I. Reading Section (20 marks)

Read two film reviews of the Steven Spielberg film, War of the Worlds (2005), starring Tom Cruise, Dakota Fanning and Tim Robbins.

Dan: The way Tom Cruise has been acting lately, I’ve been rooting for him to get abducted and taken home by aliens. The first half of the film was great. It was exciting and scary and Cruise actually seemed normal again. With plane crashes, flaming trains, and people getting vaporized, I had thoughts of this being one of my favourites ever. Except for Dakota Fanning’s screaming that is. If I never hear that sound again, it’ll be too soon. The second half, though, might as well have been constant screaming. The story became predictable, unrealistic, and ruined by Tim Robbins. And through it all is this undying necessity to get to Boston to see mum because everyone knows aliens hate Boston. Whatever. Instead, maybe they should have spent a little more explaining why these stupid aliens became so vulnerable instead of just saying, “By the way, they all got a cold and died. The End.” Was this film worth it? The first half was, but the second will ruin it so get out while you can. A basic rule of thumb is - if you see Tim Robbins, you’ve stayed too long. Would I see it again? No.

Nancy: This was another sci-fi movie that left me wondering if something like this can really happen. Even though most of it was far-fetched, with technology and all the violence now in the world, who’s to say it couldn’t happen? Tom Cruise did a good job, but with all his recent publicity I am tired of seeing him. Dakota Fanning was great as usual. She is an amazing young actress and, boy, does she have lungs on her. Tim Robbins annoyed me but he played a good psychopath. The first part of the movie was very gripping. I even jumped a couple of times. I’m not sure if it was because of the movie itself or the 9-year-old sitting next to me scared out of his mind. He reminded me of when I saw “Gremlins” as a kid and was terrified. I think what ruined the movie for me was actually seeing the aliens. Imagining them is far scarier. Was this movie worth the price of admission? Yes, it had plenty of suspense and I love that. Would I see it again? I won’t go out of my way to see it again, but maybe if it was on TV.

By Dan Marcucci and Nancy Serougi

Vocabulary
abduct - kidnap

Answer the following questions. (8 marks)
1. Who liked the movie more - Nancy or Dan?
2. What do they each think of Tom Cruise in general? (2 marks)
3. Which half of the film was better?
4. Who was more scared - Nancy or the nine-year old sat next to her?
5. What was disappointing about the film for Nancy?
6. What noise did Dan dislike?
7. What annoyed Dan about the plot?

What do these expressions mean? Choose the best answer (a, b or c). (3 marks)
9. “A basic rule of thumb...”
a. a rule you can always apply b. a regulation you must follow c. part of the hand
10. “... boy, does she have lungs on her.”
a. She is very strong. b. She knows how to scream very loudly. c. She is extremely athletic
11. “... scared out of his mind.”
a. quite frightened b. very frightened c. extremely frightened
Read the opinion article about banking.

**Banking**

The concept of banking may have been a good one initially, but I can’t help feeling that in today’s world there are less people benefiting. Of course, it’s good to know that your money is safe and sound, but it does seem strange to pay an organization for having your money when they make a profit from this. The charges nowadays in some banks are incredible. Some charge for an overdraft facility even if you don’t go overdrawn, some charge every time you take money out (your money!) while others charge for closing an account! If you’re not careful, it’s a way of losing money rather than keeping it safe.

Perhaps because of this, there are some interesting alternative money systems. In fact there are some banks that don’t use money at all. Time banks are an example of this. Instead of Pounds, Dollars, Euros etc., the currency is ‘time’ – issued in the form of time credits. As this is an egalitarian system, everyone’s time is valued equally so one time credit is equivalent of one hour’s work, whatever the work. The idea is that whenever you do something to help another person you are given a time credit for this rather than cash. So, for example, if you spend an hour looking after the kids next door you’ll be given one time credit. This you can then spend on an hour’s yoga class or having your front door painted. Time banking believes in ‘give and take’ and it helps to form a feeling of community. It’s free and you don’t have to pay tax. There are now many time banks all over the world. In the UK, there are more than 100 but they can also be found in the US, Japan, Spain, New Zealand and Brazil among others.

One man who has recognized that banks don’t help the poor is Bangladeshi economist Muhammad Yunus of Chittagong University who set up the Grameen Bank (‘village’ bank). He realized that one reason that poor people were remaining poor was because they could not borrow any money from ‘normal’ banks. The people then had no choice but to borrow money from unscrupulous money lenders who charged enormous interest rates. So the professor and his colleagues lent very small amounts of money to people with very low interest rates. They simply had to trust the people to return the money as agreed.

