

TASK 1. (0–4)

You are going to hear three people talking about renovating their apartments. For questions 1.1.–1.4., choose the right speaker (A–C) and mark your answer in the text boxes provided on the right. One speaker must be chosen twice.

Which speaker		A	B	C
1.1.	realized that he/she had overestimated his/her DIY abilities?			
1.2.	fell out with the designer over economizing?			
1.3.	got into debt due to poor decision-making about the refurbishment?			
1.4.	was apprehensive about having to cover the costs of the refurbishment beforehand?			

TASK 2. (0–6)

You are going to hear two texts. For questions 2.1.–2.6., choose the answer which best matches what you have heard by selecting the correct answer (A, B, C or D). Questions 2.1.–2.3. are for Text 1, questions 2.4.–2.6. are for Text 2.

Text 1

2.1. The British ski team were disgruntled after the Olympic Games because they

- A. disapproved of Edwards' careless attitude towards training.
- B. had expected Edwards to score many more points for the British squad.
- C. felt Edwards' results did not justify the extent of the public attention he enjoyed.
- D. discovered how determined Edwards was to cash in on his success and climb up the social ladder.

2.2. In the film based on Michael Edwards' story, we see

- A. Edwards' futile efforts to excel at sport.
- B. Edwards' father supporting him despite numerous failures.
- C. Edwards as an unlucky athlete fantasizing about being a goalkeeper.
- D. Edwards as a versatile sportsman who fails in a major competition.

2.3. When talking about the present day, the speaker

- A. describes distinctive physical characteristics which still make Edwards recognizable.
- B. voices his reservations about Edwards' participation in the Olympics.
- C. draws attention to the need for role models like Edwards in sport.
- D. suggests a reason for Edwards' lasting fame.

Text 2

- 2.4. From Sandra's response to the first question, we can conclude that she**
- A. relishes working at the centre of political life.
 - B. regrets not taking up work in the constituency before graduation.
 - C. feels frustrated because of her subordinate position.
 - D. considers her insufficient education a hindrance to being promoted.
- 2.5. Which of the following is mentioned as an OPINION, not a fact, when Sandra talks about the challenges of the job?**
- A. Parliamentary assistants are the first to deal with people's complaints.
 - B. Anonymity facilitates offensive behaviour.
 - C. MPs are oblivious to the hardships of real life.
 - D. MPs are the last resort for people who are in difficulty.
- 2.6. Which sentence best reflects Sandra's feelings about the Palace of Westminster?**
- A. The atmosphere of the building is suffocating due to its cramped interior.
 - B. There is a discrepancy between its imposing exterior and inadequate functionality.
 - C. Its appeal has significantly faded over the last few years.
 - D. The aura of mystery and past glory surrounding it is intimidating.

TASK 3. (0–5)

You are going to hear someone talking about their hobby. Based on what you hear, complete the gap in each sentence (3.1.–3.5.).

- 3.1. The speaker is able to say when she took up collecting second-hand books thanks to _____.
- 3.2. The fact that the speaker _____ the books she collected was incomprehensible to her father.
- 3.3. The speaker tried to address her mother's objections by _____.
- 3.4. The speaker expects she _____ if she sold her book collection.
- 3.5. According to the speaker, technology _____ a real book.

TASK 4. (0–7)

Read two texts connected with the Queen. For questions 4.1.–4.7., choose the answer that best matches the text (A, B, C or D).

Text 1

NOT THE QUEEN

Maggie Lockhart spent her life trying to work out what she'd done to deserve it. Things don't just happen. Sometimes the reasons are a long time coming, but when they finally do, they are clearly printed like her pension slip. Most things Maggie worked out to her own satisfaction, though getting people to see the thinking behind her reasoning was hard because nobody took her seriously. Maggie didn't have the temperament for teasing and was never good at being teased even as a child, before the nose, the mouth and the cheeks set. But even the most sweet-natured woman would have balked at what Maggie had to put up with. It wasn't easy to live with That Face. Nobody could look at her face without thinking of the other one's. And even she had the odd feeling when she glanced in the mirror that she wasn't seeing herself, but the Queen. All right, not dressed in those uptight suits in all sorts of colours, with the brooches and the silly hats, but the Queen just the same. Even with a cigarette dangling out of her mouth and no make-up on, Maggie had the bad luck of looking the spitting image of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Never one to put herself first or forward, Maggie would have been perfectly happy going through life taking a back seat. But That Face made her take a front seat. Still, for years she endured, believing that it just had to have some sort of purpose. Otherwise, what was the point of it all?

One year as she'd stepped off a plane in Cyprus, a whole flock of people had gathered around her. Maggie had had to wave her hands "No, no! I'm not who you think I am," until her husband, Charlie, pushed the way through the crowd. But she knew that Charlie loved it, to see her awkward and embarrassed and to take her arm and rush off as if the pair of them were famous. Yet, there was something about Charlie's attentiveness that sometimes drove her up the wall. When he came back from London with a mug with the Queen's face on it and prepared a tea for himself in it, she yanked it off him and put it in the box for the jumble sale.

