

Skills test 3

READING

Gossip and speculation

It's never been easier to keep up to date with all the latest celebrity news, and sometimes it can be hard to judge where the truth lies. Here are a handful of stories; some are older than others, and only one is true.

The first story dates back to 1963, when then-President John F. Kennedy went to Germany to give a speech. Delivering his speech in German, in his strong Bostonian accent, Kennedy famously said to the crowd: "Ich bin ein Berliner" which translates as "I am a citizen of Berlin." But since a "Berliner" also refers to a type of doughnut that was popular in Germany at the time, it's possible that the people might have thought he had said "I am a jam doughnut." And indeed, sometime after the event, stories began to appear in the press, claiming that JFK's line had provoked spontaneous laughter and ridicule during the speech because of this. When and where this story originated isn't known, but it has since been proven to be a myth. Kennedy's speech, including the famous phrase, had been translated and checked scrupulously by his people, who denied that the jam-doughnut interpretation had any truth in it at all; indeed, people in Berlin actually refer to jam doughnuts as "Pfannkuchen", not "Berliner". The original transcript is stored at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC.

Walt Disney, it is widely held, paid to have his dead body frozen in the hope that some time in the future, when medical technology was sufficiently advanced, he could be miraculously brought back to life. It's not clear how this story came into being, but what is known is that Disney's remains were cremated when he died in 1966, and his ashes reside at the Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California. It's possible that the secrecy surrounding his funeral helped this rumor to gain popularity; and in terms of its origins, some people suspect that a group of Disney employees were having a laugh at their former boss's expense. His daughter dismissed the claims in 1972: "There is absolutely no truth in the rumor that my father, Walt Disney, wished to be frozen. I doubt that my father had heard of cryonics."

Lloyd's of London is famous for being an insurance company that can offer rather specialized insurance coverage for its most valued clients. Over the years, Lloyd's has insured everything from movie stars' legs, and other body parts, to a coffee taster's tongue. However, in 2004 a slew of popular newspapers covered a story which claimed that the aging Welsh singer Tom Jones had approached the insurance company to insure his chest hair – for an astonishing \$7 million! It turned out that Lloyd's had indeed written a policy for someone, but it wasn't purchased. It's unclear how the unnamed person became Tom Jones, but was probably to do with the insurer mentioning something about hairy-chested celebrities, and then the press drew their own conclusions!

This story might sound a little strange, but is actually true. In 1985, the publishing rights to most of the Beatles' songs were sold to 80s pop phenomenon Michael Jackson for the sizeable sum of \$47.5 million. Paul McCartney admitted that he wasn't crazy about

the acquisition, which numbered around 250 classics, including *Yesterday* and *Let It Be*. The ironic thing is that McCartney had been the one to tell Jackson about the profitability of song ownership. As a result of Jackson's successful acquisition, every time McCartney or anyone else wanted to use a Beatles song, Jackson received 50% of all royalties – the remaining Beatles received the rest. Despite speculation that Jackson might sell off the Beatles' catalog in order to raise money when he hit hard times, he held onto it until his death. But now, under the 1976 US Copyright Act, which states that songs written prior to 1978 revert to the songwriter after 56 years, Sir Paul might soon claim back the titles.

1 Read an article about popular celebrity stories. Check (✓) five points that are mentioned.

- It took a while before the press picked up on the "ich bin ein Berliner" story. ☐
- There were people in the Kennedy administration who believed the story. ☐
- Walt Disney's funeral was not open to the public. ☐
- Initially, Disney's daughter chose not to say anything about the rumors. ☐
- Lloyd's of London was surprised at the amount Tom Jones wanted to insure himself for. ☐
- The insurer at Lloyd's did write a policy concerning chest hair. ☐
- McCartney receives some money whenever a Beatles song is played in public. ☐
- Paul McCartney owned a few of the publishing rights to his own songs. ☐

1 point for each correct answer

5

2 Read the article again and circle the correct letter.

- The newspapers reported that ...
 - JFK had called himself a jam doughnut.
 - the President's American accent had sounded ridiculous.
 - people had laughed at Kennedy for giving his speech in German.
- Many people ...
 - still believe today that Walt Disney was frozen after death.
 - previously thought that Walt Disney was frozen.
 - think that medical advances will enable us to bring dead people back to life.
- It's thought that ...
 - the rumor was started by Disney's daughter.
 - Disney had secretly made enquiries into cryonics.
 - some people were playing a joke on Disney.

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- 4 Lloyd's of London has written insurance policies ...
- for hundreds of famous pop stars and celebrities.
 - to cover some rather specific cases.
 - to protect anyone's body parts, including their tongues.
- 5 The insurance company ...
- did draft a chest-hair policy, but the press didn't know who it was for.
 - drew up a policy for Tom Jones, but he didn't buy it.
 - didn't tell the press that Tom Jones had bought a policy from them.
- 6 Jackson and McCartney ...
- argued about who owned the publishing rights to the Beatles' songs.
 - both received royalties whenever a Beatles song was played in public.
 - worked together in the past, but then argued and wouldn't talk to each other.
- 7 Later on, Jackson ...
- was eager to sell the catalog in order to pay off his mounting debts.
 - got into a bad position financially, but he retained ownership of the Beatles' catalog.
 - died, and in his will he gave back the Beatles' catalog to Paul McCartney.