To his surprise, he found that poorer people are much more reliable in returning money than those who are richer and borrow from a bank. Grameen Bank has a proven repayment rate of around 98% - much better than any high street bank! The money is mainly lent to women, 95% of the borrowers are female, and as a result small businesses are booming and people have a much better opportunity of breaking out of their poverty. Professor Yunus’s bank turned against the banking principle of ‘the more you have, the more you get’ and there are now well over 1,000 branches in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, in the UK clients are taking their banks to court. They claim that the charges for being overdrawn are unfair. Thousands of cases have already been settled out of court, costing the banks millions of pounds. A court case involving the Office of Fair Trading is taking place to clarify the situation. Perhaps the result will also turn against another banking principle: ‘the less you have, the more you lose’.

---

**Are the following statements true or false. If they are false, change them so that they’re true. (6 marks)**

12. The writer doesn’t like today’s banking system, but is interested in alternative banks.

13. Time banks offer time credits in exchange for cash.

14. One time credit is worth an hour of time.

15. Muhammad Yunus wanted to help poor people by offering them small, low-interest loans.

16. According to the article, richer people are better at managing their finances than poorer people.

17. The Grameen Bank hasn’t been particularly successful.

---

**Choose the most appropriate definition (a-f) for the following words and phrases (18-23). (3 marks)**

| 18. An overdraft facility is ... | a. a judge doesn’t get involved in the matter. |
| 19. An egalitarian system is a system where ... | b. it is very successful |
| 20. Unscrupulous money lenders ... | c. the ability to take more money out of your bank account than you have got |
| 21. There is normally a high street bank ... | d. try and make as much money as possible without thinking of others. |
| 22. If something is booming ... | e. everyone is equal. |
| 23. When a case is settled out of court ... | f. in every major town. |
II. Use of English Section (40 marks)

Fill in the gaps with these words/phrases. (6 marks)

chat rooms  blog  anti-virus software
webcam  online dating agency  search
engine  forum

Example: I really enjoy making new friends in Internet chat rooms.

24. He's started writing a _______ about his daily life and work.
25. Get some ___________ or you may lose everything on your computer.
26. I often use the _______ to chat to friends abroad. I love seeing their faces!
27. She met her husband after she joined an ____________.
28. Google is a very popular _____________.
29. He enjoys discussing current affairs in the politics _____________.

Choose the correct verb forms. (3 marks)

Example: Alan's been breaking/ has broken the window.

30. They've been visiting/ have visited New Zealand several times.
31. Robin and I have been knowing/ have known each other for years.
32. She's been playing/ has played tennis since 8.30.
33. Graham's been finding/ has found his car keys.
34. We've just been returning/ have returned from holiday.
35. I've been sorting out/ have sorted out my tax all day. I should finish it tomorrow.

Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. (5 marks)

36. I wish we ______ (not have to) go to work tomorrow.
37. I hope you ______ (have) a good time at the party tomorrow.
38. My parents wish they ______ (sell) their big old house years ago.
39. If only the government ______ (not increase) taxes so much last year.
40. It's time ______ (leave) for the airport.
41. If only John ______ (check) his email last night.

Fill in the gaps with the correct active or passive form of the verbs in brackets. There is sometimes more than one possible answer. (8 marks)

The History of Film
The first ever film was made (made) in 1895 and the first commercially successful movie released was the Great Train Robbery in 1903. The end of the age of silent films (42) ______ (mark) by the success of the first “talkie”, The Jazz Singer, in 1927, and the arrival of colour (43) ______ (add) to the popularity of the cinema. Between 1930 and 1945 the cinema industry in the USA (44) ______ (become) an entertainment factory which (45) ______ (control) by Hollywood studios. But since the 1940s the most significant advances in cinema (46) ______ (achieve) elsewhere. The British film industry (47) ______ (expand) after the war, but fewer films (48) ______ (make) in the UK today, mainly because the money that (49) ______ (need) to finance them can’t (50) ______ (find) easily. In the 1980s the home video recorder (51) ______ (invent) and many people (52) ______ (predict) the death of the cinema. For a few years audiences (53) ______ (decrease) alarmingly and dozens of cinemas (54) ______ (go) out of business, but recently more people (55) ______ (attract) back to the cinema. It (56) ______ (hope) that this growth will (57) ______ (continue) and cinema can return to its golden age.

Fill in the gaps with the correct preposition. (3 marks)

Example: My company exports tea to the UK.

