

Companion

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Companion

for Bulgaria

LEVEL B2

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PLUS

companion

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Part 1

Task 1

Listening

Directions: You will hear a text about the Nabateans twice. Before you listen to it, you have 2 minutes to read questions 1-9. After you hear the text, you have 3 minutes to answer the questions, choosing the answer which you think fits best according to the text. Then you will hear the text again and will have 1 minute to check your answers. Read questions 1-9.

- 1 Not much evidence of the Nabatean civilisation remains for historians to study.
A True B False
- 2 Only wealthy Nabateans were able to read and write.
A True B False
- 3 The location of the city of Petra was deliberately chosen to make finding it difficult.
A True B False
- 4 Roman history makes no mention of the Nabateans.
A True B False
- 5 The Nabateans were
A open about their way of life.
B uninterested in buying and selling goods.
C secretive about how they did business.
D close allies to the Greeks and Romans.
- 6 The Nabatean Empire began in around
A 600 BCE.
B 60 BCE.
C 60 CE.
D 600 CE.
- 7 According to the text, the Nabatean society
A was a democracy.
B had skilled engineers.
C had a powerful army.
D had a lack of water.
- 8 An army from another empire travelled ... to attack the Nabateans around 300 years after the birth of their civilisation.
A north
B south
C east
D west
- 9 Who finally took over the Nabateans' empire?
A an empire from the north
B the ancient Greeks
C the Romans
D It is unknown.

You will now hear the text.

You will hear the text once again.

Task 2

Reading

Directions: Read the following text and mark the correct answer for questions 1-6.

The Harappa

When people think about vanished civilisations or cities, famous names like the Maya, the Sea People and Atlantis come to mind. Few of us ever think of, or perhaps even know anything about, the mysterious disappearance of the Harappa, otherwise known as the Indus Valley people. Yet, at its height, the Indus Valley civilisation numbered something in the region of 5 million people in total and inhabited an area covering 1,260,000 km² that stretched from Western India to Afghanistan. Their cities were as advanced as Greek and Roman cities and their manipulation of copper and bronze was more advanced than that of the Egyptians. They had their own language and could measure weight, length and time highly accurately. They used a system of weights that divided everything into tens, hundreds and thousands, just as we do today.

The Harappa were farmers and grew crops such as barley, wheat and rice. Apart from that, though, they relied on sea-going trade to support themselves. It is thought that the earliest boats were developed there. Boats used on rivers would have been flat-bottomed. Then, gradually, as they learnt how to build craft with wooden planks, a mast and sails, water trade further afield became possible. Trade with Mesopotamian cities became common, while Harappan ships may also have travelled as far as Crete and Egypt. Cotton, grain and semi-precious stones were exported in exchange for metals such as copper, lead and tin. Thanks to this trade, the Harappan civilisation became prosperous. But it was not to last.

After having flourished for two thousand years, the entire culture disappeared for unknown reasons and left behind hundreds of empty settlements. The intriguing thing about the Indus Valley people's disappearance is that no evidence of war or internal conflict has ever been discovered. The decline of this civilisation began around 1800 BCE. After a hundred years, most of the cities were vacant. No one knows the real reason for the collapse of the Harappa culture, though drought is thought to have been a major contributing factor. New research suggests an earthquake may have altered or eliminated a lot of the rivers that sustained the Indus Valley people, resulting in an eastward migration. Perhaps the most fascinating explanation is that the Harappans disappeared as a result of isolation. Due to lack of outside stimulus, the original creative spark went out and the great civilisation crumbled.

- 1 Another name for the Harappa civilisation is
A the Maya.
B Atlantis.
C the Indus Valley people.
D the Sea People.
 - 2 The Harappa were especially skilled at
A metalwork.
B speaking.
C mathematics.
D measuring time.
 - 3 We know that the Harappa
A weren't farmers.
B were skilled sailors.
C avoided sailing by sea.
D grew one main crop.
 - 4 The Harappa had copper to trade with outsiders for jewels.
A True
B False
 - 5 The Harappa civilisation disappeared after a war.
A True
B False
 - 6 The Harappa had disappeared entirely by 1800 BCE.
A True
B False

Directions: Read the text again and answer the following questions using sentences of your own.

- 7 Why does the writer mention Greece, Rome and Egypt?

- 8 How could an earthquake have caused the end of the Harappa civilisation?

- 9 In what way might the Harappans have suffered from being isolated?

Task 3

Writing

Directions: You are Dimitar Borisov/Elena Borisova. Write a formal letter to your school director in which you suggest starting an Ancient Civilisations Club. Support your suggestion by explaining:

- the beneficial effects of extra-curricular activities for students;
- the importance of understanding ancient civilisations;
- the organisation and structure of the classes (number of participants, duration, instructors, etc).

Start and finish the letter in an appropriate way.

(Word limit: 120-130 words)

Task 1

Listening

Directions: You will hear a text about the role of the monarchy twice. Before you listen to it, you have 2 minutes to read questions 1-9. After you hear the text, you have 3 minutes to answer the questions, choosing the answer which you think fits best according to the text. Then you will hear the text again and will have 1 minute to check your answers. Read questions 1-9.

