*Do not forget to put your name, your student card number, your group (Wed 11am / Wed 2pm / Thurs 2.30pm) and the date at the top of your exam paper*

***THIS EXAM SCRIPT WON’T BE COLLECTED / ALL ANSWERS MUST APPEAR ON YOU EXAM PAPER***

**LEVEL 4 / LISTENING COMPREHENSION & WRITING TEST**

**Listen to the recording and answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper:**

**I. PART ONE / FILL IN THE GAPS**

**Complete the opening part of the transcript with the missing words (indicate the number and give the word on your exam paper). Words must be spelled correctly:**

**NEWSREADER Sumi Somaskanda, US correspondent**: “Last year, the Tennessee General Assembly banned *critical race theory*\* from schools. A teacher in one county was **1 (one word)…** for referring to “white privilege” in his lessons. It goes well beyond critical race theory too. In another Tennessee county a school board banned the Pulitzer prize-winning graphic novel *Mouse* for what was **2 (one word)…** an overly **3 (two words)…** of the Holocaust. Conservative groups oppose how schools are teaching **4(one word)…** and sexuality as well. In Florida the Republican governor has even pulled math books for being too “woke” because they included references to **5 (two words)…**. It's all adding up: the American library association says last year there were 729 challenges to library school and university materials and services – that is the highest number of attempted book bans since the organization started compiling these lists 20 years ago. Most of the books **6 (two words)…** are by or about black or LGBTQ people.

**/3 points**

**II. PART TWO / DETAILED COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

**A/ TRUE OR FALSE:**

1. The Nashville Library is encouraging its users to read banned books. **TRUE OR FALSE?** (0,5 point)
2. Andrew Hartman is professor of literature at the University of Illinois. **TRUE OR FALSE?** (0,5 point)

**B/ FACTS & FIGURES**

**Why does Andrew Hartman mention the following decades?:**

1. 1920’s (1 point)
2. 1960’ (1 point)

**III. PART THREE / OVERALL COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS – CENSORSHIP THROUGHOUT HISTORY**

**Answer the following question in details :**

1. Which historical events are referred to by correspondent Sumi Somaskanda to back up the idea that censorship is not a new phenomenon? Give three examples for full points. (3 points)
2. Give another example of censorship that we mentioned in class during the course. (1 point)

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**COMPREHENSION > 10 POINTS**

**IV. VOCABULARY LEARNT IN CLASS**

**Give a brief definition IN ENGLISH for the following words or phrases :**

1. Sensitivity reader
2. Bowdlerising
3. To sweep under the rug

**/3 points**

**V. WRITTEN EXPRESSION**

**Choose ONE of the writing exercises below (A, B, C or D) & answer it in at least 180 words:**

1. Laurie Halse Anderson is a US writer, known for children's and young adult novels. She recently declared *"Censorship is the child of fear and the father of ignorance."* Explain what she means by this statement. Do you agree? Why or why not? Provide examples to support your argument.
2. Ray Bradbury, the author of “Fahrenheit 451”, wrote in his dystopian novel: *"There is more than one way to burn a book. And the world is full of people running about with lit matches."* Reflect on this quote in light of censorship today. What are the “matches” that threaten creative works today?
3. Sensitivity reading is today considered by some as a tool for avoiding harmful stereotypes. On the other hand, some call it “absurd censorship”, like world-famous author Salman Rushdie. What is your take on this issue? Discuss whether the rise of sensitivity reading helps or harms creative expression, providing examples from literature or film.
4. Imagine you are a publisher who has just been asked to remove certain content from a novel due to its offensive nature. Write a letter to the author explaining your decision. In your letter, balance your respect for the author's work with the concerns raised by readers or advocacy groups.

**/ 4 points**

**+ Quality of written English: / 3 points**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**VOCAB & WRITING > 10 POINTS**

* **Critical race theory (CRT)** is an academic field focused on the relationships between social conceptions of race and ethnicity, social and political laws, and media. CRT also considers racism to be systemic in various laws and rules, not based only on individuals' prejudices.

