

МОДУЛЬ 1

TIME 1 hour 45 minutes

PART 1

You are going to read a magazine article. For questions 1 – 8, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best, according to the text.

LAST CHANCE TO SEE THE WORLD

Thirteen-year-old Asa Singleton sits in his bedroom and smiles as he looks through his holiday photos - photos that tell the moving story of a mother and father's love for their boy, and of a breathtaking race against time. For Asa will be blind by the end of the year - and so his parents, Paul and Debbie, sold their business to give him the greatest gift they could to let their son see the world. 'We wanted him to have the experience of a lifetime before he loses his sight' says Paul. 'And we did it all just in time.'

Asa was just a few months old when doctors diagnosed that he had been born with the incurable condition NF2, which begins to cause damage to the nervous system from an early age, often leading to deafness and blindness. 'We'd always planned a dad-and-son world trip when he was 16 - but I knew it would be too late by then,' says Paul, 46. 'So Debbie and I made the decision that we should go as soon as it was possible.'

'It was all a bit nerve-racking because of the unpredictability of Asa's condition,' says Paul. 'At home, his sight wasn't such a problem because he knew where everything was. Away from home, we knew it would be more difficult. And he was a little frightened about going 35 to so many strange places. But as soon as we arrived at our first destination, Paris, and saw the Eiffel Tower, we forgot our fears. It was so exciting, being at the beginning of an amazing, life-changing journey.' From France, they travelled to Germany, Italy, Cyprus and then Egypt.

'A guide took us to the top of a Pyramid, and the view was breathtaking. We could see the desert going on forever. It was a sight neither of us will ever forget,' says Paul. 'In Japan we went to Mount Fuji and stayed in a traditional Japanese hotel. It was fascinating, although Asa wasn't too impressed with the sushi that we had for dinner. We travelled on the underground system in Tokyo, which was quite scary for Asa with his poor sight, but he was determined to try it.'

In Hawaii, dad and son went whale 60 watching; and in Thailand, Asa bottle-fed a tiger cub. But his favourite part of the journey was seeing the island where the James Bond film *The Man with the Golden Gun* was filmed. 'Asa's a huge Bond fan, so there was no way we could go to Thailand without seeing James Bond Island.'

What astonished Paul most on the trip was his son's fearlessness, despite being hardly able to see. 'All his life, he's deliberately taken on tough physical challenges,' says Paul. 'But I was terrified when he said he wanted to go skydiving over the Great Barrier Reef when we got to Australia. I jumped first, and kept looking behind me until I saw his parachute open. I needn't have worried, though. He was absolutely fine, and he loved every second of it. He was so proud of himself.'

Asa also enjoyed the quiet moments of the trip. 'Our longest stop was New Zealand, where we celebrated Christmas. We hired a camper van and spent a month sleeping under the stars in Auckland,' says Paul. 'There was something about the solitude and beauty of the place that he really connected with. He also went swimming with dolphins there.'

Next stop was the USA. Paul and Asa stayed a few days at a ranch near the Grand Canyon and went on to visit Las Vegas, Dallas, New Orleans, and take a boat trip down the Mississippi River. Then it was over to Florida to meet up with mum Debbie and Asa's sister Dominique, 17, for a holiday together. Finally they all headed off to Toronto in Canada to catch the flight home. When Asa had his next hospital checks, the news wasn't good. His eyesight has deteriorated rapidly, and Asa is now registered blind. Paul says: 'If we'd waited any longer, it would have been too late and he would have missed out on the experience of a lifetime.'

- 1 Why did Asa's parents arrange a round-the-world trip for him?
A. They wanted him to see the world before he lost his eyesight.
B. They had sold their business and wanted to spend the money on their son.
C. They wanted to share the experience of a lifetime with him.
D. They thought the journey might improve his medical condition.
- 2 People suffering from NF2
A. are born with damaged nervous systems.
B. are usually deaf from birth.
C. develop the condition when they are only a few months old.
D. often lose their sight and hearing.
- 3 Why were Asa's parents more worried about his sight problems during the trip than before it?
A. Asa himself felt frightened during the trip.
B. They knew his eyesight was getting worse all the time.
C. His sight problems mattered less in familiar surroundings.
D. Asa's reactions were difficult to predict.
- 4 Seeing the Eiffel Tower was particularly exciting because
A. it made them forget their worries.
B. they knew it was the start of an incredible trip.
C. they knew it would change their lives.
D. they knew they would be going to Germany next.
- 5 One thing that Asa did was not very keen on was
A. the huge size of the desert.
B. the traditional hotel near Mount Fuji.
C. some of the food in Japan.
D. the journey to Tokyo.
- 6 How did Asa and his father react to parachuting in Australia?
A. Asa loved it, but Paul was worried about his son.
B. Paul enjoyed it, but Asa found the physical challenge too tough.
C. They were both completely fearless.
D. They were both terrified at first, but enjoyed it in the end.
- 7 Asa really enjoyed his time in New Zealand because
A. it was a great place to spend Christmas.
B. he could look at the stars at night.
C. he saw some interesting wildlife there.
D. he loved being in such attractive and peaceful surroundings.
- 8 What did Asa do in Florida?
A. He caught the flight home to England.
B. He went on a boat.
C. He spent some time with the rest of his family.
D. He spent a few days on a ranch.

