

**READING**

**a. Read and answer.**

Have you ever asked yourself what life was like before the first newspaper? And what was it like before the first computer was produced? And before television?

**The Rise of the Gutenberg galaxy**

**B**efore the advent of writing, life was different precisely because people had to rely so much on speech and living memory.

Without written records, histories and myths had to be told in a form that could be remembered and passed down more easily, hence the importance in preliterate Greece of poetry, with its rhythmic structure.

Aspiring poets would have to painstakingly learn such poems directly from established masters. In this process, little value could be placed on novelty since a completely new poem would only survive if it was learnt and recited by others. The poems, which only really came alive during public recitals, drew people together to share the enjoyment of something that was both familiar and moving. In this way, poetry helped to bind a community together, offering

reminders to individuals that they were parts of a more significant whole. The same was true in other areas of life, including politics, where people formed their opinions while rubbing their shoulders with fellow citizens.

When writing was first introduced, the written texts were little more than transcriptions of the oral traditions. Homer used exactly the form he had inherited from the oral poets and then - some 300 years later - Plato, who was ambivalent about the new medium, presented his philosophy as a series of dialogues. It also seems that the Greek texts, written without spaces between words or punctuation, were to be read aloud by those who were already familiar with the content instead of being read quietly by students.

For centuries, the scarcity of texts and low literacy

rates kept the impact of writing confined to a small elite. That all changed in 1439, when the German goldsmith Johan Gutenberg assembled the first European printing press. This created a new public space where words were cut off from the persuasive power of speech and the physical presence of speakers. The listeners in a crowd were placed by readers who could sit on their own and quietly reflect upon lengthy written arguments, questioning their validity and comparing them with other printed statements. Writers could also feel that they could create something of enduring importance by themselves, without simply repeating established wisdom. As a consequence, the new medium helped to foster a more thoughtful, critical and individualistic culture.

1. What would you say is the main purpose of this passage?
2. What do we learn about Plato? Mention two things.
3. According to the passage, what was the most important consequence of the creation of the printing press?
4. In your opinion, how important is writing nowadays? Answer this question in no more than 50 words.

Score:  
Questions 1 – 3: 3 marks  
Question 4: 6 marks

**b. Read the text again and find words with the following meaning.**

1. first appearance: .....
2. events where poems are read aloud: .....
3. in two minds: .....
4. limited: .....
5. a superior group: .....

Score: 5 marks

**USE OF ENGLISH**

**c. 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.**

1 Bigger cities have higher crime rates. THE

- The .....the crime rate.
- 2 Richard is much more committed to the project than Grant seems to be. LIKE  
Grant seems to be .....to the project.
- 3 The adverts look exactly the same as the articles in this magazine. DIFFERENCE  
It is impossible .....the adverts in this magazine.
- 4 I'd discuss this with Kevin before making a final decision. DISCUSSION  
I'd .....before making a final decision.
- 5 I didn't tell Angie because I didn't want to hurt Eddie's feelings. CONSIDERATION  
I didn't tell Angie ..... Eddie.

Score: 10 marks

**d. Fill in the blanks with one suitable word.**

**The demise of the written word**

The rationalistic culture supported by print was undermined (1) . . .by radio and then by television. After the Second World War, the newest medium (2) . . . welcomed as the family's window on the world. From the comfort of their living rooms, people could see footage (3) . . .the four corners of the globe, and it just seemed obvious that seeing an event – (4) . . . one that had been selectively filmed and edited – was (5) . . .more important than reading a book.

(6) . . .it may be in the process of changing form, TV remains a powerful force (7) . . . shapes people's values. The lure of the televised image persuades people that words count for less. Of course, TV is not (8) . . . pictures, but the commentary which accompanies them is so brief that it barely scratches the surface of the issues or helps anyone (9) . . . understand them. Then there is the rapid alternation of images and topics, (10) . . . is designed to keep viewers interested, but which has probably helped to limit their attention spans.

