

LISTENING

Time: 20 minutes

Text 1

You are going to hear a radio programme about famous people who got poor exam results. Match speakers 1- 4 to statements A-E. There is one extra statement that you do not need. You will hear the text only once.

A People with certain learning difficulties find certain types of exam tasks difficult.

B Talented people may not be interested in what is taught at school.

C Teachers do not give personal attention to unusual students.

D Pupils with problems could be helped more effectively if classes were not so large.

E Original thinking does not help you to do well in exams.

Speaker 1 _____ Speaker 2 _____ Speaker 3 _____ Speaker 4 _____

Text 2

You will hear someone talking about how to produce a video that goes viral. For questions 5 - 15, complete the sentences with one or two words (according to the number of dashes). You will hear the text twice.

5. Brad says one way of making a humorous video is get a friend in a _____ and film it.
6. He reminds the audience that you can't post a video of people without getting _____.
7. If you don't include language in your video, you'll get a larger _____.
8. Brad says that funnier than just animals or just babies are _____.
9. If you can't think of original ideas, Brad suggests taking a _____ that's already out there and changing it.
10. This should be done before the original has stopped _____ to ensure that there's an audience.
11. Brad uses the adjective _____ to describe the kind of talent that can be shown off.
12. Another popular type of video, according to Brad, is the _____, which teaches others a skill.
13. With this type of video you need to observe two _____, those of simplicity and clarity.

14. A further advantage to showing off a real talent is the possibility of a _____ arising from a music agent seeing the video.
15. When making a video, be sure to keep in mind that the _____ of the viewer is likely to be quite short.

Transfer your answers to the answer sheet!

READING
Time: 30 minutes

Text 1

Task 1. Read the article and match the headings (1-6) with the paragraphs (A-F)

1. Meteoric rise
2. Nothing new
3. Secret messages
4. A passing fashion
5. Snail mail
6. A practical tool

Edwardian Twitter

A

Instant messaging is seen very much as a phenomenon of 21st-century communications, but in fact the practice dates back over 100 years to what is known as the 'Golden Age' of the postcard between 1902 and 1914. According to Dr. Julia Gillen of Lancaster University in the UK, postcards were 'something like the Twitter of the Edwardian Age'.

B

These days we associate postcards with holidays and view them as a rather slow, even redundant, way of communicating. In fact, it's not uncommon these days for a postcard to arrive after the sender has returned home. But in the early part of last century, the postal service was much more frequent and efficient. In some towns in Edwardian Britain, there were as many as six deliveries a day. This meant people could send a message on a postcard and be confident of receiving a reply the same day.

C

We also think of texting and tweeting as something of a communications revolution, but the postcard craze was similarly rapid and ground-breaking. The first known printed picture postcard was produced in France in 1870, but the postcard as we know it today - with a picture on the front and a divided space on the back, one half for the message and the other for the address - did not appeal Britain until 1902. Over the next eight years, a staggering six billion cards were sent.

D

The reasons for the postcard's popularity were much the same as those for instant messaging today - it's a quick, cheap and effective way of transmitting a simple message. This can be seen in the type of messages that people sent each other in Edwardian times. 'Please meet me off the train tomorrow at 2pm' or 'George will come and fetch the peelings and bring you a bit of pork, so don't get any meat.' One obvious difference is that they were not private, since the postman, or anyone else who chanced to see the card before the receiver, could read it. But the Edwardians had a neat solution for this too.

E

By putting the stamp in a particular position on the card and at a particular angle, the sender could signify certain meanings. According to the Philatelic Database, a stamp placed in the top centre of the card meant 'Yes', a bottom centre meant 'no'; upside down in the top left-hand corner meant 'I love you'; at a right-angle in line with the surname meant 'I long to see you'; and upright on the right edge of the postcard meant 'Write back immediately'. Such codes were adopted in other countries too, but interestingly, the signification of stamp position was not universal.

F

Following the Great War of 1914-18, there was a shortage of labour and the number of postmen, who had comprised three-quarters of the Civil Service workforce before the war, declined dramatically. This, and the spread of the telephone, saw the end of the use of postcards for 'instant messaging'.

Task 2. Read the article again. Are these sentences true (T), false (F) or unknown (U)?

7. Edwardian era is known as the Golden Age of the postcard because it was the period when the Post Office made the most profit out of postcards.

