



OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
PROGRAMME IN PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH - LSC 2202 - 2007 / 2008  
COMMUNICATION SKILLS - LISTENING AND SPEECH  
FINAL EXAMINATION

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2009

Time: 12.45 p.m. - 1.30 p.m.

**Teacher Instructions**

1. Familiarize yourself with the test paper.
2. Explain the **instructions** to the students carefully.
3. Give students 02 minutes to look over the questions.
4. Read section A of Text to students clearly and at normal speed (not too fast or too slow).
5. Give students 10 minutes to fill in the information / and write the answer to Sections A and B of Question 01.
6. Read Section B of text to students clearly and at normal speed.
7. Give students 10 minutes to complete the Section C of Question 01.
8. Read Section B at normal speed again.
9. Give students 05 minutes to complete Section C of Question 01.
10. Read Sections A, and B (the whole text) without a break at normal speed.
11. Give students 03 minutes to look over Question 01.
12. Give students 15 minutes to complete Question 2.

## **TEXT**

### **SECTION A**

The August Moon Festival is one of the two most celebrated Chinese holidays. The other is the Chinese New Year. The August Moon Festival is held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 8<sup>th</sup> month of the lunar calendar. Farmers celebrate the end of the summer harvesting season on this date. It is a date on which the moon is at its fullest and roundest. The traditional food of this festival is the mooncake of which there are many different varieties.

This festival is often called the Women's Festival. While the Westerners worship the sun for its power, people in the Far East admire the moon for its beauty and elegance. In fact there is a legend associated with a moon maiden who was immortalized. It is said that this maiden became a fairy and flew to the moon, where she began to live. They say little children can see a lady on the moon on the night of the festival. This festival is a time for loved ones to gather and enjoy the full moon as a symbol of prosperity and luck.

### **SECTION B**

The Moon Festival celebrations take different forms. Adults as well as children participate in these activities. On this occasion children who make wishes to the Lady on the moon will find that they come true. Families have picnics and feasts. It is a time of family reunion like the American Thanksgiving. Friendships are made and renewed on this day. This festival is celebrated not only in China, but in Chinese communities in other countries too. The Vietnamese people too have a similar harvest festival. Traditionally on this day, Chinese family members and friends will gather to admire the bright mid-autumn harvest moon, and eat moon cakes together.

There are other favourite foods of the festival. They are normally associated with the colour red, lobster and salmon, apples and pomegranates are some of these foods.

Several other activities are associated with the festival. Lanterns of different shapes, and colours made with a variety of materials are hung up. Floating sky lanterns are also constructed. Children go in procession carrying lanterns. Lanterns are also lit on towers.

Burning incense in reverence to deities including the Moon Goddess is a custom followed. Planting mid-autumn trees is also done. Another custom is collecting dandelion leaves and distributing them evenly among family members.

An interesting feature of the festival is the dragon dance which is a traditional dance related to Chinese culture. In the dance a team of people carry an artificial dragon - an image of the dragon - on poles. The dance team mimics the movement of the dragon. The dragon is believed to bring good luck and prosperity. The dragon is also regarded as a symbol of power and dignity.

In the Western calendar this festival falls around mid or late September, whereas it is held in the eighth month in the Chinese calendar.