How to Teach Liaison Interpreting to Beginners

Reima Al-Jarf
King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Conference Titled Foundations for a Pedagogy of Arabic Translation.
University College Francisco Ferrer Brussels, Belgium.
October 18-20, 2007
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Abstract

The author is presenting a program that she designed for teaching liaison interpreting to translation students in their fifth semester of the translation program at the College of Languages and Translation (COLT), who are starting their training in liaison interpreting. The students never had any interpreting or translation training before. The course was taught two hours a week for 14 weeks. At the end of the course, the students are expected to be able to act as an interpreter in an interview in which the interviewer and the interviewee speak different languages (in our case English and Arabic). The program aims to train students to listen to a question in Arabic and render the meaning in English, then listen to the answer in English and render the meaning in Arabic, without any previous preparation or knowledge of the topic and without taking notes. To achieve the above objectives, the author followed the following graded exercises: (1) breathing exercises (2) memory training exercises at the word, sentence, and paragraph level (3) shadowing exercises (4) sentence paraphrase exercises (5) substituting exercises (6) liaison interpretation from English into English without any notes. (7) providing summaries sentences, then whole paragraphs. (8) Listening to single words, sentences, then short conversations and interpreting them. (9) listening to easy interviews with familiar topics, then with more difficulty and vary in topic. Every week, the author devoted one class session (50 minutes) to practice in the language laboratory, the second session to working in teams of three (role playing). The course objectives, series of graded exercises, text materials and training modes are described in detail.

Keywords: teaching interpreting, interpreting instruction, interpreting pedagogy, English-Arabic interpreting, Arabic-English interpreting, interpreting teaching strategies.

1. Introduction

At the College of Languages and Translation (COLT), King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the translation program is a ten-semester undergraduate foreign language major with a specialization in translating and interpreting from Arabic into English and from English into Arabic. To qualify for a B.A. in translation, the students are required to complete a total of 18 translation courses in medicine, physical sciences, administrative sciences, military, religion, mass media, political science, sociology, agriculture, petroleum industry, computer science, law, public safety, and literature. In addition, the students have to complete 6 courses in simultaneous, consecutive and liaison interpreting (2 courses each). The liaison interpreting courses are taught twice a week (2 hours) for 13 weeks.

Definition and Types of Interpreting

Interpreting is oral translation by an interpreter of what he/she is saying into another language, to allow a speaker to communicate with another speaker who do not know the speaker's language, i.e., each speaker speaks a different language. There are 3 basic types of interpreting:
1) **Simultaneous Interpreting (SI):** in SI, the interpreter interprets what the speaker is saying while he/she is talking as in conference interpreting, providing a continuous translation which parallels the speaker's speech.

2) **Consecutive Interpretation (CI):** in CI, the speaker speaks at intervals pausing during his/her speech to give the interpreter time to interpret everything what he/she said up to that point.

3) **Liaison interpreting (LI)** is used during visits of delegations or at small business meetings, a multilingual event, company visit, commercial negotiations. The interpreter accompanies the group or delegation and interprets between individuals or small groups speaking different languages to help them communicate with each other. The interpreter translates from language A to B, then listens to the speaker who speaks language B and translates from language B to A, then back again from language A to B. The interpreter will work without notes, memorizing the short passages spoken in one language and reproducing them in the other language. The interpreter needs to have a good command of speak both English and Arabic languages and should speak both fluently. They should have good concentration skills, a good memory, should have specialty knowledge, soft skills, and should be an empathetic listener and should understand and accept different cultures.

**Aims of Study**

The present study aims to describe how the author taught liaison interpreting to translation students who never had any interpreting training before.

**Subjects**

The liaison interpreting training program described in the present study is designed for junior students majoring in translation who are in their fifth semester of the translation program. The students never had any interpreting or translation training before. They finished 4 levels of listening, speaking, reading, and writing courses, and 2 levels of grammar and vocabulary building courses.

**Liaison Interpreting Course Objectives**

At the end of the Interpreting I course, the students are expected to be able to act as an interpreter in an interview in which the interviewer and the interviewee speak different languages; listen to a question in Arabic and render meaning in English then listen to the answer in English and render the meaning in Arabic or vice versa, without any previous preparation or knowledge of the topic; switch languages (interpret from English to Arabic and from Arabic to English); concentrate on the meaning and not on the words of the speaker; retain the main ideas instead of the original words without taking notes; convey the sense without repeating each phrase; and to convey the message in correct language, use good expression, speak at a normal speed, maintain eye contact with both speakers and create a warm atmosphere.