- 1 Very few nations have a monarchy in the present day.
A True B False
- 2 Denmark has the longest history of any European monarchy.
A True B False
- 3 The UK monarch is head of state of a number of countries.
A True B False
- 4 Kings and queens are often in charge of lawmaking nowadays.
A True B False
- 5 Monarchies cost countries a lot of money.
A True B False
- 6 According to the speaker, Monarchs tend to
A create divisions within a society.
B come from the upper levels of a social system.
C argue against class divisions between people.
D feel distanced from their own people.
- 7 During elections, most monarchs
A advise people how to vote.
B are the first people to vote.
C do not take part in the selection process.
D represent a political party.
- 8 Tourists often take pictures of themselves
A with kings and queens.
B around the capital city.
C outside royal homes.
D inside important buildings.
- 9 Aristotle said that
A monarchies are good for everybody.
B monarchies are a bad idea.
C monarchs only help the rich.
D monarchies are bad for democracy.

You will now hear the text.

You will hear the text once again.

Task 2

Reading

Directions: Read the following text and mark the correct answer for questions 1-6.

An invitation

"But indeed you must and shall come [said Mrs Palmer]. I am sure you will like it of all things. The Westons will be with us, and it will be quite delightful. You cannot think what a sweet place Cleveland is; and we are so gay now, for Mr Palmer is always going about the country canvassing against the election; and so many people came to dine with us that I never saw before, it is quite charming! But, poor fellow! it is very fatiguing to him! for he is forced to make everybody like him."

Elinor could hardly keep from smiling as she agreed to the hardship of such an obligation.

"How charming it will be," said Charlotte, "when he is in Parliament! – won't it? How I shall laugh! It will be so ridiculous to see all his letters directed to him with an MP."

Mr Palmer took no notice of her.

"He cannot bear writing, you know," she continued – "he says it is quite shocking."

"No," said he, "I never said anything so irrational. Don't palm all your abuses of language upon me."

- ℓ. 12 "There now; you see how **droll** he is. This is always the way with him! Sometimes he won't speak to me for half a day together, and then he comes out with something so funny – all about anything in the world." She surprised Elinor very much as they returned into the drawing-room, by asking her whether she did not like Mr Palmer excessively.

"Certainly," said Elinor; "he seems very agreeable."

"Well – I am so glad you do. I thought you would, he is so pleasant; and Mr Palmer is excessively pleased with you and your sisters I can tell you, and you can't think how disappointed he will be if you don't come to Cleveland. – I can't imagine why you should object to it."

Elinor was again obliged to decline her invitation; and by changing the subject, put a stop to her entreaties. ... She began by inquiring if they saw much of Mr Willoughby at Cleveland, and whether they were intimately acquainted with him.

"Oh dear, yes; I know him extremely well," replied Mrs Palmer; – "Not that I ever spoke to him, indeed; but I have seen him for ever in town. Somehow or other I never happened to be staying at Barton while he was at Allenham. Mama saw him here once before; – but I was with my uncle at Weymouth. However, I dare say we should have seen a great deal of him in Somersetshire, if it had not happened very unluckily that we should never have been in the country together. He is very little at Combe, I believe; but if he were ever so much there, I do not think Mr Palmer would visit him, for he is in the opposition, you know, and besides it is such a way off. I know why you inquire about him, very well; your sister is to marry him. I am monstrous glad of it, for then I shall have her for a neighbour you know."

Adapted from *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 At the beginning of the passage, Mrs Palmer is
 A complaining about her husband.
 B boasting about her home.
 C making an invitation.
 D explaining why a visit is impossible.</p> <p>2 Mr Palmer is involved in
 A politics.
 B business.
 C the legal system.
 D the church.</p> <p>3 The word droll in line 12 means
 A angry.
 B funny.
 C sad.
 D uncaring.</p> | <p>4 Mrs Palmer tells Elinor that her husband likes Elinor and her siblings.
 A True B False</p> <p>5 Elinor accepts the invitation the second time it is made.
 A True B False</p> <p>6 Mrs Palmer and Mr Willoughby are close friends.
 A True B False</p> |
|--|--|

Directions: Read the text again and answer the following questions using sentences of your own.

- 7 How does Mr Palmer feel when his wife says he cannot bear writing?

.....

- 8 How does Elinor manage to get Mrs Palmer to stop inviting her to Cleveland?

.....

- 9 How does Mrs Palmer contradict herself when talking about Mr Willoughby?

.....

Task 3

Writing

Why Democracy Matters

Directions: More than 50% of the world's population lives in some sort of a democracy. It is the best way for people to make sure their opinions are represented. However, a lot of people feel democracy has its drawbacks. Write an essay discussing both sides of the issue and express your opinion about this topic.

Consider the following:

- freedom, equality and economic growth;
- expensive elections and emotional choice of candidates;
- the importance of democracy.

(Word limit: 200-220 words)

Task 1

Listening

Directions: You will hear a speech in parliament about press freedom twice. Before you listen to it, you have 2 minutes to read questions 1-9. After you hear the text, you have 3 minutes to answer the questions, choosing the answer which you think fits best according to the text. Then you will hear the text again and will have 1 minute to check your answers. Read questions 1-9.

