

BILETUL NR. 1

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Only two areas of the USA are mild or warm in winter — the coasts, especially Florida and southern California, and the southern part of the Mississippi basin. Everywhere else it gets cold, often very cold. By the end of November, many American states are often covered in snow; and although recent winters have been less cold, sport in winter usually means winter sports, or indoor sports. By January, many people in North America will have temperatures of -30°C ; not every day, of course, but such low temperatures are not rare. In Chicago and Minneapolis, the temperature can fall below -40° . When it is very cold, specially when there is a cold wind, few people want to go outside, unless they have to; but on sunny winter days, winter sports are popular.

- 1. Which two areas of the USA are warm in winter?**
- 2. How is USA weather in November?**
- 3. How does the weather influence winter sports?**
- 4. What is your favourite sport and why?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 2

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Until last year, I'd always wanted to see a tornado. A few years ago, in Oklahoma, I saw one of those violent dark green storm skies, with small cones hanging down from its underside; but the tornado that people feared at that moment never materialized. The cones were sucked back into the clouds, and eventually the sun came out again. Last year I met my first (and thankfully only) tornado.... and it was not in the south. We were in Montana - tranquil old Montana - enjoying our summer vacation, when the twister struck. The day had begun like any ordinary July day in Montana, with a bright blue sky, and hot sunshine. A few bubbling clouds were blowing across, as we made our way in the footsteps of Calamity Jane , towards an ancient mining town called Castle. In the days when the West was Wild, Castle was a rough and busy town, full of miners looking for silver and gold. Jane stayed there for a few years, running a bar. Today, Castle is a "ghost town", a collection of old wooden buildings, some still standing, others just a pile of fallen boards and planks of wood. Abandoned over 100 years ago, when the mines ran out of precious metals, Castle now lies in the middle of nowhere, miles from a paved road, miles from civilisation.

- 1. What event does the writer describe in the beginning of the passage?**
- 2. Where was the author when he witnessed the tornado?**
- 3. What is a “ghost town” according to the text?**
- 4. Have you ever witnessed a meteorological event that impressed you?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 3

Read the text below and answer the questions.

They are perhaps the best known icons of Britain, and if you've ever been to London, you've probably seen them. They are the soldiers in bright red jackets or shining helmets, who stand outside Buckingham Palace, or in Whitehall. They are men who can stand absolutely still, even when tourists tell them jokes, touch them, push them, or try to make them move. They look identical, and they march like robots.

But who are these soldiers? Are they an army of clones, or actors? Or are they real soldiers? Some people are surprised to learn that they are real soldiers; and the guns that they carry are very real too. The guns are not just for show; they are loaded!

The men who stand guard outside Buckingham Palace and certain other royal palaces are in fact some of the best-trained soldiers in the British army. They belong to a number of historic regiments, such as the Grenadier Guards or the Scots Guards.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. What characteristics of the guards are mentioned in the text?**
- 3. What are the Scots Guards?**
- 4. If you had a chance, what would you ask the Queen's soldiers?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 4

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Long before the Big Mac was invented, Britain had its own national form of fast food. *"When I was a young man, it was the sort of thing you'd have once or twice a week,"* remembers 82-year old Arthur Mowbrey. *"Before the last war, you'd get a full size portion of cod and chips for sixpence. It was cheap, and good."*

Fish 'n' chips was *nourishing* too. It was a proper meal, that you could eat in the street on your way home from work, or during the lunch-break. *Wrapped* in newspaper, it would keep warm to the last chip, even on the coldest days of the year.

In the last *quarter of a century*, things have changed.

"It's not so popular with young people these days," says Lizzie, a teenager. *"Most of the time, if young people want to eat out, they'll go to a Burger King or something like that, or a Chinese take-away. Fish 'n' chips is a bit old-fashioned really, I suppose. But there are still cheap chip shops around. I had fish 'n' chips about three weeks ago. We sometimes have it at home, and we go and get it from the chip shop. It saves cooking!"*

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. What does the text say about fish and chips?**
- 3. What advantages of this dish do the people interviewed mention?**
- 4. What is your opinion about fast food?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 5

Read the text below and answer the questions.