**Course Materials**

1) **Words and Sentences** taking for the reading and vocabulary textbooks that the students have studied in semester 1 to 4.

2) **Short conversations (dialogs)** can be taken from simplified English textbooks such as children’s stories of Headway.
3) **Formal and informal interviews** taken from newspapers and magazines covering general topics in medicine, computer science, business, banking, economics, commerce, politics, law, psychology, education, Islamic studies. The students can bring their own English and Arabic excerpts from newspapers and magazines, and bring their recorded dialogs of interest to them.

4) The interview material should represent current affairs and developments in business, computer science, medicine, economics, politics…etc.

5) Dialogs and interviews should be graded in length, difficulty level and topic familiarity.

Training Stages

1) **Breathing exercises**: Here the students practice taking a deep breath, i.e., inhaling while counting from 1-12, then they breath out, i.e., exhale while counting from 1 - 12. The students do these breathing exercises at the beginning of each class session for few minutes only.

2) **Speech shadowing exercises**: shadowing is an advanced language learning technique, which can be used by learners independently to improve their intonation and pronunciation. The students listen to a model such as a video or audio of someone speaking in Arabic or English, and they repeat what the speaker is saying in real time. My students usually listen to a news anchor in Arabic, and they repeat they hear after the anchor. They listen to a news anchor in English, and they repeat they hear after the anchor. The students listen and repeat in the same language. No interpreting is done here. They do not pause. The students repeat, word for word, sound for sound, what they hear, with as little delay as possible. The speaker should be a couple of words a head of the student. This exercise is practiced for few sessions and for part of the session only (10 minutes only).

3) **Sentence paraphrasing exercises**: here the students listen to English sentences selected from any source and reproduce their meaning in the same language (English) in the own words. Then they listen to Arabic sentences selected from any source and reproduce their meaning in the same language (Arabic) in the own words. No transfer of meaning to the other language is done.

4) The students provide summaries of short dialogs (about a paragraph) in the same language first of sentences, then of longer paragraphs. The summaries are in the same language as the source text. No translation to the other language is done. Everything is done fast. Once they listen, they have to start summarizing what they heard without delay and without writing anything on paper.

5) **Memory training** exercises: at the word, sentence, and paragraph levels. The students listen and interpret what they hear Liaison without any notes.
   - Listening to single English words and sentences taking from the reading and vocabulary textbooks that the students have studied in semester 1 to 4. and interpreting them into Arabic. They listen to Arabic words and sentence taken from Arabic high school textbooks and interpreting them into English.
o Listening to short dialogs in English and interpreting them into Arabic, listening to short dialogs in Arabic and interpreting them into English.

6) **Interpreting specialized interviews:** The students listen to easy recorded interviews with familiar topics in English and interpret them into Arabic, then they listen to recorded interviews in Arabic and interpreting them into English. The students interpret the same number of English and Arabic interview. They should not take notes nor translate anything on paper and read it. The students start by interpret easy specialized interviews with familiar topics, then the interviews increase in length, difficulty level and topic familiarity. Interviews should be selected from different fields: education, politics, IT, tourism, Islamic studies and others.

**Training Schedule**
The breathing, speech shadowing, sentence paraphrasing, summarizing short dialogs, and memory training exercises should be practiced the first 2 weeks of the course. In each class session, the students practice several memory-training exercises for 10-15 minutes each. The students practice interpreting dialogs in one subject-field for 1-2 weeks. They practice several dialogs in one session. Either half the session is devoted to interpreting dialogs that are mostly English, the other half to those that are mostly Arabic, or one whole session is devoted to English dialogs, another to Arabic dialogs. Then the students move on interpreting easy interviews and move on to more difficult one. Each class session, the students practice several dialogs from different subject areas. They listen to each part of the dialog only once. Focus should be on interpreting the overall meaning of what they hear not the exact words of what they hear, because it is impossible to memorize every single word they hear.

