

### MID-COURSE ASSESSMENT

(UNITS 1–6)

#### SECTION A: LISTENING

**1 MCA1** Listen to three people talking about the film *Captain Phillips*, about a ship which was hijacked by Somali pirates in 2009. Decide if the following statements are True (T) or False (F).

- 1 Speaker 1 was unaware of the original story until he saw the film. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Speaker 1 thinks Tom Hanks has done better movies than *Captain Phillips*. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Speaker 1 admired the pirates in a small way. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Speaker 1 could understand what prompted the pirates to take the ship. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Speaker 2 didn't know much about the movie before she saw it. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Speaker 2 was disappointed by aspects of the film. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Speaker 2 feels that prior knowledge had no influence on her impression of the film. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Speaker 3 believes that the film-maker invented some of the story. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Speaker 3 found the film matched his expectations. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Speaker 3 disliked the way some of the action was filmed. \_\_\_\_\_

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**2 MCA2** Listen to Jack Griffith, a professional surfer, being interviewed. Select FIVE correct statements.

- a Jack confirms that big wave surfing is not for everyone. ☐
- b He believes that every surfer wants to ride a big wave. ☐
- c His parents encouraged him to go into big wave surfing. ☐
- d He was the winner in his first ever surfing competition. ☐
- e He became a professional surfer when he started big wave surfing. ☐
- f He was frightened as he was about to surf his first big wave. ☐
- g He suffered physically after his first big wave surf. ☐
- h The boards for big wave surfing can easily be bought anywhere. ☐
- i Preparation is key to success when big wave surfing. ☐
- j You should wear a protective head covering in case of falls. ☐

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#### SECTION B: READING

**3** Read the text on the next page and choose the correct option, a, b, c or d.

- 1 What does the writer imply about life before the printing press?
  - a Population levels were lower.
  - b The general public had little power.
  - c States were governed by poorly educated people.
  - d People wanted to have more control over their lives.
- 2 What does the writer say about life since the invention of the printing press?
  - a More people are in control of their own lives.
  - b Each person has direct influence over the government.
  - c Behaviour has been modified by successive inventions.
  - d No mass communication medium has changed society more than printing.
- 3 The writer states that the saying 'knowledge is power' has
  - a encouraged people to get an education.
  - b been the driving force behind the development of mass media.
  - c sometimes failed to have the expected results.
  - d motivated people to access as much information as possible.
- 4 The writer says that responsibility
  - a is a result of improved education.
  - b must be exercised when accessing information.
  - c must be developed in order to maximise the use of data.
  - d and power should work together.
- 5 The writer states that
  - a communities are the lifeblood of nations.
  - b nations are made up of groups of communities.
  - c a community is a group of people with differing ideals.
  - d communities have been diminished by nations.
- 6 What does the writer say about socialising online?
  - a It can be comforting for some people.
  - b People have too many friends online to be of any value.
  - c Identity theft is a problem for people on social networking sites.
  - d Virtual lives can stop people enjoying a real life.
- 7 What does the writer say about the benefits to society of modern communication?
  - a Businesses cannot survive without it.
  - b It is a useful tool for governments to inform their citizens.
  - c Facebook is an effective way of advertising products.
  - d Most people are putting pressure on governments about climate change.
- 8 Which statement best summarises the writer's overall view of electronic communication?
  - a It is more powerful than many people believe.
  - b It changes attitudes much too quickly.
  - c It should be employed wisely.
  - d Governments need to have better control of it.

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### The effects of modern electronic communication on society

Ever since the invention of the printing press over 500 years ago, mass communication has been growing and affecting the way communities and countries behave. Where once the written word was the domain of the church and privileged, allowing them to keep control of populations, now everyone believes that they have power over governments because of the vast amount of knowledge available to them thanks to electronic communication. At every stage of the development of communication, that is, the telegraph, the telephone, radio and television, society has had to adapt to the effects of mass communication. But have the effects been more positive or negative?

The saying 'knowledge is power' has been an excellent motivator for people to improve their lives, but today everyone in the world has access to such a massive amount of information that it may not always be helping them in the way people would hope. There is the expectation that power ought to be led by a sense of responsibility and many people may not be willing or capable of acting responsibly, as has become evident over the past few years. For example, we know that communities are groups of people bound together by similar beliefs, aspirations and habits, but over the years these communities have been replaced by nations which are now collective groups of diverse communities. Modern connectivity seems, in some cases, to be magnifying instead of unifying these differences and this leads to groups of disillusioned and disenfranchised people with extreme views coming together and plotting to disrupt societies or bring down regimes.

Nevertheless, many people find solace in their virtual worlds and are happy to connect with real-life friends and online friends from the familiar surroundings of their living rooms. However, being able to reinvent themselves online and be whoever they want to be leads to the question of whether they are losing their identities by living in a virtual world.

