

Cognome: Nome:

Data di nascita:/...../.....

Corso di laurea:

Test di lingua INGLESE 2025

Durata della prova: 75 minuti (i primi 15 minuti sono per la prova d'ascolto)

Attenzione: leggere attentamente le istruzioni.

Non è permesso l'uso del dizionario.

Si ricorda agli studenti che il presente test è di proprietà esclusiva del Dipartimento Lingue Letterature e Culture Straniere dell'Università degli Studi di Roma Tre. Qualunque tentativo di sottrazione, riproduzione, vendita, sarà sanzionato a norma di legge, costituendo violazione del diritto d'autore.

LISTENING (10 items)

PART B - An interview

You will hear a radio interview with a teenager called Luke Fuller, who's talking about working as a junior reporter for his local radio station. Choose the best answer: a, b, or c.

5. What was Luke's main task at the radio station?	A	To interview teenagers and to make them speak about their lives.
	B	To look for teenagers interested in a media career.
	C	To hire local people who could work for the radio station.
6. What kind of training did Luke get?	A	He had to learn how to be natural and relaxed.
	B	He had to learn everything about the equipment.
	C	He had no training at all.
7. What did Luke find challenging?	A	Being at the centre of attention due to his shyness.
	B	The fact that his teachers did not give him any advice.
	C	Having to transcribe the interviews.
10. How does Luke feel about working as a reporter?	A	He enjoyed himself.
	B	It was a funny experience.
	C	He did not like having to ask many personal questions.

READING (20 items)

Read the text and then complete the exercises by clicking on the correct option for each paragraph

Magic mushrooms and María Sabina: a journey of tradition and discovery

Magic mushrooms are a type of fungus that can cause people to experience visions, unusual thoughts, and strong emotions. These effects are caused by a natural chemical in the mushrooms called psilocybin. People have used magic mushrooms for thousands of years, especially in religious or spiritual ceremonies. In some cultures, they are believed to help people connect with nature, spirits, or even the gods.

One of the most important figures in the history of magic mushrooms is María Sabina, a healer and shaman from Mexico. She lived in a small village in the mountains of Oaxaca and became famous for her traditional healing ceremonies using magic mushrooms, which the local people call “*holy children*.” María Sabina was not a scientist or a doctor, but her deep knowledge of plants and healing came from the traditions passed down through her family and community.

In the 1950s, an American banker and amateur ethnobotanist named R. Gordon Wasson travelled to Mexico in search of traditional uses of mushrooms. After gaining the trust of the locals, he was invited to a ceremony led by María Sabina. He later wrote an article about his experience in a popular American magazine, introducing the Western world to magic mushrooms for the first time. This article sparked global interest and led to many people visiting María Sabina’s village, hoping to try the mushrooms themselves.

At first, María Sabina welcomed outsiders, believing that the mushrooms could help anyone who needed healing. However, the situation soon got out of control. Large numbers of foreigners arrived, some using the mushrooms for fun rather than for spiritual reasons. This brought trouble to her village and led to problems in her community. María Sabina was blamed by some people in her village for sharing their traditions with the outside world, and her life became much more difficult.

Today, María Sabina is remembered as a wise and powerful woman who kept her culture’s traditions alive. While some people criticise how her story was shared without her full understanding or permission, others honour her as a symbol of traditional knowledge and natural healing. Her ceremonies were not just about the mushrooms—they included music, prayer, and a deep respect for nature. Her voice and her chants, often performed at night by candlelight, were an important part of the healing process.

In modern times, scientists are again studying psilocybin and its possible benefits for mental health. Some research suggests it may help treat depression, anxiety, and addiction when used in a safe and controlled way. As this interest grows, many people believe it is important to remember where this knowledge came from. The story of María Sabina reminds us that these mushrooms are not just a drug, but also a sacred medicine for many indigenous cultures. Her life shows the need to respect traditional wisdom and the people who have protected it for generations.

Comprehension (6 items, 1.5 each)

1. Magic mushrooms are a type of fungus that can cause people to **experience** visions, unusual thoughts, and strong emotions. These effects are caused by a natural chemical in the mushrooms called psilocybin. People have used magic mushrooms for thousands of years, especially in religious or spiritual ceremonies. In some cultures, they are believed to help people connect with nature, spirits, or even the gods.

11. Why do some cultures value magic mushrooms?	A	They are used for ceremonial purposes.
	B	They improve memory and focus.
	C	They are a good source of nutrition.

2. One of the most important figures in the history of magic mushrooms is María Sabina, a **healer** and shaman from Mexico. She lived in a small village in the mountains of Oaxaca and became famous for her traditional healing ceremonies using magic mushrooms, which the local people call “*holy children*”. María Sabina was not a scientist or a doctor, but her deep knowledge of plants and healing came from the traditions **passed down through** her family and community.