What is the best-known symbol of London? Big Ben? The statue of Eros in Picadilly Circus? Or could it be something much more ordinary than that? Could it be the big red London double-decker bus? It certainly could. Big red buses are recognized - and even found - all over the world, and people recognize them as symbols of London. Visitors climb into London buses to go and see the Niagara Falls. London buses can be seen driving round Europe to advertise big department stores, or British events. They don't need to have the words "London Transport" on the side of them: they are instantly recognised by millions of people!

The idea of the "double decker" is actually much older than the motor bus; it is simply a continuation of the system that was used for public transport in the age of horse-drawn vehicles, when some of the passengers sat inside, and the rest travelled on the roof. Too bad if it was raining!

The earliest horse-drawn double-deckers in London had steps at the back, so that people could climb up onto the roof. The main difference with today's buses was that in those days, there was no protection for the people travelling on top: if it rained, they could pull a sort of oil-cloth cover out of the back of the seat in front of them, and pull it over them; but they still got wet.

Today the only open-topped buses are the special tourist buses.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. How did the double-decker appear?**
- 3. How did the people in the past used to protect themselves from rain when being in a double-decker?**
- 4. Would you like to take a ride on a double-decker if you had a chance? Why/Why not?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 6

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Atlantic City began life as a staging post on one of the transcontinental trails, taken by emigrants en route for California. Soon however it became a roaring gold town, where people could make (or lose) their fortunes in a day. Few did make a fortune; many found enough gold to keep them happy, but a lot found nothing, or nothing much. Then, about seven years after the gold rush began, it finished. Suddenly, it seemed that there was no gold left in the ground. The miners packed their tools, their pans, and their bags, and went off somewhere else, to try their luck again. There were no more emigrants either; as soon as the first transcontinental railroad had opened in 1869, the old emigrant trails had been completely abandoned. The hotels closed, the shops closed, the bars closed, the jail closed; and before long, Atlantic City was a ghost town, uninhabited except by the occasional rancher or hunter, and the wandering coyotes.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. What role did gold play in the life of Atlantic City?**
- 3. What were the consequences of the end of the “gold rush?”**
- 4. Why do you think people are so attracted by precious metals?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 7

Read the text below and answer the questions.

In 1936 the BBC began the world's first television service. Only a few thousand people in the London area could receive those first flickering images, which were broadcast using a screen of just 204 lines (today we have 625 lines on ordinary television, and even more for HDTV). Nevertheless, that did not discourage people, and as the number of transmitters increased, more and more people went out to buy themselves new television sets.

In 1937, tennis was broadcast from Wimbledon for the first time; and in 1938, football's Cup Final could be seen, live, by hundreds of thousands of people, for the first time ever.

Yet on September 1st, 1939, in the middle of a Mickey Mouse cartoon, BBC TV stopped broadcasting. The Second World War had begun. It was not until June 8th 1946, on the day of the great Victory Parade, that BBC television started again.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. What difference does the text mention between the first TV screens and the ones we have today?**
- 3. What event caused the BBC to stop broadcasting in 1939?**
- 4. What TV programmes do you prefer and why?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 8

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Do ghosts really exist? There are lots of people who say that they do; and I am one of them.

Many of Britain's ancient castles have ghosts. One of the most famous "haunted castles" in England is actually the Tower of London .

During the Tower's long history, many men and women were thrown into its dark dungeons, or executed outside its gates! Among the most famous was Lady Jane Grey, Queen of England in the year 1554. Jane was just 17 when she became Queen, on July 9th 1554; however, at the same time another woman, Mary, thought that she ought to be Queen. Mary's supporters were stronger than Jane's, and within days Jane was sent to the Tower of London. On 19th July poor Jane had her head cut off outside the Tower!

