

## 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 territory of the earth is a mosaic of nations: or is it simply a mosaic of states? What makes a state a nation? The problem for the state, unless it possesses a monarch endowed with divine authority, is the question of what legitimates its authority. As the French discovered in 1789, the idea of the nation fulfils this function in an ideal way. As a larger corporation, to which its citizens necessarily belong without choice, the nation becomes an empty space in which all forms of potential identification can be filled: race, religion, language, culture, history, the land: what makes you a part of your nation?

It always used to be assumed that in order to become a nation, the people of a nation should resemble each other as closely as possible. If they looked different, spoke a different language, followed a different religion, then this was considered a threat to what the political theorist Benedict Anderson has characterized as the 'imagined community' of the nation. Many people, languages, cultures, have been repressed for this reason. The United States, a nation of immigrants, makes an interesting test case in its attempt to make the many one. First of all, everyone in the US has something in common, that they or their ancestors came as immigrants – though awkwardly this does not apply to the first nations of native Americans who were displaced or exterminated in order to make room for the new arrivals. Secondly, unlike most countries, even the landmass of the US is not attached, but dispersed with other countries and oceans in between. The absence of traditional links to land, history, and culture explains why the US has to make an identity for itself out of its liberal state ideology (democracy, liberty, free enterprise capitalism), and why it has to create demonic enemies which are alleged to threaten its very existence (successively: witchcraft, Chinese immigrants, communism, Hispanics who won't speak the state's official language, Islam...). These enemies serve to make all its different people feel collectively threatened, and therefore to bond with each other.

All these common values are symbolized by the American flag, which flies everywhere across the country, planted in every conceivable place: front lawns, car windows, the sides of buildings, corporate websites. Its ideology is materialized through the common lifestyle that keeps the US coherent as a nation, the proliferation of monopoly capitalism.

## **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]**