On the other hand, attitudes have been transformed to benefit society. Look at the way we now recycle products. We wouldn't have known about the need for this without the help of mass communication. Governments, businesses and pressure groups use advertising, blogs, Facebook and so on to get a message across to large groups of people. After hundreds of years of destroying the planet with human activity, modern communication ensures that nearly everyone on the planet is aware of climate change, loss of habitats and the extinction of numerous species of wild animals.

Modern electronic communication now pervades every area of our lives – it is a powerful tool that has raised some concerns for society. However, it has also brought countless benefits to society. At the end of the day, it can be used both for good or evil and ultimately relies on the morals and sense of responsibility of the individual or community involved. In short, it needs to be used with care.

### 4 Read the text. Which paragraph mentions:

- 1 a past perception? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 health benefits of a method of travel? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 a construction project? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 acquiring a more thorough knowledge of a place? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 a recommendation? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 the opportunity to see stunning scenery? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 the potential for travel disruption? \_\_\_\_\_

## European travel

**A** If you are travelling to Europe this year, you should really consider going by train. No checking-in hours before departure or long tailbacks on congested roads; just climb aboard, find your seat and relax. Most main railway stations are in the heart of cities, so there are no long and expensive transfers to your hotel from distant airports or parking problems. In addition, the views from the train of the passing landscapes are second to none and there are no distractions to your enjoyment of them.

**B** For the fitness freaks or those amongst you who just want to improve their fitness, cycling through Europe is a wonderful way of travelling. Many cities in Europe have bikes to rent, so it is not necessary to bring your own. Not only is it the cheapest way to travel, but you also get to see much more diverse countryside and meet fascinating people along the way. It offers an interesting way of getting a real feel for the country, exploring less visited areas and having a chance to enjoy spectacular dishes created from local produce while travelling through a variety of landscapes.

**C** An increasingly popular method of travel through Europe is taking a river cruise along the main waterways. It allows visitors the possibility of stepping straight out of a luxury cabin in a floating hotel onto the streets of major cities. Since 1992, when the Main-Danube Canal opened, all the continent's main arteries were connected, opening up 2,200 miles of navigable river. Perhaps the only downside to river cruising is the weather, which can dramatically affect this type of travel. Erratic rainfall can lead to delays or cancellations, as too much rain – or not enough – can mean that passages under bridges or over shallower parts of the river become impossible.

**D** As flying becomes more stressful with all the checks and long waits at airports, more and more people are considering travelling by coach. As the current economic recession is hurting a lot of pockets, coach travel offers a less expensive way of travelling through Europe. Furthermore, for those who are environmentally aware, it is also, apart from cycling, the cleanest form of transport. Coach travel has had to shake off its reputation as being the poor man's way to travel and now the vehicles are much more comfortable than in the past, providing all mod-cons: air-conditioning, entertainment, wi-fi and refreshments, for example. It's well worth trying this method of travel when you next visit Europe.

## SECTION C: LANGUAGE

**5 Complete the text by putting the verbs in brackets in the most appropriate form. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.**

The world we live in <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (change) dramatically over the past 20 years. Before the arrival of fast communication and transport, the world <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (seem) a very large place with remote lands yet to be discovered. Nowadays, it is very small as we are in constant contact with every part of the world. For the last 20 years, the human population <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (grow) considerably, a trend which looks set to continue in the future. We <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (still/deplete) many of the world's natural resources without replacing them at the same rate, which could lead to a disastrous shortage of food in the near future. Most of the world's population currently <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (inhabit) cities instead of living on the land and, as a result, carbon emissions have increased enormously over the last few years. There is little doubt now that these issues are a major cause of global warming. We know that glaciers <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (melt), causing sea levels to rise. Experts predict that climate patterns <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (continue) to change all over the world. So, the question is: <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (we/be) able to slow down the changes by 2030? I certainly hope so.

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**6 Choose the correct option to complete the text.**

When I was asked to join a book club, I didn't realise that I <sup>1</sup> *used to / would / will* have to read more than one book a month, nor was I aware of the depth of critique they required. It seemed that I <sup>2</sup> *have / was / had* stumbled upon <sup>3</sup> *the / one / some* most serious of book clubs, whose reviews were often used in magazines. Generally, I love reading, but for my own enjoyment only. Unfortunately, with this club, I was expected to produce <sup>4</sup> *the / some / a* thousand word reviews of each book I read. This meant that instead of reading the book quickly, I had to concentrate on characterisation, plot twists and language used, <sup>5</sup> *all / one / any* of which detracted from the main story, in my view anyway. However, at the first meeting I had been totally unprepared for all this. <sup>6</sup> *That / It / He* went something like this: 'Well, John, how evident are the author's own perceptions of life in the story? Could you tell us what your feelings were as you read the book?' I hadn't considered these topics at all while I was reading the book. I'd <sup>7</sup> *never / almost / hardly* had time to read it, let alone analyse it in depth.

