

Unit 1.

**A FOREIGN SERVICE CAREER**

**Lead-in**

*Anyone who dreams of a diplomatic career should be aware o f the fact that before one is allowed to work in the Foreign Service one should pass an* ***Entrance Test.*** *Try to do a sample entrance Foreign Service test to see how professional your present knowledge is. Mark what you consider to be the right answer. Do not get baffled if you can’t answer all the questions. After all, you are only half way through with your course of studies.*

**1. All of the following are necessary attributes of a nation-state except:**

a. occupying a definite territory;

b. having an organized government;

c. using predominantly a single language;

d. possessing internal and external sovereignty;

**2. All of the following circumstances have contributed to the current emphasis on protecting the environment from toxic wastes except:**

a. safe places to store toxic wastes have become scarce;

b. research has increased knowledge of the toxicity of many widely used chemicals;

c. the amount of wastes of all kinds has grown;

d. deregulation has made it easier for the public to purchase and use toxic substances;

**3. Which of the following statements is true about executive privilege?**

a. It protects members o f the executive branch from prosecution for any acts committed in the course of performing their jobs;

b. It allows the President to withhold certain information from Congress and thecourts;

c. It is the concept that underlies the President’s use of a pocket veto during a session of Congress;

d. It protects the member of the Cabinet when the President faces impeachment proceedings;

**4. A distinguishing feature of the parliamentary form of government is that:**

a. Parliament is the sole repository of legitimacy and may not delegate governmental authority to regional or local units;

b. No final action may be taken on a bill until all members of parliament have had an opportunity to speak either for or against it;

c. Members of the government are not allowed to take part in the parliamentary debates that involve appropriations;

d. Parliament has the power to require the PM to resign or call for an election;

**5. Which pairs an important person in history with the idea he supported?**

a. Adam Smith — Wealth is created by the working class;

b. Mohatma Gandhi — India can free itself from England only by developing its own modernized industry;

c. Thomas Jefferson— If a government fails to protect the rights of the people, they have the right to change it;

d. Martin Luther — Only through good works can man attain salvation;

**6. The country where the USA and the former USSR confronted one another both in diplomacy and in chess is:**

a. Cuba

b. Iceland

c. Finland

d. Romania

**7. Which of the following neither is, nor was, concerned with economic and military aid for Europe?**

a. GATT;

b. Marshall Plan;

c. NATO;

d. OECD

**8. Gross National Product is defined as:**

a. total goods produced;

b. total goods and services produced;

c. total goods and services produced, less taxes;

d. net national products plus dividends;

**9. The “top of the world” is in:**

a. India;

b. Bangladesh;

c. Nepal;

d. Bhutan;

**10. In the context of international relations, the term “good offices” is used in connection with the:**

a. Priority system for assigning floor space to delegation at the UNO.

b. Selective system for assigning locations to foreign embassies in Washington.

c. Procedure of mediation of disputes between nations.

d. Maintenance of liaison between the USA and the former USSR.

*Compare and discuss your marking with those of others in your group. If there are differences give your reasons for marking this or that option as correct.*

**Exercise 1**

*Can you define or explain the terms that were used in the test? If in doubt consult an English-English dictionary to help you.*

SOVEREIGNTY, DEREGULATION, EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE, POCKET VETO, IMPEACHMENT, TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY, BILL, APPROPRIATIONS, GOOD WORKS, SALVATION, MEDIATION, LIAISON

***Read a newspaper article from the Daily Telegraph to see what some other people think about testing the knowledge o f future diplomats.***

**FUTURE BERLIN ENVOYS FACE “QUIZ SHOW” HURDLE**

German graduates competing to enter the country’s poorly paid but respected diplomatic service are having to answer general knowledge questions as difficult as those faced by contenders in the television quiz show *Who Wants to be a Millionaire.* The prize falls somewhat short of the television bounty: the starting salary for a young diplomat is about &2,000 a month and even senior ambassadors are unlikely to earn more than &80,000 a year.

The questions are aimed at weeding out what Germans call *Fachidioten* — narrow specialists with little worldly understanding — ensuring that Berlin’s envoys do not make the kind of gaffes committed by George W. Bush, who failed to name the leaders of India and Pakistan.

The quiz was leaked yesterday and the tabloid press was flabbergasted by what it saw as an immensely highbrow challenge for a less than desirable career. The potential diplomats have to know the three functions of money, when women gained the right to vote and whether Charles Dickens is regarded as a Realist or Naturalist writer. There are fears in the Foreign Ministry that the quality of the new intake into the diplomatic service may suffer from the competition of new economy companies who promise quick career advancement and big salaries.

