

SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION

Task 1. (Estimated time: 10' / Marks: 7)

First read the twelve headlines (a - l), then read the seven texts (1 - 7) and decide which text goes best with which headline. There are four headlines you do not need to use. (0) is the example.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| a) Autograph hunter finds lost work | g) Police crackdown on young offenders |
| b) Kiddy racer's an ace aged four | h) Prehistoric Pair's Deep Down Love |
| c) MARRIAGE ON THE ROCKS | i) Record turnout |
| d) Naughty toddlers to be registered | j) Shows shut earlier than due |
| e) No love lost for these invaders | k) Staff shortages shut London operating theatres |
| f) Old draft recovered | l) Starry, starry nights |

(0) = b

The little lad zooms around the track where F1's Lewis Hamilton made his debut at eight. He regularly beats the lap times of boys three times his age and size. He has even pulled sponsorship deals worth £15,000. And he is so obsessed with the sport he sleeps in his overalls and watches TV in his crash helmet. He cannot take part until he is eight. But he spends 15 hours a week practising and track manager Steve Cutting rates him the most talented driver he has seen.

1.

As we drift into a surveillance society, one more example emerges of the insatiable control-freakery of our police and security services. Gary Pugh, the director of forensic sciences at Scotland Yard, has suggested that children as young as four should be put on the national DNA database if their behaviour suggests they may become criminals in later life. Pugh, who is also the DNA spokesman for the association of chief police officers, says his idea could identify people before they offend. Civil libertarians condemn his idea, and one teaching union says it is another step towards a police state.

2.

Squirrels: the attractive, destructive rodents that eat wild birds' eggs, destroy tree saplings, and make people go aaaaaah with their loveable antics. As every child knows, the native red squirrel has been driven out of many parts by the more aggressive grey, introduced from North America in the 19th century. Now the greys could be under threat from their own kind: a community of 25,000 black squirrels, which have mutated from greys and are proving to be even more belligerent, is spreading from Hertfordshire to East Anglia.

3.

A couple have travelled inside one of the country's oldest cave systems to tie the knot. Gilly Woodland and Alan Duckworth exchanged vows at Kents Cavern in Torquay, Devon - where some of the oldest evidence of man's occupation of Britain has been found. Flint hand axes found in the caves were dated at 450,000 years old and the oldest remains of animals found there are from cave bear dating back to around 500,000 years ago. Ms Woodland said: "What a fantastic day, it could not have been better. What a way to start married life, in such a unique setting." Instead of a wedding cake, the couple tempted guests with a pile of different cheeses - with figurines of a cave man and cave woman on top.

4.

A huge number of people attended last week's Bury Futures Jobsfair held at the town hall. Around 1,250 people, compared to up to 500 attendants in previous years, dropped in to see what was on offer, and feedback from employers was reported as extremely positive, with many feeling they had met suitable candidates. Councillor Iain Gartside, executive member for learning, skills and employment, said: "This year's event was a huge success and I hope that the people who attended found out some valuable information about prospective jobs or training opportunities. It is clear that the Bury Futures Jobsfair goes from strength to strength and is a really important community event."

5.

A musical score on a small, yellowing scrap of paper found in a French library has been confirmed as a lost work by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The score, written on a single creased page, could be worth as much as £50,000. The sheet was part of the collection of Pierre-Antoine Labouche, an autograph collector who donated them to a library in Nantes, western France, early in the 19th century. Ulrich Leising, the head of research at the International Mozarteum Foundation in the composer's home town of Salzburg, Austria, said there was no doubt that the music was written by Mozart and that it was "really important".

6.

The last time they experienced a blackout, the enemy was the Luftwaffe. This time it is global warming. Residents in Powys, Wales, have accused their county council of recreating the conditions of the Second World War in an attempt to save energy. The local authority aims to cut its carbon emissions by up to 1,100 tons a year - and save £225,000 - by turning off 64 per cent of its street lights. Critics of the scheme claim that darkness will encourage crime and lead to more accidents.

7.

High-profile casualties include *Riflewind*, directed by Philip Seymour Hoffman, which is to close 10 weeks early on Saturday. The show opened on 19 September and had the backing of actress Cate Blanchett and her playwright husband, Andrew Upton. Award-winning puppet musical *Avenue Q* will now close a month early at the Noel Coward Theatre. It follows the sudden closure of *Girl With A Pearl Earring*, based on the novel by Tracey Chevalier, at the Theatre Royal Haymarket and a spate of similar cancellations. Andrew Welsh, the producer of *Girl With A Pearl Earring*, said of the closure: "There were a number of reasons but the economic crisis would have played a role as well as the reviews. It is a difficult time ... regular theatre-goers will be smarter about how they spend their money, while producers will be thinking of taking on the right projects."

