

Concorso pubblico per titoli ed esami,  
per la copertura  
a tempo pieno ed indeterminato di n. 1 posto di  
Assistente amministrativo

ALL. 6

TEST INGLESE

1)

I had a dog some time ago, which was a beautiful experience. The connection between a dog and its owner is always special, especially when you take them for a walk. A dog needs to go for long walks to be able to connect with you. Some assume you must give them their favorite treat to win them over. But that link happens when you take them out for a walk.

2)

There are few things like the unconditional love of a dog. It's a unique feeling when you come home after a stressful day and know that your dog is waiting for you, always happy to welcome you.

In America, dogs are the favorite pet. Almost 40% of households have at least one dog as a pet. However, before adopting one, you should keep in mind that it requires training, daily walks, etc.

3)

The first time you adopt a dog, you learn on the fly how to handle it. In any case, I encourage you to try again. But if you are not yet ready for this, I totally understand. Although I have been fortunate with my dog because he was really sweet and obedient, I am not yet considering adopting another one.

4)

Besides, cats require much less maintenance because they are more independent. Even so, a cat is still a great companion. In the States, cats are the second most preferred pet, and unlike dogs, cats don't need daily walks and are happy to entertain themselves.

5)

Healthcare insurance in the U.S. has a long history. However, the earliest forms of healthcare insurance in the U.S. were largely private plans that covered hospital and medical care for individuals or employers.

Today, most Americans obtain health insurance through their employers or government plans such as Medicare and Medicaid.

6)

Private health insurance usually covers a wide range of healthcare services, such as doctor visits, prescriptions, mental health care, hospitalization, and emergency care. Depending on the plan, private health insurance might include coverage for vision and dental care, alternative medicine, and other services.

These plans can vary significantly in cost and coverage, from basic plans that cover essential services like doctor visits and prescription drugs to more comprehensive plans that can cover costly treatments like surgery.

7)

During summer, I've been resting, sunbathing, and enjoying my free time. I've recharged my batteries.

I like to be near the beach, enjoy the sun, the sea breeze, and eat delicious food. I must say that I've managed to disconnect from my routine completely.

8)

On a cold winter afternoon, two children decided to go skating on a nearby frozen lake. They put on their skates and started skating, having fun as only children can have fun.



*Concorso pubblico per titoli ed esami,  
per la copertura  
a tempo pieno ed indeterminato di n. 1 posto di  
Assistente amministrativo*

**TEST INGLESE**

Suddenly, the ice broke, and one of them fell into the water, landing under the ice. Quickly, the other boy grabbed a small rock and hit the ice ferociously until he managed to break it and save his friend.

9)

I always had difficulty eating some foods, and I didn't know why. Finally, after many tests, the doctor told me he had good news and bad news. I wanted to know good news first. The good news was that he had found the cause of my digestive problems. I had gallstones in my gallbladder. And the bad news was that I had to have my gallbladder removed altogether.

10)

Ah! It's Christmas at last! I don't know about you, but I love this time of year. I start to think about what presents to give to my family and friends. Normally I make a list, so I don't forget anyone. Can you imagine forgetting someone? That would be terrible! That's why I start very early to plan what presents to give to everyone.

11)

Do you like Coca-Cola? I used to drink plenty of Coke when I was younger, but I try to drink more water nowadays. However, I admit that Coca-Cola is the perfect drink to complement my popcorn at the cinema. And the good news is that if you want a healthier version, you can choose the sugar-free and even caffeine-free Coke.

12)

My drawing was not a picture of a hat. It was a picture of a boa constrictor digesting an elephant. But since the grown-ups were not able to understand it, I made another drawing: I drew the inside of the boa constrictor, so that the grown-ups could see it clearly. They always need to have things explained.

13)

Coca-Cola became popular in Europe during the First World War. American soldiers in Europe started asking for Coca-Cola, so the company started exporting it, and soon the drink was also being bottled in Europe.

Today, Coca-Cola is produced in countries worldwide and is undoubtedly the most popular drink in the world.