12. How did María Sabina acquire the knowledge of natural remedies?	A	She learnt from family and local customs.
	B	She followed advice from tourists.
	C	She probably studied at university.

3. In the 1950s, an American banker and **amateur** ethnobotanist named R. Gordon Wasson travelled to Mexico in search of traditional uses of mushrooms. After gaining the **trust** of the locals, he was invited to a ceremony led by María Sabina. He later wrote an article about his experience in a popular American magazine, introducing the Western world to magic mushrooms for the first time. This article **sparked** global interest and led to many people visiting María Sabina’s village, hoping to try the mushrooms themselves.

13. What led to increased international awareness of magic mushrooms?	A	A foreigner’s published study.
	B	A government campaign.
	C	A movie about mushroom hunting.

4. At first, María Sabina welcomed outsiders, believing that the mushrooms could help anyone who needed healing. However, the situation soon got out of control. Large numbers of foreigners arrived, some using the mushrooms for fun rather than for spiritual reasons. This brought trouble to her village and led to problems in her community. María Sabina was **blamed** by some people in her village for sharing their traditions with the outside world, and her life became much more difficult.

14. What was one negative aspect of outsiders coming to María Sabina's town?	A	The local traditions were misused.
	B	The village became wealthier.
	C	Her community grew stronger.

5. Today, María Sabina is remembered as a wise and powerful woman who kept her culture's traditions alive. While some people criticise how her story was shared without her full understanding or permission, others honour her as a symbol of traditional knowledge and natural healing. Her ceremonies were not just about the mushrooms—they included music, prayer, and a deep respect for nature. Her voice and her chants, often performed at night by candlelight, were an important part of the healing process.

15. What set María Sabina's healing practices apart from others?	A	They included sacred chants and promoted a deep connection to the environment.
	B	They involved scientific experiments.
	C	They were performed in medical centres.

6. In modern times, scientists are again studying psilocybin and its possible benefits for mental health. Some research suggests it may help treat depression, anxiety, and addiction when used in a safe and controlled way. As this interest grows, many people believe it is important to remember where this knowledge came from. The story of María Sabina reminds us that these mushrooms are not just a drug, but also a sacred medicine for many indigenous cultures. Her life shows the need to respect traditional wisdom and the people who have protected it for generations.

16. Why is it important to acknowledge María Sabina's story today?	A	To understand the origin of modern therapies.
	B	To encourage recreational mushroom use.
	C	To limit research on natural substances.

VOCABULARY (7 items)

Click on the option that has the same meaning as the word highlighted in bold in the paragraphs above

17. experience	have	think	cause
18. healer	spiritual doctor	priest	student
19. passed down through	handed down by	forgotten by	hidden from

COHESION (7 items)

In the following numbered paragraphs, taken from the text you have read, you will find one or more words highlighted in bold. Identify who or what these words refer to and click on the correct option

Paragraph 1

Magic mushrooms are a type of fungus that can cause people to experience visions, unusual thoughts, and strong emotions. These effects are caused by a natural chemical in the mushrooms called psilocybin. People have used magic mushrooms for thousands of years, especially in religious or spiritual ceremonies. In some cultures, **they** are believed to help people connect with nature, spirits, or even the gods.

24.	they	magic mushrooms
		religious or spiritual ceremonies
		people

Paragraph 2

One of the most important figures in the history of magic mushrooms is María Sabina, a healer and shaman from Mexico. She lived in a small village in the mountains of Oaxaca and became famous for her traditional healing ceremonies using magic mushrooms, **which** the local people call “*holy children*”. María Sabina was not a scientist or a doctor, but her deep knowledge of plants and healing came from the traditions passed down through her family and community.

25.	which	magic mushrooms
		traditional healing ceremonies

		plants
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Paragraph 3

In the 1950s, an American banker and amateur ethnobotanist named R. Gordon Wasson travelled to Mexico in search of traditional uses of mushrooms. After gaining the trust of the locals, he was invited to a ceremony led by María Sabina. He later wrote an article about **his experience** in a popular American magazine, introducing the Western world to magic mushrooms for the first time. This article sparked global interest and led to many people visiting María Sabina's village, hoping to try the mushrooms themselves.

26.	his experience	Wasson's participation in the ceremony
		Wasson's trip to Mexico
		Wasson's meeting with the locals

CLOZE TEST (12 items)

Complete the following passage by clicking on the correct option in the drop-down menu, choosing one of the three given words for each gap.

A New Frontier: Space Tourism

In the past, only specially trained astronauts were able to travel into space. Today, however, private companies are developing spacecraft that allow ordinary people to become space 31. These early customers are usually wealthy individuals who want to be part of a unique and historical 32.

31. tourists pilots engineers
32. adventure decision project

GRAMMAR (15 items)

Click on the correct option.

43. I met a woman ... lives in the house next to mine.	who
	whose
	whom

44. Tom: I love Italian food. Jerry: ...	So do I.
	Nor do I.
	Neither I do.