

Transcript CPE Test 1

Part 1

Extract 1

"Vermin Patrol" is a new board game which came out this month. I've had the chance to play through it a few times and let me tell you that, while not perfect, it's probably the best addition to the "Thebes Interchange" series yet. In case you've been living under a rock for the past few years, Thebes is an ordinary town, a place just like any city on our own planet, that serves as a major interchange for long distance starfaring vessels. As a result, you get all sorts of characters trapped there for days, waiting for their ship home. It's a very vivid and dark backdrop which I adore. "Thebes P.I." the investigative game was a particular delight due to its cutting edge ruleset, for example. But what I like most about Vermin Patrol is the ability to download new monster cards every month for free, which you can incorporate into your existing deck, keeping every play session fresh and exciting. The Burger Grub is my current favourite...

Extract 2

As soon as you take your seat you feel transported back to another time. It's the whole atmosphere of the place. They've really gone to down on the whole ambience, and when the curtain rises, you feel like you've literally gone back in time; it's just amazing. If the designer doesn't receive a list of accolades, it'll be a shocking injustice. I've never seen anything quite like it. It really served as a foundation for the whole experience, which was just as well, as the actors were horribly miscast. The leading man was far too old for the part and the girl playing his love interest looked like she was about to corpse every two minutes. I'm not sure what she felt she had to laugh about; the story was enough to send you to sleep. I could have put up with all of this if it wasn't for the fact that they'd decided to shroud everything in gloom, at least I think they had. It may simply have been a misstep rather than an artistic decision but either way it succeeded in ruining what little there was to enjoy, to be honest.

Extract 3

Well, I imagine things are very different these days. But back then they needed the extra staff over the seasonal period due to all the surplus orders. You wouldn't believe the amount of stuff we had to shift. It really was incredible. I wouldn't go so far as to call it hard work; perhaps a little tedious at times but nothing that I would describe as back-breaking. I'd say trying to adapt to the graveyard shift was the biggest chore. It was the lack of light that got me down. I did like walking home in the early morning though, while everyone else was getting ready to go to work. That was really strange, but in a good way. It was still dark, of course, but you felt that you had your own little world of deserted streets and quiet morning air and then just as the world was stirring, you were getting ready for some shuteye. And I'll never forget my colleagues. They were a real mixed bag, a proper motley crew. Most of them were alright but there are one or two I won't miss.

Part 2

Hello, everyone. My name is Fred Callahan and I'm going to talk to you all today about the famous Coopers Hill Cheese- Rolling and Wake, or as it is more commonly known around the world, the Gloucester Cheese Roll.

Originally the event took place on Whit Monday, which is the seventh Monday after Easter but the modern era sees it taking place on Spring Bank Holiday, which this year is the 27th of May. People from all over the world descend on this little corner of rural England to take part in a ceremony that dates back hundreds of years.

The format of the race is simple. The cheese is released and given a one-second head start, which may not sound like much but is in fact more than enough time to make the cheese virtually impossible to catch. The participants then run down the hill after the cheese, racing to be the first to cross the finish line.

Although there is no doubt that some of its popularity is due to the bizarre nature of the event, perhaps the ceremony's fame can be mainly attributed to Coopers Hill itself, whose steep gradient makes any descent extremely dangerous. It is almost impossible to run down the hill at any speed without falling over. No year is without its mishaps. 1997 saw the highest number of injuries with no fewer than 33 people being treated for sprains, bruises and even broken bones. Safety concerns have threatened to close the event down and in 2011, the event was cancelled due to fears of overcrowding. However, the Cheese-Rolling went ahead anyway, albeit in an unofficial capacity, and was attended by 500 people that year.

Safety worries have changed the event in other ways too. The typical cheese used in the ceremony weighs around four kilograms and is protected by a wooden casing. Traditionally, these were provided by a local cheesemaker, but when she was warned that she could be held responsible for any injuries caused by her cheeses, it was decided that the historic cheese wheel be replaced with a lightweight foam version.

