

I. Listening Comprehension**Task 1**

You are going to hear a text about roller-skating in Paris. First you will have 30 seconds to study the sentences below. Then you will hear the text twice. While listening, fill in each gap (1-11) in a maximum of FOUR words. There is one example (0) at the beginning. After the second listening, you will have 30 seconds to finalise your answers. Start studying the sentences now.

PARIS SKATERS

Problem: Skaters are counted as pedestrians (0) but many of them use the roads.

Plan: to change the _____ (1)

Skating became popular after the _____ (2) in 1995.

The number of skaters on Sundays: _____ (3)

Why Paris is excellent for skaters: – _____ (4)

– they get on well with the police

Main reasons for fining skaters: – _____ (5)

– passing through red lights

Maximum speed skaters can reach: _____ (6)

Per cent of misbehaving skaters: _____ (7)

Skaters will be allowed to ride in the streets if they:

– have experience

– _____ (8)

Some complaints against skaters: – jumping _____ (9)

– taking _____ (10) the wrong way

Planned time for the change: _____ (11)

Task 2

You are going to hear a text about English courses. First you will have 30 seconds to study the table below. Then you will hear the text twice. While listening, match the course descriptions (A-G) to the courses (8-12). There is one example (0) at the beginning. There is one description that you do not need to use. After the second listening, you will have 30 seconds to finalise your answers. Start studying the task now.

A	has lessons only in the morning.
B	gives you practice in note taking.
C	teaches you to make phone calls.
D	offers lessons all day.
E	improves your conversation skills.
F	helps you study on your own.
G	focuses on writing and discussion.

0	E
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	

II. Reading

Task 1

You are going to read a text about a woman who spent a day with her mobile phone switched off as part of an experiment. Seven sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from sentences A-H the one which best fits each gap (1-7). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

A VERY DIFFICULT 24 HOURS

Journalist Sandra Mills took part in an experiment to see if she could get through twenty-four hours without her mobile phone. Here's what happened:

Day 1 Hour 1: My mobile is lying on the bedside table. It's still switched on. The screensaver of my baby son seems to be staring at me in reproach. I'm supposed to have switched it off by now. I will. Just give me a minute.

At 8:30 the phone rings. I don't answer because I'm convinced that it's someone ringing to check up on me. **(1)** I give my office and home numbers as alternatives. It's not exactly cheating, but I suppose it is bending the rules slightly. Then I switch it off.

Leaving the phone at home is the first hurdle. What if the train crashes and I need to call my loved one to say a last goodbye? What if like the man who got lost in the mountains I fall down a ravine and the only way out is an SOS message? "You're being ridiculous I tell myself" I tell myself **(2)** I take his advice leave the phone on the table by the front door and step into the world without it.

When I get to work, the phone on my desk rings. A friend is worried about me and wants to know if everything is alright. **(3)** She thinks this sounds terrible. Her mobile isn't working properly, but she is so addicted she can't even get it fixed. Every time she takes it to be repaired, the people in the shop say it's going to take three hours. She can't bear to be without it for that long. I understand how she feels.

At about 11:30 a very strange thing happens. I hear my phone ring. It's definitely mine because I am the only one in the office with a salsa ring tone. I check my bag. **(4)** I left it at home. Remember? I hear it ring again and then I realise that it's just my imagination. My phone is haunting me. It's like being in a horror movie.

At lunchtime, I meet up with some friends and they all sit down, but leave their phones on the table so that they can be sure not to miss a single call or message. It's as if they were physically tied to their phones. **(5)** It's a bit like when you have given up smoking and you see other people lightening cigarettes. I still keep hearing my phone ringing, but I am getting used to being without it. It's making my feel quite adventurous. I decide to walk back to the office instead of catching the bus. For a whole ten minutes no one can contact me.

By the end of the afternoon I have completely forgotten about my phone. I catch the train home and actually enjoy the journey. I spent Friday evening peacefully with my husband and children. **(6)** I never thought I'd say it, but it's bliss.

The next day it takes me until lunch to remember to switch the thing back on. There are twelve voicemail messages and a few texts. There is nothing very important though. **(7)** The others can wait for me to call them back, when it's convenient for me.

A Everyone who really needed to managed to get hold of me.

B My phone isn't there, of course.

C My husband agrees with me.

D There are no interruptions and no one demanding long conversations.

E Instead, I record a message explaining that I'm going to be without my phone for two days.

F My brother calls to remind me it's my mother's birthday next week.

G I explain that I'm taking part in an experiment to spend twenty-four hours with my mobile switched off.

H Without mine, I feel liberated and even a bit pleased with myself.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Task 2

Read the article and choose the best answer, A, B or C.

A New Life By Jillian Simensky

I have always loved the water. The earliest home I can remember was in a small seaside community, a view of the water from the bedroom, the sound of the waves crashing on the shore lulling me to sleep as a child. I have lived in many places since then, most of them on land, none of them offering me the peace and serenity that I found near the sea. Life is a series of changes. Some of them small, some major. But it's usually the ones that we are most afraid of that pay off most in the end. And so was the change I made two years ago, moving from life on land onto a boat.

I began my new life aboard towards the end of summer. The place I found is a small boatyard with room for about forty boats and a homey feel to it, unlike most of the fancier marinas. The owner lives on site and takes care of us like family. There are ten of us here in the yard living aboard year round, divided among seven boats. Our little community is wonderful. Someone is always around to offer a hand when you need one. There's always a little get together going on, gatherin at a picnic table in the summer, on someone's deck in the winter.

In the few years I have lived here, I have never locked the door to the boat (as a matter of fact, I don't know where the key is). In all the years on land, I couldn't go to sleep without checking the doors and windows and making sure the alarm was on.

The summers are filled with activity. The yard fills with seasonal boaters, friends we see only for those glorious months. Spending weekends on the bay, or a trip to Fire Island instantly washes away a week's stress. Starting the day off with a cup of coffee on deck, feeding the ducks and swans that gather noisily at the waterline makes all the difference in dealing with the upcoming day at work. By fall, the rest of the boats come out of the water, leaving us to the peace and quiet that the winter brings. Those months have their own charm, a time of silence and serenity, cozy and warm in our cabins.

Looking back, I was amazed how much this life aboard has changed me. The boat has become my little cocoon, sheltering me from both the weather and the stress of New York Life. I have reduced my possessions by half, throwing away the things that no longer add value to my life. My wardrobe contains only the things I actually wear. I no longer have a desire, or the space, for the latest gadget, another seldom-used appliance or dust-collecting knick-knacks. Now you'll find displayed a small collection of items I've picked up in my travels, each one holding special meaning. Typical American consumerism is rapidly becoming a thing of the past for me.

My free time is spent differently, too. Quiet has become something I crave. The TV no longer plays for background noise, the programmes seem superficial and dull compared to the nature that surrounds me. Evenings are more likely spent reading or listening to music.

I have gained an incredible amount of self-sufficiency also. A boat requires a different type of maintenance than a house. I've never heard of a house sinking from neglect, but a boat needs frequent checking for wear and tear. Inevitably, things deteriorate faster in the salty environment, and with each new repair to deal with, I come out a little more accomplished from the experience. I have also learnt a great deal of patience, accepting that things will go wrong, that I'll be able to handle the challenges that come my way and even being able to laugh at myself in the process. All in all, this life is one I wouldn't trade for the world.

8 When did the writer first enjoy the calming effect of the sea?

- A When she moved to a boatyard two years ago.
- B When she was a younger girl and lived by the sea.
- C When she used to fall asleep on the beach as a child.

9 What is the writer's opinion of changes in life?

- A The small changes are often the most important.
- B The biggest changes are the most difficult.
- C The most frightening changes bring the most satisfaction.

10 What is the boatyard community like?

- A There are forty boats, but the owner lives in a different marina.
- B There is a family atmosphere and everyone is very helpful.
- C The owner is very friendly and organises small parties and picnics.

11 How does she feel about security on a boat?

- A It's safer than living in a house.
- B It's not as safe as living in a house.
- C She can't go to sleep without locking the door.

12 When does she usually spend time with visitors to the boatyard?

- A At the weekends all year round.
- B In the autumn and winter.
- C In the summer months.

13 How has living on a boat changed the writer?

- A She feels more isolated and wears more practical clothes.
- B She has become more of a typical American consumer.
- C She feels less stressed and now values her possessions.

14 What is her attitude to TV now?

- A She only has it on for background noise.
- B She only enjoys nature programmes.
- C She prefers other free-time activities.

15 Why doesn't the writer want to go back to living on land?

- A Because a house needs more maintenance.
- B Because she prefers life on a boat, although it's hard work.
- C Because she doesn't want to deal with difficult situations.

8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

III. Use of English

Task 1

You are going to read a part of a short story. Some words are missing from the text. Choose the most appropriate answer (A, B, C or D) for each gap (1-12) in the text. Write your answers in the boxes after the text. There is one example at the beginning (0).

Quick thinking

It happened in 1921, one year before I joined the Indian Police. I had just passed out of the Police College in England and had not been placed very high in the list. I never was much (0) at examinations, you know. One day an advertisement in *The Times* (1) my attention. It said something about „young man wanted for unusual work. Must have cool head.“ Well, (2) was only three years after the war and there were (3) of young men who could probably do whatever it was. But I sat down and wrote to the paper and two days later I had a note asking me (4) at one of London’s best hotels in Piccadilly and ask (5) Mijnheer Van Lutjens. Well, I put on my best suit and (6) at eleven o’clock I knocked at the door of room 169.

Van Lutjens was, of course, a Dutchman, and a very pleasant Dutchman. Small, round; you know, the kind of fellow, with no angles at all but with small bright eyes. He offered me a smoke and (7) to talk business at once.

It sounded easy (8) Van Lutjens was one of Amsterdam’s leading diamond merchants. An American group of diamond buyers (9) asked him to come over to New York with the famous Rozelles ear-rings. He explained that (10) were two valuable diamonds, perfectly matched, which he had some time before obtained from a member of one of Central Europe’s royal families in Paris. He was going to sail in the *Berengaria* two days (11) and he wanted someone to watch over the ear-rings. It sounded rather dull and I didn’t understand why it (12) a “cool head”, as the advertisement said. But the money he offered me was generous, and so I accepted.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| 0 | A more | B better | C good | D well |
| 1. | A gathered | B paid | C collected | D attracted |
| 2. | A I | B there | C it | D these |
| 3. | A many | B plenty | C lot | D several |
| 4. | A calling | B call | C calls | D to call |
| 5. | A for | B about | C from | D of |
| 6. | A exactly | B shortly | C sharply | D directly |
| 7. | A had started | B was starting | C started | D has started |
| 8. | A also | B enough | C very | D quite |
| 9. | A had | B have | C were | D has |
| 10. | A any | B where | C some | D they |
| 11. | A past | B later | C over | D before |
| 12. | A needs | B has needed | C will need | D needed |

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
C												

Task 2

You are going to read a text about the Loch Ness monster. In most lines of the text there is one unnecessary word. Write the unnecessary word in the space provided after each line. Some lines are correct. Indicate these lines with a tick (✓). The task begins with two examples (0).

The search for Nessie

The clock in the 200-year-old church tower near Foyers, Scotland, had	0 ✓
just struck me nine on the morning of April 23, 1960. For Tim Dinsdale,	<u>0 me</u>
standing start with his movie camera on the shore of Loch Ness, it was the	13 _____
most exciting hour of the most important day in his all life. Only a few seconds	14 _____
before, Dinsdale had been sighted the legendary Loch Ness monster. Now	15 _____
he was filming it in the water. Suddenly, the monster sank beneath the	16 _____
water. Dinsdale waited a few moments to be seemingly sure the creature	17 _____
would not surface again. Then he had jumped into his car and drove off	18 _____
to have got the film processed. Those few moments of film changed	19 _____
Dinsdale's way of his life. It also started the hunt for the creature that has	20 _____
captured the imagination of the world. The film was always responsible for	21 _____
setting up the Loch Ness Phenomena Investigation Bureau even in 1961. The	22 _____
bureau acts as such a conductor for all searches and keeps track of a growing	23 _____
list of sightings. The Loch Ness monster is said to have been first sighted in	24 _____
the sixth century. Since then there have been more than over 3,000 reported	25 _____
sightings of "Nessie," as the monster is called. People who would have seen	26 _____
it describe it as an ugly, shy, greenish-blackish creature, although from five	27 _____
to sixteen feet long and from one to five feet wide. It is said to have a	28 _____
snakelike head and a long neck tie sticking out from a wide, flat body. The	30 _____
body, itself, is reported to have from one to seven camel-like humps.	

IV. Writing

Opinion Essay

Smoking is still a very controversial subject. Write an opinion essay of 250 words. The following ideas may help you.

- Why do so many people start smoking?
- Specific dangers
- Personal choice, freedom of the individual versus harming others
- Influence of advertisements
- Which measures do you think are appropriate to reduce smoking