***PROVA UNICA III ANNO February 2016***

***COGNOME…………………………. ……………NOME……………………………….matricola…………………………………***

***PART TWO****: Read the following passage and answer the questions 1-10 that follow. Then translate the section indicated in* ***bold*** *from line 2 to line 11. You have 1 hour and 15 minutes to complete the 2 tasks. Write the translation in the lines provided.*

An advert for ‘Snowz’ features famous Thai actress Cris Horwang attributing her success to fairer skin.

**The advert has reignited the debate about attitudes to skin colour in Thailand. In the video actress Cris Horwang recites, “*In my work there is tough competition. If I don’t take care of myself, everything I have built, the whiteness I have invested in, could be gone*”. At that point her skin turns almost black, and a young, and very white, rival appears by her side. She looks down in dismay at her dark complexion and muses “*If I was white, I would win*”.**

**The advert stirred up a storm of debate online. One person wrote “I’m perfectly fine being dark-skinned and now you’re saying I’ve lost?**

**The company issued a heartfelt apology and quickly withdrew the advert, and offered a swift apology. They said “What we intended to convey was that self-improvement in terms of appearance is crucial,” but viewers understandingly disagreed believing an ad ending with the actress saying “*Eternally white, I’m confident*” could only convey a racist message.**

Comments about the shade of a person’s skin have been commonplace in Thailand where there is an abundance of skin-whitening products, although many younger Thais today refuse to accept the stereotypes associated with skin colour and most are happy with the way they are. Across Asia fair skin is considered the epitome of beauty and a sign of affluence - and the beauty business has capitalised on that attitude. The skin-lightening market in Asia alone is valued at over $13bn (£8.5bn), and advertising campaigns don’t just target women - but men too.

When Maeya Thongleng won the 2014 Miss Thailand beauty contest, comments centred on how dark her skin was compared to previous contestants.

This all underlines the issue of class and social status in Thailand, where those with darker skin are viewed as coming from the poor rural areas and are looked down upon, much like Americans portray blondes as dumb. Fortunately, attitudes are changing as Thais start to frown on women who long to be whiter-skinned.

However, Thailand is not a unique case. Whitening creams have been popular for years among women - and some men - across Africa. For example, South Africa has the world’s toughest laws against skin lighteners, but more than a third of South African women still buy them.

1. Thai actress Cris Horwang

1. advertised a skin-whitening cosmetic product.
2. was accused of being racist.
3. stated she was not racist.

2. In Thailand

1. talking about skin colour is taboo.
2. all skin colours are socially acceptable and equal.
3. skin colour gives rise to stereotyped attitudes.

3. Young Thais today

1. usually try to whiten their skin.
2. are less likely to use skin-whitening products than older Thais.
3. all totally reject the idea of whitening their skin.

4. Cris Horwang says that if she stopped using skin-whitening products

1. she would be a worse actress.
2. she would not be able to be an actress.
3. her success as an actress might disappear.

5. In the advert

1. a darker-skinned woman appears beside Cris Horwang.
2. Cris Horwang becomes fairer-skinned.
3. Cris Horwang becomes darker-skinned.

6. Seoul Secret, the company behind the product,

1. explained their advert had an entirely different aim.
2. did not apologise about their advert quickly.
3. were unable to understand people’s reactions.

7. The cosmetic industry

1. campaigns to improve attitudes to dark skin in Asia.
2. promotes skin-whitening products for women only.
3. makes a huge profit from skin-whitening products.

8. When Maeya Thongleng won the 2014 Miss Thailand World Beauty Contest,

1. people strongly condemned the choice.
2. she had been using skin-whitening products.
3. she was seen as an atypical choice.

9. Thais are beginning to

1. disapprove of women who try to be fairer-skinned.
2. share Westerners’ opinions of blondes.
3. prefer dark complexions.

10. The article states that in Africa

1. people have recently begun using skin-whitening creams.
2. people still use skin-whitening creams although they are forbidden.
3. people have totally stopped using skin-whitening creams.

**TASK 2 Write your translation of lines 2-11 here**

III ANNO FEBRUARY 2016 listening text

Read twice.