2 points for each correct answer 14

3 Complete the sentences with the underlined words in the text.

- _____ has it that the mega successful band are splitting up.
- The company's latest multi-million dollar _____ is a coffee-house chain.
- The president dismissed their claims as complete _____.
- Our new writer is going to be the literary _____ of the year.
- The president was worried that the statement would attract public _____.
- We have a _____ of awesome new apps compatible with most smartphones.

1 point for each correct answer 6

Reading total 25

WRITING

1 You have decided to enter a short story competition. The title is: "The worst vacation I have ever been on". Use the prompts to help you.

- include an introduction, saying how you came to choose your destination, and what time of year you decided to go
- say how you traveled to get there, and who you went with, if anyone
- describe the place and the surrounding area, and what there is to do there
- include a description of one particular event which sums up your negative feelings about the vacation, which made it so bad.

Write your text in 120–180 words.

Shorter writing task 10

2 Write a cover letter for a job at this company. Use the prompts below to help you.

Visitor Coordinator, Wild Acre Forest

The role

Working as part of our Countryside Team, you will play a key role in finding exciting new ways to get people of all ages and backgrounds involved with the conservation work we're doing here. You will be responsible for assisting visitors at the visitor center and in the forest itself. You will ensure that the volunteers you are responsible for deliver their work to an agreed standard.

Your skills

You'll be enthusiastic and knowledgeable about conservation issues, with excellent communication skills. You should be self-motivated, and able to work well under pressure. In this role you'll be required to work regular weekends and holidays.

Apply

To find out how to apply, please visit our website.

Closing date: September 13, 2016.

- say what the job is you are applying for and where you saw it advertised
- mention any relevant education history or qualifications
- give some examples of other jobs or work experience you have in this field
- give an indication of what type of person you are and what you would bring to this job
- make sure you end the letter with a suitable closing

Write your text in 150–200 words.

Longer writing task 15

Writing total 25

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LISTENING

1 Listen to a radio interview with a lifestyle coach.

Check (✓) five points she mentions.

- 1 A lot of people make plans for their future when they are teenagers. ☐
- 2 You need to think about what your talents are. ☐
- 3 You're more likely to succeed if you believe that you will. ☐
- 4 Remind yourself every day what your dream is. ☐
- 5 It's a good idea to make a list of those people who can support you. ☐
- 6 If you don't have a goal in life, you cannot be content. ☐
- 7 Dedicate your life to fulfilling your dreams – so you can fulfill them. ☐
- 8 Find out what you need to do to find the career you want. ☐

1 point for each correct answer

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2 Listen again. Circle the correct letter.

- 1 A lifestyle coach helps people ...
 - a plan a healthier way of life.
 - b prepare their career plans.
 - c realize their goals in life.
- 2 According to Barbara, when people graduate from college...
 - a they should forget the plans they made at a younger age.
 - b their objective should be to make money.
 - c they no longer find the time to think about their desires.
- 3 She suggests making a list of everything ...
 - a that you want in life in a few years' time.
 - b you wouldn't ever be prepared to give up.
 - c you already have achieved so far in your life.
- 4 The important thing about your favorite pastimes is to ...
 - a avoid doing them as an ordinary job.
 - b find a career that involves doing them.
 - c expect no payment for what you love doing.
- 5 Before you begin a new career in a field you love ...
 - a find out everything about it that you can.
 - b consult an expert for advice on getting into the profession.
 - c go back for education to obtain the necessary degree or skills.

- 6 To help you achieve your goal, you must ...
 - a remind yourself about it time and time again.
 - b make a logical plan to determine your actions.
 - c keep your goal simple.
- 7 As you work on your dreams, you should focus on ...
 - a all the steps you'll need to take to realize them.
 - b the smaller things first before you move on to bigger things.
 - c one step at a time so you don't get distracted.
- 8 The interviewer suggests that ...
 - a following a plan to achieve your goals is really easy.
 - b even if you plan, things will not always work out.
 - c any failures would mean starting all over again.
- 9 Barbara says that if you ever fail ...
 - a start again but don't lose your determination.
 - b try to learn from it, but keep going forward.
 - c think about how other people see your failure.
- 10 In general, Barbara believes that ...
 - a you must have realistic goals in life – earning a living is important.
 - b to find happiness, you must make a plan and then follow it.
 - c dreams only come true if you have good luck in life.

2 points for each correct answer

	20
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Listening total		25
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SPEAKING

1 Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 When and where did your parents meet? Did they like each other immediately?
- 2 What would be your dream job? Why?
- 3 Can you think of something which is particularly harmful to your country's environment right now? What could be done now/in the future to solve this problem?
- 4 What's the most extraordinary thing you've seen on TV or on the news recently? Why did it make an impression on you?
- 5 If you found out that your best friend had been keeping a secret from you, how would you react?

max. 1 point for each topic

5



2 Look at the photos. What do these people do for a living? Discuss the pros and cons of the different types of work. What skills and training are needed for each one?

max. 10 points

10



3 Discuss the statements. Do you agree or disagree?

- 1 "Advertising gives an unfair advantage to big businesses. It also contributes toward creating billion-dollar brands, which limits choice for the consumer."
- 2 "Celebrity chefs have changed the type of food that the public eat, whether for good or for bad."

max. 5 points for each topic

10

Speaking total 25

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