**Teaching & Learning Strategies**
The Students learn to set the floor for the two speakers and learn how to conclude the dialog. They practice liaison interpreting with short speaker intervals. They perform in English/Arabic and Arabic/English. They listen for sense right from the start and focus less on the exact words. They practice storing units of meaning rather than discrete words. They learn to make predictions while listening. They infer the topic of the dialog from the first question, keep topic in mind while listening, ignore redundancies and repetitions, pay attention to what is said about the main topic.

To help students cope with dialogs with difficult topics, they are trained to simplify the text that they heard, i.e. paraphrase it silently in the same SL before rendering the meaning in the TL. The students do not have to render lists of points in TL in their same order in SL. They are always asked to visualize events (form a mental picture), use their prior knowledge to connect the ideas that they have heard in ST with what they already know. They learn to cope with grammatical and lexical difficulties by giving the gist of what they heard and paraphrasing difficult words.

To expand the students’ lexical knowledge, the teacher gives a set of basic terminology in medicine, law, politics, computer science before interpreting dialogs in a particular field.

They learn to note the domain in which a word is used and give the equivalent accordingly (interest). They learn to interpret the underlying meaning of the word not the surface form (element). Teacher gives exemplary interpretation. Teacher listens to individual student while interpreting, notes slips and errors. Those are pointed out and discussed. Extralinguistic aspects of LT are practiced.
Note-taking is kept to a minimal.

Training Environment

1) Language lab: One class session is devoted to practice in the language laboratory. With headphones on, students listen to taped dialogs. The teacher may read the dialogs. The students interpret from English into Arabic and from Arabic into English. No preparation is required.

2) Simulation: Simulated interpreting exercises in a simulated conference situation. The students practice simulated interviews in teams of three. Before the session, the teacher assigns a topic. The students research that topic and bring excerpts from newspapers and magazines.

3) For Home Practice: At home, the students are encouraged to observe how professional interpreters work; watch the news in Arabic and in English, noting the English and Arabic expressions used; practice LT while watching T.V. & listening to radio; practice LT with classmates in small teams.

Note-taking

The students are supposed to interpret between the speakers without taking any note.

Evaluation

The students take 2 Interim tests and a final exam at the end of the semester. The exams are oral and consist of several dialogs covering different topics. The students listen to each dialog in short intervals. Each string of discourse is heard only once. The students are allowed to take very brief notes (names and figures). The students tape their interpretation right after they hear the SL.

To grade the students’ recordings, the instructor listens to the recorded interpretations while following a printed version of the dialog. The instructor used holistic evaluation. Focus is on ability to understand and render the sense of what is heard. Interpreting errors and comments are recorded for each student on a printed copy of the dialog.

Appendix

Sample Scripts of Liaison Interpreting Interviews for Practice

TEXT 1
Wayne fell off his bicycle. He's in the casualty department at the local hospital. Dr Singh is examining him.

Doctor: Hello, Wayne, isn't it? you've had a bit of a fall. what were you doing? Going too fast?

وين: نعم يا دكتور، لقد وقعت وانا الف عند الركن

Doctor: You'd better get undressed then, and we'll take a look at you. Mm. That's a nasty cut. I'll have to put a couple of stitches in that.

وين: لذي جرح هنا أيضا يا دكتور

Doctor: It looks worse than it is. It's only a graze. The nurse will clean it up for you. It'll sting, but that's all. Now, does it hurt anywhere else.
Doctor: Well, there is nothing broken, but you've bruised your shoulder. It'll be sore for a few days. Now, did you bang your head at all?

Doctor: Did you feel dizzy?

Doctor: Look up there, I'm just going to shine this light in your eye. No, that's fine. I'll just do the stitches, and the nurse will put a dressing on it. Then you can go home.

TEXT 2

September: Sata Megawati, what is the first step we will take?

Megawati: The first step is to go to court to challenge the illegal government action to unseat me as PDI (Indonesian Democratic Party) chairman. I've told the people to come to the downtown Jakarta court not only to support me in my court case but also to support the law. I want people to see for themselves if we have the rule of law in this country. Abuse of power and a lack of law are very serious problems in my country. For example, how can an Indonesian or foreign businessman who wants to invest here for the long term succeed if there aren't any legal guarantees?

Megawati: What did you prepare in your political thinking for Indonesia?

Megawati: We want to have a government that will implement the Constitution which our founding fathers gave us. It gives the people democratic rights and free speech within the Indonesian cultural context. But today the Constitution is not being followed.

