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TEST 1**TASK 1**

Questions 1-7. Match the following headings (A-H) to the texts (Q1-Q7).

Note: There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.

HEADINGS:	
A) Projects for the near future	E) How it started
B) How the space station is arranged	F) Space research to improve our life
C) The example of global cooperation	G) Training astronauts
D) They cannot have it in orbit	H) Visiting space for pleasure

Q1.

The international space station has been in orbit for more than fifteen years. The idea was first introduced in the agreement on space exploration signed by Russia and the USA. Since then scientists and engineers from sixteen countries have contributed to the project. Thus, the station can be called the result of technology from all over the world.

Q2.

Like Rome, the international space station was not built in a day. The space exploration project began with small manned orbital stations designed by Russian engineers in the 1960s. Later, the bigger modules *Salyut* and *Mir* appeared. They successfully worked in orbit from the 1970s till the 2000s. The space station, which is currently in orbit, was formed from *Zaria* and *Unity*, autonomous space modules, in 1998. It is regularly used for international space missions.

Q3.

Inside the two modules there is equipment that provides astronauts with atmosphere, energy, and communications. Also, some radiators, fuel tanks and solar batteries are outside. Special screens protect all the elements of the station from meteors. The main control area is concentrated in the third, modernized module. Astronauts and all necessary goods reach the station in space ships.

Q4.

Crews of astronauts carry out different studies and experiments in orbit. They monitor numerous space objects as well as the atmosphere, volcanoes and water resources of our planet. The results are recorded in reports that astronauts send to the Earth regularly. Science experiments are done in biology, medicine and physics. Thanks to space discoveries, scientists and engineers are able to invent new materials, medicines and technologies for people.

Q5.

It is very important for the astronauts to have regular meals. However, their menu is very specific. All food is prepared in a special way and stored in vacuum containers. There are also foods that cannot be used in orbit at all. Bread is one of them. It is banned at the station because bread crumbs are difficult to collect. The astronauts miss bread very much and nowadays the engineers are designing a space bakery to make a special type of bread.

Q6.

The international space station is a unique destination for space tourism. Since 2012, eight non-professional astronauts have visited it to enjoy the amazing views of the Earth. Although this type of travel costs millions of dollars, the interest to space tourism is constantly growing all over the world. Every new tourist is selected carefully because the health requirements are rather high. The journey takes ten days, including the way to and from the station.

Q7.

At present, mass space travel to other planets is a common theme of science fiction films. Meanwhile the real space exploration scenarios are much more exciting. There are several projects for setting up stations on the Moon and to build human settlements there. A manned expedition to Mars doesn't look like a crazy idea any more. And of course, scientists continue looking for other life in the universe.

TASK 2

Questions 8-15. Read the text and identify whether the given statements are true, false or not given.

Cats in the Hermitage

At the parking lot near the Hermitage in St. Petersburg there is an unusual road sign. It says *Cats crossing*. It was introduced to protect the cats living on the territory. The Hermitage cats have become an attraction of their own and a special attraction for young visitors. The museum director keeps saying that the cats interest journalists even more than the exhibits themselves! He is right. Even the ravens of the Tower of London could envy the fame of the Hermitage cats. Firstly, each one has a passport and a personal plate and a collar. Secondly, they undergo regular vet check-ups. Their meals are cooked in a special kitchen in the basement. Finally, they are welcomed on the annual *Cats' Day* celebrated in May and are honorable guests there. Kindly called *the hermits*, the cats feel at home inside the museum. They are free to go wherever they like, within some reasonable limits of course. In fact, there are classes inside the animal community. The most privileged are allowed into the halls and stairs, others live in the basement and in the yard. The tradition of cats' privileges goes back to the 18th century. The first cats brought to the Winter Palace were divided into indoor and outdoor ones. At that time, the Winter Palace was occupied by rats. The hungry creatures were destroying the royal food stores and belongings. By the order of Empress Elizabeth I, 30 cats were brought from Kazan to help the situation. They were carefully selected among the many cats as the strongest and the quickest rat-hunters. In time, the children of the Kazan cats became the pets of the royal family. The hardest time for cats in the Hermitage was the Siege of Leningrad¹ during World War II. There were almost none of them left in the city. The rats multiplied enormously and a cat became worth its weight in gold. The authorities used the old method and ordered four carriages of cats from Yaroslavl. Five thousand male hunters arrived to save the museum. And they succeeded in their mission! Now there are about 60 cats in the museum and each of them has a name. The names come from painters, cities and states, and there is a legend about one of them, *Vaska, the Lawyer*. This cat was the hero of the battles against the rats in the 1960s. His second name came from the Law Department that *Vaska* enjoyed visiting. Having lost interest in law, the cat settled at the front entrance to the Hermitage. There he played a more important role as a porter and got more food. Every morning half an hour before opening, he called the guards to the doors with a loud *mew*. When the first visitors entered the hall, he would lay by the stairs to get more attention. Among the visitors there were many volunteers to help take care of the cats. Today the museum covers the cats' living expenses. Also, there are sponsors eager to take part. On *Cats' Day* visitors are allowed into the basement to watch the cats' everyday life. Some cats are available for adoption and people are happy to take them home as a symbol of the Hermitage.

Q8.	The director of the Hermitage dislikes cats.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q9.	Cats in the Hermitage are taken good care of.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q10.	There are several different areas for cats in the Hermitage.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q11.	Cats appeared in the Winter Palace to entertain the Empress.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q12.	All the cats delivered to the Hermitage from Yaroslavl were common domestic cats.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q13.	A cat was called <i>Vaska, the Lawyer</i> because he belonged to a law student.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q14.	<i>Vaska, the Lawyer</i> knew the museum timetable.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q15.	Money for the Hermitage cats comes from different sources.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given

TEST 2**TASK 1**

Questions 1-7. Match the following headings (A-H) to the texts (Q1-Q7).

Note: There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.

HEADINGS:	
A) To watch or to play	E) A page in history
B) Their English sounds different	F) Keeping up the tradition
C) One word — different meanings	G) Vitally important for medicine
D) The local health care system	H) Named after a famous dance

Q1.

New Zealand is located in the south-western part of the Pacific Ocean. The Maoris, the aboriginal inhabitants, called their land *Aotearoa*, which means 'land of the long white cloud'. It was first discovered by Europeans in 1642 when a Dutch sailor, Abel Tasman, arrived. However, he had to leave New Zealand very soon after several sailors from his crew were killed by Maoris. It was not until 1769 that English Captain James Cook arrived and marked the land on the map.

Q2.

Kiwi is not only a fruit, as many people in the world believe. It is New Zealand's native flightless bird and a slang word for a New Zealander. Local people call the fruit kiwifruit. In fact, the kiwifruit is not native to New Zealand. It's actually from China, but it was named after the kiwi bird. The kiwifruit earns New Zealand over a billion dollars a year. New Zealand began exporting the kiwifruit in the 1950s and it is still very popular on the world market.

Q3.

It started at the English school of Rugby in 1823. A boy by the name of William Webb Willis felt bored with kicking a soccer ball so he picked it up and ran with it. Actually, he had invented a new game. Today rugby is the national sport of New Zealand. Rugby is the most popular spectator sport in New Zealand. Adults and children adore watching it. Meanwhile golf is the most popular participation sport in the country. It's the No.1 sport for men and the No.2 sport for women, just behind netball.

Q4.

According to the latest data, there are about 600,000 Maori people. The Maori cherish their numerous old customs. One of the most famous is a greeting ritual called the *Powhiri*. In it, the aboriginals shake hands, kiss each other once on the cheek, or do a *hongi*. This is done by pressing one's nose and forehead (at the same time) to another person. The *hongi* literally means 'sharing of breath' and that the other person is no longer considered a visitor but a part of the community.