The historical origins of the event remain unclear. The first of two theories suggests that it may have emerged as a way of competing for grazing rights. The second theory is that the event was borne out of a pagan custom for rolling things down a hill. It is thought that rolling bales of brushwood down the hill was a custom used many years ago to mark the birth of the New Year after winter.

These days, the event hosts three different races. One for men, another for women and an uphill race designed primarily for the younger contestants, which is obviously much safer.

Winners hail from all over the world from countries such as Japan, Spain and Canada. In 2013, the cheese was actually caught, an achievement normally unheard of, by Australian Caleb Stalder, making him the automatic winner, despite trailing significantly behind a number of contestants. The world record holder is currently American Cooper Cummings who finished the race in an incredible 13 seconds.

The Coopers Hill Cheese-Roll is testament to the endurance of local traditions, however bizarre or indeed dangerous they may be. Perhaps next year it could be you, holding the cheese aloft in celebration!

Part 3

Presenter: Good evening, everyone. Tonight, we're talking to Victoria Kelsey and Toby Sears, production team of the extremely popular gameshow "Boxing Clever". So, tell me, Victoria, where did the idea for the show come from?

Victoria: First of all, I should be clear that the original idea was not our own. The game itself – or at least the original concept – came from South Korea, and had been going out on national TV there for some years before we picked it up. Over there it's known as "Yu Jin's Dragon" – I hope I'm pronouncing that right – which is reference to the fairy tale of a little girl faced with three boxes to choose from. She is guided by a wise dragon who helps her make the right choice. Obviously, we have tweaked the basic premise here and there and many of our early ideas in that regard came from earlier game shows from the sixties and seventies.

Toby: And other ideas date back even further. The idea for the audience competition came from our own medieval history.

Presenter: Is that so? Tell me more about that.

Toby: Well, during the time of the Great Plague in the fourteenth century, a number of very interesting customs began to take shape – due mainly to the increase in superstitious beliefs. One of these was a festival known as "Prayer Testing" which involved trying to guess hidden numbers. The idea was that if a person got any of the numbers right, he or she was thought to have the ear of God and so his prayers would have more chance of being answered. As the tradition evolved, individuals would compete with the assembled onlookers to see who could guess correctly the most. It's thought that this game was the inspiration for Bingo, among other famous pastimes.

Presenter: That's fascinating. So what changes did the two of you make to the original?

Victoria: Some of the changes were just cosmetic really. So for example, we chose to use boxes rather than the original briefcases, which we thought would appeal more to a UK audience. The most far-reaching was probably the removal of the general knowledge round at the opening. We always felt that this took away from the main draw of the game. It's essentially a guessing game and we didn't want to turn it into a quiz, which of course would reduce the element of chance that is so central to the excitement.

Presenter: Yes, I think it's the simplicity of it that makes it so compelling. So, how does one get on the show? I hear you are always inundated with applications.

Toby: We are, yes – which is great of course. The application process per se is simple. You simply fill in a form on the show's website and your name goes into a lottery. For each show, fifteen names are chosen at random along with five reserves. Other shows have a much more rigorous registration process which might include interviews, aptitude tests and even physical challenges, but in our case we didn't want any part of the experience to stray from the random nature of the game itself. It's not really a game of personalities, in fact you might say that the boxes are the leading actors. Having said that, we've certainly had some colourful characters come on the show over the years.

Presenter: Which contestant has left the biggest impression, would you say? Victoria?

Victoria: Oh, it's so difficult to pick one. Francesca Holmes – or The Fran as she came to be known – is probably the one that sticks in everyone's mind the most. She was one of a kind, for sure, a true eccentric, and the first to win the top prize of course. I don't think Toby and I will ever forget Taz Ahmed. What I remember about him the most was his nerves of steel. Even when the stakes were at their highest, he never lost his sense of fun. I think that's what is at the top of our list when choosing our favourite contestants.

Presenter: So, the show's been running for some years now. How do you see the future of the show developing? Are there any plans to change the game in any way...?