TEXT 3

What is marketing?

The marketing is the buying and selling and warehouses, and it is the main component in the movement of the economy and its growth.

What are the requirements for admission to the marketing Department?

The high school diploma should be good in English and Mathematics and good in the other subjects.

How long is the marketing program? What courses do students take?

The program lasts four years to get a university degree in marketing, where the student studies accounting and economics and marketing in general, and to study the legal and information and the second-year studies in political and economic conditions and marketing principles and the decisions taken by the manager responsible.

The third year, the course is in international trade and accounting and management of human resources and administrative issues.

What personal qualifications should the student have?

The student must have a good personality and business sense, to understand the needs of the market from supply and demand, and be capable of understanding the market in a short period.

TEXT 4

Why did the oil prices go down?

The oil prices went down because the economic problem in the Asian industrial countries reduced the demand for oil. Secondly: there are new oil fields discovered in the Persian Gulf and the West African coast.
In your opinion, is this a temporary or a long-term problem?

امامي الان التقرير الذي اصدرته وكالة الطاقة الدولية عن توقعات السنة القادمة ويقول بأن اقتصاد الدول الاسيوية سيتهسن قليلا وبالتالي سيرزيد الطلب على النفط.

The total oil production of the Gulf states or OPEC states has not changed? why are the oil prices so low?

لا ان الدول غير المبتعثة في أوبك زادت انتاجها بينما انتجت بعض الدول اقل، وتوقعت ان نحن الامريكيين، الانتاج البترولي الأمريكي الاني ضعيف لعدة سنوات لكنه مؤخر توقف عن الانخفاض.

Would the oil prices go even more down if Iraq is back into the oil market?

العراق موجود في السوق الان ولكن تحت رقابة الأمم المتحدة. انت تقصد اذا رفعت المقاطعة عن العراق طبعا اذا زاد الان الإنتاج ستتوقف الانخفاض الأسعار.

What do American oil companies want

تريد الاقتراض المفترض ولا سيطرة او باقل سيطرة من جانب الحكومات سواد الحكومة الامريكية او غيرها.

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**Sample Test 1**

1. *You said that you've been living in Athens and that you were in Lebanon, could you give us some idea about your homeland, Lebanon?*

انا لبناني من مواليد بيروت في 10/5/1965 أي اسمي فلسطيني وأمي فلسطينية، وربت طفلي من جهة أمي واسترها. عشت في لبنان أول عشر سنوات من عمري حتى اندلعت الحرب في عام 1975، فانتقلنا إلى لندن لمدة اسبوعين. ثم انتقلنا الى اليونان لتمضية الصيف في اثينا وظل الوضع الأمني يزداد تدهورا في لبنان، نعشت في اليونان ثلاث عشرة سنة متواصلة وبعدها انتقلنا الى الولايات المتحدة.

**Did you play basketball in Lebanon?**

مارسها على بعض الملاعب في احيان العطلات، ولكن شهدت تدريبات فريق لبنان الوطني لكرة السلة، لا بالاسم tras، ولكن التدريب لهولاء الشباب الذين يمارسون رياضة كرة السلة وسط الوضع، فالبطولة العامة لم تتمكن من المشاركة في العملية ولم يتأهب، وتمايلت في فرق المدارس الرياضية، ولا تتابعون مباريات العالم الرياضي، لا من خلال التلفزيون، ولكن تنقلت الى المدارس الخاصة.

**Do you think it is possible for any Arab country to have an international basketball team?**

اعرف ان لمصر فريقا مهما في كرة السلة لكن التدريب هناك يفترض ان تكون اللياقة البدنية الممتازة، ما ينقص مصر هو التدريب الجيد. فأنت في ميامي مثل ايام الرياضة القديمة كالصرف حين لا يكون لدينا مباريات متواصلة، تنصرنا في المدارس الجسدية مثل رفع الالافال بصفة خاصة ننضج نجومنا قوة وقورة على التحمل.

2. *We'd like to welcome Dr Adel, a general practitioner, at King Khalid University hospital to our show. Dr Adel, how can we avoid arthritis?*

الحركة الدائمة هي اهم طرق حماية جسمك من التهاب المفاصل، وتوصي بتناول اطعمة غنية في فيتامين د مثل المنتجات اللائيه، وأهم مصادرة اشعة الشمس، وبتعليق فيتنام ج دورا في انتاج الكولاجين اللازم لاعادة نمو العظام.