- 1 The speaker wants more freedom for the press.
A True B False
- 2 People usually trust what they read in the news.
A True B False
- 3 In a global survey, 61% of adults said that they get their news from social media.
A True B False
- 4 The speaker believes the state should have full power over the press.
A True B False
- 5 The speaker says that the main objective of tabloids is
A to destroy people's lives.
B to report the truth.
C to make maximum profit.
D to oppose regulation.
- 6 Tabloid journalists sometimes utilise illegal methods to use people's
A social media.
B emails.
C personal information.
D phones.
- 7 In 1997, the paparazzi caused the death of
A a politician.
B a celebrity.
C a member of the royal family.
D a journalist.
- 8 The Internet has caused an increase in
A false information.
B newspaper sales.
C paparazzi.
D news websites.
- 9 48% of Americans get their news from
A newspapers.
B television.
C radio.
D social media.

You will now hear the text.

You will hear the text once again.

Task 2

Reading

Directions: Read the following text and mark the correct answer for questions 1-6.

Jamaica

On 4th May, 1494, Christopher Columbus sailed into Jamaica and annexed the island in the name of the King and Queen of Spain. At the time, peaceful tribes of Taíno and Arawak people lived on the island, who had come there from Venezuela around sixteen hundred years earlier. They lived in huts, slept in hammocks, and caught fish with simple stone-tipped spears. The Spanish made slaves of these peaceful people, but they soon lost interest in the island when they realised that there wasn't any gold.

British forces invaded Jamaica on 10th May, 1665 and the Spanish were given a few days to evacuate the island. The British were to change the face of the island forever and create the Jamaica we know today. They brought a large number of slaves from Africa to work on the island's sugar plantations and Jamaica became the largest producer of sugar in the world. The plantations brought much prosperity to the island, which became known as the 'Jewel of the English Crown'. Things were not always peaceful, though, during this period and the British had to put down several slave rebellions. After the abolition of slavery in 1834, the sugar trade lost its profitability and the British brought in labourers from India and China to work on coffee and banana plantations, which kept the island wealthy until the Great Depression of the 1930s.

A few decades later, in August, 1962, Jamaica got its independence from the British Empire. Today, although Jamaica is an independent country, it is still part of the British Commonwealth and so its official head of state is Queen Elizabeth II. The population consists of a large number of people of African descent and a variety of other ethnic groups from Europe, India, China and Latin America. It is no surprise that the Jamaican motto is 'Out of many, one people'. English is the official language of Jamaica, but Jamaican Patois, which is a combination of English and several African languages, is widely spoken. Jamaican pronunciation is quite unique and has a distinctive rhythm and melodic quality. It also has a rich variety of words borrowed from various languages, which is a reflection of the cultural diversity of the island. For example, pickney, which is borrowed from a Portuguese word for small, means child, and fambly means family. Jamaica is known for its beautiful golden beaches and particularly its Seven Mile Beach at Negril. It also has breathtaking mountains with impressive caves and waterfalls. It has a variety of animal life too including lizards and crocodiles and some of the most colourful birds on the planet such as todies, cuckoos, macaws and, of course, the doctor bird, which is the country's national symbol.

Jamaicans are known for their love of dance and their readiness to dance. Their musical styles have influenced lots of other styles around the world. Jamaica is most famous for its Rastafarian culture and its reggae music. The island's internationally famous musician, Bob Marley, still influences music and people years after his death, which proves just how much Jamaica has to offer the world.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Before the Spanish arrived, Jamaica</p> <p>A was uninhabited.</p> <p>B was populated by tribes.</p> <p>C belonged to the British.</p> <p>D was discovered by Africans.</p> | <p>4 Jamaica currently has a monarch as its official ruler.</p> <p>A True B False</p> |
| <p>2 The Spanish came to Jamaica in search of</p> <p>A slaves.</p> <p>B precious metals.</p> <p>C land.</p> <p>D adventure.</p> | <p>5 The Jamaican word 'pickney' means family.</p> <p>A True B False</p> |
| <p>3 Under British rule, Jamaica became prosperous thanks to</p> <p>A sugar.</p> <p>B gold.</p> <p>C jewels.</p> <p>D fish.</p> | <p>6 Jamaica has a strong association with a particular species of bird.</p> <p>A True B False</p> |

Directions: Read the text again and answer the following questions using sentences of your own.

- 7 Why did the British bring people from India and China to work in the plantations?
.....
.....
- 8 How does Jamaican Patois reflect the country's cultural diversity?
.....
.....
- 9 How does the music of Bob Marley illustrate Jamaica's place on the world stage?
.....
.....

Task 3

Writing

Is Being a Journalist Worth It?

Directions: Being a journalist is a challenging job, but it is the best career path for those interested in reporting current events. Write an essay discussing the advantages and disadvantages of the job and express your opinion about this topic. Consider the following:

- how chasing breaking news and keeping people informed makes the job exciting;
- how dealing with dangerous situations and long, stressful hours affects your personal life;
- whether the chance to share important stories makes up for the low pay and tough working conditions.