Q5.

A famous dessert in New Zealand is the *Pavlova*, a meringue cake topped with whipped cream and fresh fruit slices. It was named in honour of the Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova who visited New Zealand in the 1920s. For decades, there has been argument between Australia and New Zealand over where it was invented. After years of research, it was found that the recipe for the cake is of New Zealand origin.

Q6.

New Zealand inventors have a proud record of creating things the rest of the world really needs. One of the most important Kiwi inventions in the world of public health is a disposable syringe¹. Timaru's Colin Murdoch came up with the idea for the disposable syringe, a simple device that has saved millions of lives and has helped diabetes sufferers around the world. He also thought up the tranquilizer dart gun for use on animals.

Q7.

New Zealand has three official languages: English, Maori and New Zealand Sign Language. The average citizen is bilingual. That means most people speak both English and Maori. However, New Zealand English differs a lot from American, Canadian, Australian and other versions of English. The main distinguishing characteristic of the New Zealand dialect is that the speakers shorten the words so that they end in 'o', 'y' or *ie\ For example, *arvo* for *afternoon* or *kindy* for *kindergarten*.

TASK 2

Questions 8-15. Read the text and identify whether the given statements are true, false or not given.

Keiko

Among *Warner Brothers'* productions there are many films to watch as a family. In 1993, a film, *Free Willy*, was released and gained great popularity with the audience. It was about an orca, or a killer whale, Willy, that was kept in captivity. The plot described the way the whale grew and his relationship with people who finally let the whale go back into the open sea and live his natural life. The role of Willy was played by a male whale, Keiko. Sadly, his life was less happy than the life of his character. When a little calf, he was caught in a net near the coast of Iceland, in 1979. Then he lived in aquariums in Iceland, Canada and finally in Mexico. Keiko had to entertain people and his performances were always successful, but the Mexican aquarium was too small and warm for the animal from the north. Soon Keiko fell seriously ill. His trainers and animal keepers insisted that Keiko should be transported to a spacious *Oregon Coast Aquarium* in Newport, in the north-west of the USA, where the climate was more suitable for the whale. There, Keiko was chosen by the film directors to play the role of Willy in the film *Free Willy*. The films about Willy made Keiko popular with people in many countries. Also, *Warner Brothers* initiated the *Free Keiko* campaign. Thousands of volunteers collected money for the whale. As a result, *Oregon Aquarium* got seven million dollars to build special facilities for Keiko that could help him become strong and healthy enough to live in the wild. Medical treatment, however, was not the only problem. Keiko had spent twenty years with people and had become really tame. The whale liked swimming around the pool with his trainers, carrying them along and performing tricks. Keiko had learned how to communicate with people but he had completely forgotten how to hunt. Trainers always had enough fresh fish for him! In 1998 the UPS Company took the responsibility to transport Keiko to the coast of Iceland. The whale weighed three tons and they had to use a military plane for him. When Keiko got to Iceland, he went into the sea quickly. Specialists hoped he would soon find a new family and adapt to the wild environment. Otherwise he could die. Volunteers were monitoring Keiko's routes. Four days after Keiko was set free, he returned to the coast in search of people. Specialists let him go again and in 2002 he was seen in a family of whales leaving the waters of Iceland. Unfortunately, the same year he was noticed very close to the Norwegian coast line, swimming and jumping among holiday makers. Keiko never adapted to the natural lifestyle. Besides, his health was getting worse. He died from pneumonia in 2003. A special memorial to Keiko was constructed in Norway. In Japanese "keiko" means "lucky", but Keiko's fate was rather controversial.

Q8.	The popularity of the film, <i>Free Willy</i> , caused its producers to shoot a sequel.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q9.	In captivity, Keiko had lived in several countries.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q10.	The <i>Warner Brothers</i> company was against setting Keiko free.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q11.	People raised finance to give Keiko a chance to get back to the wild.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q12.	Some special techniques were used to develop Keiko's hunting instincts.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q13.	Keiko was taken to Iceland by ship.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q14.	There has not been any further information about Keiko since he was set free in Iceland.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q15.	<i>Warner Brothers</i> took part in the construction of a memorial to Keiko.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given

TEST 3**TASK 1**

Questions 1-7. Match the following headings (A-H) to the texts (Q1-Q7).

Note: There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.

HEADINGS:	
A) To forgive and forget	E) How the holiday got its name
B) How Maslenitsa is celebrated	F) Why pancakes are essential at Maslenitsa
C) The recipe for the holiday dish	G) It is celebrated not only in Russia
D) Various functions of the holiday	H) Tasting competition

Q1.

In the old days Maslenitsa was for remembrance of the dead. But in time, the Russian longing for fun and entertainment turned the sad holiday into the jolly Maslenitsa with blini — round, yellow and hot as the sun, sledding and horse sleigh riding, fistfights and chatting with the mother-in-law. The rituals of Maslenitsa are very unusual and interesting because they combine rituals for the end of winter and ceremonies for the start of spring, which were to promote a rich harvest.

Q2.

Maslenitsa is one of the nicest holidays in Russia. The word *Maslenitsa* is derived from *masloy* which means *butter* in Russian. It came from the tradition of baking pancakes (*blini*). Hot, round, and golden pancakes look like little suns. It is believed that they help to warm up the frozen earth. In the old days, pancakes were cooked from buckwheat flour, which gave them a red colour. Those pancakes symbolised the victory of the sun over the winter cold.

Q3.

The circle has always been considered a holy shape in Russia. According to old beliefs, it protected people from evil. On Maslenitsa, the Russians made pancakes, decorated the wheels of their carts, and danced the *khorovod* (the round folk dance). The aim of all those ceremonies was to please the Sun so that it would be kinder to people. Nowadays, not everyone remembers about the symbolic meaning of the pancakes, but everyone enjoys their taste.

Q4.

Nowadays, Maslenitsa lasts for a whole week. It has turned into a fun festival with different folk entertainments such as sledding, burning scarecrows, bonfire jumping, and eating pancakes. Each day of the Maslenitsa festival has its name and programme. For example, Tuesday is called *zaigrыsh* (game day). From that day all sorts of activities started: sleigh riding, folk festivals and puppet shows.

Q5.

For simple, thin pancakes, a dough is prepared from flour, milk, eggs and some salt and sugar. The first thing you should do is to separate the yolks from the whites. Then stir the yolks with sugar, slowly adding milk while stirring. Add the salt and the hot, melted butter. Then start adding the flour (very slowly), stirring the mixture. As the last step, add the stirred whites. Now everything is ready for baking pancakes on the hot frying pans.

Q6.

And during the last day of Maslenitsa, Russian *Jack-straw*, the symbol of winter, is burnt. People bid farewell to winter till the next year. There is another important tradition on Sunday — you have to ask for forgiveness from all your close relatives and friends. That is why Russians call each other on the phone or send messages and ask to forgive them for all the bad things they have done during the year.

Q7.

The Russian Orthodox Maslenitsa festival, which marks the end of winter and the beginning of spring, has its origins in ancient sun worship. Every year since 2009, Russian pianist and producer Olga Balakleets has organized a week-long celebration of Russian culture around London. By chance or not it coincides with Maslenitsa. This festival included an impressive series of musical, cinematic and other events, along with a reception in the House of Commons.

TASK 2

Questions 8-15. Read the text and identify whether the given statements are true, false or not given.