**How about olive oil?**

كشفت الإحصاءات الطبية ان زيت الزيتون احول منع الناصر ذات التأثير الفعال في الوقاية من التهابات المفاصل الروماتيزمية، عليك باستخدامه في طعامك وليس تدليك فوق الجلد، وأحرص على خفض الدهون في طعامك.
How can a patient cope with diabetes?

A patient can cope with diabetes by maintaining a healthy lifestyle, managing their weight, and avoiding obesity. Chromium is a beneficial mineral that helps with diabetes management. A nutritious diet is also essential. Regular exercise is another important factor in preventing diabetes-related complications.

How can we prevent a stroke?

To prevent a stroke, it is important to maintain a healthy lifestyle, maintain a healthy weight, and avoid obesity. A diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes is recommended. Additionally, taking folic acid daily can help reduce homocysteine levels in the body. Exercise, such as running, is also important in preventing strokes.

3. Does peace between Syria and Israel mean that the Syrian-Israeli conflict file will be closed?

A full, just, and permanent peace that restores rights to their owners, and fulfills the aspirations of the Palestinian people for the establishment of their independent state on their own land, is the peace that the region is in need of. This peace is the only solution for the ultimate end of the Israeli-Arab conflict, and it must be achieved at all costs. Therefore, why would there not be cooperation and normalization? We have witnessed many conflicts in this world that ended with the establishment of borders between the opposing sides. It has become time for the peoples of this region to turn to development and achieve economic prosperity to eliminate poverty and hunger that threatens them, and for the Syrian and Palestinian people to enjoy the rights to which they are entitled.

4. Could you give us some idea about the PDA (Personal Digital Assistant)?

PDA is a compact device that is used to store and access data. It can be used for various purposes such as storing addresses, browsing the internet, and managing contacts. It is smaller than a laptop and hence, it is portable. It has a built-in keyboard and a touch screen to input data. It is usually powered by a battery and can be charged using a USB cable.

Sample Test 2

The President of the American Federation of Teachers, Dr. Shander, was recently interviewed by a journalist about the changes in the education system.

Dr Schanker, when did this movement start?

The movement started ten years ago with a major campaign to change the school system. It gained a lot of media attention and was successful in proving the failure of the current educational system in facing the challenges of the current era. The campaign was launched on April 25, 1984, after the publication of the National Commission’s report on educational excellence.

What did the report recommend?

The report recommended extending the school day and school year, increasing the number of teachers, increasing the entrance standards for higher education, improving the assessment methods, and promoting the use of standardized tests.
What was the reaction to this report?

A report on the new curriculum was met with mixed reactions. The report highlighted the need for more emphasis on English and maths, and science for three years each. However, the report emphasized the need for reform and called for more discussion on the topic. The reaction was mixed, with some networks broadcasting specials on education, and magazines dedicating pages to the topic. State governors rushed to join the reform movement and formed school committees and more. There was a real desire to invest more in schools, but we did not get any reform on all that was demanded. But this movement was better than previous ones.

What were the results of this movement?

The students showed improvement in reading and writing, as well as in mathematics. But despite this improvement, students across the country still made little progress in reading and writing. The situation worsened in the middle and high school years where the school day was divided into one-hour classes, with one teacher for 20 to 30 students. The students had to listen to lectures, which were either difficult or easy and boring. Then the bell rang and they moved to another room to sit with another 20 or 30 students and listen to another lecture.

Schools in the past? Were schools successful then?

In 1900, only 3.6% of young people completed secondary school compared to 49% in 1940. The United States was having a wave of interest in higher education, and many young people were benefiting from their schools today.

Could you please give us some idea about the most exciting event in the supreme court, since it is the bicentennial?

The Supreme Court of the United States experienced a moment in its 200-year history in the early 1970s when it accepted a case that posed a unique challenge: the United States against Richard Nixon, the president of the United States. The case was heard by the judges, and the courtroom was filled with journalists who wanted to hear the case. The journalists' seats did not exceed 19, and the problem was how to accommodate the journalists. Finally, the session ended without a decision, and the judges left the courtroom and closed the heavy curtains at the back of the courtroom and entered a private room where they discussed what they would do. And usually, the supreme court would not announce the decision.