Write the missing words here

1	2	3	4	5

6	7	8	9	10

Score: 10 marks

**e. Complete the text by putting some of the verbs in their right place and form, including negative, passive and modals where necessary.**

• sell	• become	• die	• fall
• compete	• come	• run	• start
• think	• start	• beat	• be

In some cases, language and gender discrimination are connected. Gender discrimination is not just a characteristic of the American society. In most countries, even nowadays, when women . . . (1) a long way, girls are considered weak, not strong-minded. However, the following anecdote can easily make men . . . (2) twice. After all, who wouldn't be inspired by the sight of a barefoot girl . . . (3) some of the world's best athletes?

That was how Tegla Loroupe's athletic career . . . (4) in her native Kenya. A few years later, thousands of girls felt motivated . . . (5) running after seeing Tegla . . . (6) the first African

woman to win the New York City marathon, not just once but twice. In fact, Lorupe's second win in New York was particularly inspiring since she . . . (7) the marathon only days after her older sister . . . (8).-

At the Sydney Olympics in 2000 Tegla . . . (9) terribly sick. Most athletes . . . (10) but she showed how a strong will woman can run a marathon and a 10,000 metre race in two days while sick.

Write your answers here

1	2	3	4	5

6	7	8	9	10

Score: 15 marks

**f. Each of the words in bold is in an incorrect form. Rewrite them correctly.**

- 1 Johnsons and Davies are one of our main **competitions**.
- 2 The salary they offered me exceeded my wildest **expecting!**
- 3 The building looks a bit **future** from the outside but it is quite traditional inside.
- 4 I hope I **last** hid previous secretary - she only worked here for a week.
- 5 Getting angry with your boss is **productive** because it'll just make a bad situation worse.

Write your answers here

1	2	3	4	5

Score: 5 marks

Reading and Use of English  
Total mark: 60

**Listening**

**g. You will hear a passage read twice. Take down notes and then make a summary of it in about 90 words. Do not include extra information.**

Score: 20 marks

**Text to be read twice**

Talk to parents of teenage children and you will find quite a few who find the alterations in their offspring's behaviour confusing. One mother says she cannot see why her 13-year-old son so often flies into a rage and storms off, slamming doors and swearing, even though he has everything he needs and is lucky to find himself in a settled and loving family. Like other parents, she finds herself wondering why previously obedient children undergo such a disturbing transformation as adolescence begins.

As far as boys concerned, one undoubtedly important factor is the massively elevated levels of testosterone circulating through their veins during the period known to doctors as puberty. This makes them more energetic, restless, competitive and sometimes aggressive. Unfortunately, the emotional intelligence of boys does not develop as quickly. In all young children, emotional activity takes place in a central part of the brain which is not connected to the cortex, the outer part of the brain where rational thought occurs. In girls, during adolescence strong connections develop between the brain's emotional area and the cortex. This means that if you ask them why they are angry, they will be able to tell you the reason and they will be able to keep their anger in check. In boys, this connection develops much later, if at all, making it much more difficult for them both to make sense of their aggression and to control it.

Some commentators suggest that our society exacerbates these problems. None of the organized activities at school, for instance, connect with the emotional life of teenage boys. The path to achievement and success requires students to sit quietly and patiently prepare for exams, which favors girls because their emotions tend to be much calmer. Not only are there very few opportunities for boisterous boys to 'let off steam,' but there is also nothing at school that helps them work out what it means to be masculine. In some

single-sex schools in the past, for instance, boxing was included to help turn boys into men. There is no such programme in today's schools, which usually try to be gender-neutral. Then there is the criticism that society nowadays is too permissive. Perhaps teenagers are given too much freedom when what they really need are boundaries and someone to say, 'NO'. Interestingly, when a group of 19-year-olds at one of America's best universities were asked about the most pressing social problems, at the top of the list was the lack of respect for authority.

### Writing

**h. Choose one of the following and write an essay giving your opinion:**

1 Are teenagers overusing technology?

2 Are modern parents too permissive?

**Write about 250-300 words.**

Score: 40 marks