14)

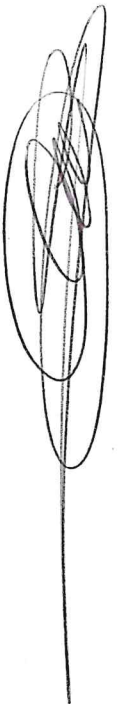
Although it is a very commercial holiday, Valentine's Day has a fascinating history that goes back to ancient Rome! In the United States and other parts of the world, people celebrate February 14 by giving away candy hearts and red roses.

Historians believe that Valentine's Day originated in ancient Rome as a pagan fertility festival.

15)

I'm talking about tomatoes, celery, broccoli, etc. It is an exciting option if you do not want to buy them directly from the supermarket or if you want to make sure that the vegetables are pesticides free.

Urban gardens appeared as a fad, but the truth is that they are consolidating in many cities. A good phrase to use in this case is: "they are here to stay". That is, it is not just a fad.



*Concorso pubblico per titoli ed esami,  
per la copertura  
a tempo pieno ed indeterminato di n. 1 posto di  
Assistente amministrativo*

TEST INGLESE

16)

On the other hand, many apartments have a terrace, and people have some vegetables in small earthen containers. Some take advantage of the rooftop. There is usually quite a lot of space available.

I guess in general you can save money, but it's easy to overspend. You need tools, fertilizers, seeds, substrates... and a lot of patience. In any case, it's an outdoor hobby that is usually rewarding.

17)

If you have an urban garden, you can grow your own veggies if you live in a city.

I'm talking about tomatoes, celery, broccoli, etc. It is an exciting option if you do not want to buy them directly from the supermarket or if you want to make sure that the vegetables are pesticides free.

18)

As you know, the Internet allows us to communicate very easily.

With the current situation, working from home has become customary. Teleworking is when you work from an off-site location using the Internet.

And of course, to be able to communicate, we have to do it through dedicated apps like Zoom, FaceTime, Google Meet, Skype, etc.

Let's see some vocabulary related to apps for video conferences.

19)

Well, to use the Zoom app, you need an account. Usually, you visit the website and create a new account. Then you download the app to your computer or smartphone. You install it and run it. All you have to do is follow the instructions. Usually, you enter your username and password and follow the instructions. Sometimes it is necessary to select the audio and camera, but only the first time.

20)

Okay, so imagine you are in a meeting. You have to take into account two very important options. First, you have to learn how to turn audio and video on or off. It is very common to start talking and have the audio turned off. An even worse situation is to leave the audio on and make noises or say something inappropriate.

You also have the option of typing text in the chat. If you are shy, this is the best option.

Well, finally, when we want to leave, don't forget to exit the meeting!

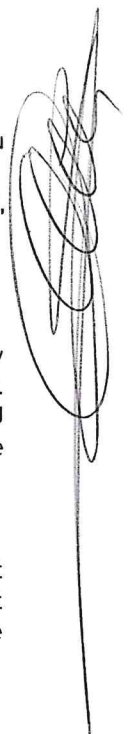
21)

When you are learning a language, fluency develops gradually. A good symptom is when you find yourself without almost translating mentally. At first, it is normal to do so, but little by little, part of your speech becomes automatic, and the words are simply there. That's when you start enjoying more and more conversations with Native speakers. It is amazing to see yourself in a conversation with a Native speaker in the language you are learning.

22)

"I'm going to make you an offer you can't refuse."

I must confess that I've heard this phrase before. And whenever I listen to someone say this, it makes me panic! Because usually this so-called offer hides a lot of things they don't want you to know. It is the typical phrase you can hear when someone wants to sell you something over the phone. And many times they are too pushy. They insist too much.



*Concorso pubblico per titoli ed esami,  
per la copertura  
a tempo pieno ed indeterminato di n. 1 posto di  
Assistente amministrativo*

TEST INGLESE

23)

The meaning of the phrase "Trick or Treat" is interesting. In this context, "treat" means getting the candies, and "trick" implies the consequence of not getting the sweets. It's like an innocent threat children make. Of course, kids get really excited when they knock on stranger's doors in their neighborhood.