What was the reaction of the media?

For journalists, it was a unique moment in history. They were present in the courtroom, and the judiciary was discussing the case. The journalists wanted to hear the decision, but there was no decision. The journalists were waiting to hear the decision, and the judge was discussing what to do. Finally, the session ended without a decision, and the judges left the courtroom and closed the heavy curtains at the back of the courtroom and entered a private room where they discussed what they would do. And usually, the supreme court would not announce the decision.
What were they discussing?

They were discussing a legal issue, and members of Congress were talking about the possibility of removing the president due to allegations of obstructions of justice. They requested to hear the tapes recorded during the president's conversations in the White House. The president refused that.

His advisers were also examining this case and the possibility of releasing the tapes to help in their defense. The judges were set to decide if it is justified to force the president to hand over the recordings.

Lecture with Israeli Foreign Minister

Chances for a symmetrical, fair, and comprehensive solution are promising if we move towards one of the other pathways, which can be followed by other paths to make progress in other areas.

Allan Douglas

Magazines for Children in Syria

The magazines for children in Syria are branching out of the Arab countries. They are published in Syria and the Arab League. The majority of them are published by the ruling party only.

Don't you think that serving as a party leader for such a long time is against democracy?

No, I think that service as a party leader for such a long time is against democracy.

You have been a representative in the parliament for 34 years, and you have lived in these eras, didn't you find it difficult to cope with them?

The parliament was under the rule of the Muslim Brotherhood, and we were facing a lot of difficulties. However, I believe that the parliament was a place where we could express our opinions and work on improving the situation.

Have you ever voted against the government while being in the parliament?

Yes, I have voted against the government, but I believe that it was necessary to express our opposition to some policies and decisions of the government.

I have always been a strong supporter of the government, and I believe that we should work together for the benefit of our country.

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Some members of the National Party did not abide by the party's decision. They voted against the party's candidates in the last elections. After winning, they joined the party, isn't this a weakness in the party's policies?

دعا بعض الأعضاء في الحزب إلى التوافق مع القرار الحزبي، حتى بعد الفوز في الانتخابات. هذا قد يشكل نقصًا في سياسة الحزب.

Dr Ahmed, what are the symptoms of renal failure?

دكتور أحمد، ما هي أعراض فشل الكبد؟

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2. Could you give us some idea about the Internet City in Dubai as the first free zone (market) for information technology in the world?

هل يمكن أن تشترك في بعض الأفكار حول مدينة الإنترنت الأول في دبي، وهي أول منطقة غير مبنية للإنترنت عالمياً؟

3. How can I get a job as an accountant? What qualifications are required?

كيف تتمكن من العثور على وظيفة كمشرفة مالية؟ ما هي الوظائف المطلوبة؟
تعتبر المحاسبة بمثابة العمود الفقري لكل الشركات، ومع تزايد حركة التجارة في العالم فان الطلب على هذه المهنة سوف يزداد. عليك اولاً الحصول على شهادة جامعية في هذا المجال كحد ادنى، وثانياً معرفة استخدامات الكمبيوتر في مجال المحاسبة لأنها أصبحت من المتطلبات الأساسية للتوظيف في كثير من الشركات. ثالثاً الحصول على ادعي الرزى سواء محلية أو عالمية سوف يفتح لك أفاقاً أوسع للعمل: اضافة الى القدرة على التعامل مع الأرقام ما يعني توفر مهارات جديدة في مجال الرياضيات، ويعتبر كثيرون من المحاسبين يعملون لحاسومهم الخاص، وقد تفكر في ان يكون لديك مكتب محاسبة فردي أو قد تعمل من المنزل الخاص مع تطور وسائل الاتصال والمعلوماتية: حيث اتك لستتعامل مع فإنات مختلفة من المجتمع فلا بد من تتوفر شخصية قوية وثقية بالنفس وأيضاً اقادة فنون الاتصال حتى تتمكن للك منافسة وشرح المسألة المالية للآخرين: ومن الصفات الهامة يجب أن يتمتع بها المحاسبون هي الدرجة العالية من الصدق حيث ان مصالح الآلاف من البشر تعتمد عليهم.