(Word limit: 200-220 words)

Task 1

Listening

Directions: You will hear a text about a New Year's Day parade twice. Before you listen to it, you have 2 minutes to read questions 1-8. After you hear the text, you have 3 minutes to answer the questions, choosing the answer which you think fits best according to the text. Then you will hear the text again and will have 1 minute to check your answers. Read questions 1-8.

- 1 All the districts of the city
 - A are obliged to feature in the parade.
 - B have the opportunity to enter the parade.
 - C will receive money for entering the parade.
 - D need to pay to enter the parade.
- 2 The prize money will go to
 - A team members.
 - B the mayor's office.
 - C a local charity.
 - D district residents.
- 3 Entries in the parade are NOT allowed to
 - A feature children as performers.
 - B include performers from only one district.
 - C use more than 100 performers.
 - D include multiple organisations.
- 4 Entrants will score points according to
 - A their performers' acting ability.
 - B how well their entry fits the parade theme.
 - C how popular they are with the crowd.
 - D the originality of their entry.
- 5 The judges will view entries
 - A at the beginning of the parade.
 - B at 4:30 pm on Queen's Crescent.
 - C throughout the entire event.
 - D as they are moving along Greer Street.
- 6 The parade has been taking place for two decades.
 - A True
 - B False
- 7 The first parade of all involved musicians from the army.
 - A True
 - B False
- 8 Restaurants are not allowed to open in the city centre on the day of the parade.
 - A True
 - B False

You will now hear the text.

You will hear the text once again.

Task 2

Reading

Directions: Read the following text and mark the correct answer for questions 1-6.

Life with Huck's father

Pap wasn't in a good humor – so he was his natural self. He said he was down town, and everything was going wrong. His lawyer said he reckoned he would win his lawsuit and get the money if they ever got started on the trial; but then there were ways to put it off a long time, and Judge Thatcher knew how to do it. And he said people believed there'd be another trial to get me away from him and give me to the widow for my guardian, and they guessed it would win this time. This shook me up considerably, because I didn't want to go back to the widow's anymore and be so cramped up and civilized, as they called it. Then the old man got to cursing, and cursed everything and everybody he could think of, and then cursed them all over again to make sure he hadn't skipped any, and after that he polished off with a kind of a general curse all round, including a considerable parcel of people which he didn't know the names of, and so called them what's-his-name when he got to them, and went right along with his cursing.

He said he would like to see the widow get me. He said he would watch out, and if they tried to come any such game on him he knew of a place six or seven mile off to hide me in, where they might hunt till they dropped and they couldn't find me. That made me pretty uneasy again, but only for a minute; I reckoned I wouldn't stay on hand till he got that chance.

The old man made me go to the skiff and fetch the things he had got. There was a fifty-pound sack of corn meal, and a side of bacon, ammunition, and a four-gallon jug of whisky, and an old book and two newspapers for wadding, besides some tow. I toted up a load, and went back and set down on the bow of the skiff to rest. I thought it all over, and I reckoned I would walk off with the gun and some lines, and take to the woods when I run away. I guessed I wouldn't stay in one place, but just tramp right across the country, mostly night times, and hunt and fish to keep alive, and so get so far away that the old man nor the widow couldn't ever find me anymore. I judged I would saw out and leave that night if pap got drunk enough, and I reckoned he would. I got so full of it I didn't notice how long I was staying till the old man shouted and asked me whether I was asleep or drowned.

I got the things all up to the cabin, and then it was about dark. While I was cooking supper the old man took a swig or two and got sort of warmed up, and went to ripping again. ... Whenever his liquor begun to work he most always went for the government, this time he says: "Call this a government!"

Adapted from *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Huck says his father is usually in a good mood.
 A True B False</p> <p>2 Huck's father thinks the law is on his side.
 A True B False</p> <p>3 Huck agrees with his father about returning to the widow.
 A True B False</p> <p>4 Huck's father swears he will stop them taking Huck by
 A cursing them.
 B hiding him.
 C killing him.
 D killing them all.</p> | <p>5 What has Huck's father NOT brought with him?
 A fresh reading material
 B food
 C drink
 D shooting material</p> <p>6 Huck decides to
 A leave the area.
 B go back to town.
 C call the authorities.
 D stay with his father.</p> |
|--|---|

Directions: Read the text again and answer the following questions using sentences of your own.

- 7 Why is Huck reluctant to go and live with the widow?

- 8 Why does Huck plan to take a gun and some lines with him when he runs away?

- 9 What does Huck's father mean by the expression "Call this a government!"?

Task 3

Writing

Why Jury Duty Matters for Justice

Directions: Trial by jury means someone accused of a crime can go to court and be found innocent or guilty by a jury made up of their fellow citizens. It is believed that this is the fairest kind of trial because it is more democratic. Write an essay expressing your opinion about this topic and support it with arguments. Consider the following:

- civil responsibility and connected communities;
- inclusion of every citizen and appreciation of the legal system;
- a jury introduces a human factor to a trial.