Task 2. (Estimated time: 25' / Marks: 7)

Read the following text, then choose the correct answer a), b) or c). (0) is the example.

AU REVOIR MISTER FRANGLAIS

The British are notoriously bad at learning foreign tongues. But with Franglais anyone could get by on holiday with just *a petit peu* of effort. If there is one foreign language that English speakers always seem to crack, it's Franglais.

Its rules are simple. Insert as many French words as you know into the sentence, fill in the rest with English, then speak it with absolute conviction. Although it wasn't known as such then, Franglais is found in Shakespeare and has probably been used for as long as the English and French have had to talk to each other.

But Miles Kington did it best. After all, he coined the name for this hybrid tongue. Kington studied languages, and it showed. In a long-running series of columns for *Punch* he satirised the earnest but doomed efforts of native English speakers to handle French. Like a phrase book, each of his "lessons" covered a particular situation.

Bodged attempts at foreign languages are as important as food poisoning to a good holiday anecdote, but Franglais is a daily reality for millions working in Europe, Africa and Canada.

The Canadian journalist Karl Mamer, author of a website on Franglais, says many Canadians speak "cereal box French", as they only get to practise it by reading the bilingual text on the back of the box in the morning.

When they then travel to French-speaking centres, like Montreal or Quebec City, their few words of French are used as a kind of peace offering to shopkeepers. He says they're thinking: 'Look, I'm going to try speaking as much French as possible, showing you I'm making a sufficient effort, and then you please switch to your fluent English as soon as I've linguistically self-flagellated myself before you.'

Franglais might be good enough to buy your *oignons*, but it's different if you want to win votes. Politicians running for office in an officially bilingual country need to try to master both languages, although some have made it to high office without knowing their *coude* from their elbow. According to Janyce McGregor, a producer who covers parliament for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, 'they may be very clever, but their language skills are always going to be a factor.'

It's not just high office either. A Francophone bus passenger in Ottawa complained to the city transport authority last December that drivers must be bilingual, and be sent off for language training if necessary. But as Ms McGregor points out: 'If people are bilingual, they probably won't apply to be bus drivers.'

In Canada, Franglais helps French and English speakers co-exist, even if it's a shoddy compromise for some. In France it is something quite different. It is a cultural attack. This is not the Franglais of the tourist asking awkwardly for a cup de cafe. What concerns them is the creeping advance of English words, especially American-English, into their language.

The *Toubon* Law, passed in 1994, was an attempt to restrict them. It makes French compulsory in government publications. Public bodies weed out English words and suggest French ones where they previously did not exist. So it was goodbye "e-mail", hello "*courriel*", although "*le weekend*" - for some the dark heart of Franglais - has survived.

London-based French journalist Agnes Poirier says those who suggest new words are often too late. 'The man in the street will have already adopted English words to describe new trends.'

It's true that, like a really good French waiter, Franglais always seem to be hovering nearby with a suggestion. Need a three-word headline to sum up the man who has cost *Societe Generale* billions? *Le Rogue Trader*, as the *Independent* - Kington's own paper - described him last week. So e-mails still swamp *courriels* on French web pages. And despite the *Toubon* Law, Ms Poirier

says the internet has led to an invasion of English words, which are picked up by newspapers because they seem fashionable, and then find their way into speech.

But why does it matter? Ms Poirier's book, *Touche, a French Woman's Take on the English*, has plenty of examples of the English language adopting French words and phrases, even if some of them, like "*double entendre*", are not actually said in France. It's a kind of Franglais, but it has never seemed to bother anyone.

Other mixed languages like Spanglish and Denglisch (German and English) also exist without causing nearly so much anguish. The French see it differently because English is taking over the world and French isn't. English doesn't need defending, but French, once the European language of freedom and culture, does. And English is not just 600,000 eccentrically spelt words in a very large book, it is, to some, a symbol of Anglo-American cultural imperialism, the language of junk food. You might think we were talking about the last two speakers of a native American dialect, rather than French, which is used by more than 350 million people. But to some, a future of Franglais *n'est pas un future* at all.

Adapted from *BBC.co.uk*

0. What does the writer say about Franglais?
 - a) **It is older than it may seem.** ✓
 - b) It is the only thing the English are good at.
 - c) It is what the British speak while holidaying in France.

1. Miles Kington...
 - a) made fun of the way French was spoken in Britain.
 - b) spoke Franglais better than anyone else.
 - c) was an expert in languages and a columnist.

2. When shopping in Quebec, English-speaking Canadians...
 - a) always do their best.
 - b) only use French.
 - c) try to be polite.

3. In Canada, being bilingual is...
 - a) compulsory to find a job nowadays.
 - b) convenient to become a politician.
 - c) useless and unnecessary.

4. In the writer's view, French people...
 - a) feel threatened by the English.
 - b) refuse to be culturally colonised.
 - c) think English tourists could try harder.