24)

Halloween is a holiday celebrated on the last day of October. I would say it's very popular because everybody's excited about it, especially children.

The word Halloween comes from an old English expression, "All Hallows' Eve," and it means the day before All Saints' Day.

Children of all ages really love Halloween because they can dress up in funny costumes and knock on their neighborhood doors shouting "Trick or Treat!". The neighbors usually give them candies.

25)

St. Nicholas became known as Santa Claus after his Dutch nickname, Sintar Klaas. In the 18th century, a New York Historical Society member distributed woodcuts of St. Nicholas at the society's annual meeting. On the other hand, Washington Irving, the author of the book *The History of New York*, further popularized the tales of Sintar Klaas by referring to St. Nicholas as the patron saint of New York in his book.

26)

Many believe that Santa Claus wears red because of Coca-Cola. Although there is no doubt that the soft drink company has influenced the representation of Santa Claus, the fact is that Saint Nicholas appeared in many illustrations and written descriptions wearing a scarlet coat.

27)

The real name of Santa Claus was Saint Nicholas, but he was also known as Kris Kringle. Saint Nicholas was born in modern-day Turkey. After donating all his inherited wealth, he became famous for helping the poor and sick. Over the years, he became popular for his deeds and became known as the protector of children. In many countries, on December 6, people still celebrate Saint Nicholas Day.

28)

What a lovely word, right? A serene person is someone who remains calm when facing problems. It is a calm attitude towards life. Please do not confuse it with an unaware person, someone who ignores problems. A serene person usually faces problems, but their attitude is relatively relaxed. I like to talk to people who have this virtue because they give you quite a lot of peace.

29)

Easter is a Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The New Testament describes the resurrection occurring on the third day after his burial following his crucifixion by the Romans on Calvary around 30 AD.

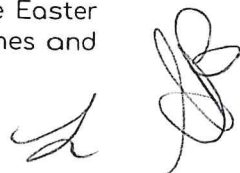
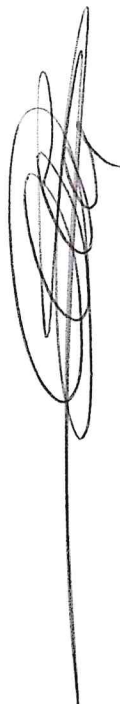
Americans spend this holiday with friends and family, and some attend special services held in churches on Easter.

30)

Another very representative dish for this holiday is the honey butter ham. This recipe is simple and is prepared in the oven or a slow cooker.

And how about the colored eggs and the Easter Bunny tradition?

Typically, people start dying hard-boiled eggs in a variety of colors the night before Easter Sunday. These eggs are left for the Easter Bunny on Saturday night. The Bunny comes and



*Concorso pubblico per titoli ed esami,  
per la copertura  
a tempo pieno ed indeterminato di n. 1 posto di  
Assistente amministrativo*

TEST INGLESE

hides them all over the house. So when the children wake up on Easter Sunday, they get excited looking for the eggs and the Easter baskets filled with goodies.

31)

The most important thing is wearing a swimsuit. A swimsuit is a piece of clothing people wear for swimming, especially women and girls.

Men on the other hand wear swimming trunks. They are often made from light, fast-drying materials like nylon or polyester.

32)

In summer, the sun hits hard. Its intensity is high, especially in the central hours of the day. To enjoy the sun without being harmed, wear good sunscreen. Sometimes it is also called a sunblock. It is usually a cream applied to the skin and absorbed little by little.

33)

You may want to dry yourself when you get out of the water. Therefore, you need a towel. But the beach towel is not only for drying yourself. You can spread it out on the sand and lie down. So, you can sunbathe and get a tan. That's why beach towels are usually extra-large.

34)

Here's what a typical family does at Halloween:

- They decorate their home. Americans spend about 5 billion dollars every year.
- They buy costumes. A costume is not cheap. It can cost \$30 or more.
- They buy plenty of candy, and of course, they eat it.
- Kids go "trick or treating." In most towns, it's only allowed from 3 pm until 5 pm because it gets dark quickly.

