A Brindisi, Annibale De Leo nel 1798 con regio assenso fondò la prima biblioteca pubblica di Terra di Otranto. Collocata nei locali al piano terra del palazzo del Seminario Arcivescovile di Brindisi, raccoglie 152mila volumi dei quali 22mila antichi e consultabili soltanto di persona o mediante scansione. Per il preziosissimo patrimonio di incunaboli e codici miniati viene definita la “Piccola Vaticana” di Brindisi.

A dirigerla oggi, dopo tanti nomi prestigiosi, tra i quali il brindisino Giovanni Tarantino, collaboratore di quell’ancora più prestigioso Mommsen, premio Nobel per il testo “La Storia di Roma”, una donna: Katiuscia Di Rocco. La prima direttrice donna della biblioteca più antica del Salento. Attenta e capace, negli ultimi anni ha arricchito la biblioteca con centinaia di libri per l’infanzia, adolescenza, romanzi, storia di genere. Libri di mafia, esiste un fondo librario dedicato alla piccola Angelica Pirtoli. Libri di fotografia, arte, musica, patristica ed “esilio”, rifugiati politici e “vite ineguali”.

In particolare i testi di questo ultimo argomento sono stati collocati su scaffali che hanno il nome di una biblioteca distrutta la Vijecnica di Sarajevo, la Bayt al Himalaie di Baghdad, quella di Alessandria e quella di Timbuktu, tutte con una cosa in comune: biblioteche distrutte per sempre dalla guerra. Storica, docente universitaria a Katiuscia Di Rocco è toccato vivere questo tempo di pandemia. Quando, come lei definisce, si iniziò a respirare l’aria di una “profezia dell’estinzione”, decise di far di tutto e subito per permettere alle persone di non smettere di leggere, studiare, fare ricerca. Nacque così nel tempo di una notte insonne la “Biblioteca a domicilio”.

Bisognava raggiungere le persone a casa. Non avrei mai pensato che un incontro casuale in Piazza Duomo con la direttrice mi avrebbe dato l’onore di vestire i panni della volontaria in bici cletta per la Biblioteca Arcivescovile De Leo. Così è iniziata la mia buona pratica in zona rossa spinta solo dalla voglia di portare un po’ di conforto a chi, per passione o per studio, non sarebbe più riuscito ad avere uno di quei preziosi libri della biblioteca. Sono arrivata a Brindisi per “amore” con un tempo a scadenza che è quello di chi si sposta per lavoro. Partita dalla città d’acqua per eccellenza, Venezia, mi sono lasciata abbagliare dalla luce del sole che a Brindisi, altra città d’acqua, non manca mai. E così zainetto sulle spalle, dove ad aspettarmi ogni settimana c’è Tiziana, e studenti universitari, anziani e bambini, come Omar che mi ha regalato una luce per la bici.

A questa iniziativa da gennaio Katiuscia Di Rocco ne ha aggiunta un'altra. Sono nati a Brindisi solo a gennaio circa 40 bebè... perché la vita, nonostante l’epidemia, va avanti con amore, forza e determinazione. Con un gesto di grande significato la biblioteca “De Leo” consegna in bici il primo libro del nuovo nato. Corredato da un bigliettino di benvenuto/a e una letterina per i genitori. Regalare cultura vuol dire regalare un futuro migliore. E così la zona rossa si trasforma in un cuore pulsante che batte al ritmo di un pedale.

Monica Fontanive, “Dalla biblioteca a casa, i libri arrivano con la bici” Corriere della sera, 25 aprile 2021

01. Quali fra le seguenti affermazioni sono desumibili dal testo? Indicare una delle alternative da (A) a (D).

1) La biblioteca De Leo è la più antica del Salento
2) La biblioteca De Leo conserva molti volumi antichi che non possono essere prestati
3) Il progetto “Biblioteca a domicilio” è stato oggetto di una lunga riflessione
4) La Direttrice della biblioteca ha assunto alcuni giovani per effettuare le consegne dei libri a casa

A) La 1 e la 2
B) La 2 e la 3
C) La 2 e la 4
D) Solo la 1
02. Quali fra le seguenti affermazioni sono desumibili dal testo? Indicare una delle alternative da (A) a (D).
1) Fra i precedenti direttori della biblioteca De Leo si annovera lo storico Theodor Mommsen
2) La biblioteca De Leo oggi è diretta dalla docente universitaria Katiuscia Di Rocco
3) La Direttrice negli ultimi anni ha arricchito la biblioteca con centinaia di nuovi libri
4) La biblioteca arcivescovile De Leo è privata, in quanto legata alla Curia