(Word limit: 200-220 words)

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PLUS

Part 2

Task 1

Listening

Directions: You will hear a text about a famous nature documentary series twice. Before you listen to it, you have 2 minutes to read questions 1-8. After you hear the text, you have 3 minutes to answer the questions, choosing the answer which you think fits best according to the text. Then you will hear the text again and will have 1 minute to check your answers. Read questions 1-8.

- 1 David Attenborough is a TV personality who is well known all over the planet.
A True B False
- 2 The documentary shows how some ecosystems are more important than others.
A True B False
- 3 *Our Planet* informs viewers about how people damage the environment.
A True B False
- 4 The population of Siberian tigers is increasing, but only very slowly.
A True B False
- 5 What did the speaker find sad about the Madagascar scenes?
A The wildlife is endangered.
B The wildlife isn't there anymore.
C Tigers no longer live there.
D The area is not as beautiful as it once was.
- 6 The documentary's goal is to show the viewer
A stunning photography.
B that environmental damage is permanent.
C that it's possible to reverse environmental damage.
D the rarest species in the world.
- 7 Some critics say that the documentary
A is too easy on human responsibility.
B isn't pessimistic enough.
C takes a very childish tone.
D doesn't treat its viewers like adults.
- 8 Overall, the speaker thinks that the programme is
A hopeful.
B wonderful.
C depressing.
D beautiful.

You will now hear the text.

You will hear the text once again.

Task 2

Reading

Directions: Read the following text and mark the correct answer for questions 1-6.

Robot reporter

North Carolina defeats Louisville 72-71 CHAPEL HILL, N.C. – Marcus Paige scored with nine seconds remaining in the game to give North Carolina a 72-71 lead over Louisville.

The above is part of an article on an American college basketball game. However, it wasn't written by a human journalist. It was written by an AI program! How did AI create it? Such software is now able to scan large amounts of data, select a format and then insert the important information such as places, names and scores. Just like that! A sports piece that would take a human a few hours to write, AI can do in minutes. Engineers have even programmed the AI to send a message to the coach of a sports team after a game to get a quote for the finished article. Perhaps it shouldn't be a surprise that AI is becoming the new virtual colleague of the media workplace.

Of course, it isn't just sports. In 2014, another software robot was able to write an article about an earthquake and get it online in just three minutes after the event happened. During the Rio Olympics that same year, over 300 news articles and tweets were written by AI. Today, hundreds of thousands of media articles are produced by AI every week. However, before any future journalists start to panic, they should remember that AI has its disadvantages, too.

Firstly, AI software needs a large input of data, which makes it great for fact-based articles, such as sports results or financial reports, but less useful when producing long articles which require in-depth analysis. Furthermore, as it can't think like a human, there will probably be mistakes. In 2017, the Los Angeles Times posted an article about a 6.8 magnitude earthquake which shook Santa Barbara. The information in the story was correct except for one small detail: that the earthquake happened in 1925. It turned out a geologist was updating the historical information in their database, which led the confused AI 'reporter' to assume it had happened that day. The mistake was corrected quickly, but it could have easily caused emotional distress to anyone who read the story and had loved ones living in the area. AI is great at examining large amounts of technical data. However, an editor still needs to check to see if the AI has interpreted the data correctly before publishing.

In fact, it is predicted that AI will only perform 8-12% of reporters' tasks in the future. Its real value will be to save writers' time by doing the repetitive work, including creating summaries, generating ideas and gathering data. Reporters can then have more time to focus their talent elsewhere, which will allow organisations to publish more content and attract a wider audience. It may lead to a rise in opinion pieces, which AI is incapable of creating.

One thing is certain. AI journalism is here to stay, just as computer keyboards replaced typewriters, and as digital content is now taking over from printed media. Let's just hope it cooperates well with its human co-workers for a lot more years to come.

- 1 What is the main purpose of the text?
A to inform people of the pros and cons of AI journalism
B to highlight the dangers of AI journalism
C to show how AI can report sporting results
D to inform people of the history of AI journalism
- 2 AI can get quotes from sports coaches by
A searching the Internet.
B sending them a message.
C using a virtual colleague.
D looking through past articles.
- 3 In 2014, AI wrote hundreds of tweets and articles
A about an earthquake in Rio.
B in three minutes.
C about the Olympic Games.
D about software robots.
- 4 In 2017, a large earthquake hit the city of Santa Barbara.
A True **B** False
- 5 AI still needs a human to check that a story is accurate.
A True **B** False
- 6 In the future, it is estimated that AI will cut journalists' workloads in half.
A True **B** False

Directions: Read the text again and answer the following questions using sentences of your own.

- 7 What is the main advantage of AI reporting over human reporting?

- 8 Why did AI make a mistake when reporting an earthquake in Santa Barbara?

- 9 What type of articles are AI reporters unable to write?

Task 3

Writing

Will AI Replace Workers or Free Them?

Directions: It is often said that AI will put a lot of people out of work over the next few decades, while others feel it will be useful in doing dull, repetitive tasks for us. Write an essay discussing the advantages and disadvantages of AI and express your opinion about this topic. Consider the following:

- how AI could help at work (e.g. employees' productivity, information security, etc);
- what problems AI could bring (e.g. loss of jobs through automation);
- whether, overall, using AI in the workplace is a good thing or not.