Father's Day

It was Father's Day and we wanted to make that Sunday very special for our dad. "Do you think we could prepare breakfast for Dad all by ourselves?" I asked Mum on Saturday night, right on the eve of Father's Day. "Of course," said Mum, "I'm sure it'll be the best breakfast of his life. At least he'll never forget it, I'm sure." "Look, I have a plan," Mum waved to my five-year-old brother, Chris, to come closer so that we could discuss it all together. According to Mum's plan, she would take Dorothy, our baby sister, for a walk early the next morning. Chris and I would cook breakfast for Dad and give it to him as a surprise. I was assigned to be the boss, which was perfectly fair as I was a year and a half older than Chris. The next morning, I arranged all the foods on the kitchen table. Chris was watching me with respect. "Dad always complains that Mum gives him porridge or cornflakes for breakfast. We need to make something different," I said. "Good idea," nodded Chris. "Let's make a meat pie." I had no reason to say no. We took the metal thing Mum usually used when she made pies. I put some flour in it, poured in a bit of milk, and beat in one egg. Then I stirred the stuff with a spoon and it looked quite similar to the dough Mum usually used for her pie. Chris found some beef mince in the freezer and gave it to me. The mince was too hard to be spread on top the pie. After a short discussion, we decided to leave it as it was. The heat in the oven would cook it anyway. We were careful to put some salt and pepper on the meat as Dad preferred his food spicy. "Well, it's almost ready," I rubbed my hands. "Cooking is easy. Dad always says the same. Why does Mum make so much fuss about it?" The only problem was the oven as we did not know how to switch it on. But it was not a good reason to wake up dad of course. The microwave was a perfect alternative to the oven. We put the pie in it and turned it on. When we were making coffee, we dropped the kettle on the floor and it obviously woke up Dad. Or it could have been the fire alarm which started to wail because we had left our pie in the microwave a bit longer than it probably needed. Anyway, we heard Dad's footsteps on the staircase but his coffee was not ready yet! To save him from this disappointment, Chris opened the hot water tap, poured some water into Dad's cup and put two tablespoons of instant coffee in it. It did not smell like the coffee from the coffee machine Mum usually made. But, on the other hand, Dad always complained that his coffee was too hot for him to drink. So hot that it, and the traffic jams of course made him late to his office. Our coffee was not hot at all. When Dad rushed into the kitchen, he looked very surprised. The table was laid — his pie and his coffee was served perfectly in time, not like on the mornings when Mum made his breakfast. At this very moment the doorbell rang. It was Mum with Dorothy. Mum said she had reserved a table for all of us in the coffee shop with our favourite PlayStation and asked us to hurry. Chris and I rushed to our room to get dressed. Dad was really quick with his breakfast. When we looked in the kitchen, his plate and his cup were already empty. He is a really big eater, our Dad! In the coffee shop he had a hearty breakfast too — the second one of the day

Q8.	Every year the father got a present from his children for Father's Day.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q9.	There were two children in the family.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q10.	The children cooked breakfast without their mother's permission.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q11.	The children decided to cook a dish which was different from their father's everyday breakfast.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q12.	The father woke up because of some noise in the kitchen.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q13.	There was no instant coffee in the house.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q14.	The father's office was very far from his house.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q15.	On Father's day the family had their breakfast at home.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given

TEST 4**TASK 1**

Questions 1-7. Match the following headings (A-H) to the texts (Q1-Q7).

Note: There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.

HEADINGS:	
A) Activities for all tastes	E) On the Red List
B) Geographical features	F) Scientific input
C) Unstable and still growing	G) The people of the islands
D) In order to protect	H) Unique wildlife

Q1.

The Galapagos Islands are situated to the north-west of South America, six thousand kilometers from the continent. The islands occupy the territory of about forty five thousand square kilometers. They consist of thirteen main islands and a great number of smaller ones. The largest island is Isabela. The Galapagos Islands belong to Ecuador.

Q2.

The relief of the islands is constantly changing because of volcanic activity. In geological terms, the territory is quite 'young'. Fields of lava still create rocks and form new islands. That is why the Galapagos Islands are called 'a place born of fire' and the region is still developing. Probably soon it will look different on the maps.

Q3.

The Galapagos Islands are one of the few places in the world without a native population. The first documented trip by humans to the Galapagos Islands was in the 16th century. Another theory says that representatives of ancient Indian cultures had also made journeys there long before. For centuries, the land remained attractive for pirates. People only settled there on a permanent basis, as official residents, in the 19th century.

Q4.

Due to its rich wildlife, the Galapagos Islands have always been attractive for visitors. Among them was the famous British scientist, Charles Darwin. He formulated his *Theory of Evolution* after his observations of Galapagos' flora and fauna. Those observations helped him to explain the origin of species in other parts of the world and describe their evolution. In his memory, the *Darwin Research Station* was opened in the Galapagos in the 1950s.

Q5.

The Galapagos are rich in exotic fauna. Most species of birds, the sea lion, the sea iguana and gigantic tortoises, that live over a hundred years, are not found anywhere else in the world but there. The Galapagos tortoise can weigh up to 250 kg and tourists come to the islands specially to see them. No wonder that the tortoise became the symbol of the islands. And the name of Galapagos comes from the Spanish word 'tortoise'.

Q6.

Tourism in the Galapagos is a fast developing industry. The number of people who come here for diving, animal watching, and exploring lava tunnels is growing each year. It is obvious that uncontrolled human activity could spoil the unique natural features. Because of this risk, the islands were declared a national park and the flow of tourists is limited.

Q7.

The Galapagos Islands offer a kind of vacation and entertainment everyone would find unforgettable. While parents can enjoy the boat rides and beaches, children would be absolutely happy to see the blue-footed birds and amazing tortoises or to find out about pirates and hidden treasure. Hotels and sports facilities are of a high quality, though they are rather expensive.

TASK 2

Questions 8-15. Read the text and identify whether the given statements are true, false or not given.

Books from all over the world

Ann Morgan, a modern British writer, had not read a book translated from another language before 2012. Her literature collection consisted mainly of stories and novels by British and American authors, and they were all in English of course. This was not enough to be called a cosmopolitan reader! At the start of the New Year, Ann made a resolution to read a book from every country in the world, written by a national writer. She wanted to complete the task by the end of the coming year. She made a catalogue of the countries, the members of the United Nations. When her list came to one hundred and ninety-six items, she realized it would be practically impossible to find a book from each of these countries. The first idea was to check the local bookshop but they only had a small range of books. So, Ann decided to ask the world's readers for help. She created a blog called "A Year of Reading the World" and asked all the readers to suggest her titles of books from their country available in English. The responses came very fast. Ann was greatly surprised to find out how many people wanted to share their ideas and opinions about books. Some of them posted her the books. Others spent hours looking for references and resources for her. In addition, two writers from Turkmenistan and Panama sent her unpublished English versions of their novels. But, even with such a great team of helpers, finding foreign books translated into English was not easy. The biggest problem was the small states in Africa. They had very few written books, and instead had mostly manuscripts or even traditional performances by local storytellers. But Ann did not give up and managed to get some absolutely brilliant literary samples from the African continent. In addition to language problems, politics disturbed her plans too. In 2011 the new country of South Sudan was founded in Africa. Ann began panicking as the half-a-year-old country had produced no books since its creation! The only chance of getting a literary sample from this country was to fly there and find a storyteller. Fortunately, a local Internet contact put Ann in touch with a Sudanese writer, who sent her a precious copy of their book. Ann spent the whole year collecting the books, reading them and writing her blog. According to her plan, she had to read a new book in two days. As she had a job, this was not easy to do. She had to sit up at night reading until her eyes became tired. But it was worth it! During the year of her imaginary literary journey, Ann discovered a lot about the people of the world, their lives and mentalities. She has changed her perception of the world and made lots of new friends. In her blog, Ann confessed that it had been the most interesting year of her life.