A) La 2 e la 3  
B) La 1 e la 2  
C) La 3 e la 4  
D) Solo la 2

03. Quali fra le seguenti affermazioni sono desumibili dal testo? Indicare una delle alternative da (A) a (D).
1) Alla piccola Angelica Pirtoli, vittima della mafia, è intitolata una sala della biblioteca De Leo
2) L’Autorice del brano collabora ai progetti della Biblioteca per poche ore distribuite in una o due giornate a settimana
3) L’Autorice si è recata a Brindisi per conoscere la Direttrice della biblioteca De Leo
4) I libri della De Leo trattano vari argomenti e sono destinati a diverse fasce d’età

A) La 2 e la 4  
B) La 1 e la 2  
C) La 2 e la 3  
D) Solo la 4

04. Cosa intende dire l’Autorice utilizzando l’espressione con un tempo a scadenza?

A) Per un tempo già stabilito prima ancora di partire da casa  
B) Per un tempo molto breve  
C) Vuole indicare il tempo legato al contratto di lavoro che di lì a poco sarebbe scaduto  
D) Il tempo della sua permanenza a Brindisi sarebbe stato dettato dalle necessità contingenti

05. I libri che trattano i temi dell’esilio, dei rifugiati politici, delle “vite ineguali” potrebbero essere raggruppati sotto un’unica etichetta. Quale fra le seguenti?

A) Vite travagliate  
B) Vite famose  
C) Vite avventurose  
D) Vite indegne

06. Nella biblioteca De Leo ci sono scaffali che riportano il nome di biblioteche che non esistono più. Quale denominatore comune le lega?

A) Tutte quante sono state distrutte irrimediabilmente dalla guerra  
B) Si tratta di biblioteche antiche o moderne di grande importanza, quindi meritevoli di essere ricordate  
C) I libri di queste biblioteche sono andati perduti  
D) Sarajevo, Baghdad, Alessandria, Timbuktu con le loro biblioteche hanno avuto un ruolo importante nel conservare e trasmettere cultura

07. Quale scopo si prefigge la Direttrice attuando il progetto “Biblioteca a domicilio”?

A) Vuole permettere alle persone di usufruire della Biblioteca nonostante le chiusure e le difficoltà di movimento dettate dalla pandemia  
B) Vuole raggiungere in particolare le persone ricoverate nelle case di cura e portare loro conforto con la lettura  
C) Vuole incentivare la lettura nel momento del lockdown  
D) Vuole ampliare il novero degli utenti della Biblioteca

08. Perché l’Autorice definisce “un gesto di grande significato” quello compiuto dalla biblioteca De Leo?

A) La consegna ai nuovi nati del loro primo libro costituisce un invito alla lettura che farà la differenza in futuro  
B) È bello che la biblioteca faccia giungere un regalo di benvenuto ai nuovi nati  
C) È naturale che un’istituzione importante come la biblioteca De Leo abbia a cuore il futuro dei bambini
E' importante rendere familiare il libro e abituare i bambini all'ascolto fin da piccoli.

Perché l'Autrice afferma che l'iniziativa rivolta ai neonati avrebbe trasformato la zona rossa “in un cuore pulsante”?

A) La zona rossa diventa vitale: le nuove nascite sono accompagnate dalla prospettiva di un futuro migliore
B) Le iniziative culturali, se ben articolate, possono avere un impatto fortemente positivo
C) La nascita di un bambino racchiude sempre un segnale di speranza
D) La consegna in bicicletta dei libri è rispettosa dell'ambiente ed è indice di uno sguardo rivolto al futuro

Quale alternativa rappresenta il titolo del brano in modo preciso, completo e in linea con quanto raccontato?

A) Buone pratiche alla Biblioteca Arcivescovile De Leo
B) Regalare cultura al tempo del Covid
C) La Piccola Vaticana di Brindisi
D) Biblioteca a domicilio

Quale alternativa può sostituire l'espressione con regio assenso, senza che il significato cambi?

A) con l'approvazione del re
B) senza che il re ne fosse informato
C) per accontentare il re
D) secondo la richiesta del re

Quale alternativa può sostituire il termine abbasinare, senza che il significato cambi?

A) abbagliare
B) affascinare
C) avvolgere
D) aggredire

Quale fra le alternative da (A) a (D) indica il corretto significato del termine dove?

A) in cui
B) mentre
C) spesso
D) per cui

Quale funzione hanno le virgole che precedono e seguono l'espressione nonostante l'epidemia

A) Racchiudono un inciso
B) Dividono gli elementi di un elenco
C) Dividono la proposizione principale da una coordinata per asindeto
D) Dividono la proposizione principale da una subordinata di primo grado

La frase quando si iniziò a respirare l'aria di una “profezia dell'estinzione” è una subordinata...

