

## MML ADMISSIONS WRITTEN TEST specimen paper

Please read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions following it.

Your response to Section A **MUST** be in ONE of the languages that you are applying to study here. If you are studying at A-level (A2) or equivalent both of the languages you wish to study here, you are free to write in either language. Please write APPROXIMATELY 250 WORDS in your answer.

Your response to Section B **MUST** be in English. Please note that you will not be penalised if you don't know the correct terminology to describe the use of English in the passage.

The interest in invented languages, like Klingon and Elvish, appears a fanciful, if fruitless, pursuit to most. But to those who spend their time engineering aesthetic languages, recent interest has been nothing short of a coming-out party, as more and more people are willing to publicly talk about this hobby.

Even the grandfather of constructed languages, or “conlangs”, guarded his activities. JRR Tolkien, author of the Lord of the Rings trilogy and creator of Middle-earth languages such as Entish and Goldogrin, kept secret his penchant for language creation until a 1931 speech he called A Secret Vice.

Language creators and linguists say that film and TV viewers' increasingly discerning taste in authentic-sounding conlangs allowed creators of such languages to find each other and flourish. For the first time, a conlang inventor has a full-time job.

“Game of Thrones” producers hired the creator of Dothraki, David J Peterson, to write dialogue for its fictional characters after a contest on their website. Peterson believes he is the only person in the world to invent languages full-time. Mainstream linguists are beginning to take an interest in the activities of the still somewhat marginalized community.

“These fictional languages are having a moment,” said Arika Okrent, author of *In the Land of Invented Languages*. “A lot of it has to do with the care that's gone into the world creation. You can't just have a show without some historical land or plant some group of people without fully imagining how they live, what their metaphors are, who they are.”

Whether we should view these inventions as art or as a tool, like most do for everyday language, remains debatable. Some linguists find the creation of new languages frustrating in light of the accelerating extinction of endangered languages. More than 80% of the world's (at least) 5,000 languages could disappear over the next century, some linguists estimate.

## **SECTION A**

What are the main points of the author's argument? Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer.

***Remember to answer this section in APPROXIMATELY 250 WORDS in a foreign language you intend to study at Cambridge.***

***You should spend approximately 40 minutes on this exercise.***

**[32 marks]**

## **SECTION B**

How does the writer persuade us of his point of view? Please give examples from the text to support your answer.

***Remember to answer this section in English.***

***You should spend approximately 20 minutes on this exercise.***

**[16 marks]**