Since then, it is said that the ghost of Lady Jane Grey wanders through the rooms and corridors of the Tower of London.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. Who was Lady Jane?**
- 3. What happened to Lady Jane in the Tower of London?**
- 4. Do you believe that ghosts exist? Why/ Why not?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 9

Read the text below and answer the questions.

You may be surprised to learn that the humble bicycle was invented several years later than the railway locomotive! But the two-wheeler has come a long way since the day it was invented by a Scottish blacksmith, Kirkpatrick MacMillan, back (it is said) in 1839.

MacMillan developed his bike from an older wheeled vehicle, called a "hobby horse". This was a wooden horse with two wheels. The rider sat on the horse, and pushed the vehicle along with his feet. It was not a very fast or safe vehicle, since it had no steering and no brakes.

MacMillan, nicknamed Mad Pate, modified the hobby horse, by adding a system of articulated bars. The rider could push the bars back and forwards with his feet, and make the back wheel go round. He could also steer the bike, as the front wheel could be turned.

To demonstrate his invention, he cycled 60 miles to Glasgow! It must have been a terrible journey, on the roads of the day! Pate's bike did not have rubber tyres or springs.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. Who invented the bicycle, according to this text?**
- 3. What did the inventor do to demonstrate his invention?**
- 4. What do you think about cycling in general?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 10

Read the text below and answer the questions.

At the end of the nineteenth century, an Englishman living in Brazil sent his son across the Atlantic to be educated in England. Charles Miller went to school, then to university, where he took part enthusiastically in all aspects of life. Sport was one of them; a hundred years ago, Britain already had an established sporting culture.

During his English years, Charles grew passionately keen on football (i.e.soccer), and when in 1894 he packed his bags to return to his family in Brazil, among the things he took with him were half a dozen footballs.

Back in Brazil, he tried to get other people interested in the game. At first he had little success; the only people who showed any interest were other expatriate Brits; thus the first game of football in Brazil was played between two teams of young Englishmen, on a field from which the goats had first been removed.

Charles asked some journalists to come and see this new English game, but none came along. On the other hand, as the weeks went past, the spectacle of twenty-two young people running round after a ball began attracting spectators from houses nearby; before long, young local men began kicking balls round too. "Balls" is perhaps the wrong word - the only footballs in Brazil at the time were the ones that Charles Miller had brought back with him from England. The first Brazilian amateurs had to concoct* their own balls, using whatever they could find to make them with.

*to concoct = to improvise, to make up

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. How did football arrive to Brazil?**
- 3. How many people were involved in the game?**
- 4. What is your personal opinion about football?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 11

Read the text below and answer the questions.

The origins of football go back hundreds of years, and there are several towns and villages in England where ancient forms of football are still played. The original game had few rules, and differed from place to place. Basically the teams just had to try and get a ball (or some other object) past the opponent's line. Sometimes the lines were over a mile apart, and the field was the village street.... or even a field with no limits! People could kick the ball (and their opponents), run with it, throw it - anything was allowed.

In the nineteenth century, public schools developed fast; and since many of them were boarding schools, they had to keep boys occupied all day. Sport was a popular way of doing this; at first each school had its own games, with its own rules; but slowly fixed rules became established. In many schools, carrying the ball was not allowed; the game was called "football". Some schools however preferred a version of the game where players were allowed to carry the ball; one of these schools was in the small town of Rugby.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. Was the original football game different from the one today?**
- 3. Why did ball games develop so quickly in England?**
- 4. What is your favourite sport and why?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 12

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Many people like to see celebrities; but celebrities don't usually like being looked at - at least, not all day every day!

There is, however, one place in England where you can look at celebrities - lots of them - every day: this is Madame Tussaud's, the most popular tourist attraction in London. On most days of the year, queues of visitors can be seen outside Madame Tussaud's, all wanting to get in and see some of the most famous people in the world - kings and queens, politicians, stars, and even famous criminals. They are all inside, just waiting to be looked at, or talked to.