A few years ago my husband and I decided to move to Italy and open a holiday rental. We were living in a flat in Bristol at the time, which is a lovely city, if a bit rainy, and both working in fairly regular jobs but we were spending all our time commuting just so we could pay for a house we were never in and put petrol in the cars that took us to work. There just didn’t seem to be much point in it all.

So, we wracked our brains and came up with this idea. We did a few wildly inaccurate sums and worked out we could afford it (we couldn’t…) and from that point on realised that we had to give it a go otherwise we would always regret it.

I’m **saying** it was a joint decision. However, if it doesn’t work out, it was all my husband’s idea! We decided that, rather than a flat, we should buy a big house, somewhere for families or groups to holiday - a house for up to 12 people, with its own private pool, kitchen, living room and garden.

We decided Piedmont just had the perfect combination. We chose Barolo as it’s near the mountains for skiing in the winter, near the sea, well-placed for reaching the rest of Europe, but most importantly it’s ridiculously beautiful in every season. I still find myself stopping to take photos every time we go out.

Piedmont is easily as beautiful as better-known places like Tuscany and Umbria, but there are fewer tourists so you can get a much more “Italian” experience. Also, thanks to the grape harvest in the autumn and white truffles, which are typically found from about November, the tourist season is really long.

The new house needed some renovation and we had some surprises! If I had a Euro for every time builders tried to persuade us to use plastic wood instead of the real thing I’d be rich. Wood moves you see, and it cracks, and Italian builders seem to hate it. We were offered various plastic options: plastic front doors, tiles that look like wood and this plastic stuff to go around the swimming pool.

Anyway, we’re pleased that we can spend as much time as we want with our baby daughter. Had she been born in the UK we would barely get to see her.

My advice for anyone who is considering renovating a property in Italy? Firstly, do it. But secondly, be prepared. It’s hard work, physically and mentally. We work every minute of every day and our dreams are filled with people not turning up when they’re supposed to.

We’ve learnt a lot, we’ve cried a lot, we’ve certainly spent a lot, but we wouldn’t change it. We love this lifestyle for and you could never persuade me to swap it for the daily commute on the M4.

February 2016 III ANNO Listening paper COGNOME.......................... NOME.....................MATRICOLA.............

*THE PASSAGE WILL BE READ* ***TWICE****. FIRST READ THE QUESTIONS 1-10.* ***CIRCLE*** *THE ANSWER WHICH IS* ***TRUE*** *according to the text.*

1. The speaker and her husband decided to move to Italy because

1. they lost their jobs in Bristol.
2. they didn’t like the city of Bristol.
3. they were dissatisfied with their lifestyle in Bristol.

2.The couple

1. made a careful estimate of their financial situation.
2. didn’t make an accurate estimate of their financial situation.
3. regret making this financial decision.

3. The speaker

1. always does as her husband suggests.
2. jokes that if the move to Italy fails it was all her husband’s decision.
3. does not agree with her husband on anything.

4. The couple

1. wanted to buy a small flat in Italy.
2. had lived in a big house in Bristol.
3. wanted to buy a big house in Italy.

5. One advantage of Barolo is

1. its convenient geographical position.
2. it is more popular than Tuscany or Umbria with photographers.
3. having white truffles in the summer.

6. According to the speaker

1. tourists get a more authentic experience in Piedmont.
2. business is booming in Piedmont.
3. Piedmont is not as beautiful as Tuscany and Umbria.

7. Unexpectedly, Italian builders proposed

1. a plastic swimming pool.
2. wood which cracked.
3. alternative products to wood.

8. The speaker’s daughter was born in the U.K.

1. TRUE
2. FALSE
3. DON’T KNOW

9. The speaker says one of the worries they have now is

1. not having time to spend with their daughter.
2. about guests failing to show up.
3. the intense workload.

10. The couple

1. would like to go back to the U.K.
2. have had to spend a great deal of money on renovation.
3. discourage people from making the same move as them.

**III YEAR ESSAY TITLES FEBRUARY 2016**

Time: 1 hour and 45 minutes.

**PART THREE**

Choose **ONE** of the following tasks:

1. Essay (280-320 words)

Racism is a clear reality in our society that affects all people. Discuss racial discrimination in your country. Give examples which justify your point of view.

2. Article (280-320 words)

Write an article on the cosmetic industry for a woman’s magazine. Comment on the value of the products which are currently on the market and why people feel the need to buy such products.