***English at Leisure***

**Vocabulary**

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| 1. (on) business 2. adult 3. aged 4. anywhere 5. arrangement 6. attend 7. avoid 8. boating 9. caution 10. celebrate/celebration 11. coast 12. cocktail 13. company 14. crispy 15. custom 16. decorate 17. decoration 18. departure 19. dependent 20. dessert | 1. disability 2. dream/dreamt 3. drive/drove 4. enjoy/enjoyable 5. entertain 6. essential 7. estate 8. exercise 9. favorite 10. festival 11. fish and chips 12. fitness 13. fixed 14. furniture 15. gathering 16. grade 17. height 18. homemade 19. household 20. husband | 1. international 2. intimately 3. Italian 4. kidney 5. local call 6. lone 7. member 8. minimize 9. motivation 10. natural 11. North 12. offer 13. outdoor 14. parking lot 15. participation 16. physical 17. pitch 18. prawn 19. preference 20. pudding | 1. racket/racquets 2. sauce 3. seasoning 4. security 5. share 6. simply 7. skill 8. solo 9. sports 10. steady 11. story 12. swimming pool 13. tent 14. the Summer Palace 15. tomato 16. tourist 17. traveling 18. umbrella 19. vegetable 20. welcome |

**Focus of the Written Test**

**Section I Listening**

**Part 1** Celebrating birthday and a show

**Part 2** Vegetable Stalls

**Part 3** At airport

**Part 4** Bank Holiday

**Section II Reading**

**Passage 1**

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| * + International destinations require specific documentation (i.e. passports, visa, proof of citizenship). It is the customer’s responsibility to obtain and have possession of all required travel documents.   + For domestic travel, United Airline recommends that you arrive at least 90 minutes prior to departure if you have baggage to check and 60 minutes prior to departure if you are not checking bags. For international travel, arrive at least two hours prior to departure.   + TSA Security Directives require each customer to check in before going through the security screening checkpoint at most airports. Eventually, this will be a requirement at all airports in the U.S. |

**Passage 2**

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| **Operates:** Daily at the Paulus Hook Pier  **Duration:** 10-12 minutes approximately  **Time:** 12:15 p.m. 2:15 p.m. 4:15 p.m.  *Additional departures may operate during summer.* (This tour on water is seasonal and only operates from May through to September)  **End:** return to your original location.  **Children & Senior Policy:**  ＊ Infant aged 2 years and under are free of charge.  ＊ Childprices are applicable for children aged 3-12 years.  ＊ Senior over 65 years can enjoy 50% off price.  **Additional Info:**  ＊ Each boat carries utmost 142 passengers.  ＊ This is not recommended for anyone with a bad heart condition or late term pregnancy.  ＊ The vessel is handicap accessible. |

**Passage 3**

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| 1. **Avoid Strong Magnetic Fields**   Never place the product in close proximity to electric motors or other equipment generating strong electromagnetic fields.   1. **Avoid Condensation Related Problems**   Moving the equipment rapidly between hot and cold temperatures may cause condensation to form on its external surfaces.   1. **If Condensation Forms inside**   Stop using the product immediately if you detect condensation. Remove the CF card and batteries or power cord (if connected) from the product and wait until the moisture evaporates completely before resuming use.   1. **Extended Storage**   When not using the product for extended periods of time, remove the batteries from the product or battery charger and store the equipment in a safe place. |

**Passage 4**

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| Dear Students,  Nothing’s more important than the intensity and support that passionate students demonstrate for their fellow athletes.  Two years ago, in an effort to promote community-building among the Northern University (UN) student body, the NU Administration and Athletics were called upon to take a proportion of money from the student tuition as the athletic event fee that will allow every full-time NU student the opportunity to attend all regular-season home football and men’s basketball games at no additional cost. All other regular-season NU sporting events remain free of charge to ALL NU students. The Board of Trustees approved the plan and called on Athletics to implement it.  We hope you take advantage of this great deal for NU students and attend as many events as possible in the coming academic year.  Mark Murphy  Director of Athletics |

**Passage 5**

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| * Student must have been in lawful full-time status for nine consecutive months before applying for OPT (Optional Practical Training). * The training must be related to the student’s major area of studies. * A total of twelve months of training is available (regardless of the number of degrees awarded). * Part-time OPT (20 hrs or less per week) will be deducted at half the full-time rate. * No specific job offer is required to apply for the OPT. * Student can begin the training only upon the receipt of the official approval (employment authorization card) from the INS. |

Passage 6

Amazingly for the British, who love queues, there is no formal line-up in any British pub – the bar staff are skilled at knowing whose turn it is. You need to know some basic rules for attracting bar staff’s attention. Do not tap coins on the counter, snap your finger or wave like a drowning swimmer. Do not sigh or roll your eyes. And the most important, do not ring the bell hanging behind the counter, which should only be used by the landlord to signal closing time. The key thing is to catch the bar worker’s eyes. You could also hold an empty glass or some money, but do not wave them about. Do adopt an expectant, hopeful, even slightly anxious facial expression. If you 1ook too contented and complacent, the bar staff may assume you are already being served.

