

Факультет иностранных языков
Специальность «Перевод и переводоведение»
английский язык
Дополнительное вступительное испытание
Устная часть

Прочитайте текст, передайте его содержание на иностранном языке, ответьте на вопросы экзаменатора по тексту.

A RUINED MAN

(from "Airport" by Arthur Hailey)

D.O. Guerrero was very much upset. In his shabby walk-up apartment, he was thinking about his failure in life. A series of business failures had reduced him and his family to poverty, and forced them at last to move to a cockroach-infested apartment.

His wife Inez Guerrero was now at her job. She had sent their teen-age children to stay with her sister in Cleveland and had taken a job as a waitress. This at least provided money for food.

Guerrero was alone now. He would shortly leave for the airport. He had a ticket for The Golden Argosy (the name of the plane) in the pocket of his coat. The ticket was for a round-trip excursion to Rome, which cost 474 dollars. Guerrero had managed to pay 47 dollars cash by recently pawning his wife's last possession of any value - her mother's ring. He had promised to cover the balance, plus interest, in installments over the next two years but it was highly unlikely that the promise would ever be fulfilled.

Guerrero was bankrupt. Using his wife's name, he had tried to raise capital for a land deal and only made more debts. Because of his false statements, he all but got into prison. However, airlines extended credits easily, since air travellers, over the years, had proven unusually honest. People like Guerrero troubled them seldom.

Guerrero had changed the initials of his surname from G to B "Buerrero" on a credit check. Moreover, his signature on the time-payment contract was not clear. When checking in tonight, he would have the spelling corrected on the flight manifest as well as on his ticket.

It was important, later on, to be sure, there was no confusion about his identity, for Guerrero planned to blow up The Golden Argosy and himself along with it. He would take out flight insurance, naming his wife and children as beneficiaries. He had done little for them of late, but his final act would be a gesture of love and sacrifice.

His mind was clouded by desperation, and he gave no thought to the others who would be aboard Flight Two.

Now, within the locked bedroom, he finished putting together an explosive device. The bomb was placed inside a small, flat attaché case and could be instantly blown up by pulling a string attached to that device. Nothing could stop the blow up of the bomb once he pulled at the string.

He checked the alarm clock by the bed. It was just after 8 p.m. a little less than two hours to flight departure time. Time to go. He had just enough money for the airport bus fare and for flight insurance at the airport. He put on his coat, unlocked the door and went into the shabby living room, holding the attaché case carefully. He found paper and a pencil and wrote: "I will not be home for a few days. I expect to have some good news soon, which will surprise you. D.O."

D.O. Guerrero's hands trembled as he lit another cigarette. Time was running out, and the expressway was so jammed with traffic that the bus was moving very slowly. The bus driver remarked, "We might just make it." But for Guerrero "just making it" would not do. He needed ten or fifteen minutes to buy flight insurance. He'd wanted to buy it at the last moment to avoid any chance of inquiry.

But, he couldn't say anything not to draw any attention to himself, because he had drawn attention already. At the check-in counter downtown the ticket agent had pointed to some suitcases and asked, "Is that your baggage, sir?" "No." Guerrero held up the attaché case. "I only have this." "No baggage for a trip to Rome, sir?" The agent's eyebrows went up. "You really are traveling light. Now Guerrero thought to himself, "Would the bus never get to the airport?"

A RUINED MAN

QUESTIONS

1. Why did Guerrero have grave money problems?
2. How did he feel about his failures?
3. What plan did he come up with to rid his family of poverty?
4. Where did he get the money for his plan?
5. How did he plan to blow up the bomb?
6. What did he write in his note addressed to his wife?
7. How was he feeling on the way to the airport?