A) temporale
B) causale
C) modale
D) concessiva

COMPRENSIONE TESTO 2 (Inglese)

Leggete il seguente brano e rispondete alle domande da 16 a 23.

A universal language
People love to compare and contrast. In most parts of England, you buy your bus ticket on the bus. In France,
you buy it at a metro station. In Australia, you can buy it from a newsagent. We all find this kind of comparison entertaining. Books on cross-cultural communication exploit our curiosity by focussing on differences between people across the world: in social behaviour, the roles they adopt in society, their attitudes to money, the significance of their body language, etc.

Proxemics, the study of different standards of personal space, is one example. How close I stand to someone when I am speaking to them depends not only on my relationship to them, but also on my culture. This is important because if the person I am with is not used to standing as near as I do when we are talking to each other, they might feel uncomfortable. Statistics tell us that the average distance at which two people stand in a social context – neighbours chatting for example – is anything between 1.2 metres and 3.5 metres. In Latin cultures this distance tends to be smaller, while in Nordic cultures people usually stand further apart.

The messages sent by your posture and gestures is another case in point. For example, it is quite common in European countries to sit with your legs crossed and the top foot outstretched. But, as I know from personal experience, people in Arab countries hardly ever sit in this way – because they might show you the bottom of their shoe, which is a serious insult.

Such information fills the pages of guides for travellers and international business people. But I would really question the usefulness of what are presented as ‘essential’ or ‘must know' facts. Clearly it is important to know a little about eating customs, tipping and the rules concerning basic greetings. But beneath the surface, we are not so different. There are many signs that are universal in the emotions that they communicate. Focussing on these similarities is a much more profitable route than focussing on the differences.

Smiling is the best known of these, but not the only one. Behaviourists have proven that all over the world, people show sadness in a similar way. The face ‘falls': the mouth becomes downturned and the eyes begin to look glassy. The person will probably look down or away and seem distracted.

There are also common factors when people are bored. They will look at other things in a distracted way – their watches, for example. Their feet will begin to move restlessly indicating that they want to escape; they tap their fingers or scratch their heads. Anger can also be read quite easily: the facial muscles tense up, often causing people to frown; the eyes stare, fixing themselves on the target of their anger; blood rushes to the face causing it to become red. If the anger is great, the body will also tense up as if preparing itself for a physical fight.

Understanding these universal signals and reacting appropriately is the real key to cross-cultural communication. If we all apply just a little sensitivity and common sense, it is unlikely that we will cause lasting offence by making the wrong gesture or invading a stranger’s personal space. Of course some cultures show their emotions more openly and others prefer to keep them more hidden. But isn’t that also the case within cultures, from one individual to another?

16. In reference to sitting posture, the passage points out

A) that Arabs rarely do as Europeans do.
B) that it is hard for Arabs to sit in a comfortable way.
C) that Arabs do not wish to be taken for Europeans by adopting the latter's posture.
D) that the narrator insulted people in the Arab world.

17. In the excerpt we learn that

A) the concrete reference to units of measurement in the second paragraph is data-based.
B) Nordic and Latin peoples consciously decide the distance they wish to respect.
C) the narrator is constantly measuring the metres between any other speaker and himself.
D) it is impossible to deal with certain cultures.

18. Which of the following does the narrator indicate?

A) Common ground is more beneficial than highlighting differences.
B) Travel guides convey information of the utmost importance.
C) Tipping is essential if you do not want to insult the host country.
D) Seeing the sole of the shoe does not influence Arabs’ interpretation of Nordic behaviour.

19. From reading the article, it can be deduced that

A) boredom and sadness share a particular idiosyncrasy.
B) boredom leads to the scratching of the head as a way of escape.
Sessione estiva

20. A reading of the article shows that the narrator maintains

A) that, no matter the culture, each person possesses his own degree of individuality in expressing emotions.
B) that it is our culture which exclusively determines whether we reveal or conceal our emotions.
C) that inappropriate reaction will lead to immediate conflict.
D) that a smile can solve any misunderstanding.

21. According to the article,

A) in behaviourist studies the four signs embodied in smiling, sadness, boredom and anger have much in common.
B) societal etiquette in distancing determines how we behave when abroad.
C) individuals can shake off the culture they were born into.
D) the more you hide your emotions, the less you will understand other cultures.

22. What does the word frown mean in this context?

A) cause movement of the forehead to express displeasure.
B) contort the lips and nose.
C) use the whole face to express a specific emotion.
D) express agitation through oral expression.