35)

How do you make a Halloween pumpkin?

- The first step is hollowing out the pumpkin.
- After that, we use a keyhole saw to cut the hole.
- When using a candle for illumination, you can cut the hole in the pumpkin's top.
- For electric lights, make a hole in the bottom or side so you can hide the cord.

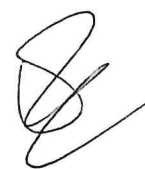
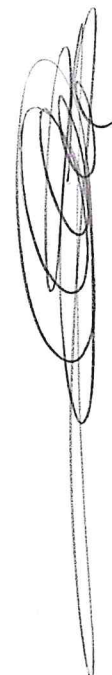
36)

How time flies! A new year has just begun.

It's curious how the passage of time is perceived according to age. Young people don't think much about it. Middle-aged people think about the things they still want to achieve and realize that they have less and less time. Older people, on the other hand, remember the old days

37)

A large rose-tree stood near the entrance of the garden: the roses growing on it were white, but there were three gardeners at it, busily painting them red. Alice thought this a very curious thing, and she went nearer to watch them, and just as she came up to them she heard one of them say, "Look out now, Five! Don't go splashing paint over me like that!"



*Concorso pubblico per titoli ed esami,  
per la copertura  
a tempo pieno ed indeterminato di n. 1 posto di  
Assistente amministrativo*

**TEST INGLESE**

38)

A man went into a pet shop one day. "I'd like a parrot that talks", he said. The shop assistant said "I'm sorry sir, but you have to teach your parrot to speak." So the man bought a parrot and took it home with him. A week later he went back to the pet shop. "My parrot still doesn't speak", he said. "Oh, really? Well, perhaps he's bored. You should buy this little swimming pool. He can have a swim and then he might talk", explained the shop assistant. So, he bought the swimming pool and went home. The next week the man came back again. "He's still not talking" he said. "Oh dear. Buy this mirror. He'll swim in the pool, get out and look at himself, then talk." So the man bought the mirror and went away. A week later he came back a final time. "My parrot is dead", he said. "Oh, dear! I'm very sorry about that, sir - but tell me, before he died, did he say anything?" "Yes he did. But only one thing." "Really? What was that?" "Give me food!"

39)

Bob Marley never wrote a bad song. My father was a big Bob Marley fan so I grew up listening to his music at home when I was a kid - I used to listen to it when I was sad - it's impossible to listen to Bob Marley and feel unhappy - that was his message to the world - "Don't worry, be happy". He wasn't interested in negative things - his music was always positive. He's a legend. He was the first 'superstar' from a poor country - and that's why people from poor countries all over the world love him so much - his music speaks to them.

40)

Everywhere you go, everywhere in the world, people know and love Bob Marley - everywhere. He was poor, he grew up in an area called Trench Town - a very poor area in Jamaica, with gang problems and drug problems. He left school when he was fourteen and started work. His message is universal - it's a protest really. It's about how human beings are all the same, black or white, rich or poor, and his religion helped him to understand that.

41)

A man is driving slowly down a country road when he sees a chicken run in front of his car. Nothing strange about that - but then, he notices that the chicken has three legs. "How strange" he thinks, "a three-legged chicken". He starts to drive a bit faster - 40 kilometres an hour - but the chicken goes faster too. He drives a bit faster - 70 kilometres an hour - but the three-legged chicken just runs faster too. The man goes faster and faster but the chicken keeps running. When they are both doing over one hundred kilometres an hour, the chicken turns a corner into a farm.

42)

Frida Kahlo was Mexican, she was born at the beginning of the century and she died in the 1950s. When she was nineteen she was in a horrible bus accident. She had terrible injuries - I won't describe them all, but she had to have a lot of operations, and she was in bed for a long time. She liked painting, so her mother bought a mirror and put it over her bed. So she started painting pictures of herself - self portraits. And she never stopped painting after that.