If you like, you can talk to film stars, politicians and even tyrants in Madame Tussaud's, but they won't say anything to you, because they can't! Madame Tussaud's is a wax-works, and the "famous people" in the building are really made out of wax. Judging by the popularity of Madame Tussaud's, that does not seem to be a problem! Ordinary people like looking at extraordinary people, even if they are only statues. It's better than nothing!

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. What is Madame Tussaud's?**
- 3. What can you see at Madame Tussaud's?**
- 4. Who is your favourite celebrity and why?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 13

Read the text below and answer the questions.

At Madame Tussaud's, it is only the very famous who get a place in the exhibition. That is not surprising really; it takes about six months to create a really lifelike wax model.

The sculptors use lots of photos and measurements, in order to obtain a perfect likeness. For example, it took 450 hours to re-create Spice Girl Mel G's famous curly hair! In all, a wax figure costs over £40,000 to make - a lot of money!

The most popular figures in the exhibition are royalty and stars. Princess Diana has been the overall favourite for several years, and other popular figures include Tony Blair, David Beckham, Brad Pitt and Elvis Presley.... to mention just a few of them.

And, you ask, what happens to yesterday's famous people? Well, they are taken out of the collection, and their heads are stored for a while. Then, if it is clear that no one will ever want to see them again, they are melted down and re-used for another person!

Many people achieve passing fame; few achieve lasting fame!

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. How long does it take to create a wax figure?**
- 3. What happens to the statues representing yesterday's celebrities?**
- 4. Which famous museum would you like to visit and why?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 14

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Black music has done more than most things to bring Black and White cultures together.

Almost the whole of today's rock and pop music has its roots in Black music: rock 'n' roll, the base of today's pop, developed out of the jazz and rhythm 'n' blues of Black America. England's Blacks, however, have added their own specific contribution to contemporary pop music, in particular through reggae music, the music of the West Indies.

Reggae came to England in the late 60's through an *innovative* record company called Island Records. Island soon helped lots of Black bands from the West Indies and from Britain, led by Bob Marley, to become popular with British youth of all *backgrounds* .

Before long, Black British musicians were regularly finding themselves in the Top Ten, while white bands played more and more "black" music, and an increasing number of bands recruited musicians regardless of their colour.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. Which are the roots of rock and pop music?**
- 3. What music styles are mentioned in the text?**
- 4. What role does music play in people's lives in general?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 15

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Many big cities have one annual "marathon" race; London has two - one on dry land, the other on water.

Technically, the Great River Race is not a marathon; it is slightly too short, and it is a boat race. Starting at Richmond, in the western *suburbs* of London, participants have to row their boats 22 miles, as far as the London docks, in the east.

The race is a relatively new *event* in the London calendar. The first race took place in 1988.

The idea was born in 1987, when members of the historic "Company of Watermen and *Lightermen*" (a very old professional organisation) *rowed a replica* 16th century royal barge from Hampton Court to the Tower of London.

In 1988, they challenged other "traditional boats" to a race. Boats that want to take part must all be of traditional design, with at least four *oars* or *paddles*; furthermore, each boat has to carry at least one passenger.

Over the years, the race has become a very colourful event, with the participation of a wonderful variety of boats. While most are ordinary rowing boats, there are also Viking longships, and other unusual boats. In 1995, *for instance*, the race was won by a Chinese dragonboat, in a record time of 2 hours, 6 minutes and 31 seconds!

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. What is the Great River Race?**
- 3. When did the Great River Race take place for the first time?**
- 4. Do you like watching races? Why/ Why not?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 16

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Throughout history people have used maps, but these maps have not always been drawn on paper. In fact, some of the earliest maps were made on pieces of stone or sometimes simply by drawing a map on the ground to show travellers the way to go. The oldest maps that we still have today date back 4,000 years or so. A map is basically a kind of picture of an area and is designed to help people find their way from one place to another.