On the other hand, Charlie was always the one to look after her, particularly now that they were getting on. When they walked out, Charlie was always on the lookout. Once he even suggested he could be her full-time bodyguard. But where would they get the money from, even supposing Maggie wanted a bodyguard?

Now she and the Queen were both in their seventies and having That Face still wasn't making any sense. It finally dawned on Maggie that she'd put up with it long enough. She was not a mug and it was time she asserted herself. She had been saving for some time and now had a total of three and a half thousand pounds. It had been a toss-up between treating her and Charlie to a cruise or doing what she had resolved to do. But the cruise would have been nightmarish, port after port of people squealing. That horrific picture in her mind was what made her go for the latter.

As far as Charlie knew, she was going to stay with her sister for a couple of weeks. That would give her time to get over her bruises, and let things settle. She'd already been down to London a few months before to see the man she was putting her faith in. She wanted a longer nose, higher cheeks and a different chin, but he'd told her that all that would involve an enormous amount of work and wouldn't be good for her face at her age. Eventually, they had settled on just changing the nose. But as with any big decision, now sitting in the taxi going up to the West End, Maggie was getting cold feet. Had she not been a bit touchy all her life? Couldn't somebody who liked a good laugh have enjoyed herself with the Queen's face? Had Maggie

used her face as a scapegoat to cover her own inadequacies? Would things have been different for her without That Face?

Charlie loved her both for being herself and for looking like the Queen. What would he say if she came back with a different nose? She was sure he would hit the roof and feel cheated. And then he would cry. Charlie had only cried twice – when his father died and when Scotland lost in 1974 – and both had filled Maggie with pity and compassion as Charlie had gone for the whole waterworks, bawling his eyes out like a man who hadn't had a chance to cry since he was a child. That thought pulled her up short. What the heck, Maggie! Have the Queen's face and put up with it. Maggie looked out of the cab window as it passed Piccadilly Circus only to see people excitedly looking in. She gave them the smallest of waves.

adapted from Not the Queen by Jackie Kay

4.1. Based on the 1st paragraph, what was Maggie's attitude to her looking like Queen Elizabeth II?

- A. She was content with the remarkable resemblance.
- B. She felt that such a burden in life had to be justified somehow.
- C. She focused on making the most of the opportunities it afforded.
- D. She felt she deserved a status appropriate to the face fate had granted her.

4.2. In which situation did Maggie manifest a lack of patience with Charlie?

- A. When she noticed he had brought home an item with an image of the Queen on it.
- B. When she was being escorted through cheering crowds in Cyprus.
- C. When he suggested she should hire him as a bodyguard.
- D. When he voiced his objections to the idea of her having plastic surgery.

4.3. What finally triggered Maggie's decision to have plastic surgery?

- A. Substantial savings she had accumulated.
- B. Her sister's offer to cover for her during the recovery.
- C. Her fear of what the cruise she was considering might be like.
- D. The conviction that aging might stop her from having an operation in the future.

4.4. How did Maggie feel on her way to the West End clinic?

- A. She was utterly thrilled at the thought of the change that was coming.
- B. She was worried about the doctor's decision to operate only on her nose.
- C. She was certain her lack of humour was the reason for her dissatisfaction with life.
- D. She was doubtful whether she was right to blame her looks for what her life had been like.

4.5. What was the main reason Maggie changed her mind about the surgery?

- A. She was persuaded that Charlie would lose interest in her.
- B. She realised that a change in her appearance would cause Charlie distress.
- C. She understood that she had grown used to public attention.
- D. She felt a sudden urge to go back and consult her decision with Charlie.

Text 2

QUEEN'S NEW PORTRAIT FOR COINS

A new portrait of the Queen to appear on coins has been unveiled. The effigy is the fifth definitive coin portrait to have been created during Queen Elizabeth's reign and the first since 1998. ❶ Even during the long reign of Queen Victoria there were no more than five portraits of the monarch on coins, one of which enjoyed such royal favour that it was used for about 50 years. The coins will take some time to filter through into people's wallets as newly minted money tends to be delivered to cash centres and banks in the first instance.

The portrait was chosen during a competition commissioned by the Royal Mint Advisory Committee. It shows the right profile of the Queen wearing a crown and drop earrings. ❷ Several artists were invited to submit designs anonymously and the committee ultimately selected Jody Clark's. Aged 33 when his design was chosen, Clark is the youngest of the five designers to have created portraits of the Queen that have appeared on UK circulating coins during her reign. "I really liked the four previous coin portraits – each one is strong in its own way. I hope that I've done Her Majesty justice and captured her in a fitting representation," Mr Clark said.