Q8.	Before 2012 Ann's personal library contained only books by British and American writers.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q9.	The aim of Ann's project was to create a list of the best writers of the world.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q10.	People from different countries became interested in Ann's project.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q11.	For her project, Ann needed books written in their original languages, not their English versions.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q12.	Due to various reasons, Ann excluded some countries from her project.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q13.	Ann had to fly to South Sudan to get a book from there.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q14.	To do the project, Ann gave up her job	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q15.	Ann did not regret that she had spent so much time on the project	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given

TEST 5**TASK 1**

Questions 1-7. Match the following headings (A-H) to the texts (Q1-Q7).

Note: There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.

HEADINGS:	
A) Bright and safe	E) The symbol of the capital
B) The bus you don't need to drive	F) Watching and learning
C) The story of the name	G) They have to be skilled and attentive
D) Special traffic rules for the bus	H) A perfect way to see the capital

Q1.

A *walking school bus* is a group of children walking to school with one or more adults. It can be informal — when two families take turns in getting their children to school. It also can be a structured and planned route with meeting points, a timetable and specially trained volunteers. It's certainly safer for kids who would otherwise walk alone to school. A *walking school bus* provides exercise and security.

Q2.

Every day thousands of Londoners use big red buses to move around town. These buses were designed especially for London, by people who knew what London needed, and they have served their purpose well! There are hundreds of bus routes all over London. The double-decker bus has become an emblem of London, just as recognizable as Big Ben or Tower Bridge.

Q3.

Have you ever wondered why school buses are either yellow or orange? Yellow is an attention-grabbing colour. Scientists have discovered yellow is 1.24 times better for catching our eye than red. People can detect yellow even from the corner of their eye. Yellow is easier to notice in dim light or bad weather. For these reasons, school buses in many countries are yellow.

Q4.

Few people know that the word *bus* is a short form of the Latin word *omnibus*. A businessman named Stanislas Baudry started the first horse-drawn omnibus service in the French city of Nantes in 1823. The first vehicles stopped in front of the hatter's shop which had a large sign *Omnes Omnibus*. Soon Nantes citizens gave the nickname *omnibus* to the vehicle. The word *omnibus* means *for all* in Latin. In 1828, Baudry launched the omnibus service in Paris too.

Q5.

Moscow, like other touristic cities, has double-decker buses — so called *hop-on — hop-off* buses. A ticket for this bus is valid for one or two days. You can get on and off the bus as many times as you like. The second deck has two parts: an open part, and a closed one. You can enjoy the open part in the warm weather and the closed part when the weather is not very good. Every passenger is supplied with a free city map and a free headphone set to listen to the audio guide.

Q6.

The job of a bus driver goes beyond just driving the vehicle! Bus drivers are responsible for the safety of their passengers, which can sometimes be as many as 100 people! They are responsible for driving their assigned route and sometimes they have to take fares and answer passengers' questions. Bus drivers also check the safety of their vehicle and make sure it has working safety equipment like first aid kits and fire extinguishers.

Q7.

The Magic School Bus is a Saturday morning animated children's television series. It is based on the series of books of the same name by Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen. In each story, elementary school teacher, Ms Frizzle, and her class of eight pupils board a *magic school bus*, which takes them on field trips to impossible locations, such as the solar system, clouds, the past, and inside the human body. The class pet, Liz, a lizard, accompanies the class on their field trips.

TASK 2

Questions 8-15. Read the text and identify whether the given statements are true, false or not given.

Miss Marple

Miss Marple, a woman detective, is the main character of most books by Agatha Christie, the famous British writer. Miss Marple appeared in a series of short stories 'Thirteen mysterious cases' and in twelve later novels. The last novel about Miss Marple was written in 1940 but it was not published until 1976 to keep the readers' interest in the character. 'The Murder at the Vicarage' was the first novel about Miss Marple's success as a detective. It was published in 1930. In her autobiography Agatha Christie wrote she did not plan to make Miss Marple a central character. What is more, Miss Marple's tremendous success was absolutely surprising for the writer. Unlike many other detective characters, Miss Marple was not young but it did not influence her professional qualities. Agatha Christie created Miss Marple as a seventy-year-old woman and her age never changed throughout the books. According to the narratives, Miss Marple lived in a quiet English village. Like most women in her neighbourhood she liked gardening. She was a great expert in growing flowers that were always in blossom in her garden. In her free time she also liked knitting for her relatives and friends whom she visited regularly. Besides, Miss Marple was a socially active person, she was deeply involved in charity in the local community. As Miss Marple had lived most of her life in the same village she had many friends among the people who lived there. She was so nice and pleasant to talk to that they hurried to bring her the latest news. No gossip or detail ever escaped Miss Marple's eye. It was especially useful when dealing with crimes, which for some reason happened regularly in her quiet life. Miss Marple managed to solve the most mysterious cases and find the most inventive murderers. Police were skeptical of Miss Marple's success as a detective because she had never worked for them and was not a professional crime expert. Nevertheless some officers asked Miss Marple for advice in difficult cases. They appreciated her rich life experience and attention to detail. And Miss Marple, in turn, was glad to be helpful to the police. Stories about Miss Marple were filmed several times. The first actress to play the role of the woman detective was Agatha Christie's close friend. Seven more actresses also starred in films and TV series about Miss Marple but the most convincing version was created by Joan Hickson. She took part in twelve productions over eight years.

Q8.	Miss Marple was a real person.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q9.	Agatha Christie expected that Miss Marple would become very popular with readers.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q10.	In the first novels Miss Marple was presented as a forty-year-old woman.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q11.	Miss Marple lived alone in her house.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q12.	Apart from solving crimes Miss Marple had other hobbies.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q13.	Miss Marple's neighbours gladly shared their news with her.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q14.	Miss Marple refused to cooperate with police.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q15.	In all the films about Miss Marple her role was played by the same actress.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given

TEST 6**TASK 1**

Questions 1-7. Match the following headings (A-H) to the texts (Q1-Q7).

Note: There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.

HEADINGS:	
A) The Special Day of the Union	E) A Big Sports Event
B) Rich in languages	F) The Union of Independent States
C) The Aims of the Union	G) The Choice of the Former Colony
D) Famous for its Economic Development	H) Literary Awards

Q1.

The British Queen is Head of the Commonwealth (or the Commonwealth of Nations). This organization unites 53 countries, most of which are former British colonies. The countries of the Commonwealth can be found in Africa, Asia, Europe, in the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands. Thirty-one of the members are small countries.

Q2.

After the Olympics, the Commonwealth Games is the second largest sports festival in the world. Only members of the Commonwealth can participate. The Games are held once every four years but only in between the Olympic years. The first Commonwealth Games were held in 1930 in Hamilton, Canada. In the Commonwealth Games there are a total of 22 sports and seven para-sports.

Q3.

Jamaica, an island country in the Atlantic Ocean, was the first colony England took by conquest. But it was also the first Caribbean nation to gain independence. This happened in 1962 but the country chose to remain a member of the British Commonwealth. Similar to Canada, Queen Elizabeth II remains the Queen of Jamaica but by tradition only.

Q4.

Singapore is situated in Southeast Asia. It consists of one main island and 63 tiny islands. Most of these islands are deserted. Singapore is a city, the capital and the state at the same time. It is among the 20 smallest countries in the world. However, in spite of its small size, Singapore is the most highly developed nation in the Commonwealth.

Q5.

All the countries of the Commonwealth use English as a common language. However, Cyprus recognizes two official languages: Greek and Turkish. Certainly most locals are able to speak English as the island was colonized by Britain in 1878 and didn't get independence until 1960. The other languages spoken in the country are Armenian, Arabic, French and German.

Q6.