43)

A woman can buy a cow, and then she can sell the milk and pay to send her children to school. Or she could buy a mobile phone - the villages don't have telephones - and then people can pay to use her phone. They aren't expensive things - it just means that poor people can start to earn money. And now the Grameen Bank lends millions and millions of dollars to people.

44)

When I first arrived in Cairo, the capital of Egypt, 10 years ago, I was working as a teacher. I had lessons in different parts of the city and I had to take a lot of taxis - the underground in Cairo



*Concorso pubblico per titoli ed esami,  
per la copertura  
a tempo pieno ed indeterminato di n. 1 posto di  
Assistente amministrativo*

TEST INGLESE

doesn't cover many areas of this huge city. Black and white taxis are a familiar sight here and it's a cheap way to travel but I found it very difficult.

45)

People usually buy the fish from tanks outside supermarkets and take them home- alive - and put them in the bath. Spending a few days in clean bath water cleans the carp and makes it taste better when it is eaten on Christmas Eve. A friend of mine told me that when her son was four years old he asked why they were keeping the carp in the bath.

46)

There were these two married couples, OK? And one couple invited the other for dinner one night. So, they have a lovely meal and after dinner the two men were in the kitchen doing the washing up and chatting and the two women were in the living room, having a chat.

47)

The Indian film industry is known as Bollywood and you never feel like you are far from its influence. In cities, giant hand-painted images of Bollywood stars look down at the passing traffic and in parts of India film stars have used their popularity to start careers as politicians. Bollywood films are quite different to Hollywood films. Although the plots can be similar, the Indian films feature a lot more singing and dancing - there are usually six songs and at least two huge dance scenes.

48)

A duck goes into a pub and says "I'd like a pint of beer please." And the barman is a bit surprised to see a duck that can talk, but he gives him the beer. So the duck comes into the pub for a beer the next day, and the next day, and the next day, and he chats to the barman, and after a few weeks they get quite friendly. So one day the barman says "You know, you really are a very unusual duck."

49)

When I was a kid, my dad used to take me to see Formula 1 and I really, really loved it. The noise, the smells, the people. It was so exciting. Then when I got a bit older, I wasn't so interested. In those years, Michael Schumacher was always the World Champion, and I got bored with seeing Ferrari win all the time. Then Fernando Alonso won in 2005, and suddenly, hey, it was interesting again.

50)

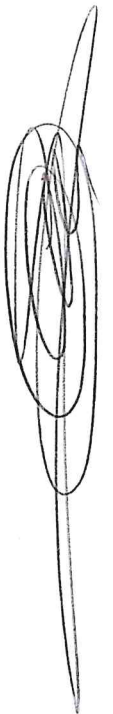
That's another good question. Some people think that that will be the future of Formula 1, that they'll start making the cars more friendly to the environment, - remember these people spend millions and millions of pounds on designing new cars, so they might find some technology that can then be used in normal cars, so that would be good.

51)

People are more concerned about healthy eating but the British still eat a lot of fish and chips. There are more than ten thousand fish and chip shops in the country and they sold more than two hundred and fifty thousand meals last year. One thing is, having fish and chips is cheaper than going to a restaurant so sales are even going up when people haven't got a lot of money to spend on restaurant meals.

52)

Cod, the most popular fish for making fish and chips, is not as common in the sea around Britain any more - numbers have really gone down. And if the numbers go down, the price goes up, so fish and chip shops now sell lots of other kinds of fish as well - but lots of people think



*Concorso pubblico per titoli ed esami,  
per la copertura  
a tempo pieno ed indeterminato di n. 1 posto di  
Assistente amministrativo*

TEST INGLESE

they're not as nice... Do you know, Tess, I could talk about this for hours – I've not even mentioned the history of fish and chips yet, but we're running out of time. Shall we go and get some fish and chips?

53)

We got some great recipes – from Spain, Greece, Kazakhstan, Armenia – we could set up an international restaurant! Both Felix and Eduardo from Spain sent us recipes for Spanish omelette – I might try that. Elmira in Kazakhstan told us how to make a traditional fish dish called 'koptal' – using carp. Now, British people don't usually eat much carp, but I might try this one.