However, to do this, it is necessary to know where you are starting from. The ancient Greeks invented a geographical grid using the stars as their starting points. They drew lines going from North to South – Longitude and lines going East to West – Latitude . Using these lines, it was possible to work out where you were and look at where you wanted to go on the map. The use of stars to help navigate has long been known and so it should not come as a surprise to learn that map-making relied heavily on the stars to help determine location. The Greeks were so fascinated by the night sky that they made as many maps of the skies as they did of the land around them.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. What were some early maps made from?**
- 3. Who used the sky to help them draw maps?**
- 4. Apart from travel information, what did some early maps show?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 17

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Ancient maps often included drawings of people and animals to show who or what lived in a particular location. Maps like these were used not only to show locations but also to give people some idea of what they might find there – and often warn people of dangers. Many old maps (and even some today) have large blank areas. In fact, many of the maps from the 15th and 16th centuries show the coastlines of countries and continents in detail, but very little of the inland areas. Nowadays, with the use of satellite technology, we have comprehensive maps of even the most remote areas of the world.

Many maps of the world have the UK and Europe in the centre of the map. This is partly because the line of zero degrees longitude goes through Greenwich in London. However, there are maps that show the USA or China at the centre of the map. And, there is a map designed by Stuart McArthur, an Australian that not only has Australia in the centre, but also has the South Pole at the top of the map and the North Pole at the bottom. Many people, when they first see this map, think that it is upside down and try to turn it round. Of course, it isn't upside down at all – it is simply a different perspective of the world.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. What information was often missing in old maps?**
- 3. What is special about McArthur's map?**
- 4. What is your dream destination?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 18

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Companies like *Lost and Found* in London are leading the way when it comes to recycling our junk. Set up by Becky Oldfield, the company specializes in making furniture and covers. One of the key things that *Lost and Found* do is to find their materials locally. Becky will go round to local companies and get whatever they are throwing away and use these things in her products.

Meanwhile, Electra Gillies has set up her own eco-tourism company. She used to work as a journalist for a national newspaper and realized that there was a demand for *green holidays*. To ensure that her holidays really are green she goes out and visits every place she advertises. Unfortunately, this is necessary as there is no international eco-standard and companies often realize that if they use the word 'green' they can charge more for the same thing. One of the best things as far as Electra is concerned is that most of the places she has chosen use renewable energy, employ local staff and therefore re-invest in the local economy.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. Which company was founded on recycling junk?**
- 3. Which word drives the prices up in the tour industry?**
- 4. What do you think are the biggest environmental problems?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 19

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Electra Gillies has set up her own eco-tourism company. To ensure that her holidays really are green she goes out and visits every place she advertises. One of the best things as far as Electra is concerned is that most of the places she has chosen use renewable energy, employ local staff and therefore re-invest in the local economy.

Rachel Rogers has started her own online department store, thenaturalstore.co.uk. The idea for *The Natural Store* came from the fact that Rachel was frustrated by having to shop at lots of different places to buy what she wanted. She thought that it would be good to start a shop where you could buy Fairtrade products, organic food, environmentally friendly cosmetics and ethical clothing all in one place. Although things cost a bit more it is worth it because the result is a cleaner planet.

So, the next time you are thinking about the environment and you'd actually like to do something positive, check out the options that are available. You'll be surprised just how easy it is to be green.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. What is the main advantage of shopping at The Natural Store?**
- 3. According to the text, why should people buy eco-friendly products?**
- 4. What can we do about the environment?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 20

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Aromatherapy, as the name suggests, is to do with smells. In aromatherapy oils from flowers, fruits and leaves are used to help people relax. Usually the oils are inhaled by smelling the scent given off when the oils are heated. So, one very common product that you can buy is special candles that you can place around your room and light when you feel the need to relax. The oils can also be used in massages and when having a bath. Research has shown that aromatherapy is good for relieving stress and also helps with insomnia (not being able to sleep) and some emotional problems.