Commonwealth Day is a day of celebration for all the countries of the Commonwealth. It is held on the second Monday in March every year. Each member of the Commonwealth of Nations celebrates it in its own unique way. In Great Britain a special service is held in Westminster Abbey in London. It is attended by the British Monarch as Head of Commonwealth who delivers a speech. The Monarch's speech is broadcast throughout the Commonwealth.

Q7.

In 1987, the Commonwealth Foundation set up two prizes for writers: *the Commonwealth Book Prize* and *the Commonwealth Short Story Prize*. The first prize is awarded for the best book published in the previous year. It should be the writer's first book. The second prize is given to the best piece of unpublished short fiction (2000-5000 words).

TASK 2

Questions 8-15. Read the text and identify whether the given statements are true, false or not given.

Dmitry Shparo

Dmitry Shparo is a famous Russian explorer. He has walked across the Arctic, the North Pole and many other extreme places of the planet. Some of his expeditions have been added to the Guinness Book of World Records. The famous traveller was born in Moscow, in 1941. In 1956, he entered Moscow State University. Dmitry Shparo wanted to be a mathematician like his mother. While he was a student, he started hiking and cross-country skiing. Dmitry spent all his vacations doing all sorts of adventure hikes. He was especially fond of long and difficult trips in the Far North. In 1970, Dmitry Shparo, together with his four friends, went on a hike along the Taimyr Peninsula in the north of Russia. They took a lot of pictures on the long, hard trip. Later, their photos were published in the central newspaper. During a meeting with the journalists, the five travellers said: *"We shall go to the North Pole!"* However, it took them nine years to make their dream come true. In March 1979, Dmitry Shparo and his team started the expedition to the North Pole. It was a challenging mission. They had to cope with the extreme cold and with the drifting ice that formed huge mountains in their way. In spite of the hardships, it took the brave travellers only two months to get to the North Pole. Several years later, Dmitry Shparo decided to cross the Arctic to the North Pole. He planned to do it during the Arctic night, in total darkness. It was a dangerous and very hard expedition. The travellers had to cope with drifting, crashing ice and extremely cold temperatures. In spite of all these difficulties, in February 1986, Dmitry Shparo and his team reached the North Pole. The "Arctic Night" journey appears in the Guinness Book of World Records. In 1989, Dmitry Shparo and his American colleague, Paul Shurke, crossed the Bering Strait that separates Eurasia from America, on dog sleds. Later, in 1998, Shparo and his son, Matvey, were the first Europeans to ski across the Bering Strait, from Russia to North America. That same year, Dmitry Shparo initiated another of his life's projects. With the help of Canadian Paralympic athlete Rick Hansen he founded the *Adventure Club* to encourage disabled people to travel. Over the past 20 years the *Adventure Club* has arranged a lot of different events for disabled athletes and disadvantaged children all around the world. Under Shparo's personal patronage, blind and deaf people and amputees have reached mountain peaks and crossed deserts, including the frozen ones. Shparo's sons, Matvey and Nikita, take an active role in the work of the club. In recent years, the *Adventure Club* has focused on youth programmes — for example, several youth ecological camps called *Great Adventure* were organized in Karelia. The club also arranges trips to the North Pole for children. Dmitry Shparo has published several books about his journeys. The most famous books are: *A Way to the North*, *To the Pole!* and *Three Mysteries of the Arctic*.

Q8.	Some of Dmitry Shparo's trips are recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q9.	Dmitry Shparo's mother was fond of hiking.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q10.	In the 1970s, the newspapers refused to publish any information about Shparo's Taimyr expedition.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q11.	Dmitry Sparo and his team did not reach the North Pole on their expedition in 1979.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q12.	Dmitry Shparo's expedition of 1986 was carried out during the Arctic Night season.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q13.	In 1989 Dmitry Shparo crossed the Bering Strait alone.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q14.	The <i>Adventure Club</i> was started by Dmitry Shparo's sons.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q15.	Dmitry Shparo was awarded a special educational prize for his books.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given

TEST 7**TASK 1**

Questions 1-7. Match the following headings (A-H) to the texts (Q1-Q7).

Note: There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.

HEADINGS:	
A) Just to keep the students healthy	E) The nominal head of the country
B) The official languages	F) Summer alternative to hockey
C) Available only in winter	G) A linguistic mistake
D) Wiped from our memory	H) The real prototype of a fairytale character

Q1.

The history of invention in Canada has followed a long and noble path. Canadian inventors have patented more than one million inventions, which are used by people around the world. They thought up the electric light bulb, the electric stove, the electric wheelchair, standard time, the modern zipper and the first snowmobile. Yet few people can remember more than one or two Canadian inventors.

Q2.

The country has two national sports: lacrosse as the country's national summer sport, and ice hockey as the national winter sport. While Ice Hockey is Canada's most widespread sport, Lacrosse is the country's official sport. Lacrosse is played with 20 players on a grass field, 10 players on each side. The players use long-handled lacrosse sticks with a loose net on the head to catch, carry and pass the small rubber ball. Lacrosse is greatly enjoyed by Canadians and has gained popularity in other countries, too.

Q3.

Basketball is unusual in that it was created by one person. In early December 1891, Dr. James Naismith, a Canadian physical education professor at McGill University, proposed a dynamic indoor game to keep his students at a proper level of fitness during the long New England winters. He wrote the basic rules and nailed a peach basket onto a 3.05 m elevated track. In contrast with modern basketball nets, this peach basket did not have a hole in the bottom. Nowadays basketball is played all over the world.

Q4.

In the beginning of the 20th century, a black bear cub from Canada named Winnipeg was given to London Zoo. Soon the bear became one of the most popular attractions at the zoo. Winnie, as she was called in London, became a favourite of Christopher Robin Milne and inspired his father, A. A. Milne, to write a book about a bear, named Winnie the Pooh, and his friend, Christopher Robin.

Q5.

Every year, Quebec City has an Ice Hotel. The hotel melts in the summer, but is rebuilt every winter. The name Ice Hotel isn't an exaggeration. Everything inside the hotel is made of ice. The hotel's cafe has tables and chairs made of ice, and even glasses made of ice. The rooms are like little snow caves, windowless, with curtains instead of a door. Before spending a night in the Ice Hotel, guests must sit through a special seminar on how to not get frostbite while they sleep.

Q6.

When Jacques Cartier, a French explorer, came to the New World in the 16th century, he met with local natives. They invited him and his companions to their *kanata* (the word for *village* or *settlement* in their language). Cartier misunderstood, and believed the natives were referring to the entire country as *Kanata*. So, he named the new country as *Kanata*. Nowadays we call it *Canada*.

Q7.

Canada is formally a constitutional monarchy, with the British monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, as the supreme governor of the state. Canada passed back and forth between French and British monarchs over the centuries before becoming an independent nation. The queen no longer rules Canada, but she still plays a significant role in the government and in Canada's national identity, and appears prominently on Canadian currency.

TASK 2

Questions 8-15. Read the text and identify whether the given statements are true, false or not given.