The Royal Mint's announcement of the unveiling of the new portrait took place on January 27th to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of the sculptor Mary Gillick, who was the first artist to capture the Queen's portrait for the nation's coins. ❸ Issued in 1953, the Gillick portrait depicted the Queen wearing a wreath of laurel, rather than the crown that we are used to seeing today. The portrait, which is still struck on Maundy Money, depicts her youthful right profile, and was considered to reflect the country's optimism as it greeted a new monarch in the post-Second World War era.

While artists' interpretations of the Queen's image have changed over time, one element has remained constant – the right profile relief. ❹ When asked about its origin, experts from the Royal Mint Museum questioned the popular belief that it was started by Charles II to symbolically turn his back on Oliver Cromwell. They say this may be too convenient an explanation and it is better to concede that if any reason existed for this, it has long since been forgotten.

The Royal Mint said that existing coins will remain in general circulation until they are naturally recycled due to wear and tear, usually when they are around 20 to 25 years old.

adapted from www.independent.co.uk

4.6. Look at the circles marked 1–4 in the text and decide where the following sentence fits best in the passage

This is in accordance with a tradition traced back to the 17th century, where successive monarchs face in alternate directions on coins.

- A. In the space marked ❶.
- B. In the space marked ❷.
- C. In the space marked ❸.
- D. In the space marked ❹.

4.7. According to the text, which sentence is TRUE?

- A. New coins are to be distributed exclusively to financial institutions.
- B. For the British, the Queen's effigy is an enduring symbol of hopefulness.
- C. The unveiling of the new portrait was announced on a day chosen with one of Mr Clark's predecessors in mind.
- D. Experts confirmed that it was Charles II who introduced the practice of showing the monarch's right profile on coins.

TASK 5. (0–4)

Read the article. Four fragments have been removed from the text. Complete each gap (5.1.–5.4.) with the fragment which fits best and put the appropriate letter (A–E) in each gap. There is one fragment which you do not need to use.

JUN: A TOWN THAT RUNS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For the last few years, a town in southern Spain has been conducting a remarkable experiment in civic life. Jun has been using Twitter as its principal medium for citizen-government communication. Leading the effort is the mayor of Jun, Rodríguez Salas, a passionate believer in the power of technology to solve problems and move society forward. Since launching the initiative in 2011, he has been inviting townspeople to join the social network and have their Twitter accounts locally verified at the town hall. **5.1.** ____ For instance, in a recent tweet someone alerted the mayor that one of the street lamps was out. Nine minutes after receiving the tweet, at 10:48 p.m., the mayor replied he would have the town electrician fix the problem the following day. The electrician was automatically notified that he'd been mentioned and saw the exchange. The next day, the electrician tweeted the photo of the repaired lamp and thanked the resident for his vigilance.

According to the mayor, this system is saving the town time and money. Tweeting is quicker than fielding and returning phone calls, which used to consume his day. He says these efficiencies have allowed for the police force to be reduced from a staff of four employees to just one. Jun's sole remaining police officer told us he now receives 40 to 60 citizen tweets per day, ranging from the serious to the trivial. **5.2.** ____ So far there hasn't been one, but even if something untoward did happen, Jun is a small town and everyone knows where to find him.

According to local people the initiative has had a net positive effect on the town. "Twitter is a plus, it makes the town better because we feel like a big family," one said. Another notes that it's an easy and fast way to connect and people can build on each other's comments. But the initiative is not without its critics. One resident said he dislikes the way the mayor uses social media for self-promotion, and how town employees tend to parrot everything the boss says. Another person complains about public servants using their accounts to inform the world about personal matters. **5.3.** ____ The statistics seem to confirm his view. In the real world one in every 43 people has a problem with everything. On Twitter, it is one in 27 – and they always expect an immediate response.

Mayor Rodríguez Salas has held office for the last eleven years. Throughout that time, Jun has been a trailblazer in applying digital tools to democracy, including electronic voting and live-streamed town meetings. Salas, with his relentless belief in innovation, has spearheaded all these efforts. **5.4.** ____ Time will tell whether the townspeople share his enthusiasm and have the same priorities. In forthcoming elections they will have a chance to pass their judgement on his work and decide whether to give him another term.

adapted from www.huffingtonpost.com

- A.** In conversation he often returns to his primary goal: making the town more transparent and participatory. In his office, where the blue Twitter bird adorns the wall behind his desk, he recently installed glass ceiling panels open to the sky to symbolize the transparency he aspires for.
- B.** Some elderly residents have started to voice concerns about the social networking of the council. They doubt whether the system can be relied on in adversity, particularly in the case of people who are not technologically savvy.
- C.** However, being accessible to the public on social network day and night has its downsides. To protect his family time, on arriving home in the evening he turns off the phone. But what if there's an emergency?
- D.** This latter step isn't necessary to participate in the conversation but it helps the town's employees know they're dealing with actual residents. In the most basic scenario, a resident who has a question, request or complaint tweets it to the mayor or one of his staff, who then work to resolve the matter.
- E.** The mayor himself is not a blindly devoted believer either. He jokingly calls Twitter "the Society of the Minute" because it has a way of making people more demanding and impatient.