8. The author is clearly impressed with how quickly and widely the use of postcards grew in the period between 1902 and 1910.
9. The format that is used in postcards today was established in 1870.
10. The main reason for the interruption in the postcard craze was the invention of the telephone.

Text 2

You are going to read an article from which five paragraphs have been removed. Choose from the paragraphs A-F the one which fits each gap (11-15). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.

Iconic designs

What makes a design truly iconic? Is it something that looks good? Or something that is practical? Or something that is simple and easy to use? Many would say that it's all of these, and if that is the case, then one of the most truly iconic designs must be that of the ballpoint pen.

(11)

Up to the early nineteenth century, the most common writing implement was the quill -originally a feather whose tip was dipped in dark paint, or later ink, in order to write on the page. The problem with this method of writing was the speed at which the ink dried on the tip, necessitating frequent dips into the ink, and equally frequent drips onto the paper.

(12)

The first type of ballpoint pen was patented in 1888 by John Loud, a tanner who needed a marker for leather. His pen worked well for that purpose but it was too coarse for use on paper, so it lost popularity to the fountain pen. Several other attempts at designing an effective ballpoint pen were made in the early twentieth century but none solved the problem of ink flow - either not enough ink was delivered or too much came through and it didn't dry fast enough, resulting in smudges on the paper.

(13)

Biro moved to Argentina with his brother Gyorgy in 1941 and together with a friend, Juan Jorge Meyne, they started the company Biro Pens of Argentina, to produce and market their new invention, by 1943 a pen they called the birome, combining their names. They had a qualified

success, and notably licensed the design to the British RAF as the ballpoint was more stable in high altitudes than the fountain pen, which tended to leak.

(14)

Both companies went on to sell the pens with great success, along with others, but faults in the design meant that consumer expectations weren't met, and sales began to fall sharply. By 1951 ballpoint pen sales were dropping and fountain pen sales were on the rise again.

(15)

The BIC came in many varieties: different colours of ink, clear and opaque cylinders, disposable and refillable ink cartridges, but all had one fault. Because the ink is drawn to the tip by gravity, the pen needs to be facing downwards to be able to write effectively. However, the company Fisher brought a new pen to market in 1965 which had a pressurized ink container and a particularly viscous ink, which meant it could write upside-down without drying up or dripping. This became known as the space pen and has been used by astronauts. It is still the ubiquitous BIC Cristal that is most popular today though, reportedly selling as many as fourteen million pens around the world every day.

A The solution to this problem was the invention of the fountain pen, which became very popular from the late nineteenth century as it held its own ink dispenser - the cartridge - so it obviated the need to dip the tip into the ink. However, it brought with it its own problems, notably that of the ink needing quite a long time to dry on the paper.

B Around this time, a French manufacturer Marcel Bich, licensed the design of the Argentine pen and introduced his own pen to the market, a six-sided clear cylinder with a visible ink cartridge. Bich shortened his name to Bic, and his design became the iconic BIC Cristal, the type of ballpoint pen we most commonly see today.

C Tracing its history back to the late nineteenth century, the ballpoint pen addressed a simple need: a pen where the ink flows freely, dries fast and doesn't smear on the paper. The ballpoint uses a ball-bearing tip, made of steel, brass or tungsten carbide, at the end of an ink cartridge. As the ball tip rotates on the paper, the ink is evenly distributed on the ball and then on to the paper.

D The product attracted attention from a lot of quarters, and two years later the rights to market the pens in the United States were bought by the Eversharp Company (a pencil manufacturer). Unbeknown to them, an American businessman, Milton Reynolds, had seen the birome on a trip to Argentina, and brought back samples which he then used to produce and, with enough changes to the design, patent in the US before Eversharp was able to.

E Seeing that minor changes to the design could avoid the whole issue of patents, there began a 'race to market', with several well-known suppliers of pens creating and marketing their own model. Names still recognized today such as Parker Pens and Papermate brought out their own products and initially sold millions. Finally, Parker Pens bought out the pen division of Eversharp, and the company failed.

F Then, in the 1930s, Hungarian Laszlo Biro noticed that the ink used on newspapers dried quickly, so he determined to design a pen combining quick-drying ink which wouldn't smudge with a delivery system that would ensure regular flow on the paper, and he came up with the first useable ballpoint pen, patented in 1938.

