets have fans that create a breeze inside the jacket. This evaporates the sweat and cools the body, and this lowers the temperature of the body.

**Question 3**

a. reduce
b. entire
c. goal
d. expanded

**Question 4**

a. by……..wore / were wearing
b. in……..to……..greatly
c. whose
d. thought…….. buying
SUGGESTED ANSWERS:

**Question 1**

a. **False.** Arriving as ordinary unripe bananas from the Philippines, ("Mozart bananas" are in for a surprise.)

b. **True.** "Mozart bananas", which made their debut last July, are more expensive than ordinary bananas, but sales are sky-rocketing.

**Question 2** (Key Ideas)

a. Normal, unripe bananas coming from the Philippines arrive in Japan. These bananas are placed in chambers and ripen listening to Mozart’s concerts for a week.

b. Mozart’s music is important because it produces comfortable surroundings to work in and this affects the tomatoes positively. They are richer in vitamins and iron and the music and organic farming produce excellent tomatoes.

**Question 3**

a. back
b. sky-rocketing
c. beverages
d. regular

**Question 4**

a. thought…….. heard / had heard…….. listening
b. It…….. on
c. than
d. since……..best