**PART ONE TRANSCRIPT**

Last year the tennessee general assembly banned critical race theory from schools a teacher in one county was fired for referring to white privilege in his lessonsit goes well beyond critical race theory too. in another tennessee county a school board banned the pulitzer prize-winning graphic novel mouse for what was deemed an overly rough depiction of the holocaust. conservative groups oppose how schoolsare teaching gender and sexuality as well. in florida the republican governor has even pulled math books for being too woke because they included references to racial prejudice. it's all adding up : the american library association says last year there were 729 challenges to library school and university materials and services – that is the highest number of attempted book bans since the organization started compiling these lists 20 years ago. Most of the books being targeted are by or about black or lgbtq people

**PART TWO COMPREHENSION DETAILED**

the nashville public library has now curated a banned books collection for

its patrons. this movement has been driven in large part by religious conservatives who see these books as a threat to their world view and to America. their concern has grown as public institutions have become more secular but it's nothing new we asked andrew hartman professor of history at illinois state university and author of a book about america's culture wars about the history of banning books in the usa

ANDREW HARTMAN

um so this is a common feature in american history um and has a lot to do with the sort of larger context of the culture wars. in some ways which have always been a part of american history this debate between largely religious conservatives and largely secular liberals um that goes back to the 1920s in many ways but really has been heightened ever since the 1960s and the liberation movements um civil rights feminism gate gay rights.

**PART THREE COMPREHENSION CENSORSHIP THROUGHOUT HISTORY**

it's not just the us and it's not just now. one of the most iconic examples in

recent history the nazis banning and burning books they deemed subversive

china's cultural revolution forbid anything that didn't conform to the party's political ideology and in the u.s a controversy that got national media attention in 1974 a

conservative county in west virginia attempted to introduce multicultural textbooks and sparked violent demonstrations with at least three elementary schools attacked with fire bombs.

so what makes this wave of book bans different?

well it's more partisan than before pitting republicans against democrats

it has become largely republicans who support the conservative largely white religious

or white evangelical parents and oftentimes republican politicians are frankly opportunistic about sort of ginning up support for themselves for their candidacies for their positions because these are issues that animate their base. i don't think

the roots or origins of these issues are partisan they're much more sort of based

in a um a religious or philosophical or ethical framework about an understanding about the world that has divided the americans for a very long time.

the religious right is now occupying the heart of the republican party so things

like critical race theory have become big mainstream republican talking points conservatives say they are under existential threat from social issues in books and schools and institutions but what does the average american think well polls consistently show that the majority of americans don't want the type of book bans that we're seeing across the u.s right now but that does not mean that the current wave of bands will slow

there is a battle brewing in the united

0:03

states a battle over education a growing

0:06

conservative-led movement is campaigning

0:08

to crack down on what schools teach

0:10

children and that has put classrooms and

0:13

libraries like this one at the front

0:15

lines of america's culture wars again

0:19

[Music]

0:23

a bunch of these books i brought here

0:25

seahorse

0:26

we're going to hear today from the great

0:28

ruby bridges we're going to take a look

0:30

at why america is witnessing a new wave

0:33

of book bans we'll hear from both sides

0:35

of the debate over what schools should

0:37

teach it is teaching kids

0:40

to dislike one another based on the

0:42

color of their skin what conversations

0:44

are you having with your kid about race

0:46

that's that's part of the problem that

0:48

we're not talking about these things and

0:51

we'll find out how it's all part of

0:52

america's deepening political divide

0:55

what are the core

0:56

values that you want to teach kids so

0:59

that we can live together in this

1:01

country let's take a look at one book at

1:03

the center of a controversy

1:05

[Music]

1:07

ruby bridges was the first black student

1:10

to desegregate a new orleans school in

1:12

1960

1:14

this image of her surrounded by u.s

1:16

marshals made her a civil rights hero

1:19

she was just six years old

1:21

[Music]