Around 1,000 Germans apply each year to sit the Foreign Ministry exams; only 40 are accepted for the two-year training course. They are expected to have graduated with honours and to show a well above-average grasp of political, economic and legal concepts. Fluent English and French are compulsory. The Foreign Service is going through an upheaval. Money has to be saved and ambassadors are being urged to take lessons in television presentation to equip them for their new role as relaxed public relations spokesmen for Germany. Younger diplomats are being promised faster promotion providing they know their quiz show stuff on film directors and authors.

***Notes:***

**1) a highbrow challenge** — is something new, exciting and difficult which one has an opportunity of doing which requires great effort and determination because it deals with serious subjects in an intellectual way;

2) **to graduate with honours** — to graduate with a type of university degree, which is of a higher standard than an ordinary degree. Compare CUM LAUDE- Lat. — with praise

***Questions for discussion:***

1. What is your opinion about the kind of questions included in the test for young German diplomats? How do they compare with the questions you have answered earlier?

2. How does the Foreign Ministry o f Germany justify the extremely challenging entrance exams for young diplomats? Is the challenge well-founded? Why? / Why not?

3. What do you think the author implies in the last sentence of the article?

***Exercise 2***

*Match the following words with their definitions.*

1. contender for a. smth that one says or does that is considered socially incorrect

2. bounty b. extremely surprised

3. to weed out c. let the public know a piece of information that is secret

4. gaffe d. someone who competes with other people to win smth

5. to leak smth e. the number of people accepted into an organization

6. flabbergasted at f. money given as a gift or a reward

7. intake to g. a big change which causes a lot of trouble and confusion

8. upheaval h. get rid of things useless or unwanted in a group

***Exercise 3***

*I f your matching was correct you should be able to put the words above or their derivatives in the sentences that will make sense.*

1. We will have to reduce this year’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of trainees.

2. It was a terrible \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_when Daddy died.

3. They made the custom popular by offering \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ money for the scalps of their enemies.

4. There is no justification for the army’s huge emergency of soldiers.

5. Everyone was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_at the deceit.

6. At the time great \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_were taking place in the USA.

7. Who can object to the plan with this take-over alone providing a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of more than $30m?

8. They have brought social \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and violent conflicts into the country.

9. I was absolutely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_when she told me the price.

10. I had no idea of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I was committing.

11. He made sure the story was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in the media.

12. He is a leading \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to succeed the PM.

13. Natural selection had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_out the weakest

14. Who are the main \_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_for the title?

15. The Ministry denied the possibility of a security \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

***Exercise 4***

*Translate the sentences using the words mentioned above.*

1. Його більше не вважають претендентом на пост президента.
2. За останні десять років наша країна пережила декілька політичних переворотів.
3. В цьому році прийом в університет трохи збільшився, оскільки виникла необхідність у спеціалістах-міжнародниках.
4. Уряд піддалося гострій критиці за витік інформації.
5. Посол пояснив молодим дипломатам, яку помилку вони зробили.

**What does a Foreign Service career involve?**

*A. Make up a list o f what you consider advantages and disadvantages of a Foreign Service career. Mention at least two points for both options. When you are ready compare and discuss your list with those of other people in your group to try to decide if the Foreign Service is for you.*

ADVANTAGES DISADVANTAGES

*B. Read the text that follows to see how many of your expectations are true to fact.*

**IS THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR YOU?**

A Foreign Service career is more than a job. It involves uncommon commitments and occasional hardships as well as unique rewards and opportunities. A decision to enter this career must involve unusual motivation and a firm dedication to public service.

Foreign Service personnel are committed to support their country’s policy publicly, whatever their private views. The Foreign Service is a mobile profession. Personnel must agree to serve at any national diplomatic or consular post abroad, or in any domestic position, according to the needs of the Foreign Service. Personnel spend an average of 60 % of their careers abroad. This imposed mobility presents challenges to family life and raising children not found in more settled careers. Many overseas posts are in small or remote countries where harsh climates, health hazards, and other discomforts exist, and where many social amenities frequently are unavailable. Overseas service may also involve security risks to personnel and their families. However, careers in the Foreign Service offer special rewards too: the pride and satisfaction of representing your country and protecting your country’s interests abroad; the challenge of working in a demanding, competitive, action-oriented profession; opportunities for change and growth; contact with stimulating compatriots and foreign colleagues in government, business, the press and other professions, frequent travel, and the enriching cultural and social experience of living abroad.