(Word limit: 200-220 words)

Task 1

Listening

Directions: You will hear an extract from an adaptation of *Robinson Crusoe* twice. Before you listen to it, you have 2 minutes to read questions 1-8. After you hear the text, you have 3 minutes to answer the questions, choosing the answer which you think fits best according to the text. Then you will hear the text again and will have 1 minute to check your answers. Read questions 1-8.

- 1 Robinson Crusoe's father was born in Hull, England.
A True B False
- 2 Robinson Crusoe's father had stopped working before Crusoe was born.
A True B False
- 3 Crusoe is a surname that goes back over a long line of generations.
A True B False
- 4 One of Crusoe's brothers was dead and the other went missing.
A True B False
- 5 Robinson Crusoe's education
A cost his father a lot of money.
B was almost non-existent.
C was carried out partly at home.
D was mainly to do with sailing.
- 6 Who, according to Crusoe's father, left home to go to sea?
A those that were comfortably off
B only the very poor
C only the very wealthy
D the poor and the wealthy
- 7 Why did Crusoe's father talk of kings?
A to show Crusoe how rich he could become
B to give an example of dissatisfaction
C to impress on Crusoe how desirable his present position was
D to criticise Crusoe's dreams of wealth
- 8 How did Crusoe react to his father's advice at first?
A He ignored it completely.
B He accepted his father was right.
C He ran away to sea.
D He argued with his father bitterly.

You will now hear the text.

You will hear the text once again.

Task 2

Reading

Directions: Read the following text and mark the correct answer for questions 1-6.

The yellow press

Yellow press – also called yellow journalism – is a way of reporting the news that focuses more on attracting readers' attention than reporting hard facts. The term 'yellow press' was first used in the 1890s to describe the specific actions used by the editors of two competing papers: Joseph Pulitzer's *New York World* and William Randolph Hearst's *New York Journal*. Both papers published exaggerated stories under dramatic headlines in huge print with eye-catching photographs to increase their sales. It is believed that the term 'yellow press' came from the Yellow Kid cartoon: a popular comic strip that both Pulitzer and Hearst used in their two papers.

While the phrase 'yellow press' is no longer in common use, this type of journalism still exists today. In the UK, 'red-top tabloids' such as *The Sun* and the *Daily Mirror* are very popular. Their name comes from the name of the paper, which is printed in red ink at the top of the front page. These papers usually publish crime stories, celebrity gossip, astrology and sports. They use simple language and lots of pictures and are often accused of spreading rumours and printing misleading information, controversial articles or one-sided stories. They often have a strong political bias meaning that they will often print negative stories about one political party but not the other.

The American version of the red-top tabloid is the 'supermarket tabloid'. These are large tabloids that are sold near the checkout lines in supermarkets. In the past, newspapers and magazines were only sold at newsstands. In the 1960s, the *National Enquirer* started selling them in supermarkets too, and this continues today. Like the UK's red-tops, America's supermarket tabloids are criticised for their lack of objectivity and for invading people's privacy. For this reason, several celebrities have taken tabloids to court.

Even though most people disapprove of them, numbers show that tabloids are more popular than broadsheet newspapers. Why do they have such a large readership then? One reason could be the short length of the stories inside. People working in places like supermarkets, factories and warehouses only get a short coffee break. This leaves little time to read a long article in a broadsheet newspaper but plenty to read a few short stories in a tabloid. Another reason is sensationalism. Tabloids often focus on exciting elements of news stories, even if it makes the story less informative. People may be aware that what they are reading is not 100% factual but they are attracted by the excitement they create. Reading a tabloid is a form of escape; the stories are easy to understand and the content is usually light-hearted and funny. Tabloid stories, then, are a bit like junk food – we all know it's bad for us, but we still like it! They too offer a quick moment of pleasure, but they don't give us anything beneficial in the long run. So, tabloids should be approached carefully and only be consumed in small amounts. If you are worried about fake news, find a reputable fact-checking website and see how true what you are reading is.

- 1 Which of the following best describes the 'yellow press'?
- A They competed with each other.
 - B The stories were completely false.
 - C They cared more about excitement than the truth.
 - D They reported hard facts.
- 2 Why are some British newspapers known as 'red-top tabloids'?
- A They print the same cartoons.
 - B They publish crime stories.
 - C Their names appear in the same colour.
 - D They are printed on red paper.

- 3 Which of these statements is true of British tabloids?
- A They always print favourable stories of the government.
 - B They use plenty of photographs.
 - C Very few people buy them.
 - D They mislead people by using complicated vocabulary.
- 4 The *National Enquirer* is not sold at newsstands like other newspapers.
- A True
 - B False
- 5 Tabloid readers do not necessarily believe what they are reading.
- A True
 - B False
- 6 There is no way to check if a tabloid story is true or not.
- A True
 - B False

Directions: Read the text again and answer the following questions using sentences of your own.