Yeoman Warders

The Tower of London, officially Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress of the Tower of London, is a historic castle located on the north bank of the River Thames in central London. The guards at the Tower of London are called *Yeoman Warders*. In principle, they are responsible for looking after any prisoners in the Tower and safeguarding the British Crown jewels. However, in practice they act as tour guides and answer tourists' numerous questions. They are also a tourist attraction themselves. There are currently 37 *Yeoman Warders* at the Tower. *Yeoman Warders* have been in service at the Tower of London since 1485, when the corps were formed by King Henry VII, but actually their origins date back even further. In order to serve as a *Yeoman Warder* nowadays, an applicant must have 22 years of service in the British armed forces, along with awards for distinction and good conduct. The applicant should also be between 40 and 55 years old on appointment. A potential *Yeoman Warder* should have a good memory to be able to remember the numerous facts from the history of the Tower. Although the correct term is *Yeoman Warder*, most people know the members of the famous guard by their nickname — *Beefeater*. The origin of the nickname *Beefeater* is not clear. Some historians believe that the original Warders got some meat as part of their payment. Others suggest that they had the privilege of eating beef from the Royal Kitchen. However, nowadays the only creatures at the Tower with a steady diet of beef are the ravens, who serve as a symbol of the British monarchy. According to legend, if the ravens leave the Tower, the monarchy will fall. That's why one *Yeoman Warder*, the Ravenmaster, is responsible for the ravens. The Ravenmaster takes good care of the birds. The ravens are fed nuts, berries, fruit, meat, and blood-soaked biscuits. In the evening, the Ravenmaster whistles a special tone to call the ravens to bed — they are put into spacious cages to protect them from foxes. Every three weeks he trims the feathers on their right wings to prevent them from flying away. Traditionally, *Yeoman Warders* had only been men. The first female *Yeoman Warder* (*Beefeater*) started her work at the Tower of London in 2007 — breaking over 500 years of male-only *Beefeater* history. Moira Cameron of Argyll, Scotland passed all the tests and is now the only woman *Yeoman Warder*. Other women have applied for the job, but Moira is the only successful lady so far! The job of *Yeoman Warder* has its bonuses, of course. *Yeomen Warders* have the unique privilege of being able to live in the Tower! A portion of their salaries is given over as rent and many of the apartments in the Tower date from the 13th century. Although an interesting place to live, the wife of one *Beefeater* says it's impossible to order a pizza there. Nobody ever believes that people could live in the Tower!

Q8.	<i>Yeoman Warders</i> are not allowed to talk to tourists.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q9.	All the <i>Yeoman Warders</i> have served in the British army.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q10.	There are different opinions about the origin of the word <i>Beefeater</i> .	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q11.	The Ravenmaster buys the meat for the ravens himself.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q12.	The ravens of the Tower eat nothing but meat.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q13.	There are six black ravens at the Tower.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q14.	Moira Cameron is the only woman who has ever applied for the job of <i>Beefeater</i> .	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q15.	<i>Yeoman Warders</i> have the right to live in the Tower of London.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given

TEST 8**TASK 1**

Questions 1-7. Match the following headings (A-H) to the texts (Q1-Q7).

Note: There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.

HEADINGS:	
A) A big problem for a small country	E) The influence of Britain
B) At a cultural crossroads	F) Unpredictable weather
C) Architectural landmark	G) Blended cuisine
D) Attractive to learners of English	H) Making movies

Q1.

Malta is one of only a few truly bilingual countries. English language newspapers, books and magazines are sold everywhere, many TV and radio channels broadcast in English, movies are in English, and much of the islands' cultural programme is in English too. This, together with an excellent climate and the option to combine learning and holidays, makes Malta a popular place for studying English.

Q2.

To learn the history of a country, visit its libraries! But if you want to truly understand its people — try their food! Lots of Maltese dishes are the result of the long relationship between the inhabitants of the Malta's and the many conquerors who occupied the Maltese Islands over the centuries. The island's food is an interesting combination of Italian, African and English ingredients.

Q3.

The British ruled Malta for 150 years and independence came only in 1964. Naturally, the Maltese adopted the British system of administration, education and legislation. Signs of British lifestyle are everywhere: there are English-style pubs, telephone booths and post boxes. There is even a British-style Labour Party office on Republic Street — visitors are welcome! The British feel at home in Malta, as cars drive on the left.

Q4.

In recent years, Malta has become one of Europe's most popular film and television locations. The Maltese Islands, their beautiful, unspoiled coastlines and breathtaking architecture have been home to several blockbusters such as *Gladiator*, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, *Troy* and *Munich* as well as prestigious dramas and sitcoms such as the BBC's *Byron* and ITV's *Coronation Street*, and more recently the TV series *Game of Thrones*.

Q5.

Malta is not one island, as most people think, but five. English, which is the official language, is spoken by almost all Maltese people. Another official language is Maltese, a dialect of Arabic, which is written in the Latin alphabet. Today, Malta fully understands the importance of its position between Europe and the Middle East. Besides speaking European languages such as English and Italian, many Maltese also speak Arabic.

Q6.

Malta has no rivers or lakes. Many rely on rain, which does not come every summer, and causes floods in winter. If you're in Malta during the summer months, there's no need for an umbrella. But come in October and the islands are flooded with rain. Shortage of water has stimulated the building of special factories that remove salt from the sea water. Nowadays they provide more than half of the country's freshwater needs. Officially, the tap water is safe to drink in Malta, but it tastes awful.

Q7.

The Maltese capital, Valletta, is often called a city built by gentlemen for gentlemen. It was created by the Knights of Malta and is perhaps Malta's greatest treasure. Impressive fortifications surround the city to this day. Valletta is famous for its narrow streets, churches, palaces, museums and baroque buildings. According to UNESCO, this magnificent city is one of the most concentrated historical areas in the world.

TASK 2

Questions 8-15. Read the text and identify whether the given statements are true, false or not given.

A rainmaker

Scientists are very skeptical about man's ability to initiate weather like, rain or snow. Nevertheless, in 1902, an American, Charles Hatfield, first claimed he had invented a new chemical method to generate rain. He applied his method on a commercial basis for the next twenty years and got a reputation as a rainmaker. Hatfield lived in Kansas and worked for a company that sold sewing machines. He considered his work boring and felt fed up with it. He dreamt of fame. Chemistry had always been Hatfield's great interest. For several years he was working on a formula that could initiate rain. After 1904, when he moved to California, his life changed dramatically. The advertisements he placed in the Los Angeles newspapers promised perfect rain for only fifty dollars. Because of the extremely dry season several farmers decided to try their chance. Hatfield and his brother built a tower on the top of a mountain and dispersed some chemicals into the air. Incredibly enough, soon it started to rain. Both the farmers and the 'wizard' were happy. The news about Hatfield's success spread around the country. The number of orders was growing fast. He travelled a lot, initiating rain in different regions but he was careful to keep his magic formula a secret. Inspired by these results, he promised Los Angeles Council forty-six centimeters of rainfall. It seemed unbelievable because so much rainfall was not typical for the city. Surprisingly, the next morning, after Hatfield's chemical experiments, rain was pouring down. Some meteorologists did not regard Hatfield's success as genuine. They were sure it was a coincidence¹ and *that most rain was the result of cyclones. On the other hand, there were scientists who took it quite seriously and wanted to watch the phenomenon in reality. It also needs to be mentioned that Hatfield was not always lucky. For example, in 1906 he was asked to initiate rain in the gold fields of the Klondike. No matter how hard he tried, the sky stayed cloudless. Fame and the need for money drove Charles Hatfield to further risky experiments. He bet he could fill in the container of the water lock near San Diego with rain water. If he succeeded, he was promised ten thousand dollars. Together with his brother, Hatfield built a six-meter tower and dispersed the chemicals into the air. Some days later it began to rain heavily. The rain did not stop for two weeks. The water lock container was full to the top as well as two nearby locks. The coming water overflowed the rivers, destroyed some bridges, roads and phone cables. Many houses and farms went under water because of the rainfall. Local officials blamed Hatfield for the loss and refused to pay him the money. Hatfield was called to court to compensate for the three-billion-dollar loss. Luckily, he escaped punishment because he had no written agreement with officials to start the experiment. Besides, the judge was sure that a man could not influence the weather. However, Charles Hatfield sincerely believed that his formula worked and continued his rain initiating practice. He died in 1958 but never gave away his secret.