**WHAT DO FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS DO?**

For centuries, maintaining relationships between nations through the exchange of representatives has been the task of diplomacy. Foreign Service work is on the front line of the process by which nations establish and maintain official contact with one another in pursuing their respective goals, objectives, interests and policies. It embraces the making, implementation, and support of foreign policy at all levels at home and abroad. It involves the functions of representation, administering our overseas establishments, caring for the interests of one’s country’s citizens abroad; and reporting, communicating, and negotiating on political, economic, consular and administrative affairs.

The growth in the number and importance of international organizations brings new demands for competence in multilateral diplomacy. Hand-in-hand with this development is the growing importance of a range of increasingly technical issues which are global rather than primarily bilateral in nature and which require new skills and better insights into the foreign policy implications of such areas as science and technology, narcotics and refugee affairs. And today a significant portion of a Foreign Service officer’s career will be served in the country’s capital, participating in the complex process by which national policy is made and supported.

Political officers analyze and report on political matters that affect the national interests of their country. They convey their agreements and maintain close contact with political leaders, third country diplomats and others of influence.

Political work requires an ability to report and interpret events and trends in a variety of cultures and political systems. Officers must persevere in a field in which visible results are not always immediately apparent. They must also be able to communicate rapidly and concisely, and be flexible in handling diverse responsibilities, especially at smaller posts.

Some political officers have more specialized duties. Those who qualify may become area specialists, knowledgeable about the language, history, culture and politics of a nation or region such as the USA, or Latin America. Political officers may also serve as science attaches abroad.

A typical week for a political officer overseas might include: reporting on a foreign election or change of government, seeking support for your country’s foreign policy initiative, analyzing a border dispute, briefing or suggesting remarks for a visiting senior official, and perhaps, escorting the official, while handling the daily flow of cables and correspondence relating to the visit.

Success in the Foreign Service requires a strong command of the mother tongue as well as of a foreign language. All Foreign Service officers must be able to speak and write clearly, concisely and correctly. The success of much of their work depends on their ability to speak and write persuasively and to analyze and defend policies and proposals.

***Exercise 5***

*Suggest the Ukrainian translation for the following word combinations.*

remote countries

harsh climates

health hazards

social amenities

to pursue a goal, objective, interest, policy

to convey the news

immediately apparent results

to seek support for

***Exercise 6***

*Match the following words with their definitions.*

1. commitment to a. an invitation to test one’s strength, skill or ability

2. challenges to b. include or cover

3. unavailable c. the power of using one’s mind to understand the true nature of the situation

4. to embrace d. responsibility or promise to follow a certain course of action

5. insight into e. give smb instructions or information, in order to prepare them for an activity

6. to persevere in f. not to be had, obtained, used

7. to brief smb on g. continue steadily and with determination in spite of difficulties

***Exercise 7***

*If you have done the matching correctly, you will be able to place the words or their derivatives in the spaces provided so that the sentences make sense.*

1. If you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the task, you will succeed in the end.

2. The\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to authority requires a much more serious consideration.

3. The government has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_itself to improving education.

4. He has given me a (an)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_into British literature.

5. Everyone had t o \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and face up to innumerable setbacks.

6. As members of the alliance we must honour our defence \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

7. Climbing Mount Everest presented a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the group.

8. The general has repeated his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to holding elections as soon as possible.

9. Her autobiography gave me a (an) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into the way government actually works.

10. The ambassador has made himself \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_for comment.

11. The extended family \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_several generations.

12. The delegation has been well \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_on the political situation in the country.

13. The course of studies \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_every aspect of the subject.

***Exercise 8***

*Translate into English using the active vocabulary.*

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1. Дипломатам надали інструкції підтримки яких країн у рамках ООН їм слід домагатися для досягнення поставленої мети.
2. Працюючи за кордоном і нерідко стикаючись з важкими кліматичними умовами і відсутністю зручностей у повсякденному житті, молоді дипломати проявляють завзятість у виконанні свого професійного обов'язку.
3. Натхнення молодих дипломатів, які отримують призначення навіть у найвіддаленіші держави, пояснюється їх відданістю інтересам своєї справи і рішучістю сміливо відгукнутися на виклики нового тисячоліття.
4. Добре знання мови і культури країни перебування допомагає дипломату глибше розібратися в суті національного характеру.
5. Працюючи в державах, які переживають серйозні внутрішньополітичні потрясіння, дипломати отримують, узагальнюють і направляють в центр вкрай цінну і потрібну інформацію, часто ризикуючи власним здоров'ям, а іноді й життям. При цьому їм доводиться миритися з тим, що результати їх самовідданої роботи можна побачити далеко не одразу.