

TIE EXAM B2-C2 CANDIDATE'S LOGBOOK

Part 1: Candidate's Personal Information	
NAME	
SURNAME	
FATHER'S NAME	
NAME IN LOCAL LANGUAGE	
SURNAME IN LOCAL LANGUAGE	
DATE OF BIRTH	
LEVEL YOU AIM AT	<input type="checkbox"/> B2 <input type="checkbox"/> C1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C2

Part 2: Candidate's Preparation

Investigation

- **2.1 Summary:** Provide a summary of your Investigation (B2, C1, C2: minimum 200 words).
- **2.2 Questions:** Answer 3 questions about your Investigation in 50-100 words per question (all levels).

News Story

- **2.3 Summary:** Provide a summary of your News Story (B2: approx. 150 words, C1: approx. 200 words, C2: approx. 250 words).
- **2.4 Questions:** Answer 3 questions about your News Story in 50-100 words per question (all levels).

Book

- **2.5 Summary:** Provide a summary of your Book (B2: approx. 150 words, C1: approx. 200 words, C2: approx. 250 words).
- **2.6 Questions:** Answer 3 questions about your Book in 50-100 words per question (all levels).

2.1: Investigation

Provide a summary of your Investigation (B2, C1, C2: minimum 200 words).

Investigation Title: Castells of Catalonia

The Castells of Catalonia are a unique and awe-inspiring cultural tradition that has deep roots in the north-eastern region of Spain. The word “Castell” is used to describe human towers up to ten stories high, sometimes containing hundreds of participants. These human towers, recognized as an important cultural practice by UNESCO, combine athleticism, coordination, and teamwork. Tourists from all over the world now flock to witness these breathtaking events.

The history of Castells dates back over two centuries. Castells are built by teams which consist of participants of all ages, from children to adults. Each Castell is meticulously planned and executed, with the ultimate goal of constructing the tallest and most stable human tower possible. Many towns and cities in Catalonia have their own Castell teams, and competitions are held throughout the year to determine the best and most skilled teams.

The structure of a Castell typically begins with a solid base, formed by the strongest and most experienced participants. As the tower rises, the upper levels become progressively smaller, with the top generally featuring a young child, who must climb to the summit and raise their hand. This moment signifies the successful completion of the tower. It is not unusual for a Castell to collapse. This is why the participants devote much of their preparation to safely managing such collapses, and the youngest members must wear protective headgear.

The Castells are not just a physical spectacle but a powerful representation of human achievement, solidarity, and cultural heritage that continues to thrive in Catalonia today.



2.2: Questions

Answer 3 questions about your Investigation in 50-100 words per question (all levels).

1. Why did you choose to investigate this topic?

On my travels in Spain last year, I had the privilege of witnessing the Castells and it was certainly a sight to behold. We stumbled upon a local festival quite by accident, and were astounded to see a towering construction made up of hundreds of people. I can tell you that it certainly grabbed my attention! I was captivated, and have been meaning to learn more about the tradition ever since. This seemed the perfect opportunity to delve a little deeper and get to know more about the practice.

2. What is the most surprising thing you have learnt from your investigation?

Although Castells have been performed since the 1700s, women have only recently been allowed to participate. It wasn't until the 1980s that teams became mixed sex. In some respects, it's not that surprising; the world has often been slow to recognize what women have to offer! On the upside, the inclusion of women is widely acknowledged as having facilitated a new golden age of Castell building, as the towers are now higher and stronger than ever before.

3. Which part of the investigation would you like to share with your friends?

I think the part that would appeal to my friends most is the community aspect of this practice. It is very inclusive and aimed to bring people together, because neighbours of all ages can participate and have their role. It encourages people from different generations and background to come together for a common purpose. My friends and I really value community spirit, and think it's important to have things that connect you to other people around you. It's particularly relevant nowadays, when people tend to lead quite isolated lives, and rely on technology more than on human connection.

2.3: News Story

Provide a summary of your News Story.

(B2: approx. 150 words, C1: approx. 200 words, C2: approx. 250 words)

Title: Danish Man Visits Every Country Without Flying

Source: <https://newsforkids.net/articles/2023/09/07/danish-man-visits-every-country-without-flying/>
(accessed 7th September 2023)



Thor Pedersen, a Danish traveller, achieved a remarkable feat by visiting every country in the world without flying. His journey spanned nearly 10 years and covered about 260,000 miles. Thor set out on this adventure after reading about someone who had visited every country, and decided to create his own record, with some strict rules in place: no flying, no returning home, and spending at least 24 hours in each country.

Thor's initial challenge was how to manage his limited budget efficiently. This was particularly tricky at the start of his journey, in Europe. However, as he moved to other parts of the world, his journey became increasingly challenging for other reasons. As he had resolved not to use air travel, Thor had to rely on boats to cross large bodies of water. His modes of travel also included taxis, buses, trains, walking, cargo containers, and even crowded trucks. Accommodation ranged from paying for hotels and hostels, to the generosity of strangers who allowed Thor to stay in their homes completely free of charge. Thor also recounted having to spend some nights under the stars!