4. يقول بعض المعارضين أن المنددة العالمي بالاقتصاد والذي عقد في دافوس سويسرا لم يعبر بعض الموضوعات مثل البيئة والتنمية الاهتمام الكافي: ما هو رأيك في ذلك؟ وهل ترى للمنددة أي تأثير على مسألة العولمة؟

We have been, during the 1970's and the 1980's at the forefront of creating an environmental conscience of business - and of course we still are. There is no well-known environmentalist who has not been eager to come to Davos, very often to shake up the participants. Our first meeting in 1971 in Davos was the platform to present to the world the famous report, "Limits to Growth". I also served as a key advisor to the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and mobilized the business community for this summit and other events. Of course, the forum has an impact on globalization. Bringing together all those leaders at the beginning of the year creates an informal process to take the pulse of everybody's perceptions, to test new ideas and to stimulate agreement on priorities.

5. من الذي حاز على جائزة نوبل في الاقتصاد لعام 1998؟

For his work in the study of famine, welfare and poverty, Indian economist Sen won the 1998 Nobel Prize in Economics two weeks ago. Sen, 64, is the first Asian to win the prize for economics since it was first awarded in 1969, and the first solo winner of the prize since 1995. His extensive output of writings and analytical work includes studies of the Ethiopian famine of 1973 and Bangladeshi famine of 1974 as well as other catastrophes. His contributions range from theory of social choice, over definitions of welfare and poverty indexes, to studies of famine. A distinguished academician who taught in India, Britain and the United States. Sen got his professorship in economics and philosophy at Harvard this year.

Sample Scripts for an Interpreting Final Exam

(1) Mr. Omar, what is the cause of the computer problem in the year 2000

ستأتي نهاية عام 1999 بمشكلة كبيرة. فالأعداد من اجهزة الكمبيوتر خاصة الكبيرة أو القديمة منها لن تستطيع التعامل مع الرقم 2000، وتسبّب ذلك السنة فيه معاودة للرقم صفر أو الرقم 1900، وهكذا يعود الشيخ المولود عام 1917 صبياً في مقتبل شبابه. وقد يشمل التغيير الجهاز أو نظام التشغيل أو البرامج، والنتيجة توقف المؤسسة التي تعتمد على الكمبيوتر في العمل لحين حل المشكلة. هذا يعني الكمبيوتر الذي يدير ميزانيتك، أو الذي ينظم حسابات المصرف، أو يدير نظام بطاقات الائتمان، أو ينظم هبوط الطائرات في المطار، وسيكون هناك أزمات مالية وسياسية عالمية كبرى.

(2) How far would an Islamic satellite channel succeed in a world of satellite channels?

يعد استمرار القنوات الفضائية الحالية في التأثير السيء على السلك والأخلاق. انها تقوم على الربح بأي سبلة، وانعقد ان وجود قناة أو قنوات متخصصة في البناء والتوجيه وارشاد الناس وتفعيلهم أمر في غاية الأهمية، فقد وجد الناس أثراً سلبياً مدمرًا من جراء إدمان مشاهدة برامج تعرض عن ثقافة وحضارة بعيدة عن المسلمين، وانغمار الأمم في بعض الاحتراف والهوايات و’eXTRa جرب بشكل خطأ على المجتمع امتكاً وفكرة واخلاقياً. وتسعد القنوات الهادفة بأعمال كبيرة من المشاهدين في جميع انحاء العالم. فعلاً هناك اقبال على نقل الصلاة من المسجد الحرام أو وقوف الحاجاج

13
(3) Could you tell us about the new project that aims at providing Lebanon with gas?

The project involves providing electricity stations in Lebanon with gas. The project includes selecting companies to conduct the required studies. The project mainly relies on using liquefied gas instead of fuel gas in electricity stations. A study to determine the quantities of gas needed in Lebanon indicates that the country requires approximately 1.5 million tons of gas to increase to 3.5 million tons in the next phase. The Syrian government has agreed to provide Lebanon with its needs by establishing a network of pipelines connecting the collection station in Syria to the electricity stations in Lebanon.

