

## ABAU Practice Examination: Jokes on You. EXAM WITH ANSWERS.

Read the text and the instructions to the questions very carefully. Answer all the questions in English.

If you have ever been fooled by a practical joke or a hoax, your first feeling was probably anger – at yourself for being misled and at others for misleading you. But don't feel bad. Hoaxes have been around for a long time, and very clever and educated people have been deceived.

The word "hoax" derives from "hocus", part of the Latin phrase "hocus-pocus", meaning "something that fools your eyes". It was first used around 1800, but pranks and hoaxes have existed at least since the time of the Ancient Greeks. By the Middle Ages, court jesters were actually expected to play tricks on the king and courtiers in order to amuse them.

However, most hoaxes are perpetrated on unknowing subjects, many of them educated and rational people. For example, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of the famous detective Sherlock Holmes, was a physician, yet he was tricked into believing in the existence of fairies after being shown faked photographs. Decades later, the girls who had taken the pictures, and who were by then old women, admitted that the "fairies" had been paper cut-outs.

Even the BBC, the British Broadcasting Corporation, which is usually a very reliable source of news, occasionally enters into the spirit of April Fool's Day, a day when people traditionally play jokes on each other. One of the most famous examples was in 1957, when a serious news programme reported a bumper pasta crop on the spaghetti farms of Switzerland. The story goes that people actually called the BBC, asking for more information on how to grow their own spaghetti trees.

The best practical jokes are those where no one is hurt. As long as we stick to this guideline, perhaps a little embarrassment is worth the fun – especially when you know you are in good company.

### Questions

- Write a summary of the text in English, including the most important points using your own words (approximately 50 words; 1 point). **Answers will vary.**
- Mark the following sentences true or false (T/F) according to the text. Then write the part (and ONLY that part) of the text which justifies your answer. (1 point; 0.25 each)
  - Intelligent people aren't usually fooled by practical jokes. **F "... very clever and educated people have been deceived."**
  - The word "hoax" has existed since ancient times. **F "It was first used around 1800, ..."**
  - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle believed in fairies. **T "... he was tricked into believing in the existence of fairies ..."**
  - The BBC doesn't usually play tricks on its viewers. **T "Even the BBC, ... enters into the spirit of April Fool's Day, ..."**
- Find words and phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here. (1 point; 0.25 each)
  - entertain, make people laugh **amuse**
  - naive, unsuspecting **unknowing**
  - dependable **reliable**
  - big, larger than normal **bumper**
- Pronunciation. (1 point. 0.25 each)
  - In which of the following words are the letters "th" pronounced /θ/?  
*that – them – **thanks** – those*
  - Write the word whose underlined letters are pronounced differently.  
*something – other – bt – hurt*
  - Write the word in which the underlined letters are pronounced /aʊ/ the same as "ou" in "around".  
*grow – shown – **how** – own*
  - Find a word in the text that includes the sound like the /dʒ/ in "Ages". **joke, jester**
- Rewrite the following sentences without changing the original meaning. Use the word in brackets and / or the expression given, making the necessary changes. (1.5 points; 0.5 points each)
  - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a popular author and created Sherlock Holmes. (who) **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who was a popular author, created Sherlock Holmes. / Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who created Sherlock Holmes, was a famous author.**
  - Despite the rain, we went for a long walk.

Although ... **it was raining, we went for a long walk.**

c. "We have found a primitive tribe," announced the anthropologists.

The anthropologists announced that ... **they had found a primitive tribe.**

6. Write an email to a friend describing a practical joke that was played on you and how it affected you. (Approximately 120 words; 3 points) **Answers will vary.**