Part 4

Speaker 1

I was in my great-aunt's garden when it happened. I must have been about six. She had laid this pathway through the whole place made entirely of bricks. The garden was huge and the path snaked all about, through bushes, across flowerbeds. It was really exciting for a kid. Anyway, while I was trotting along this magical track, I stumbled and fell, prising one of the bricks clean out of the soil, releasing a teeming morass of life that spilled out into the daylight as if outraged to have been disturbed by my clumsiness. Many children would have been disgusted, I suppose, but I was fascinated by the sight of it. I've always thought of that moment as what sparked enthusiasm for natural world. If it hadn't been for that little tumble, I wouldn't be where I am today.

Speaker 2

Over there, the summer is unbearable and during the early afternoon, pretty much everyone stays indoors. A kindly family a few doors away had a swimming pool which they let people use and a few of us local kids would come round every day to cool off after school. I remember having something of a crush on a girl there who was about my age. I was worried that my friends had noticed. I was a shy kid and I didn't want to look like a fool. So, I just pretended not to notice her and when one day she spoke to me, I made a point of being rude to her. I think she was probably quite upset because I never saw her again. I really regret that, even now, so many years later. Ever since then, I've tried to be more gregarious in social situations. I'm certainly not the introvert I once was.

Speaker 3

It looked easy, that was the thing. But I was soon to be disabused of that notion. I didn't realise that the other contestants had a lot more experience under their belt and as soon as the horn sounded they left me for dust. The handling was really clunky and I felt as if I was on an ice rink. I must have come to grief several times. I really thought they were going to haul me out of there for the protection of others as well as myself. I've never done anything like that since. I guess I just went right off the idea once I realised I wasn't the natural I had always assumed I was. I still feel embarrassed about it now, all these years later, when I reflect on how full of myself I was. Still, it was a lesson learned, and an important one at that.

Speaker 4

I really don't know what he was thinking. I couldn't have been any more than five but back then they weren't very strict about age limits because we had no trouble from the ushers. I remember the lights going down and getting all excited but as soon as things started to get going I began to get nervous. I mean it obviously wasn't for kids and I was a sensitive type, even by the standards of my age. Anxiety soon turned to panic and it wasn't too long before I was inconsolable and demanding to be let out. There was one particular sequence involving a ship at sea. There were prisoners on board, all chained up and unable to escape. It was rolling around in this storm under the moonlight and ended up getting smashed on the rocks. I don't think anyone survived. I know it sounds crazy but I've ever been able to go near the water since.

Speaker 5

During the hot months, the unmistakeable chimes of the Mr Whippy van was a regular part of the landscape. In the early evening, he would come tootling round the corner, offering his wares. I had become quite adept at persuading my mother to fork out and I always knew exactly what I wanted. But one afternoon, it turned out that the vendor had run out of my favourite “ninety-nine” and I had to choose something else. Well, that was a disaster. What I thought would be a mouth-watering break from the norm, turned out to be some ghastly liquorice concoction which had me bed-ridden for two days. That, and the historic heatwave, almost ruined my summer and ever since then I’ve been rather paranoid about what I eat lest I end up poorly. Certainly wouldn’t want to relive that experience!

Answers CPE Test 1

Reading and Use of English

Part 1

1 B 2 A 3 C 4 A 5 B 6 A 7 C 8 D

Part 2

9 off 10 host 11 knell 12 had 13 no 14 down 15 yet 16 but

Part 3

17 inconsequential 18 lineage 19 embodying 20 facial 21 rooted 22 mythical 23 belonging

24 entirely

Part 4

25 at a loss as to/at a loss for | how she arrived

26 gave the impression | of having OR she gave every indication | of having

27 had I been | in full possession of

28 they made me | look into

29 I had not/hadn’t | lost my temper

30 to hand in her notice | came

Part 5

31 A 32 C 33 B 34 D 35 A 36 A

Part 6

37 D 38 E 39 A 40 C 41 F 42 B 43 H

Part 7

44 A 45 B 46 E 47 C 48 B 49 D 50 D 51 B 52 C 53 B