

The University of the State of New York

COMPONENT RETEST

IN

ENGLISH

**COMPONENT A
MODULE 2**

Thursday, April 25, 2002 — 9:00 to 9:50 a.m., only

Teacher Dictation Copy

- 1 Before the start of the examination period, say:

Do not open your test booklet until you are instructed to do so.

- 2 Distribute one test booklet to each student.
- 3 After each student has received a test booklet, say:

In the middle of this test booklet you will find the answer booklet for your response. Slowly and carefully tear out the answer booklet. Then fill in the heading of your answer booklet. This session of the examination tests listening skills; you are to write a response, as directed.

When you have completed the examination, you must sign the statement printed on your answer booklet, indicating that you had no unlawful knowledge of the questions or answers prior to the examination and that you have neither given nor received assistance in answering any of the questions during the examination. Your answer booklet cannot be accepted if you fail to sign this declaration.

- 4 After students have filled in all headings on their answer booklets, say:

Look at page 2 and follow along while I read the **Overview** and **The Situation**.

Overview: For this part of the test, you will listen to a speech by Jim Spadaccini about the early history of chocolate in the Americas and write a response based on the situation described below. You will hear the speech twice. You may take notes on the next page at any time during the readings.

(Text continues on the next page.)

The Situation: A national candy company is running a contest on the history of chocolate. Enter the contest by writing an essay on the background of chocolate in the Americas. In preparation for writing your essay, listen to a speech about the early history of chocolate in the Americas. Then use relevant information from the speech to write your essay.

Now I will read the passage aloud to you for the first time.

Read the passage aloud with appropriate expression, but without added comment.

Listening Passage

Two years ago, my wife and I traveled to the Amazon. On one of our expeditions, our guide pointed out a cacao tree growing wild in the jungle. I had never seen one before.

Looking strangely alien, dozens of yellow-green pods hung from the trunk and stems of the tree. Our guide picked one of the hand-sized fruits, stripped off the rippled outer layer with his knife, and handed us chunks of the fibrous white pulp inside—the fruit of the cacao tree. Two local children who had followed us into the forest waited impatiently for their own turn. With practiced hands, a girl of about six borrowed the guide's knife, hacked off the covering from another pod, and shared a big chunk of pulp with her brother.

Few people get to sample the fruit of the cacao tree. It was mild tasting, with a subtle, bittersweet chocolate flavor. Embedded in the pulp were dark, purple-colored seeds that, after being dried and processed, chocolate lovers like myself have come to recognize as "chocolate beans."

The cacao tree (*Theobroma cacao*) is a native of Central and South America. Today, it is cultivated around the equator, and can be found in the Caribbean, Africa, South-East Asia, and even in the South Pacific Islands of Samoa and New Guinea.

There are three main varieties of cacao trees. The most common is Forastero, which accounts for nearly 90% of the world's production of cacao beans. Rarest and most prized are the beans of the Criollo variety. Their aroma and delicacy make them sought after by the world's best chocolate makers. Finally, there is the Trinitario variety of cacao, which is a cross between Criollo and Forastero.

The spread of the cacao tree started during the age of Colonialism, as did the spread of cacao beans, and of chocolate itself. Christopher Columbus was the first European to come in contact with cacao. On August 15, 1502, on his fourth and last voyage to the Americas, Columbus and his crew encountered a large dugout canoe near an island off the coast of what is now Honduras. The canoe was the largest native vessel the Spaniards had seen. It was "as long as a galley," and was filled with local goods for trade -- including cacao beans. Columbus had his crew seize the vessel and its goods, and retained its skipper as his guide.

Later, Columbus' son Ferdinand wrote about the encounter. He was struck by how much value the Native Americans placed on cacao beans, saying:

"They seemed to hold these almonds [referring to the cacao beans] at a great price; for when they were brought on board ship together with their goods, I observed

that when any of these almonds fell, they all stooped to pick it up, as if an eye had fallen."

What Ferdinand and the other members of Columbus' crew didn't know at the time was that cacao beans were the local currency. In fact, in some parts of Central America, cacao beans were used as currency as recently as the last century.

While it is likely that Columbus brought the cacao beans he seized back to Europe, their potential value was initially overlooked by the Spanish King and his court. Twenty years later, however, Spanish conquistador Hernando Cortez is said to have brought back three chests full of cacao beans. This time the beans were recognized as one treasure among the many stolen from the conquered Aztecs.

You may take a few minutes to look over **The Situation** and your notes. (Pause) Now I will read the passage aloud a second time.

Read the passage a second time.

After the second reading, say:

Now continue with the task. You may now begin.