23. The article provides insight into

A) detail in behaviourist-linked tendencies.
B) the importance of the mode for buying a bus ticket.
C) analysis of eating habits.
D) in-depth statistical analyses.

COMPRENSIONE TESTO 3 (Inglese)

Leggete il seguente brano e rispondete alle domande da 24 a 30.

From hero to zero

In January 2008, hours after saving his plane from crashing at Heathrow Airport, flight captain Peter Burkill was being praised as a hero. Only days later, when reports appeared in the press accusing him of freezing at the controls, he became a villain. How did this extraordinary transformation come about?

Peter Burkill was the pilot on flight 38 from Hong Kong and ultimately responsible for the lives of its 152 passengers. But 35 seconds from landing, two of the plane’s engines failed. With the plane losing height fast, Burkill let his co-pilot John Coward take the controls while he himself adjusted the wing flaps to help the plane reach the runway. It was a risky decision, but it worked. The plane just missed some houses and landed heavily on the grass just short of the runway. After skidding for a few hundred metres, it miraculously came to a stop without turning over. The passengers escaped without serious injury. As far as Burkill was concerned, he had done what any captain would have done and the rest was luck.

However, this was not the version of events that began to circulate among BA’s staff in the following days. Whether they just liked to gossip or felt Burkill was incompetent, word went around that rather than taking control of the plane, he had frozen. Worse than that, it was reported that he had failed to issue a mayday call and had not evacuated the passengers correctly.

Some newspapers, sensing a chance to sell more copies, picked up the story, claiming that John Coward was the real hero. They published details of Burkill’s colourful past, painting a picture of a well-paid pilot, who had lived the life of a playboy, but – when it mattered – had let down his crew and passengers. Worse still for Burkill, it wasn’t even his word against theirs. British Airways banned him from speaking about the events until the full investigation by Air Accidents Investigations Branch (AAIB) was complete.
Overnight Burkill’s life changed. Before the accident, he had had everything: a great job, a beautiful home, a loving family and the respect of his colleagues. Now he felt betrayed and desperate. The stress put enormous pressure on his family. In the weeks that followed, he spent more time at home helping his wife, Maria, to look after their young children. But he became depressed. He begged the company to issue a statement to clear his name, but they refused, clearly anxious not to receive bad publicity in case the official investigation found Burkill guilty of a mistake. Even when they published their own internal report in May 2008, which cleared him of any wrongdoing, it was only read by the senior management. No word of it reached his close colleagues and rumours circulated that crew members were afraid to fly with him. He wrote to BA’s chief executive asking for help, but got no reply.

The official AAIB report, the result of a completely independent enquiry, was finally published in February 2009. It concluded that ice had formed in the fuel system during the approach to Heathrow, cutting the fuel supply to the engines. The actions of the crew had saved the lives of all on board, it said, in particular Captain Burkill’s split-second decision to reduce the flap setting.

The pilots and thirteen cabin crew were awarded the British Airways Safety Medal and the story of Peter Burkill the hero once again made the headlines. But the damage had been done. In August 2009, Peter Burkill took voluntary redundancy from the company he had served for 25 years. He began applying for jobs with other airlines, but he was not invited to a single interview.

So did his critics win? No. Burkill himself had the last word. BA said that he was and always had been welcome in the company and in September 2010 invited him to come back and fly Boeing 777s for them. Burkhill accepted their invitation.

24. In January 2008 in unforeseen circumstances Captain Burkill opted to

A) entrust routine procedure to Coward and see to the anomaly himself.
B) abandon his responsibility in an emergency.
C) keep passengers uninformed of imminent danger.
D) make a crash-landing.

25. In the excerpt it is learnt that

A) only on hearing the final outcome from a second organization did BA fully commit itself.
B) an airline company has the final say in matters such as this accident.
C) BA's image was tarnished by the whole event.
D) the airline company admonished the pilot for flying so close to a residential area.

26. Which of the following does the article specify?

A) The captain was convinced at the time that he did a captain's duty.
B) Not every captain would have been able to perform similarly.
C) Passengers gossiped so much about their flight that it got back to BA.
D) Burkill was never to fly a plane again.

27. From reading the article, it can be deduced that

A) BA considered it paramount to respect the time lapse required for an independent enquiry.
B) the company reached an interim compromise by clearing his name amongst his peers.
C) they intended to prevent him from ever getting back into the cockpit.
D) Burkill the incompetent playboy did not care about public opinion.