54)

Many people love talking about the weather and there are lots of words about it. I think there are a lot more words to describe bad weather than good weather! Perhaps that's because when the weather is good, people are too busy enjoying themselves to discuss it.

55)

English football seems to be really popular all over the world. My team are Aston Villa and they're probably not as famous as some other teams in England like Manchester United or Chelsea or Liverpool. How about football teams in your country? Do you support a team? Let us know which one. And tell us about football fans in your country too. What do they do?

56)

I've never been to Britain, but when I say "British food" or "British meals", I think of porridge, puddings, fried eggs with bacon, toast with jam, beans and, of course, saddle of lamb. And a nice cup of black tea with milk. I don't know where all of these associations come from, but they are in my head! Almost every morning I cook porridge, I sometimes fry eggs with bacon and I prepare toast with jam. So it seems to me I'm in Britain!

57)

I would like to say I completely disagree about the general opinion of British food. Two years ago, I had a meeting with another colleague in Lincoln in the east of England. One day we went to a restaurant and ate lamb and the food was delicious. British food isn't only fish and chips or roast beef.

58)

My Spanish friend said that when she first came to visit Britain, when she went to a café, she'd say 'A coffee' – not 'A coffee, please' because in Spain people don't say 'please' so often. For me, it feels quite rude, quite impolite, if you don't say 'please' when you ask for something in a shop.

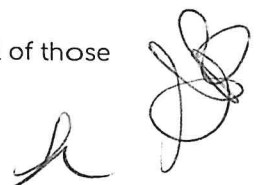
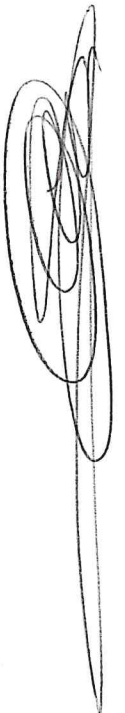
59)

Thank you very much for asking, Adam. I think there are different kinds of politeness. There's following rules, for example when you eat in a particular way, and then there's politeness by thinking about other people, for example when you give your seat to someone else on the bus. I think you can be kind to other people even if you don't follow lots of rules about how to speak and act.

60)

I'm not on Facebook, so I sort of have the opposite problem. I don't have anyone following me that I don't know, but sometimes it's a bit hard to keep in touch with everyone I want to keep in touch with.

I see. What about you, listeners? Do you have lots of online friends? And do you know all of those friends in real life? Is online friendship different from real life?





*Concorso pubblico per titoli ed esami,  
per la copertura  
a tempo pieno ed indeterminato di n. 1 posto di  
Assistente amministrativo*

TEST INGLESE

61)

'Sun' – in the sky – and 'son' – a boy – they're homophones for example – piece and peace, week and weak – but of course they sound exactly the same so you need to see them in writing to understand better or understand the context. So you'll find some activities on the website to tell you more about homophones.

62)

The first thing that interested me was how many of you live in different countries – not the country that you're from. So, for example, Ladna is from Somalia, but she lives in Alaska in America. And Mariami is from Georgia but she lives in Germany. Or Tonya – she's Russian but she lives in Germany too. I'm interested in what takes you to other countries. Are you working? Studying? Something else? If you're living in a different country, why not write and tell us what you're doing there.

63)

Some of you did mention that you have online friends that you don't know in real life. Laia in Spain (whose username is 'ahappylearner' - nice user name, Laia!) says "I have lots of "friends" on Facebook, but I don't even know half of them. I know most of them only by sight, I see them around high school but at the most we say hello, how's it going and bye! And then with some of them on Facebook we talk for hours, but face to face we only greet each other!

64)

We've talked about British food, British weather, drinking tea – and lots of other things, but today is a little bit different. We noticed that lots of you, when you talked about British things, talked about places in London – places you've visited or would like to visit or just places that you think are very British – and we're going to take a look at some of them.

