

Skills test 4

READING

Pop goes the till - \$2.2 million and counting

Pop singer Amber Thorne, 23, was in court again today arguing that photographs of her wedding a year ago to Rodrigo Cortez, 66, were published against their express wishes by *Snap!* magazine. The court case, which started a month ago in Florida, has already cost in excess of \$2.2 million in legal fees. Amber Thorne was discovered in Miami by Mexican-born billionaire Cortez at the age of 19 as an amateur dancer, and was propelled to stardom by her number one hit single (the first of twelve so far) titled *Old Enough*. Cortez financed Thorne's solo career and secured a record deal for her with media company Harmony. The couple became romantically involved two years ago, and despite their best efforts to keep their plans secret, their wedding preparations were in the news continuously for several months.

The current court battle began when Ms. Thorne married Mr. Cortez, who had made his fortune in the construction trade, in a lavish ceremony attended by some 200 close friends, including international celebrities, on Mr. Cortez's private island in the Caribbean. At the time of their wedding, which involved a half-hour fireworks display, the couple were paid \$2 million by another magazine for their official wedding photographs. However, *Snap!* published informal photographs that were taken by one of the couple's guests.

Speaking in court, Ms. Thorne said that the photographs in question showed her relaxing with her guests and that the wedding was a private occasion. When she was asked why she and Mr. Cortez had accepted \$2 million for the formal photographs taken at the ceremony, she replied, "I think my fans wanted to share my happiest day with me. For these fans, those photographs will forever remain a valuable treasure."

The US magazine's editor, Ms. Caroline Silvestri, agreed that the photographs showed the bride and groom at an all-night party and admitted that *Snap!* had published them without permission. Ms. Silvestri apologized if this had hurt the feelings of the couple, but she argued that they lived their life in the public eye, and that their wedding was therefore news, not a private event. She reminded the court that Mr. Cortez and Ms. Thorne divorced just six months after the wedding and suggested that the current court case was a complete waste of time.

The case continues.

1 Read the article. Give short answers to the questions.

- When did the court case start? _____
- How many number one hits has Amber Thorne had up to now? _____
- Who attended the couple's wedding? _____
- What was Amber Thorne's reason for accepting \$2 million for their photos? _____

2 points for each correct answer

8

2 Read the article again. Select the correct answer.

- Pop star Amber Thorne has a court case
 - against Mr. Rodrigo Cortez.
 - over the publication of her wedding photographs.
 - against the State of Florida.
- Amber Thorne was _____ when she met Rodrigo Cortez.
 - living in Mexico
 - a pop star with a number one hit single
 - a 19-year-old dancer in Miami
- The couple's wedding plans
 - appeared frequently in the news.
 - started two years ago.
 - were kept secret.
- Rodrigo Cortez became rich
 - as the head of a media company called Harmony.
 - when he discovered Amber Thorne.
 - from the construction business.
- Snap!* published photos
 - bought from another magazine.
 - and paid \$2 million to the couple for them.
 - taken by one of the wedding guests.
- Caroline Silvestri admitted that
 - the photos appeared in another magazine.
 - the photos were published without permission.
 - the wedding was a private event.
- Amber Thorne and Rodrigo Cortez were married
 - at the time of the court case.
 - at a private ceremony.
 - for only half a year.

2 points for each correct answer

12

3 Find the underlined phrases in the text that match the definitions.

- clearly and definitely stated intentions express wishes
- made quickly very famous _____
- fell in love with each other _____
- a personal event _____
- often appearing in the media _____
- absolutely pointless _____

1 point for each correct answer

5

Reading total

25

Skills test 4

WRITING

1 You went to a party at your friend's house. Write a note to thank your friend.

- include a suitable greeting.
- say thanks for the invitation
- say what you enjoyed about the party
- suggest another occasion to meet
- find a suitable closing phrase

Write your message in 80–100 words.

shorter writing task

	10
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2 Your English teacher has asked you to write an essay. Your essay must argue for or against the following statement. "Finding research online is easy."

Write your message in 140–180 words.

longer writing task

	15
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Writing total

	25
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Skills test 4

LISTENING

1 Listen to five people who saw a bank robbery. Match them with statements a–e.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____

a I saw four people who were involved in the robbery.

b I think it was the man in the hat who carried the backpack.

c There was somebody else with me when I saw the robbery.

d When the robbery started, I was in the bank.

e The woman put the stolen money in the backpack.

2 points for each correct answer

	10
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2 Listen again. Write true (T) or false (F).

1 The first witness was reading a newspaper when the robbery started. _____

2 The second witness didn't know what time it happened. _____

3 The third witness spoke to one of the bank robbers. _____

4 The fourth witnesses had finished his dessert when the robbers arrived. _____

5 The fifth witness took twenty dollars out of a cash machine. _____

2 points for each correct answer

	10
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3 Complete the police officer's notes with the missing information.

Incident: bank robbery on main square

1 Time of incident: around _____

2 Number of suspects: _____ people
(_____ male and _____ female)

3 How they arrived at the scene: _____

4 What they stole: _____

5 What they were carrying: _____

1 point for each correct answer

	5
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Listening total

	25
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Skills test 4

SPEAKING

1 Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 What are your favorite childhood memories? Why?
- 2 Which city, town or place do you like best? Why?
- 3 Why do you go online? How much time do you spend online?
- 4 Do you enjoy the circus? Why? / Why not?
- 5 Who is your personal hero? In what way does he/she inspire you?

max. 1 point for each topic

	5
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2 Look at the photos. Compare the different uses of technology they show. Which is the most important?

max. 10 points

	10
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3 Discuss the statements. Do you agree or disagree?

- 1 "Television should educate and inform, as well as entertain."
- 2 "Rich people have a better chance to succeed in every area of life."

max. 5 points for each topic

	10
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Speaking total

	25
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Skills test 4 total

	100
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