Answer Keys

- 1 A (They wanted him to see the world before he lost his eyesight.)
2 D (often lose their sight and hearing.)
3 C (His sight problems mattered less in familiar surroundings.)
4 B (they knew it was the start of an incredible trip.)
5 C (some of the food in Japan.)
6 A (Asa loved it, but Paul was worried about his son.)
7 D (he loved being in such attractive and peaceful surroundings.)
8 C (He spent some time with the rest of his family.)

PART 2

You are going to read about a man who invents robots. Seven sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences **A – H** the one which fits each gap (**1 – 7**). There is **one** extra sentence which you do not need to use.

MR WU'S ROBOT

If you met Wu Yulu from Tongzhou, China, and father of two, you'd probably just think you were meeting a farmer. He appears to be quite poor and perhaps wouldn't be regarded by many people as a success story.

1

But Mr Wu, who left school at 14 and has no formal technical training, is a part-time inventor who creates robots to help people reduce their time spent on doing jobs like the housework. What's even more amazing is that these "labour-saving robots" are all created from scrap he comes across in rubbish dumps.

His brain children, which are all developed during long nights spent in his garden shed with only his imagination as a guide, include Number Five, a one-metre-tall humanoid robot capable of walking, changing light bulbs, lighting cigarettes and pouring tea.

2

Like all of Mr Wu's inventions, it is made out of bits of old metal, tape and second-hand batteries.

Although a man of few words, the farmer will admit that his ultimate robot is a virtual human. "It would have a brain that could think, and arms and legs like a real person." Mr Wu also hopes that his creations may one day join a long list of Chinese inventions.

3

With funding and support, Mr Wu believes his robots could similarly revolutionise everyday life and change the way we work.

You might doubt Mr Wu's self-belief but you certainly can't question his unstoppable enthusiasm, which has now lasted for over 25 years. In that time he thinks he has made at least 25 robots. He came up with the idea for his first robot while watching people walking and studying the motion of their bodies.

4

"But in my spare time from farming, I'd pick up anything that could be used in those movable things."

Despite a number of setbacks, he has never thought of giving up. Once he went to hospital after trying out a new invention. It exploded and he still has scars on his hands and arms.

5

"I was left with nothing," he said. With a new house costing 90,000 yuan, Mr Wu's long-suffering wife, Dong Shuyan, has started a private kindergarten in an attempt to pay off the family's loans. She describes her husband as "child-like" in his obsession with inventions, though she is philosophical about her burden.

"When we got married, everyone warned me he would care more about his robots than about me," she said, but Ms Dong is also optimistic about her husband's new plan to start selling the patents for his robots.

6

"He has so much talent," said his wife, "he should at least be able to make some money out of it."

His latest "robot rickshaw" took a year to build. The 1.8-metre-tall robot pulls a rickshaw and is operated by the driver operating a hand-held control. After its batteries have charged for six hours the robot can walk for eight kilometres, approximately one step every three seconds.

7

"There are so many good things in life, and any of them could become the basis for my robots."

A 'At that time, I didn't even know the term 'robot',' Wu said.

B More recently, his house burnt down from his experiments.

C A newer model named Number Six is a monkey-like robot with magnetised feet which enables it to crawl slowly up metallic walls.

D He has now come up with one that will walk like a human being.

E At 42 years of age he has destroyed his family home, been seriously burned and ended up £5,000 in debt.

F He dreams his robot may become like the compass, gunpowder and the umbrella, all of which China pioneered the use of, before exporting them to Europe and the rest of the world.

G As for his next robot, Mr Wu is unsure.

H The inventor has already earned around £200 for a mechanical grasshopper, while a high-tech company has shown interest in Number Eight.

Answer Keys

1 E

2 C

3 F

4 A

5 B

6 H

7 G

PART 3

You are going to read a newspaper article about early flying machines. For questions **1 – 15**, choose from the texts (**A – D**). When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order. There is an example at the beginning (**0**).

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Which person ...

- was also an author?
- got bored with his invention?
- spent a long time on his invention?
- did not die while testing the apparatus?
- almost caused the death of another person?
- accepted his death?
- was not let down by his apparatus?
- jumped from a building?
- only transported one person?
- had more success with a different invention?
- did something that had never been done before?
- experimented on another model first?