58. Which project are you working ______?
59. Gabi’s been out ______ work for six months.
60. I don’t want to spend anything this weekend. I’m trying to save ______ for a holiday.
61. Dad is putting ______ some new shelves in the living room at the moment.
62. It’s been a pleasure doing business ______ you.
63. What do you do ______ a living?
Complete the table with male or female words. If there is no word, put - . (3 marks)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>male</th>
<th>female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a landlord</td>
<td>a landlady</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an actor</td>
<td>(65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a fireman</td>
<td>(66)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a hero</td>
<td>(69)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complete these reported statements, questions and requests. (4 marks)

Example: “Have you got time for a coffee, Maria?”
He asked Maria if she had time for a coffee.

70. “Can you pick me up after work?
Peter’s wife asked
71. “When is he leaving?”
She wanted to know
72. “You must be home by ten o’clock.”
Bob told his son
73. “I’m not going to call them until Sunday.”
Kevin explained

Choose the correct words. (3 marks)
Example: There’s no home milk in the fridge, I’m afraid.

74. Both dogs is/are taken for walks regularly.
75. Each student get/gets a course book.
76. All/Every member of the family was there.
77. Every hat I try on is/are the same.
78. None of/Neither of my parents smoke.
79. I haven’t seen neither/either of my nieces for over a year.

Read the situations and complete the following sentences with your own ideas. (5 marks)

Example: He didn’t go to work because there was a classic football match on TV. His boss was very angry.
I would have phoned my boss and asked for permission before the match.

80. Ben went to a party the night before his English exam and failed the exam.
He shouldn’t have
81. When they got to the airport, their parents had already got a taxi to the hotel.
They needn’t have
82. She was robbed as she walked home late at night.
I would have
83. He forgot his girlfriend’s birthday and she was really upset.
He could have
84. They didn’t go to the party.
They might have


III. Listening Section (20 marks)

Listen to five people talking about things they like doing at the weekend. Match speakers one to five to activities a) to f). Use each letter once only. There is one extra letter that you don’t need to use. (5 marks)

85. Speaker One a) relaxing with the Sunday papers
86. Speaker Two b) doing some DIY
87. Speaker Three c) doing some gardening
88. Speaker Four d) preparing a meal for friends
89. Speaker Five e) watching sport on TV
f) doing routine jobs at home
Listen to a radio interview with Karen Thomas, a sports therapist. Choose the correct answers. (7 marks)

90. Recent research has shown that the number of sports injuries has ...
   a) gone down. b) stayed the same. c) gone up.

91. Karen says that more people over thirty are taking up exercise because they ...
   a) want to join a sports club. b) want to lose weight c) have serious health problems.

92. Karen thinks people are more likely to get injured if they ...
   a) have just started exercising. b) have been exercising for years. c) hire a personal trainer.

93. The most common injuries caused by running are ...
   a) back and foot injuries b) ankle and knee injuries c) cuts and bruises

94. Most of the people she sees have physical problems because they ...
   a) go running. b) need to lose weight. c) don’t exercise at all.

95. Karen advises people who want new sports shoes to ...
   a) buy fashionable trainers. b) go to a shop with well-trained staff. c) get the most expensive pair they can afford.

96. She thinks that the best exercise for people who haven’t done any before is ...
   a) walking. b) going to the gym. c) jogging.

Jeffrey and Lauren are talking about their attitudes toward technology. First read the questions below. Then listen and check the correct answers. (8 marks)

97. Jeffrey
   A. is a mechanic. B. works on his new car. C. is a teenager. D. does simple repairs.

98. Jeffrey
   A. repairs his own car. B. is a complete technophobe. C. used to find cars really complicated. D. hires a mechanic to repair his car.

99. He can’t
   A. use his computer. B. fix a leaky faucet. C. program his VCR. D. change light fixtures.

100. He
   A. lost the instructions for his VCR. B. has never been interested in videos. C. never uses a computer D. didn’t understand the instructions for his VCR.

101. Lauren used to
   A. use her e-mail more. B. teach a computer class. C. hate technology. D. belong to several chatrooms.

102-103. Which two on-line activities does she mention?
   A. Web searches B. Shopping C. Banking D. Online research

IV. Writing Section (20 marks)

Question One: Write a letter to a friend that you haven’t seen in a long time. Tell him/her about what you’ve been doing recently and your future plans. (Write approximately 100 words.)

Question Two: A local newspaper is running a competition. Choose ONE of the following topics and write an article for the newspaper (approximately 100 words.):

- How has your city changed in the last ten years? Is it a better place to live now? Tell us your opinion.
- Should men and women do the same jobs or are some jobs only for men? Tell us your opinion about gender roles* in the 21st Century. * Jobs/responsibilities according to the sex of the person