Reflexology is an ancient alternative therapy that was used in ancient Egypt, Greece and China. However, modern reflexology was developed by William H Fitzgerald, a doctor in the USA, in the early 20th century. Reflexology involves putting pressure on parts of the feet or hands and a gentle movement, a little bit like massage.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. What do we use in aromatheraphy?**
- 3. How are the oils used?**
- 4. What is reflexology?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 21

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Acupuncture is probably the best known of these alternative therapies and is part of traditional Chinese medicine. It involves using needles and inserting them into selected points on the body. The belief is that by placing needles at particular points the flow of energy can be changed so that particular parts of the body are affected.

Hypnosis (or hypnotherapy) is probably not usually thought of as a way of treating illnesses. But, in fact, it can be extremely effective. It works by getting the patient to relax. When they are very relaxed it is possible to make suggestions that are supposed to help the person get better – this is known as mental healing. The suggestions are positive ideas about how to behave, what to do, or how you wish to feel. Because your body and mind are relaxed you are more likely to accept these ideas and find that they work. Hypnosis is used a lot to help people overcome anxiety, addictions, weight problems, insomnia and phobias.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. What does acupuncture involve?**
- 3. How does hypnosis work?**
- 4. Why is hypnosis used?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 22

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Reflexology is an ancient alternative therapy that was used in ancient Egypt, Greece and China. Reflexology involves putting pressure on parts of the feet or hands and a gentle movement, a little bit like massage. The idea is that the pressure will help remove any blockages in the nervous system and help stimulate your body's energy pathways. It is used to relieve stress, cure headaches and help with pain and insomnia.

Acupuncture involves using needles and inserting them into selected points on the body. The belief is that by placing needles at particular points the flow of energy can be changed so that particular parts of the body are affected. Scientists believe that by using the needles endorphins are released into the brain and that it is this that makes acupuncture work. Research shows that acupuncture is effective at helping relieve pain and headaches, as well as helping with asthma and high blood pressure.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. What does reflexology involve?**
- 3. Why is acupuncture used?**
- 4. What do you do to relax?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 23

Read the text below and answer the questions.

People in Britain love listening to music and they enjoy making music too. Thousands of schoolchildren play a musical instrument and they like classical music as well as pop! If they are very good, they can join the National Children's Orchestra (NCO). Its members come from all over Britain and they are all under 14.

There are training courses twice a year – usually at Easter and in the summer holidays. The students practise every day and at the end of the week they give a concert. But they work all the time. They can go swimming, do sport and they always have a lot of fun.

The orchestra give concerts in London, Birmingham and Liverpool and its musicians sometimes appear on radio and television.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. What sort of music do the British schoolchildren like?**
- 3. What does NCO mean?**
- 4. How often do they have training courses?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 24

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Larry Walters, from San Pedro, California, lived his dream yesterday. His dream was to fly. Larry bought 42 special weather balloons and he filled them with helium. With the help of some friends, he attached the balloons to his garden chair. He had a bottle of soda, a radio and a camera. He also took a gun. Larry planned to shoot the balloons when he wanted to return to Earth.

His idea was to go up slowly but, in fact, his chair went up into the sky very quickly and Larry lost his glasses. Soon he was at 3,500 metres. He stayed in the air for several hours and he began to feel cold and worried. At the end of the afternoon he was near Los Angeles International Airport. A plane went past him. The pilot closed his eyes and opened them again. It was true! There was a man in a garden chair in the clouds.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. What was Larry Walters's dream ?**
- 3. How did he manage to fly?**
- 4. What was the pilot's reaction when he saw Larry?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 25

Read the text below and answer the questions.

In 1895 the Lumiere brothers showed the first public film in a café in Paris. But it was Hollywood that became the centre of the film industry. In 1919 35,000 people lived in Hollywood. The first talking movie, *The Jazz Singer*, appeared in 1927 and the first colour films appeared in the 1930's.

Today's films often use a mixture of real images and images from a computer. *Toy Story* was the first film made completely by computers, in 1995. It took 800,000 hours to create the pictures that you see on the screen.

The Lord of The Rings films took several years to make, and the actors used 1,600 pairs of hobbit ears and feet! For the film *Harry Potter* and *The Philosopher's Stone*, the animal trainer Paul Wray worked for nine months with the owl Hedwig.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. When was the first public film shown?**
- 3. What do modern films make use of?**
- 4. What is your favourite movie? Why?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 26

Read the text below and answer the questions.