Q8.	Hatfield's work for the company had nothing to do with chemistry.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q9.	Hatfield had studied chemistry at college.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q10.	Californian farmers paid Hatfield more than the agreed sum.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q11.	Hatfield had to show his secret formula to the Los Angeles authorities.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q12.	Hatfield never failed in his rain initiating business.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q13.	Hatfield always worked with his brother.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q14.	The heavy rain in San Diego caused great damage to the area.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q15.	Hatfield got ten thousand dollars for his work in San Diego.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given

TEST 9**TASK 1**

Questions 1-7. Match the following headings (A-H) to the texts (Q1-Q7).

Note: There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.

HEADINGS:	
A) Having much in common	E) A sign of love
B) A trip to the sky	F) Aggressive behaviour
C) Different ways of keeping a pet	G) An urban legend
D) On government service	H) Foods to avoid

Q1.

The first cat in space was a French cat named Felicette. In 1963, France blasted the cat into outer space. It was a good-natured black-and-white female, just a Paris street cat. She was shot off in a special capsule on top of a French rocket. She didn't go into orbit, but in a 15 minute flight travelled 160 km into space. Then the capsule separated from the rocket and descended by parachute. Electrodes implanted in her brain sent signals back to the Earth. Felicette survived the journey. Later, the British press called her the "Astrocat".

Q2.

The *Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office* is the title which is given to cats living at 10 Downing Street, London. Only two cats, Humphrey and Larry, have had this title officially. Larry was an ordinary cat who lived in the animal shelter *Battersea Dogs and Cats Home*. He was taken to the Downing Street home, the residence of the British Prime Minister, in February 2011 to ward off the black rats which had been seen on the property's lawn. Larry succeeded in his work and was given the honorary title.

Q3.

The most famous Mayor of London is Dick Whittington, a cloth seller. He became Mayor at least three times between 1397 and 1419. According to an old story, Dick was a penniless boy who came to London to make his fortune. After many adventures he succeeded in his business with the help of his cat. A memorial stone to Whittington and his cat sits on Highgate Hill, where Dick is supposed to have heard the City's bells telling him he would be Mayor of London three times. But the true story of Dick Whittington is a bit different.

Q4.

A lot of cat owners think that when a cat brings a mouse into the house that the cat is either misbehaving or just being mean. However, it actually is a sign of affection towards its owners. When a cat is happy with its owners and household, it wants to let you know. Since cats can't talk, they show us their care and affection in the only way they know ... which is by bringing us a gift, in this case a mouse.

Q5.

Cats and people have been living together for thousands of years. Nowadays, domestic cats are extremely popular pets. Maybe it's because cats and humans share some physiological traits. For instance, a cat's brain is more similar to a human brain than a dog's, the regions of the brain responsible for emotion are identical in both humans and cats, and cats have A and B blood types, just like people.

Q6.

When you feed your pet, remember that a cat should not be given onions, garlic, green tomatoes, raw potatoes, chocolate, grapes, and raisins. Though milk is not toxic, it can cause an upset stomach and gas. Tylenol and aspirin are extremely toxic to cats, as are many common houseplants. Feeding cats dog food or canned tuna that is for human consumption can make them ill.

Q7.

Although Great Britain and the USA are equal in their love for cats, the cats' lifestyles are not the same. In America, cats usually enjoy the benefits of modern life, while in England, they are still mostly kept as they have been for centuries. America is a huge country, and the majority of cats spend their lives indoors. The British see this as sad and unnatural, and the majority of cat owners let their cats roam at will, going in and out of the home via a pet door or 'cat flap'.

TASK 2

Questions 8-15. Read the text and identify whether the given statements are true, false or not given.

The first stamp

Great Britain was the first country in the world to issue a postage stamp. It was in 1840. Before stamps were invented, the person who received the letter had to pay for it. The postal cost was very expensive. To calculate the cost, the postal service calculated the distance the letter had travelled. The route was also important. People were unhappy with the postal service and asked to improve the situation. The changes in Britain's national mail service started when an Englishman called Rowland Hill came up with the idea of pre-paying for letters with 'postage stamps'. He considered that it was fairer to make the sender pay for the letters. There is a legend about how Rowland Hill thought up his invention. One morning, on his way to work, he met a very sad young lady. She had just refused to take the letter from the postman. Rowland Hill felt that this letter was a message from the girl's dear friend. He thought that she could not read the letter because she did not have the money to pay for its delivery. He came up to the lady and the postman, paid the postal fee and handed the letter to the girl. To his great surprise, she informed him that she didn't want the letter. She had already known the news that was in the letter. The girl explained that because of the high postage cost, her dear friend coded the message in the address. The girl needed only to look at the address to understand the message. Then she gave back the letter to the postman without paying for it. Rowland Hill was astonished at their inventive plan, but this incident gave him the idea that postage should be paid in advance. Rowland Hill was a successful businessman who understood postal issues. In 1837 he presented the Post Office Reform Project to the government. He proposed to set up a single rate of one penny for a prepaid letter. According to the reform the sender had to buy a stamp for his letter for one penny. Hill's Post Office Reform Project started in January 1840. A special competition for the first postage stamp was announced. There were a lot of proposals and designs. At last it was decided to use a portrait of Queen Victoria painted when she was just a 15-year-old princess. The penny stamp known as the Penny Black presents a portrait of Queen Victoria, who was Queen at that time. The image stands against a black background. It's called the Penny Black because it cost a penny, and it is black. Nowadays the Penny Black is not rare — 68 million of them were printed — but if you have one in excellent condition it could be worth 1000 pounds. On May 7, 1840, Britain placed on sale a second stamp, the Two-Penny Blue. Nowadays the United Kingdom is the only country that doesn't have its name on its stamps, usually they have only the monarch's head. The first person other than royalty to appear on a British stamp was William Shakespeare in 1964.

Q8.	Before 1840 the postal cost depended on the distance the letter had covered.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q9.	Rowland Hill had to use the postal services regularly.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q10.	Rowland Hill saw that the girl paid the postman for a letter from her friend.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q11.	The girl and her friend used a special code to communicate with each other.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q12.	The British government rejected Rowland Hill's idea for reform	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q13.	It was Rowland Hill's idea to put the image of the Queen on the stamp.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q14.	The first stamp got its name due to its price and colour.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q15.	The official name of the country is printed on every British stamp.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given

TEST 10**TASK 1**

Questions 1-7. Match the following headings (A-H) to the texts (Q1-Q7).

Note: There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.

HEADINGS:	
A) A matter for dispute	E) Transit point
B) Be careful crossing the street	F) The underground city
C) Two languages in a tiny country	G) Spreading the language
D) The head of state	H) The guards of the British property

Q1.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, British navigators sailed across the seas with the aim of extending Britain's power and prosperity. They colonised new territories around the world, bringing their language with them. English was enforced as the official language of the new colonies, but often words from the local languages started to trickle into the English of the colonisers. This occurred most frequently where an equivalent word did not exist in English.

Q2.

Gibraltar, colloquially known as *The Rock*, (or simply *Gib*), is an overseas territory of the United Kingdom sitting at the entrance of the Mediterranean Sea. The very small country is less than 7 square kilometres. It is bordered by Spain to the north, so the people of Gibraltar, who are British citizens, are naturally bilingual in English and Spanish. However, Gibraltar's only official language is English.

Q3.

The Gibraltar is of great strategic importance as it lies on the narrow stretch of water between Europe and Africa right at the point where the Mediterranean joins the Atlantic Ocean. The British recognised this and made Gibraltar a colony in 1713. Today, it is the only British possession in the Mediterranean. British possession of Gibraltar is a sore point with Spain, which borders it. But, as the Spanish say, "Whenever we talk about Gibraltar, the British talk about the weather or tea."