(4) Hasam Kamal is the only Egyptian doctor specializing in bone marrow transplantation. He learned in Germany under Professor Schier in the University of Aswan, and then returned to Egypt to establish a center for bone marrow transplantation at the Cancer Institute in Cairo. He performed 125 successful bone marrow transplants in Egypt, totaling 300 operations. His success rate was 210 of 210. His office in Germany has performed 1,800 operations, and about 1,750 of these were successful. Patients with leukemia require bone marrow transplantation in 100 percent of cases. A patient with leukemia, like Nabil, would cost 18,000 Egyptian pounds. The absence of a medical database in Egypt will result in the death of many patients like Nabil.

Dr Husam, what is leukemia, how many types are there, how is it diagnosed & treated?

Leukemia is a dangerous disease that affects the blood and marrow. Various types of leukemia are known, most of which are diagnosed by blood tests and karyotyping, as well as immunological and other tests. There are two types of leukemia, chronic and acute. Patients with leukemia face internal bleeding or skin bleeding, and their immune system is impaired, leading to the appearance of bacterial and fungal infections. They can be treated using chemotherapy. Patients with leukemia have a better chance of recovery with modern treatment.

(5) Dr Milosovic, what is your position on the Kosovo issue?

Kosovo will always be a region of Serbia. It is populated by many different communities, all of whom are equal. The Albanians cannot ask for more rights than others. The problem in Kosovo is a separatist movement. We had no choice but to defend our country and cannot accept anything that would transform Kosovo into a separate entity. The police are not aggressive in Kosovo. They are protecting all citizens, not just Serbs, from terrorists. If the NATO forces come into our territory, we will consider it an act of aggression and fight back. The duty of our army is not to allow any foreign troops into our territory. As the greatest superpower in the world, America and the Clinton administration have one weakness: they believe everything can be solved by force.

(6) What is the role of the basic university in society? Is it different from what it is now?

A number of universities now require students pursuing a master’s degree to experience the work world for at least two years, then come back to select a vocational subject to major in. Experience of the workplace gives students a better sense of direction and more maturity. There are many industries, including banking, where apprenticeship might become very important. Spend two years in college, work for three or four years, then go back to finish the degree or take a master’s. There will be very intense competition between colleges and universities - for students and financial resources. At one point the US seemed to have a monopoly on postsecondary education. People came from all over the world. That will still happen, but we shall see more of our youngsters going in the opposite direction, off into Europe and Asia.

(7) What is the position of the European companies on this issue?

I mentioned that the companies are not interested in becoming bigger.

Beware. As the political and economic conditions of the region change, so will the situation of the Palestinian people change.
I'm still astonished sometimes. More markets than one would expect are still national. Many more areas that have until now been sheltered from completion across borders will be exposed with the establishment of the single market. I'm thinking of the banking sector, insurance and transportation. And there is another aspect. Even if companies pretend to be multinational, they often have only one nationality on the board. In Britain and Scandinavia, you'll find people other than local citizens on the board of corporations.

(8) What is depression? what are its causes and symptoms?

(9) What is depression? what are its causes and symptoms? Becomes the patient a woman from five women and is a case in need of treatment. It will become the woman exposed to depression after childbirth and separation from the husband and care for parents in their old age. And some of the symptoms of depression is the lack of enjoyment of what he enjoyed previously, the feeling of insignificance, the change in eating habits and sleeping habits, the inability to concentrate, the feeling of fatigue, the ease of irritation, the tendency to suicide.

The most important challenge is to survive as Muslims, to live and raise our families as Muslims. Because we live in the Western Society whose values sneak in and permeates every aspect of life, making its impact upon people who are from outside the west. So raising children who had not had the feel of an environment of Islam and making them live as Muslims in accordance with Islamic values is a very serious challenge. A lot of Moslems have lost their identity, have lost their basic values. many of them are coming back into the fold of Islam.

Why did the European Union want to merge MCI and WorldCom American?

Because of the effect it might have on our markets, just as the Americans look at mergers between European companies. In the MCI WorlCom case, there was a concern we shared with our American counterparts that the merger was likely to lead to dominance in some internet services. That matters to us because a lot of European Internet use goes through the US. That's typical of globalization.

There are a number of important Arab issues on the UN agenda, such as Palestine, the Middle East situation, Iraq, Libya, Somalia. Those issues are periodically considered by both the Arab league ministerial meeting at the headquarters of the League in Cairo and the Arab group at the United nations. The latter is an active and efficient group that meets regularly.

References