1			
2			
3			
4		5	
6			
7			
8			
9			
10		11	
12			
13		14	
15			

Answer Keys

- 1. C
- 2. D
- 3. A
- 4. B/D
- 5. B/D
- 6. A
- 7. C
- 8. B
- 9. C
- 10. A/C
- 11. A/C
- 12. D
- 13. B/D
- 14. B/D
- 15. B

PIONEERS OF FLIGHT

A

The Belgian de Groof worked for years on an apparatus intended to emulate the flight of birds. For this purpose, he constructed a device with bat-like wings. The framework was made of wood and rattan; the wings, spanning nearly 40 feet, were covered with strong, waterproof silk, as was the twenty-foot-long tail. The machine was controlled by three hand-operated levers.

De Groof's first trial, which consisted of jumping from a great height to the Grand Place in Brussels, ended in complete failure, and he was lucky to escape unhurt. His second attempt was successful, but his third, on the evening of 9 July 1894, was not. Having planned to descend into the River Thames, de Groof was taken up by balloon and released from a height of 1,000 feet. For some unknown reason the wing frame collapsed and he fell to his death.

There was a second accident when the balloonist, having lost control of the balloon, landed in front of an approaching train, which just stopped in the nick of time.

B

In 1875, Gaston Tissandier reached the unheard of altitude of 8,600 metres in a balloon. Both of his companions on the trip died from breathing the thin air. Tissandier, himself, survived, but became deaf. This did not, however, put him off and he continued with his experiments. On 8 October 1883 he and his brother Albert became the first to fit an electric motor to an airship, thus creating the first electric-powered flight and enabling airships to be steered. In order to form some idea of the results which could be obtained, the brothers first performed tests on a small-scale model in their own laboratory in Paris. The airship they finally constructed was huge – 92 feet long with a diameter of 30 feet. The bamboo pannier, which was attached by twenty ropes to the envelope, contained the Siemens electric motor. The test on 8 October, which lasted just over an hour, was a relative success. The flight lasted just over an hour and the brothers landed safely. They had been able to steer the airship at will but declared that they would have had problems had the weather not been fair.

C

Otto Lilienthal studied the science of aviation and published two books on the subject. He constructed a machine in which he threw himself from a height, remained in the air for a time and then gradually descended to earth. His machine consisted of a framework of thin wooden rods covered with fine linen fixed securely to his shoulders. It took the shape of two slightly concave wings, with a raised tailpiece at the rear. A pair of rudders were fitted to help him steer. Mr Lilienthal first launched himself in his machine from a tower on a hilltop near Berlin, then later on from a 200-foot-high hill in the Rhinow Mountains. He describes his feelings: 'After a few leaps one gradually begins to feel that one is master of the situation; a feeling of safety replaces the initial fear.'

On 9 August 1896, Otto Lilienthal crashed to earth from a height of 50 feet while testing a new type of steering device. He died the following day. His last words were reported to be, 'Sacrifices must be made.'

D

On Tuesday 31 July 1894, for the first time in history, a flying machine actually left the ground, fully equipped with engines, boiler, fuel, water and a crew of three. Its inventor was Hiram Maxim, who had invested £20,000 in its construction. Unfortunately, Maxim's triumph was short-lived as the Maxim flying machine crashed on its first flight. The machine was a large structure formed of steel tubes and wires. Weighing 8,000 pounds including men and stores, it had five wings and was steam-driven. Maxim began tests in 1894. On the third try the plane, which was powered up to 40 miles per hour, left its track and continued on its way cutting a path through the grass for some 200 yards. At times it reached an altitude of two to three feet above the ground before it finally crashed.

After this Maxim lost interest in flying and went on to other inventions, making his fortune with the invention of the Maxim machine gun.

PART 4

For questions 1 – 12, read the text below and decide which answer best fits each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

TELEPATHY DOES EXIST CLAIMS CAMBRIDGE SCIENTIST

Many people have had the experience of getting a telephone call from someone just as they were thinking about them. Now a new (0) *study* suggests that might (1) __ be down purely to coincidence. Scientist Dr Rupert Sheldrake says he has performed tests into 'telephone telepathy' which show 45 per cent of the time people can correctly (2) __ who is ringing them. This is much higher odds than if it was due to (3) __ alone, he claimed. However his research has sparked (4) __ controversy in the scientific (5) __.

Dr Rupert Sheldrake receives funding to investigate unexplained (6) __ from Trinity College in Cambridge. He (7) __ to his critics, saying 'By far the most common kind of telepathy in the modern world occurs in connection with telephone calls - when you think of someone for no apparent reason and then they ring and you say 'what a (8) __ . I was just thinking about you.'