Q4.

The Strait of Gibraltar is the narrowest crossing point for birds migrating to and from Europe and Africa. The Rock offers favourable bird watching opportunities. In autumn, thousands of migrating birds stop off on their way between their breeding grounds in northern Europe and their wintering areas in Africa. In spring, they stop there again to feed before continuing their journeys to Western Europe, journeys that may take them as far as Greenland or Russia.

Q5.

Tiny Gibraltar is most famous for its "apes" — tailless monkeys! There are about 160 monkeys living in Gibraltar, in two main areas. They often approach, and sometimes climb onto tourists. Watch out! They are still wild animals and can bite if frightened or annoyed. Legend states that, if the apes leave Gibraltar, Gibraltar will cease to be British. Feeding the Gibraltar macaques is punishable by a fine of £ 4,000!

Q6.

Several planes arrive daily in Gibraltar from Europe and Africa. The airport is famous for the main access road to Gibraltar from Spain called Winston Churchill Avenue, which crosses the runway and closes for each arrival and departure of the planes. When a plane is using the airport runway, cars and pedestrians have to wait on either side, rather like a railway crossing! It is often ranked as one of the most dangerous airports in the world, but actually has an excellent safety record.

Q7.

In 1940, Britain was at war with Germany and Italy and the future looked gloomy for Gibraltar as the enemy surrounded it. The British military leaders believed that an attack on Gibraltar would be fatal for it. They decided to construct a 32 mile-long network of tunnels, to build a fortress inside a fortress, a city within a city. In May 2005 the World War II Tunnels were opened to the general public. Now anyone can walk through this amazing testament to the soldiers and civilians who worked hard inside the Rock during the War.

TASK 2

Questions 8-15. Read the text and identify whether the given statements are true, false or not given.

Cutty Sark

Greenwich, a green district of South East London, is famous for two things: for giving its name to the Greenwich Meridian and Greenwich Mean Time and for its maritime history. The National Maritime Museum, telling the history of British ships, is situated there. The famous “tea clipper”, a sailing ship from the 1800s named the *Cutty Sark*, is kept in Greenwich in a dry dock by the river. The ship is open to the public. The *Cutty Sark* was built in 1869 in Scotland, for John Willis, a successful London tea merchant. At that time, she was one of the fastest clipper ships ever built. The ship was named after *Cutty Sark*, the nickname of the witch Nannie Dee in Robert Burns’ poem “Tam o’ Shanter”. The *Cutty Sark* was active for only 7 years and made just 8 round-trip voyages to China. Why such a short career as a tea clipper? Unfortunately for John Willis, in 1869 the Suez Canal was opened and steam ships started widely using it. Steam ships could pass through the canal, whereas clipper ships like *Cutty Sark* could not. That meant that steam ships could cut thousands of miles off the route and reached China much faster. So most tea merchants preferred steam ships to sailing ships. While the *Cutty Sark's* career in the tea trade wasn’t very successful, her next career in the Australian wool trade was outstanding. From 1883-95 the ship made the Australian run, bringing wool exports back to London. The *Cutty Sark* dominated the wool trade for more than 10 years, earning a reputation for high speed on the two-month voyage. But again, the steam ships spoiled the *Cutty Sark's* career, making the Australian wool trade their own. The *Cutty Sark* was sold to a Portuguese company. She was renamed *Ferreira* and from 1895 to 1922 she carried cargo between Portugal and the distant corners of the Portuguese Empire. In 1922 *Ferreira* was put into Falmouth to repair damage which she had received in a windstorm. A retired sea captain, Wilfred Dowman, saw the ship and decided to buy her. He restored the *Cutty Sark* to how she had been during her days as a tea clipper. Then the ship was used for naval training until 1951, when she was sent to London for the Festival of Britain. There, the National Maritime Museum put the ship into dry dock at Greenwich in 1954, beside the Old Royal Naval College. A new step in the *Cutty Sark's* career began — she was turned into a museum. Unfortunately, the ship was badly damaged in a fire on 21st May 2007. The following long and expensive restoration lasted until 2012. Nowadays the *Cutty Sark* is the only remaining original clipper ship from the 1800s. She is a popular London attraction. Visitors are welcome to explore the decks and walk in the footsteps of seamen who sailed the ship between England and China in the 1800s. There are also numerous hands-on exhibits and interactive displays for both children and adults.

Q8.	The <i>Cutty Sark</i> is situated in London.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q9.	The <i>Cutty Sark</i> was named after her owner’s wife.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q10.	The <i>Cutty Sark's</i> journey time to China was shorter than for steam ships.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q11.	The <i>Cutty Sark</i> was the only clipper ship which carried wool from Australia to Great Britain.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q12.	In Portugal the <i>Cutty Sark</i> got another name.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q13.	Captain Dowman gave back the <i>Cutty Sark</i> her original look.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q14.	The <i>Cutty Sark</i> was used as a trade ship until the beginning of the 21 st century.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given
Q15.	The <i>Cutty Sark</i> museum is open every day except Christmas.	A) True	B) False	C) Not Given

TEST 1 – TEST 10 ANSWER KEYS



DON'T STOP HERE GO TILL THE END

ANSWER KEYS

TEST 1	TEST 2	TEST 3	TEST 4	TEST 5
Q1. C	Q1. E	Q1. D	Q1. B	Q1. B
Q2. E	Q2. C	Q2. E	Q2. C	Q2. E
Q3. B	Q3. A	Q3. F	Q3. G	Q3. A
Q4. F	Q4. F	Q4. B	Q4. F	Q4. C
Q5. D	Q5. H	Q5. C	Q5. H	Q5. H
Q6. H	Q6. G	Q6. A	Q6. D	Q6. G
Q7. A	Q7. B	Q7. G	Q7. A	Q7. E
Q8. C	Q8. C	Q8. C	Q8. A	Q8. C
Q9. A	Q9. A	Q9. B	Q9. C	Q9. B
Q10. A	Q10. B	Q10. B	Q10. A	Q10. B
Q11. B	Q11. A	Q11. A	Q11. B	Q11. C
Q12. C	Q12. C	Q12. A	Q12. C	Q12. A
Q13. B	Q13. B	Q13. B	Q13. B	Q13. A
Q14. A	Q14. B	Q14. C	Q14. B	Q14. B
Q15. A	Q15. C	Q15. B	Q15. A	Q15. B

TEST 6	TEST 7	TEST 8	TEST 9	TEST 10
Q1. F	Q1. D	Q1. D	Q1. B	Q1. G
Q2. E	Q2. F	Q2. G	Q2. D	Q2. C
Q3. G	Q3. A	Q3. E	Q3. G	Q3. A
Q4. D	Q4. H	Q4. H	Q4. E	Q4. E
Q5. B	Q5. C	Q5. B	Q5. A	Q5. H
Q6. A	Q6. G	Q6. A	Q6. H	Q6. B
Q7. H	Q7. E	Q7. C	Q7. C	Q7. F
Q8. A	Q8. B	Q8. A	Q8. A	Q8. A
Q9. C	Q9. A	Q9. C	Q9. C	Q9. B
Q10. B	Q10. A	Q10. C	Q10. B	Q10. B
Q11. B	Q11. C	Q11. B	Q11. A	Q11. C
Q12. A	Q12. B	Q12. B	Q12. B	Q12. A
Q13. B	Q13. C	Q13. C	Q13. C	Q13. A
Q14. B	Q14. B	Q14. A	Q14. A	Q14. A
Q15. C	Q15. A	Q15. B	Q15. B	Q15. C