5. The French journalist Agnes Poirier
 - a) blames the Internet for the English invasion.
 - b) doesn't seem the least bothered with Franglais.
 - c) thinks the French are reluctant to use new English words.

6. In the text, which of these statements is TRUE?
 - a) English language is more fashionable than French.
 - b) Franglais is not the only example of a hybrid language.
 - c) French could only advance if English was banned in France.

7. The conclusion of the writer on the issue is that the French are...
 - a) hypocritical.
 - b) obsessed with the English.
 - c) overreacting.

Task 3. (Estimated time: 15' / marks: 8)

Read the text, then choose from the list below the word or phrase that best fits each gap. There are **FOUR** words which you do not need to use. (0) is the example.

TAKE A HOLIDAY ON THE M1

Beaches? Bah. Holidaymakers want new horizons and a motorway jaunt is just the start.

We all carry with us semi-conscious ideas of what sort of things should feature in a typical holiday. Sun is **(0)** *likely* to be high on the list, along with good food, beautiful hotels and something cultural or natural.

But what if one threw away the rule book and imagined a very different sort of holiday, one based around the ordinary, unfairly 1 and frequently fascinating corners of everyday life? Too often, it seems, we glamorise places that are far away and unknown, and step around those that are to 2 and superficially familiar.

That is what has inspired some colleagues and I to set up an unusual kind of travel agency, designed to take people around the ignored bits of the modern world, which we believe 3 a good deal of interest if one cares to take a close look.

Through the agency, we are offering a holiday to Heathrow (a place full of remarkable poetry if you know how to look), a tour around the great British sky and another to the Isle of Wight. 4 the holiday I'm most excited about is a two-day trip up the M1.

Rarely have 5 stopped to admire it as the extraordinary work of architecture, design, sociology and peculiar gastronomy it undoubtedly is. To understand the M1 is nothing less than to start to understand the modern world.

6 service stations. Whole books could be written on their distinctive designs and philosophies. When the first motorway service station was opened its spirit was determinedly futuristic. It became a favourite destination for a lunch out for many who lived in the vicinity. They would come for the sole purpose of admiring the sweep of the gigantic plate-glass windows and the roar of the traffic below them.

The point of a holiday up the M1 is to become aware of all that goes on behind the 7 that ordinary drivers might not be aware of. For example, the siting of services is decided in consultation with specialists in kidney functions, who create complex averages of how long a human bladder can go on before it needs to be emptied.

I'm looking forward to a fair amount of fun on this M1 holiday, but the underlying point is a serious one. 8 than always being a chance to escape reality, holidays should perhaps also offer us a chance to make ourselves more at home in the world we live in, even down to its half-terrifying, half-sublime motorway systems.

Adapted from *The Times*

BEEN	HARBOUR	NEGLECTED	REFUSED
FURTHER	LIKELY	PEOPLE	SCENES
HAND	MOREOVER	RATHER	TAKE
			YET

Task 4. (Estimated time: 10' / marks: 8)

Fill in the gaps in the following text with one suitable word. (0) is the example.

SADDAM'S LUXURY YACHT UP FOR SALE

The Iraqi government is (0) ___to___ sell a luxury yacht which was previously owned by the late leader, Saddam Hussein.

The 82m (270ft) *Ocean Breeze* is equipped ___1___ swimming pools, an operating theatre, a helipad and an escape tunnel leading to a submarine.

Iraq has decided to sell the yacht after winning a legal battle with a Jordanian company over its ownership.

The yacht is expected to sell for millions of dollars, but brokers have said the decor may not ___2___ all tastes.

It has been decorated in ___3___ has been described as "Arabesque" style, with mahogany carvings, gold tap fittings and brightly-coloured deep-pile carpets.

The ship, originally named *Qadissiyet Saddam* ___4___ a historic Iraqi military victory, was built in a Danish shipyard in 1981 by workers sworn to secrecy.

But, despite its luxurious facilities, Saddam Hussein is never thought to ___5___ stayed on board himself, fearing political instability if he left Iraq.

So for most of its life, *Ocean Breeze* was moored in Saudi Arabia - until last year, when it arrived in the French port of Nice and remained ___6___ while its ownership was determined.

A Cayman Islands firm, part-owned by King Abdullah of Jordan, had claimed that Saddam had given the yacht to them, but a French court ruled last summer that it ___7___ be returned to the Iraqi government.

Government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said the ministries of finance and foreign affairs would be responsible for the sale.

Brokers have suggested that in the current financial climate, it could be difficult to sell a vessel ___8___ is luxurious but not up to the standards of more modern yachts - it does not, for example, have a gym and boasts only one helipad.

However, offers are expected in the region of \$35m (£18m), and one broker suggested the yacht's history could be "a good selling point".

Adapted from *BBC.co.uk*