Transfer your answers to the answer sheet!

USE OF ENGLISH

Time: 30 minutes

Task 1 Complete the text with words formed from those in brackets.

THE CONTINUING POPULARITY OF THE FOUNTAIN PEN

The fountain pen is still a very attractive and practical object, even in these days of cheap, **(1 DISPOSE)** ball-point and felt-tip pens. Few owners are **(2 DIFFER)** to it. Emotions range from a casual attraction to absolute passion. However, though the reasons for such profound **(3 ATTACH)** to the pen are many, the way people feel is universal.

What exactly is it then about this small cylindrical object that provokes such **(4 INTENSE)** of feeling? The most likely answer to this question is that basically the fountain pen is far more than a mere writing instrument. It is often seen as an **(5 ASSERT)** of the owner's social standing. For some, the ornamentation is where its **(6 DOUBT)** attraction lies. It can be adorned with gold, with diamonds or inlaid with floral

or geometric designs. A fountain pen should only be loaned out in exceptional circumstances, since in no time at all it will be altered by the second user's hand. This is one of the (7 **DISTINCT**) characteristics of the instrument, which makes each one unique and personal to its owner.

Task 2 Complete the idioms in the extracts with the correct words. You will have to change the form of the word in some cases.

pluck pin leap dash limit give cold nerves

1 Some people feel they are facing adversity when their expectations are not met. They (8)___ their hopes on getting something - like a new job or a flat they have been looking for - and then their hopes are (9)___ when they don't get it. But that isn't really adversity. It's just an ordinary setback. Real adversity is about facing conditions which are extremely tough and not (10)___ up hope.

2 Did you see the story of the girl who stood up to other girls who were bullying her at school? I was really moved by it. She had been getting bullied for three years and had thought several times about going to the head of the school, but she got (11)___ feet. Then one day she (12)___ up the courage to speak about it in a school assembly - in front of all the teachers and pupils. At first she was a bundle of (13)___, but once she got started she spoke very articulately and with real passion. At the end everyone got to their feet and applauded her.

3 Her parents were very poor and she was sent away at sixteen to earn money in a laundry in the city. I think that's what made her the person she is. She set up her own laundry company at 23 - it was a complete (14)___ in the dark - and made a success of it. Now the sky's the (15)___ for her.

Task 3 For items 16-20, complete each description of the bridge, choosing the correct number from the box. There is one extra option which you do not have to use.

Westminster Bridge	Waterloo Bridge	Golden Jubilee Bridge
Millennium Bridge	Tower Bridge	London Bridge

Bridges in London

Many of London iconic bridges give unique views and access to the city's most popular sights, tours and events; plus they are well known landmarks in their own right.

(16)

Built in 1894, it is the most iconic bridge in London. It is 45 metres (131 feet) above the Thames and is crossed by 40000 people each day. The hydraulic system allows the bridge to rise for river traffic.

(17)

While much more subdued in design compared to its flashier neighbour, this bridge is just as famous. It was first built by the Romans, followed later by medieval bridges with houses on top. In 1974 it was bought by an American firm as a tourist attraction for Arizona.

(18)

It was opened to the public on 10 June 2000, linking St Paul's Cathedral on the north bank of the Thames with the Tate and Shakespeare's Globe. It's nicknamed 'the wobbly bridge' because of the famous tremor.

(19)

Opened in 1945, the current bridge earned the nickname the 'Ladies Bridge' as it was built by women during World War II. The first bridge built here in 1817 commemorated the victory of the British at the famous battle in 1815.

(20)

Cross the Thames at this bridge if you want to get an iconic picture of Big Ben on the north bank, or the Coca-Cola London Eye to the south. It is the oldest road bridge across the Thames in central London.

Transfer your answers to the answer sheet!

WRITING

Time: 30 minutes

Video games are very popular these days and your school magazine has asked its readers to submit reviews of their favourite games. They promise to publish the best compositions.

Write a video game review (**120 – 140 words**).

Do not forget to:

- write a short introduction to catch the reader’s attention
- state the type of the game
- describe the characters, graphics, music
- rate the game
- say why you think the game will be interesting for your school-mates.

Participant’s ID number

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ANSWER SHEET

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READING

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USE OF ENGLISH

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Writing