1:23

this illustrated book the story of ruby

1:26

bridges is taught in schools across the

1:28

country but some of the images and words

1:31

have a group of parents in tennessee

1:33

sounding the alarm

1:37

we went to williamson county just

1:39

outside nashville to find out why

1:45

this is dr beth myers a former educator

1:48

who disapproves of how schools are

1:50

teaching race gender and history

1:54

we meet her at the home of robin

1:55

steenman the leader of the local moms

1:58

for liberty chapter that's a

2:00

conservative organization that says it

2:02

advocates for parents rights

2:04

both women object to some well-known

2:06

books on the public school reading lists

2:09

and they reject the way wit and wisdom

2:11

teaches those books it's a national

2:13

curriculum that's been adopted here in

2:15

tennessee and it includes the story of

2:18

ruby bridges

2:20

the message to my daughter is

2:23

ruby was courageous be like ruby go

2:26

change the world

2:27

and make it better the way she did

2:30

but the way witten wisdom teaches it is

2:32

very divisive and racially charged and

2:34

it focuses 100 percent on the negatives

2:38

and how you know

2:40

the white people were racist and

2:42

what they did to ruby and it just leaves

2:44

kids

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feeling bad history should be taught

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absolutely warps and all but just teach

2:50

history without you know agenda or

2:52

ideology or trying to put a child in one

2:54

box or another because history has the

2:56

lessons of its own

2:58

steenman says the school curriculum is

3:00

steeped in critical race

3:03

what is critical race theory it's an

3:06

academic concept that focuses on how

3:08

racism is systemic anchored in policies

3:11

and laws

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in the universities this is called

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critical race theory critical race

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theory critical race theory and it has a

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symbol of

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satan

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[Music]

3:24

it's become a rallying cry for

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conservative parents across the country

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who believe it is divisive and gives

3:30

white children a negative self-image

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part of the way this is being taught

3:36

is that

3:39

that you are in groups your identity is

3:41

group identity when you again focus on

3:46

differences

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how do we have unity

3:50

this country is polarized badly

3:53

how do we unify that

3:57

we head to the main square to hear the

3:59

other side of the argument from ravita

4:01

rahman and jennifer cortes who started a

4:03

group called one wilco to advocate for

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students of color

4:08

they believe black and white children

4:10

are ready for the ruby bridges story and

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tough conversations about race

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all you have to do is explain to

4:18

children

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and they get it we don't give our kids

4:21

enough credit

4:23

to handle the conversations that we have

4:25

and unfortunately for me i have to have

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difficult conversations with my children

4:29

on a regular basis

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a regular basis to let them know how

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they're perceived how they can't do

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certain things how you can't take your

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candy in the grocery store because you

4:39

may be accused of stealing or something

4:42

so it's a lot of difficulty it'll be

4:45

bridges experienced that when she was in

4:46

the first grade

4:48

so she can experience it she experiences

4:50

that every day so why is her experience

4:53

discounted in your

4:55

white child is experienced more valuable

4:58

that's unfair

5:01

and jennifer cortez says the claim that

5:03

schools are teaching divisive and racist

5:05

dogma just isn't true

5:08

i asked my daughter who is white did you

5:11

feel guilty after reading the story of

5:13

ruby bridges she said no i felt sad i

5:16

said did you feel sad that you were

5:17

white she said no i felt sad

5:20

that miss bridges went through that and

5:21

i felt sad that the white people in the

5:23

story didn't find something better to do

5:26

i understand the concern

5:28

but

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respectfully that is a white concern

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i

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have the

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luxury of not having to think about my

5:37

skin color here where i live and where

5:39

i've grown up because it has always been

5:41

if anything an advantage or a non-issue

5:44

but for many children and many families

5:47

that's not the case

5:48

[Music]

5:50

still the book ban movement has picked

5:52

up steam last year the tennessee general

5:55

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6:00

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6:02

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[Music]

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7:12

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7:15

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more secular but it's nothing new

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we asked andrew hartman professor of

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history at illinois state university and

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author of a book about america's culture

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um so this is a

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common feature in american history um

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context of the culture wars

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in some ways which have always been a

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part of american history this debate

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largely religious conservatives and

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largely secular liberals

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um that goes back to the 1920s in many

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movements um civil rights

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feminism gate

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attempted to introduce multicultural

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textbooks and sparked violent

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elementary schools attacked with fire

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bombs

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different well it's more partisan than

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democrats it has become

9:00

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