28. A reading of the article shows that

A) an organization, in this case BA, puts its own image first – irrespective of the employee's unjustified suffering.
B) reputations can be restored with a timely company award.
C) it is easy to switch from one airline company to another.
D) flap-resetting was found to be totally out of order.

29. As is demonstrated in the article,

A) BA followed an unconventional procedure when they took Burkill on once again.
B) BA felt sorry for the hero because other companies did not want him.
C) Twenty-five years in the air are too many for any pilot.
D) his BA interview was totally successful.

30. What does the expression **let down** mean in this context?
A) disappointed.
B) allowed to descend.
C) deceived.
D) enhanced.

COMPETENZA GRAMMATICALE (Inglese Liv. B2)
Scegliete la risposta corretta fra le quattro opzioni.

31. He apologised [.....] waiting.
A) for having kept us
B) to have kept us to
C) on keeping us
D) to keeping us

32. I wish my mother-in-law [.....] my personal life.
A) would stop interfering in
B) stopped to interfere with
C) didn’t interfere on
D) stops to interfere within

33. Fortunately she was found alive, [.....] badly hurt.
A) although
B) even
C) despite
D) despite of

34. When the fire broke [.....] in the airplane, a panicking passenger opened the emergency hatch and [.....].
A) out / threw himself out
B) off / jumped himself outside
C) up / leapt away
D) down / leapt off

35. I can’t find my wallet. Do you happen to know where [.....]?
A) it might be
B) may be
C) can it be
D) is it

36. I hate cooking! It’s [.....] chore!
A) such a time-consuming
B) a so consuming-time
C) so a time-consumed
D) a such time-consuming

37. His mother wanted [.....] Jenny, but he was in love with Jill.
A) him to marry
38. Conan Doyle, [.....] Sherlock Holmes novels were enormously popular, [.....] in 1930.

A) whose / died  
B) the whose / died  
C) whose / passed off  
D) which / passed away

39. The shop assistant agreed [.....] money back.

A) to give my  
B) giving me my  
C) on give my  
D) about give all my

40. When I lived in Paris, I [.....] to the theatre twice a week.

A) would go  
B) used to  
C) was used to go  
D) didn't use to going

41. Yesterday I fell [.....] the stairs and now my legs [.....]

A) down / hurt  
B) through / pain  
C) for / ache  
D) down of / are painful

42. He persuaded [.....] the new gym with him.

A) me to join  
B) me to joining  
C) that I join  
D) me that I joined

43. Did you hear exactly [.....] ?

A) what he said  
B) that he has said at Susan  
C) that which he told  
D) what he told to Susan

44. I think it's about time [.....] a new car.

A) we bought  
B) that we will buy  
C) we must get  
D) that we buy

45. [.....] it be OK if I [.....] a bit earlier today?

A) Would / left  
B) Would / will leave  
C) Could / will go away  
D) Will / am leaving

46. When I first visited Venice, it took my [.....].
A) breath away  
B) breathe off  
C) breathing out  
D) breathe away

47. I’d rather [.....] cash than by cheque.

A) you paid me in  
B) that you pay to me  
C) you will pay me  
D) your paying to me

48. We [.....] hands and introduced [.....]

A) shook / ourselves  
B) shook / to each other  
C) gave each other’s / us  
D) gave our / ourselves

49. You [.....] a new toaster. I managed to fix the old one.

A) needn’t have bought  
B) mustn’t have bought  
C) hadn’t to buy  
D) can’t buy

50. My wife is a vegetarian, [.....] I adore meat.

A) whereas  
B) instead of  
C) as far as  
D) meanwhile

51. I broke my leg last year. [.....], I haven’t played football.

A) Since then  
B) From that  
C) From since  
D) Since

52. If you didn’t want to come to the theatre tomorrow, I [.....] you a ticket.

A) wouldn’t have bothered getting  
B) hadn’t bothered to get  
C) wouldn’t bothered to getting  
D) didn’t bother getting

53. To get a salary [.....], you have to prove you’re a real asset to the company.

A) raise  
B) risen  
C) arise  
D) rising

54. Cancellation insurance is the main reason [.....] people buy travel insurance today.

A) why  
B) because  
C) because of  
D) for that

55. He studied hard and [.....] all the exams.
56. Nella frase “E così la zona rossa si trasforma in un cuore pulsante che batte al ritmo di un pedale” (ultima riga del testo in italiano), l'espressione sottolineata è una subordinata…

A) relativa  
B) interrogativa indiretta  
C) finale  
D) soggettiva

57. You [.....] wear red. It doesn’t [.....] you.

A) shouldn’t / suit  
B) mustn’t / stay on  
C) don’t have to / fit  
D) can’t / fit well with