The Eco – Challenge Race takes place once a year, usually in a different country each year. There are four people in each team, and the teams come from all over the world. The race is about 500 kilometres long.

The competitors travel for six to twelve days, sometimes for 24 hours a day, so they don't get much sleep. They walk through rainforests. They ride horses across the desert. They travel across the sea. They go up the mountains on mountain bikes. They go down rivers and across lakes.

The natural environment is very important in the Eco-Challenge. The teams must not put their tents on top of plants and they must not leave rubbish. Before the race the competitors do something to help the local people. For example in Morocco, they cleaned the beaches. In Fiji, they collected books for local schools. In the US, they worked in a children's park.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. What is Eco-Challenge?**
- 3. What do the competitors have to do?**
- 4. Have you ever taken part in such a competition? Would you like to? Why?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 27

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Thirty thousand years ago the first Americans travelled across the ice from Asia to Alaska. Some of them stayed in Alaska and became the Inuit people. Others went to different parts of Canada and North and South America. Some were fishermen, some were farmers and some were hunters. When Columbus arrived in the Caribbean in 1492, he thought he was in India, so he called the Native Americans *Indians*.

When the first Europeans went to live in North America, there were already a million people there. There were about 300 Indian Tribes. Each tribe had a different language and way of life, but they also had a sign language that everyone could understand.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. How did Columbus come to call Native Americans *Indians* ?**
- 3. How did the tribes manage to understand among themselves?**
- 4. Have you ever been to USA? Would you like to? Why?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 28

Read the text below and answer the questions.

When the first white settlers arrived, the Native Americans were living in their traditional homes across North America. At first, they were friendly to their new neighbours, but the European settlers wanted their land. The Indians fought many wars and their leaders – Crazy Horse, Geronimo, Sitting Bull – became famous. Thousands of them died and they also died from illnesses that the Europeans brought with them. Finally, the US government forced the Native Americans to live in special reservations.

Today, about 1,5 milion Native Americans live in reservations. Many of them try to keep their ancient traditions and now Native American culture is growing again.

Settlers – European immigrants.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. How did some of the Indians die?**
- 3. What solution did the US government come up with?**
- 4. Have you ever been to USA? Would you like to? Why?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 29

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Matt Long, 9th Grade

My main interest is astronomy – the study of the stars. When I was little, I always watched a programme called *The Sky At Night*. There was a lot of information about the eclipse of the sun in 1999. The best place to see it was Cornwall. So we all went to Cornwall on holiday, but the weather was awful. We didn't see the eclipse because it was too cloudy. I was very disappointed and everyone said it was our worst holiday.

I bought a new telescope last week. Last night I got up at four o'clock because I wanted to see the International Space Station. It was travelling at 28,000 kilometres an hour, 386 kilometres above my head.

I could see it clearly!

Amazing!

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. Why did Matt and his family go to Cornwall?**
- 3. What was the problem?**
- 4. What was one of the best moments?**

Profesori examinatori:

BILETUL NR. 30

Read the text below and answer the questions.

The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe is the story of life on a desert island nearly three hundred years ago. Richie Sowa, from Liddlesbrough in the UK, is a 21st century Robinson Crusoe. His home is an island near Cancun in Mexico. But Richie's island is different. He built it himself – with 250,000 plastic bottles!

The house has got a living room, a simple kitchen and two bedrooms. The weather is hot, dry and sunny so Richie uses solar power. He's got a solar cooker, a shower, electric lights and a CD player. He shares the island with his dogs, two ducks and four cats.

A lot of tourists visit the island and last year, an ecology student stayed there and studied Richie's way of life. "It's paradise!" He said.

- 1. What is the text about?**
- 2. What did Richie use to build his house?**
- 3. How many rooms has his house got?**
- 4. Would you like to live like Richie? Why?**

Profesori examinatori: