

TASK 1

(A2)

SAMPLE TEST 2

Write the correct form of the verb given in brackets in the spaces provided on your answer sheet.

For five years from December 1903 to September 1908, two young bicycle mechanics from the state of Ohio in America repeatedly 1 (claim) that they had ^{claimed} built a heavier-than-air machine which they 2 (fly) successfully. Despite ^{had flown / flew} demonstrations and photographs of themselves flying, the claims of Wilbur and Orville Wright were laughed at and 3 (dismiss) as a practical joke by the magazine ^{dismissed} *Scientific American*, the newspaper the *New York Herald*, the US Army and most American scientists.

Experts 4 (reject) the Wright brothers' claim without troubling to examine the ^{rejected} evidence as they 5 (be) so convinced, on purely scientific grounds, that flight in ^{were} powered machines which were heavier than air was impossible. It was not until President Theodore Roosevelt 6 (order) public trials at Fort Myers in 1908 that the ^{ordered} Wrights 7 (be able) to prove their claim conclusively and the Army and the scientific press were compelled to accept that their flying machine 8 (be) reality. ^{were able}

It is perhaps not too surprising that a couple of young bicycle mechanics in a ^{was} remote town on the prairies should 9 (ignore) by the intellectuals of the more ^{has been} sophisticated east coast of America at a time when the horse was still the principal means of transport. What is more surprising is that the local newspapers in their ^{have been} home town of Dayton, Ohio, should 10 (ignore) the Wrights. In 1904, a local ^{ignored} banker, Torrence Huffman, allowed the brothers 11 (use) a large piece of farm land ^{used} owned by him outside the town for their flying experiments. The land 12 (border) by two main roads and the local railway line so that, as the months went by, ^{was} hundreds of people actually saw the Wrights flying. ^{bordered}

Many of the amazed passengers 13 (write) to the local newspapers to ask ^{wrote} who were the young men who were regularly flying near the railway line and why had nothing appeared about them in the papers. Eventually the enquiries 14 (become) ^{became} so frequent that the papers complained that they 15 (become) a nuisance, but ^{had become} still their editors showed no interest in the story, 16 (send) neither a reporter nor a ^{sending} photographer.

In 1940, Dan Kumler, the city editor of the Dayton *Daily News* at the time of the flights gave an interview about his refusal to publish anything thirty-five years earlier and 17 (speak) frankly about his reasons. Kumler recalled, »I guess we just ^{spoke} 18 (not believe) it. Of course, you must remember that the Wrights at that time kept things very secret.« ^{didn't believe}

The interviewer responded in amazement; »You mean they kept things secret by 19 (fly) over an open field?« Kumler considered the question, 20 (nod) and ^{needed} said, »I guess the truth is we were just plain stupid.« ^{flying}

TASK 2

Write the missing words in the spaces provided on the answer sheet. There is ONE word missing in each gap.

Whitehouse Primary School serves one of the poorest housing estates in Bristol. The run-up to the school is depressing, with endless vistas of concrete and graffiti-scrawled walls.

But walk up a short flight of stairs, and you enter 1 a completely different world. The information technology room contains the most advanced computer systems in the world. The school is part of the Beon project, 2 which means that children can access the world via the Internet. They can use e-mail or a video-conferencing link, which puts them in visual touch with anyone they want to interview. Children 3 who were once hesitant learners now arrive an hour early for school and have to be encouraged to go home at 5 p.m.

Anthony Austin, the school's head teacher, says: "The impact 4 of the project here has been huge. The biggest change has been in the children's attitude and willingness to work. We've seen a dramatic increase 5 in the quality of what they're doing, and they spend far more time now on tasks."

Jason Blackmore, 11, says: "Now when you come across a word you don't know you can look it 6 up in the thesaurus, and you can correct your spelling. It doesn't matter what your handwriting 7 is like, either."

While I was there the children were doing a project 8 about the weather. Access to the Internet meant that they could see the effects of a hurricane, and get the information about different hemispheres almost instantaneously. They had divided themselves up 9 into groups, and while one was making notes, the others were clicking through the pages on the Internet, another was looking for illustrations they could download. All were rapt with concentration, and 10 the only sounds in the room were the murmur of voices as they discussed what they were finding, and the hum of the computers.

Ryan Spencer, 10, is fascinated by the Internet. "It is brilliant to think you can type in a command and 11 it goes all over the world looking for information. You can get sound and pictures, which is much more exciting 12 than a book."

The deputy head, Sally Malawe, says: " 13 Because the project has done is raise the literacy levels of many of our pupils. The computers get round the problems some of them have with writing and reading, and they can produce work of the highest quality. Behaviour and truancy have also improved." "The biggest problem for schools like ours is motivation. Most of these children have very low self-esteem. Now I think they see themselves 14 as quite special people, because of the project, and will leave school equipped with the technology skills needed 15 for a range of jobs," adds Anthony Austin.

...and the following statements are TRUE / FALSE / NOT GIVEN?
write the appropriate answer next to the statements.

INDIA – FIFTY YEARS ON

Adapted and abridged from an article in *SPEAK UP*, August 1997

TASK 5

'At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when a soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds its utterance.'

So declared Jawaharlal Nehru when, on 15th August 1947, Britain finally let go of the Jewel in its Imperial crown. Fifty years on that occasion is now being celebrated across the world. In India and in Pakistan, which is now celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its creation. But also in Britain which has maintained a special relationship with the subcontinent thanks partly to economic necessity, partly to the presence of about one million immigrant Indians in Britain and partly to a romantic fantasy about India that, after all these years, still refuses to go away. Britain's love for its imaginary India takes many forms. There is the mystic guru-land that began with the Beatles in the 1960s and has since persisted with the appearance of the new age gurus like Satish Kumar, who preaches green politics. Then there is the nostalgic world of the Raj that reached a peak in the eighties with films like *Gandhi* and *A Passage to India* and a lavish TV adaptation of the Jewel in the Crown, which is currently enjoying another showing on British TV. There is also culinary fantasy India with the countless take-aways and curry restaurants in every town across the country. But more than any of these is the India of literature which is taking Britain and the rest of the world by storm. It began with Salman Rushdie, an Indian born a few weeks before his country's independence, who later moved to Pakistan and then to England. His *Midnight's Children* was an outstanding creation, winning the Booker Prize in 1981 and, more importantly, opening the way for a whole parade of other famous Indian writers. Although it is to England that Indian authors turn for their language, today they look to America for their heroes. And it is American style that now provides the inspiration. Bill Gates is the colossal hero and his assertion that India will become the next software superpower has endeared him to the Indians' hearts even more.

Fifty years is not a long time in which to grow up and assert your independence. Maybe India is simply trading one colonial master for another. Of course, the other view is that India never really did have a master. It is such a colossal country, with so many people, so many tongues and such a complex social system that maybe nobody ever really ruled. To the traveller in rural India today, it is difficult to understand Bill Gates' prophetic comment. What do all these desperately poor people know about computer industry. But then again, do any of them know more about the poetry of Wordsworth?

- 1 Britain finally let go of India on 15th August 1974.
- 2 Britain hasn't maintained a very ordinary relationship with the subcontinent.
- 3 India and Britain are going to stay related at least until the new millennium starts.
- 4 The Jewel in the Crown is a film about Pakistan, which is now shown on British TV.
- 5 American style has always provided the inspiration for the Indian people.
- 6 The British love Indian literature.
- 7 It takes at least 50 years to assert your independence.
- 8 The Booker Prize winner, Salman Rushdie, didn't have any connection with the opening of the way to other famous British writers.
- 9 Indian writers mostly write in English.

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