- 7 Why might some working people prefer to read a tabloid?
-
-
- 8 What is the main difference between tabloid and broadsheet newspapers?
-
-
- 9 What does the writer conclude about reading tabloids?
-
-

Task 3

Writing

Fake News vs. Free Speech: The Social Media Dilemma

Directions: Most fake news is posted on social media. Some people say that fake news is dangerous and should be censored, especially when it concerns medical advice or elections. Others say that taking down social media posts is against freedom of speech. Write an essay discussing the positive and negative aspects of free speech via social media and express your opinion about this topic. Consider the following:

- how free speech on social media protects open debate and personal expression;
- why fake news about health and elections poses serious real-world dangers;
- whether censoring misinformation does more harm than good to human rights.

(Word limit: 200-220 words)

Task 1

Listening

Directions: You will hear a text about Internet use twice. Before you listen to it, you have 2 minutes to read questions 1-8. After you hear the text, you have 3 minutes to answer the questions, choosing the answer which you think fits best according to the text. Then you will hear the text again and will have 1 minute to check your answers. Read questions 1-8.

- 1 The speaker's sister is also her best friend.
A True B False
- 2 The speaker says that FaceTime is as good as talking in person.
A True B False
- 3 The speaker likes to play tennis daily if she can.
A True B False
- 4 The speaker uses an app to meet people with similar interests.
A True B False
- 5 The speaker's friend Harry
A owns a smart watch.
B is learning Spanish.
C enjoys running.
D enjoys tennis.
- 6 The language app lets the speaker
A chat with people who are learning English.
B talk to people whose first language is Spanish.
C learn English from native speakers.
D talk with people who are learning Spanish.
- 7 How does the speaker feel about chatrooms?
A They just don't appeal to her.
B They make schoolwork more fun.
C They don't have all the answers.
D They are useful for schoolwork.
- 8 What does the speaker say about bullying?
A She has been bullied.
B Bullies are terrible people.
C She has tried to stop bullying.
D Bullies are weak people.

You will now hear the text.

You will hear the text once again.

Task 2

Reading

Directions: Read the following text and mark the correct answer for questions 1-6.

Booker Travels

Booker Travels, a unique travel web series that explores global trends through skateboarding and surfing, is proud to announce that our host, Booker Mitchell, has been named “Traveller of the Year” by *National Geographic Traveller Magazine*. This exciting new award celebrates the accomplishments of ten travellers who visit distant places and do astonishing things around the globe.

Booker Mitchell is much younger than the other winners and the only teenage traveller to receive the award. He is from New York City, where different languages and cultures are part of his life. He is half Brazilian and speaks both English and Portuguese at home. He has studied Mandarin Chinese for nine years and Spanish for five, and is thinking of learning Italian next. He says that he has been travelling since before he could walk as his parents took him on trips with them when he was still an infant. As he grew, his parents encouraged him to choose his own destinations and to be a traveller rather than just a tourist. He started filming his trips and created a blog and then a web series in collaboration with his mother, Tania Cypriano, the Brazilian-born documentary filmmaker. His mum would take the camera out wherever they were to document it. Then, they realised they had a lot of special footage from amazing places like the Amazon, Cuba, Nicaragua and Sri Lanka, but it was in Barcelona, Spain, that it all started for the teen traveller.

Today, Booker is the host of *Booker Travels*, a series of weekly episodes about travelling and living life outside. The show was launched by B Travels Network in April 2012 and is available on the Internet at www.bookertravels.com and on YouTube. The original series uses a combination of amateur video diaries and professionally shot footage in a documentary style to highlight leisure and cultural travel from a teenager’s point of view. Its aim is to encourage teens to meet new people and learn from new cultures and the main themes are music, sport, art and food. Booker says that so many kids just spend their days inside playing video games and watching TV, but *Booker Travels* shows kids how to get out of the house and experience the world. He is inspired by the people he meets and by the way they live. He says that travel expands our world and influences our lives but still feels that one of the best parts of travelling is coming back home, seeing everyone you know.

If you want to be the next Booker Mitchell, it’s easier than ever before. There are so many apps out there nowadays that can be used to document travel. Technology has made it possible for young people to start travel blogs for people their own age using only their phone. You don’t need to travel the world to make videos either. Your own country might not seem exotic to you but there are always people in other countries who are interested in where you live and would love to learn more about it. All you need is something that sets you apart from the crowd.

- 1 Booker Mitchell is the
A first person to receive the award.
B only American to receive the award.
C tenth person to receive the award.
D youngest person to receive the award.
- 2 Which language does Booker NOT speak?
A Chinese
B Italian
C Portuguese
D Spanish
- 3 He started his show when he was in
A in the Amazon rainforest.
B on the island of Cuba.
C in the capital of Nicaragua.
D in a city in Spain.
- 4 The show *Booker's Travels* can only be seen on Booker's website.
A True **B** False
- 5 Mitchell also reviews video games on his show.
A True **B** False
- 6 You don't need much equipment to become a travel writer.
A True **B** False

Directions: Read the text again and answer the following questions using sentences of your own.

- 7 How is Booker a traveller and not just a tourist?
.....
.....
- 8 What is the main aim of the show *Booker Travels*?
.....
.....
- 9 How does Booker feel about coming back home after a trip?
.....
.....