For his experiments, four volunteers were told they would get a call and were asked to predict which of the four was calling them before they picked (9) the phone. Although only four people were used, they repeated the test more than 270 times. He found that they correctly (10) __ the caller 45% of the time.

But scientists and sceptics of the (11) __ have questioned the reliability of the work. Professor Peter Atkins, tutor in Physical Chemistry at the University of Oxford, said 'Work in this field is a complete waste (12) __ time.'

- | | | | | |
|----|---------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 | A not | B also | C could | D never |
| 2 | A ask | B speculate | C guess | D wonder |
| 3 | A possibility | B opportunity | C risk | D chance |
| 4 | A off | B on | C of | D out |
| 5 | A group | B people | C locality | D community |
| 6 | A nature | B phenomena | C flying objects | D questions |
| 7 | A disagreed | B attacked | C responded | D speculated |
| 8 | A hilarious | B funny | C laughter | D coincidence |
| 9 | A up | B out | C on | D off |
| 10 | A looked up | B answered | C found | D predicted |
| 11 | A paranormal | B hoax | C abnormal | D unidentified |
| 12 | A in | B for | C of | D with |

Answer Keys:

1. A (not)
2. C (guess)
3. D (chance)
4. A (off)
5. D (community)
6. B (phenomena)
7. C (responded)
8. D (coincidence)
9. A (up)
10. D (predicted)
11. A (paranormal)
12. C (of)

PART 5

For questions **1 – 12**, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only **one** word in each space. There is an example at the beginning **(0)**.

BLOG READING EXPLODES

There **(0)** are those that do and those that **(1)** _____. Millions of us have one and many more **(2)** __ still asking the question, 'What is a blog exactly?' Well, for those **(3)** __ you still wondering, blogs, or web logs, are online spaces in **(4)** _ people can publish their thoughts, opinions or spread news events in **(5)** ___ own words. However, reading blogs still remains far **(6)** ___ popular than writing them. And what we really want to read about is news, apparently.

The huge rise in the number of blogs **(7)** __ given birth to a new desire for immediate news and information. Whatever **(8)** ___ event - a natural disaster, for example - local bloggers can post pictures and write their own observations with instant effect. Needless **(9)** _ say, the traditional newspapers or TV channels just can't compete with this, **(10)** __ journalists aren't happy. 'People reading blogs should be careful,' **(11)** ___ one journalist. 'After all, no one checks a blog's sources or edits the work. You simply can't believe everything you **(12)** ___.'

Answer Keys:

1 don't

2 are

3 of

4 which

5 their

6 more

7 has

8 the

9 to

10 and/so

11 said

12 read

PART 6

Read the text below. For questions 1 – 10 use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

TAKING THE BLAME

(0) Pollution is now a sensitive political issue in many countries.

POLLUTE

As a result, one would assume that the amount of (1)

INDUSTRY

waste being released is decreasing. However, there is no

(2) that this is so. In fact, all the evidence

CONFIRM

shows that the (3) of our

DESTROY

(4) environment is not slowing down at all. Many

GLOBE

attempts have been made to (5) the reasons for this.

IDENTITY

Most of the time (6) government ministers and

INFLUENCE

businessmen are accused of behaving (7) but putting

RESPONSIBLE

the blame on these people is (8) a way of allowing the

SIMPLE

general public to maintain their (9) of products which

CONSUME

damage the environment. If the public's (10) was more

RESPOND

positive, perhaps the situation would change.

Answer Keys:

- 1 industrial
- 2 confirmation
- 3 destruction
- 4 global
- 5 identify
- 6 influential
- 7 irresponsibly
- 8 simply
- 9 consumption
- 10 response

PART 7

For questions **1 – 8**, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. **Do not change the word given.**

You must use between **two and five words**, including the word given. There is an example at the beginning.

(0) *Example:* This is my first fishing trip.

never

I **never have been on a** fishing trip before.

(1) I met Sue at university.

since

I we were at university.

(2) I don't remember Mary being such a difficult person in the past.

use

Mary such a difficult person.

(3) Barbara was raised in a small village by her grandmother.

brought

Barbara's grandmother in a small village.

(4) It takes three hours by car to reach the nearest hospital.

drive

It to the nearest hospital.

(5) It is very unusual for Jack to be late for a meeting.

arrives

Jack for a meeting.

(6) We got planning permission and then we started building.

soon

We started building as planning permission.

(7) I think what she said at the press conference was true.

truth

I think at the press conference.

(8) What caused the machine to stop working this morning?

break

Why this morning?

Answer Keys:

1 have known Sue since

2 didn't use to be=did not use to be

3 brought her up=brought Barbara up

4 is a three-hour drive

5 rarely arrives late=hardly ever arrives late=usually arrives on time=always arrives on time

6 soon as we had got

7 she told the truth

8 did the machine break down