65)

Some of you told us about royal families in your countries from the past and the present. Isabelle described the Belgian royal family: King Albert II and his family. Sylfide wrote from Spain about the royal family there and her opinions about them. And, from the past, our old podcast friend tkazerooni from Iran told us about the last Iranian royal family. David Mahi and Kirankumar both talked about the old kings and queens of India, like Ashoka the Great. And Leonnidaz and Shahrazed both wrote about the ancient kingdom of Numidia in the north of Africa. Very interesting.

66)

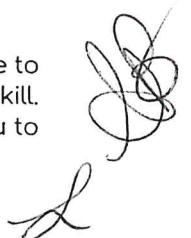
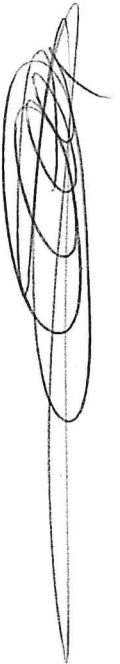
Angelo from Italy sent in a logic puzzle like exercise 6 in the last podcast - thanks Angelo. "Sean is looking at a photo of a boy. Albert asks him 'Who is the boy in this picture?' Sean answers 'I haven't got any brothers or sisters, but the father of this boy is the son of my father'. So who's the boy in the photo?"

67)

When I was at university, I did a business course that covered advertising, marketing, sales and public relations. I'm really glad I did this particular course as, although it was vast, it gave me an overview of business in general and the different careers in communications.

68)

I love what I do because I get to meet loads of different, interesting people every day. You have to be quite outgoing and able to communicate easily, which I guess is more of a talent than a skill. If I had to start again I'd choose to do a journalism option at university, as employers like you to



*Concorso pubblico per titoli ed esami,  
per la copertura  
a tempo pieno ed indeterminato di n. 1 posto di  
Assistente amministrativo*

TEST INGLESE

have a journalism background. Otherwise, getting an internship was the best thing I've ever done and I'd do it again, no problem.

69)

A military parade known as Trooping the Colour is held in London, attended by the Royal Family. I think the reason the monarch's official birthday is marked in June is simply because there's a better chance of good weather for the military parade. It's as simple as that.

70)

I think that it's extremely important, especially today when there are so many people wanting to work in PR, to do an internship to a) get a foot in the door and b) have more on your CV than simply your studies. You have to show willing and prove that you're an enthusiastic, ambitious person who wants to succeed. It was hard studying and working at the same time, but at least it prepared me for the deadlines and long hours you're expected to put in with a PR job.

71)

Let's start off with the obvious. Common sense is always a good starting point. The first thing we should all do is to practise simple courtesies. This might seem like common sense to some people, but in actual fact you'd be surprised at how many people do neglect these things. Set yourself a goal to say 'Good morning' to three people you normally wouldn't.

72)

Finally, when you are talking to people with whom you have a relationship of some kind, get into the habit of asking open-ended questions. That way they'll be able to give their points of view. Sometimes people just need to have the chance to say what they think ... and very often it doesn't happen.

73)

We live in a world where stress is part of our everyday lives. Burnout can be the result of too much stress, but it isn't the same thing. I once heard somebody say that if stress is like drowning in an overload of work, burnout is more like being all dried up. With stress we lose our energy, with burnout we lose much more – our motivation, our hope. And one very important difference between stress and burnout is that we know when we are stressed, but we don't usually realise we are suffering from burnout ...

74)

There are two Mondays in May when people have the day off work or school and (if we're lucky!) spend some time outdoors enjoying the spring sunshine. The first bank holiday in May is known as the May Day holiday and it is vaguely associated with workers rights (like Labour Day) although this is not expressly stated as the purpose of the day. As I said earlier – officially all bank holidays were set up to give workers some time off.

75)

Usually at the end of May we have the F.A. Cup Final – that's England's most traditional football cup and it's pretty special because all the teams in all the leagues get to play each other and the final happens at Wembley Stadium, and it's usually pretty sunny when it happens.