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**7 Choose the correct option, a, b, c or d.**

When people talk with <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ about the good old days, I remind them that if they had needed surgical treatment, they would have been awake throughout the procedure. They would have needed to find a (an) <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ who could work very fast to do the operation, as there was no <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ making sure the patient remained asleep and felt no pain.

To work in the medical world requires determination, a certain mental <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and a lot of self-<sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to stay focused and get through many years of study and exams. People expect a lot from their doctors and demand that they not only <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ great skill in the operating theatre, but are also able to establish a good rapport with the patient. We expect them to be <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ at all times, helping us to keep calm.

- 1 a memory b nostalgia c era d sympathy
- 2 a midwife b surgery c surgeon d operator
- 3 a anaesthetist b physician c surgeon d midwife
- 4 a roughness b thickness c hardness d toughness
- 5 a development b discipline c defence d diagnosis
- 6 a express b prove c impart d exhibit
- 7 a promising b heart-warming c gripping d reassuring

\_\_\_/7

**8 Complete the text with words from the box. There are more words than you need.**

lucrative did cared scale tailback from with  
quantity made emissions outstanding goalposts

She had <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of sacrifices in order to become CEO of the environmental charity. She had fought governments for years as they constantly moved the <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ about how to protect the environment. She wanted to protect the world <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ mankind's destructive influences, especially the large companies who were reluctant to give up their <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ businesses cutting down forests. She was on her way now to a meeting with the Prime Minister and was furious as she had just got stuck in a long <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ on the motorway. She was dismayed as she imagined all the carbon <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ from this stretch of road disappearing into the atmosphere to do its damage. The <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ of the problem was almost unbearable to think about as so much of the world had already been destroyed in her lifetime. She <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ deeply about the planet and it was painful to contemplate where it was heading.

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## SECTION D: WRITING

**9** Look at the table showing the results of a questionnaire about energy and the environment. Write a report about the information in the table. You should include data referring to:

- human activity.
- alternative sources of energy.
- nuclear energy.
- wind farms.
- comparison between the two surveys.

## RESULT OF MOST RECENT SURVEY

| Age group | Accept climate change due to human activity | Agree that alternative sources of energy must be found | In favour of nuclear energy | In favour of wind farms |
|-----------|---|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 18–30     | 74%   | 90%  | 25%                         | 57%                     |
| 30–50     | 45%   | 85%  | 35%                         | 47%                     |
| Over 50   | 30%   | 60%  | 20%                         | 50%                     |

## RESULTS TEN YEARS AGO

|         |     |     |     |     |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 18–30   | 70% | 85% | 20% | 30% |
| 30–50   | 15% | 60% | 40% | 45% |
| Over 50 | 25% | 30% | 15% | 25% |

Write about 150 words.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## SECTION E: SPEAKING

**10** Prepare to talk to your teacher. You have two minutes to prepare. Make some notes so that you can:

- talk about how you think communication has changed over the last ten years.
- explain how you think your life will have changed in 20 years' time.
- describe a sportsperson you admire and explain why.
- say what your views are on the amount of money sportspeople are paid.
- say if you think the money spent on sport would be better used to improve medical facilities.

When you have prepared, talk to your teacher. Your teacher will ask you questions.

Your notes

MID-COURSE ASSESSMENT  
SCORE CARD

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION A: LISTENING

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## SECTION B: READING

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## SECTION C: LANGUAGE

\_\_\_\_/30

## SECTION D: WRITING

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Content points           | ____/5 |
| Production and coherence | ____/5 |
| Range                    | ____/5 |
| Accuracy                 | ____/5 |

\_\_\_\_/20

## SECTION E: SPEAKING

| You   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>talked about how you think communication has changed over the last ten years.</b>                  |   |   |
| Content:  | 1 | 2 |
| Effective communication:  | 1 | 2 |
| <b>explained how you think your life will have changed in 20 years' time.</b>                         |   |   |
| Content:  | 1 | 2 |
| Effective communication:  | 1 | 2 |
| <b>described a sportsperson you admire and explained why.</b>   |   |   |
| Content:  | 1 | 2 |
| Effective communication:  | 1 | 2 |
| <b>said what your views are on the amount of money sportspeople are paid.</b>                         |   |   |
| Content:  | 1 | 2 |
| Effective communication:  | 1 | 2 |
| <b>said if you think the money spent on sport would be better used to improve medical facilities.</b> |   |   |
| Content:  | 1 | 2 |
| Effective communication:  | 1 | 2 |

\_\_\_\_/20

Total: \_\_\_\_/100