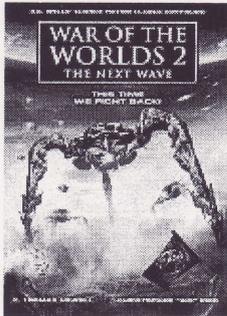


I. Reading Section (20 marks)

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

Source of text: adapted from unknown website

Vocabulary

abduct - kidnap

Answer the following questions. (8 marks)

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

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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/s broken the window.

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

male	female
a landlord	a landlady
(64) _____	a bride
an actor	(65) _____
a fireman	(66) _____
(67) _____	a niece
(68) _____	a headmistress
a hero	(69) _____

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/none 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 _____

Source of all *Use of English* exercises: Face2Face Upper-Intermediate Teacher's Book/ Chris Redston & Tim Marchand / CUP/ 2007 / Progress Tests pages 212-223

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