Task 3

Writing

How the Internet Reshaped Modern Life

Directions: Of all the inventions of the 20th century, the Internet has had the biggest impact on people's lives, changing them for the better. Write an essay expressing your opinion about this topic and support it with arguments. Consider the following:

- how it has reshaped our world (e.g. find information easily, help us learn etc.);
- what it allows us to do (e.g. faster communication, online shopping etc.);
- how it affects entertainment (e.g. streaming services for TV series, films and music etc.).

(Word limit: 200-220 words)

Task 1

Listening

Directions: You will hear a monologue in which a girl talks about learning English twice. Before you listen to it, you have 2 minutes to read questions 1-8. After you hear the text, you have 3 minutes to answer the questions, choosing the answer which you think fits best according to the text. Then you will hear the text again and will have 1 minute to check your answers. Read questions 1-8.

- 1 The speaker enjoyed English lessons more than her schoolmates.
A True B False
- 2 She gets regular contact with English by downloading videos.
A True B False
- 3 Her English improved considerably over the last couple of years.
A True B False
- 4 She sends letters to a pen friend in another country.
A True B False
- 5 Her pen friend introduced her to the Beatles' music.
A True B False
- 6 Which statement is true of the speaker's trip to Britain?
A It was better than she had expected.
B She finally managed to see Liverpool.
C She only saw the capital city.
D She met her pen friend.
- 7 When did the speaker start a vlog?
A at the end of her London trip
B before her London trip began
C two weeks after her course began
D six weeks after her course began
- 8 In the future, the speaker may
A study English at university.
B start a webpage.
C try to get more confident.
D study in an English-speaking country.

You will now hear the text.

You will hear the text once again.

Reading

Directions: Read the following text and mark the correct answer for questions 1-6.

Project Gutenberg

Johannes Gutenberg, born in about 1398 in Mainz, Germany, was a hardworking and determined man. He enabled books to be produced more quickly and easily. Books were laboriously copied out by hand until Gutenberg thought of using movable metal letters. These were set in a frame to spell words and then clearly printed on paper. The first major book, the Gutenberg Bible, came off his new printing press in around 1450.

Gutenberg's invention initiated an information revolution. It brought knowledge to a wider reading public, not just the wealthy few. By 1500, printing presses had already produced 20 million books across Western Europe. For the first time in history, even the poorly educated had access to some form of reading material. Another reason to honour Gutenberg is the fact that his invention was crucial to the advance of science and technology. Authors who had previously been anonymous now became widely known and could be quoted freely to support scientific arguments and theories. Gutenberg's printing press was arguably the most important invention of the second millennium.

Project Gutenberg began in 1971, started by a man named Michael S Hart. His goal was to digitise 10,000 of the most used scientific books by the end of the 20th century. His objective was not to make money; it was to preserve the books forever and eventually make them available to everyone for free or at a very low cost. He named the project after Gutenberg because, just like the printing press, his project would make books available to the masses.

In the United States, books go into the public domain 70 years after the author's death. This means that they are free to print and sell. However, a lot of these books dating back so many years disappear over time. Hart's project would make sure the books would be around forever. Nowadays, making books available on computers seems like a logical way to get them to people cheaply and easily. However, the project began 12 years before the Internet was even conceived and 20 years before it would be available to the public. In fact, the first home computer would not go on sale until 1974, a full three years after Hart began his project. Astonishingly, Hart began his project predicting that someday people would be able to access information from a computer in their homes. Initially, he took on volunteers who helped him type the books into the database manually. In 1989, scanning technology improved enough so that Hart could scan books into the system easily. In 2004, DVDs became readily available to the public, and could store 17,000 books, which could then be mailed out. By 2007, broadband was widely available, making it possible for people to download books to their home computers just as Hart had predicted in 1971.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Which is true of the Gutenberg Bible?
A It was copied out by hand.
B It initiated an information revolution.
C It was the first ever book to be printed.
D It was printed for wealthy people.</p> <p>2 The invention of the printing press
A made unknown authors more famous.
B only benefited educated people.
C benefited the wealthy.
D made Gutenberg wealthy.</p> <p>3 Michael S Hart started his project to
A sell books online.
B improve the printing press.
C reduce printing costs.
D stop books from disappearing.</p> | <p>4 Project Gutenberg began 12 years before the invention of the home computer.
A True B False</p> <p>5 Hart took on volunteers to help with Project Gutenberg in the late 1980s.
A True B False</p> <p>6 Hart's predictions about the Internet have proved to be correct.
A True B False</p> |
|--|--|

Directions: Read the text again and answer the following questions using sentences of your own.

- 7 What project did Michael S Hart undertake in 1971?
.....
.....
- 8 Why did he call his project Gutenberg?
.....
.....
- 9 What amazing prediction did Hart make before the Internet existed?
.....
.....

Task 3

Writing

Should Digital Libraries Replace Physical Ones?

Directions: Technology has made it possible for books to take digital form. A lot of people believe digital libraries should replace traditional libraries to save money. Write an essay expressing your opinion about this topic and support it with arguments. Consider the following:

- easy access to the latest information;
- free resources available to everyone;
- lack of expert staff to assist you.

(Word limit: 200-220 words)