Always say “please” and try to remember what the British bar staff dislike. They don’t like people standing idly against the bar when there are a lot of customers wanting service. And they do not like people who wait until the end of the order before asking for such alcoholic drinks as cocktails which take considerably longer to prepare than other drinks.

Speaking of tips, you’d better offer the bar staff a drink than cash as a tip. Pubs pride themselves on their egalitarian atmosphere. A tip in cash would be a reminder of their service role, whereas the offer of a drink is a friendly gesture.

So now you have a drink, but what about meeting the locals? Pub-goers will indicate in unspoken ways if they are interested in chatting. Concentrate on those who have bought drinks and are still loitering at the bar. Those who have moved to sit at tables are probably not seeking company. Look for people with “open” body language, facing outwards into the room. Don’t ever introduce yourself with an outstretched hand and a big smile. The British, quite frankly, do not want to know your name and shake your hand – or at least not until a proper degree of mutual interest has been well established (like maybe when you marry their daughter).

Talk generally about the weather, the beer or the pub and at an appropriate moment, offer your newfound companion a drink. This exchange is key to feeling part of the pub crowd and thereby getting to know more about Britain than its tourists’ spots.

The ritual of sharing – buying rounds of drinks in turn – is of great significance. If you are having British friends or business contracts, one of your hosts will probably buy the first round, but you should be quick to offer the next. The right time to offer to buy a drink is when their glasses are still a quarter full. The line of “It’s my round – What are you having?” may not be in your phrase book, but it is one of the most useful sentences in the English language.

**Passage 7**

Few words in the English language have such a special meaning as ‘home’. Home is a place where you can relax, kick back and just be yourself. Just about everyone has a strong opinion of what makes a house a home. And for most people in America, home should be, above all, comfortable.

Americans like their homes to reflect their personal tastes. Many do-it-yourselfers enjoy fixing up their house and making it more “livable.” They often try to create a cozy atmosphere so that when they’re at home, they’ll really feel “at home.” Sofas and lounge chairs may be heavily padded and arranged in groupings conducive to relaxed conversation. Even the bathroom receives special attention. Carpeted floors, scented soaps, colorful wallpaper and decorative curtains adorn the “comfort room” in many homes. And on average, Americans have more bathrooms than any other people in the world.

Lisa Odegard, an interior designer in Montana, comments that: “A home is a harbor. People want a safe, open and easy feeling to make their homes comfortable.” For that reason, many new homes now have big, open kitchens and vaulted ceilings.

Americans try to make the most of their space, too. The majority of homes have built-in closets and shelves, and people spare no pains to add dressers, filing cabinets and closet organizers to maximize their storage space. Although keeping the house neat is often a constant battle, Americans feel it’s a battle worth fighting.

People in America keep an eye on the latest trends in interior design. In the 80s, the “country look” dominated the home decorating scene. Rustic furniture and shelves full of old-fashioned knick-knacks created a cozy atmosphere reminiscent of rural America several generations back. The 90s have brought in another longing for the past: the retrospective 50s and 60s look – plain and simple furniture with square backs and arms and block-style legs.

Some parts of the country have their own regional preferences. In the western United States, homeowners favor the Navajo Indian style of the Southwest or the cowboy look. In contrast, Easterners prefer French Country or more “fussy” styles.

With all this attention to their homes, you would think Americans place a high premium on housekeeping. In fact, however, keeping house doesn’t receive as much attention as it used to. Why? The present fast-paced lifestyles allow little spare time for dusting, vacuuming and scrubbing the tub. Ironically, however, even though more and more women work outside the home, women still do twice as much housework as men. Modern conveniences like the washing machine, the vacuum cleaner, and the dishwasher have taken some of the drudgery out of household chores. But in general, Americans these days take their cue from books like *How to Avoid Housework*.

Witness the fact that sales of household cleaning products have declined in recent years. Besides that, Americans seem to care less about their housecleaning, especially in areas that nobody sees. Vacuum under the sofa? Dust the baseboards? Ironically, though, American women seem quite satisfied with their housekeeping, according to a national survey conducted in 2004. Besides that, people are designing their homes with low-maintenance features – tile in bathrooms and kitchens as well as marble on countertops – to cut down on the need for frequent cleaning. Even so, more and more people are hiring outside help to clean their houses. A Roper poll found that one in six Americans hired cleaning help last year, up from one in 10 in 2003. One professional housecleaning service, Merry Maids, has grown to over 800 franchises in recent years.

James Otis in a Revolutionary War speech in 1761 made his famous remark that “a man’s home is his castle.” Americans like their castle to be as comfortable as possible. They would like to have a home they can be proud of, a place they can call their own. Not everyone’s home looks like a castle, but “be it ever so humble, there’s no place like home.”

**Section III Writing** Gifts

**Focus of the Oral Test**

* Living in a Cross-cultural Family
* Never too old to learn
* Routines
* Marriages
* Food Culture in China
* Birthday/Anniversary Celebrations
* Shopping as a Pastime
* Competition and Friendship

*Wish you a big success!*