During his journey, Thor encountered various hardships, such as being held at gunpoint and suffering from severe malaria. Thankfully, he also experienced many acts of kindness from people worldwide. Despite facing numerous obstacles, including a two-year delay in Hong Kong due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Thor persevered.

In May, Thor completed his remarkable quest in the Maldives, and in July 2023, he returned to Denmark after a 33-day boat journey. Upon his arrival in Denmark, he was greeted by his family and friends, which was a very emotional experience. He plans to reflect on his journey, write a book, and share the valuable lessons he learned during his extraordinary global odyssey.

2.4: Questions

Answer 3 questions about your News Story in 50-100 words per question (all levels).

1. Why did you decide to read this news story?

I've always been fascinated by people who are not afraid to take on a challenge, and visiting every country on Earth without flying is certainly one of the most challenging undertakings I've ever heard of!

I was also hoping this article would expand my knowledge of the world, and I wasn't disappointed. Due to my circumstances, I haven't been able to travel in recent years, so I thought reading this article would present an excellent opportunity for me to expand my horizons from the comfort of my own home, and it certainly provided me with some food for thought as well.

2. What has this news story taught you about life?

Even though the original article didn't mention the environmental aspect of Thor not using air travel, this is what really stood out to me. It's really important for people to consider the impact of their actions on the environment. In my experience, people tend to assume that addressing environmental issues is the responsibility of the governments and large corporations. In reality, this is an excuse, and the man in this article was the perfect example that we are all capable of making adjustments to the way we live which are going to have real and positive effect on the world.

3. Why do you think other people should read this news story?

This article is very thought provoking. When you read about Thor and the obstacles he had to overcome during his journey, it makes you stop and ask yourself some valid questions about your own approach to life. For example, do I give up too easily when faced with difficulties? Am I creative enough when it comes to finding solutions to everyday problems? Am I resilient enough? My personal opinion is that nowadays people are not as resilient as they used to be, and I think this article really reminds us that we all have the potential to become better versions of ourselves.

2.5: Book

Provide a summary of your Book.

(B2: approx. 150 words, C1: approx. 200 words, C2: approx. 250 words)

Book Title: The Old Man and the Sea

Author: Ernest Hemingway

"The Old Man and the Sea" is a novella written by Ernest Hemingway, published in 1952. The story revolves around Santiago, an aging Cuban fisherman who has endured a run of bad luck with his fishing trips. He is considered unlucky, and has not caught a fish for 84 days.

Another character in the novella is Manolin, a close friend and apprentice to Santiago. Manolin has a deep respect and affection for Santiago, who has taught him the art of fishing. Despite this, he is unable to work with his mentor as his parents demand that he gets a more lucrative job.

Santiago sets out on a solo fishing expedition in the Atlantic Ocean. He soon hooks a marlin, a fish of incredible size and strength. The battle between the old man and the marlin becomes a fierce test of endurance and willpower. Santiago's hands are cut and bleeding, but he refuses to give up. He speaks to the marlin, admiring its strength and spirit.

After a two-day struggle, Santiago finally manages to land the marlin. He ties the fish to his boat and begins the journey back to shore, triumphant but physically and mentally exhausted. However, his victory is short-lived as sharks are attracted to the marlin's blood and attack Santiago's boat.

Santiago fights bravely against the sharks, but in the end he loses most of the marlin's meat. He returns to shore with only the marlin's skeleton, which serves as a testament to the man's skill and determination. Although he is physically defeated, Santiago's spirit remains unbroken, and he reaffirms his connection to the sea.



2.6: Questions

Answer 3 questions about your Book in 50-100 words per question (all levels).

1. Describe your favourite character and explain why you like them.

The novella only really has three characters: Santiago, Manolin and the marlin. While all three are formidable in some ways, I must say that I've found Santiago particularly inspiring. What really struck me about Santiago is what a humble man he is. His humility and grace in both victory and defeat are admirable. When he finally catches the marlin, Santiago does not boast or revel in his triumph, but instead expresses deep respect and sorrow for the fish. He reminded me about importance of humility and compassion in our own lives.

2. Describe your favourite part of the story and explain why you liked it.

My favourite part of the book is Santiago's memories and dreams about lions. Throughout the novella, Santiago has recurring dreams of lions playing on the beaches of Africa. These dreams and memories serve as a reflection of Santiago's longing for his youth and the past, particularly the time he spent in Africa. They symbolize his connection to a time when he was strong and capable, and they contrast with his current state of old age and physical frailty. I like the feeling of nostalgia that you get from these parts of the novella.

3. What is the most important lesson you have learnt from the book?

An essential life lesson from the book is that success is not solely defined by the outcome, but by the relentless effort we bring to our pursuits. I think this inspires us to face difficulties with courage, and never abandon our dreams. Santiago's determination in battling the marlin showcases the human capacity to persevere. His aging body contrasted with his strong mind illustrates the wisdom that can come with age. The novella celebrates human strength and wisdom, inspiring reflection on life's challenges and our ability to overcome them.