Summarize written text

In the test, there are 2–3 tasks. Each task has a text on the screen. You type your summary of the text into the box at the bottom of the screen. The wording in the instructions below is the same as you will see in the actual test. See page 24 for help.

1 10 min. Read the passage below and summarize it using one sentence. Type your response in the box at the bottom of the screen. You have 10 minutes to finish this task. Your response will be judged on the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the key points in the passage.

Neanderthals first appeared in Europe and Western Asia about 350,000 years ago. They knew how to use fire, could make rudimentary tools and hunting weapons, and possessed a limited form of vocal communication. Shortly after the arrival of the ancestor of modern humans, Cro Magnons, the Neanderthals disappeared. The possible reasons for the demise of the Neanderthals have been the subject of intense scientific and anthropological debate ever since the skull of a Neanderthal child was discovered in Belgium in 1829.

One theory suggests that the new arrivals exterminated the previous occupants through violent confrontation. To back up this claim, exponents point to archaeological evidence showing that the weapons of Cro Magnons were more advanced than those of their adversaries. Critics, while accepting that this was the case and admitting some bones show injuries consistent with spear attacks, believe that the evidence is too scant to confirm such violent conflict was widespread.

Another possibility is that the Neanderthals died of diseases they contracted from being in close proximity to the newcomers. Their immune system would have put up little resistance to the pathogens and bacteria carried by Cro Magnons. Whilst this is a plausible explanation, most agree that with the disintegration over time of all available physical evidence, it remains a very speculative guess.

Perhaps the most convincing argument is based on the anatomical differences between the two species. Cro Magnons were much lighter and could run much faster and cover greater distances than the Neanderthals. Anatomical differences in the thorax and position of the vocal chords meant Cro Magnons were capable of quite complex verbal communication too. And finally, whilst the Neanderthals lived in small, isolated communities, Cro Magnons made contact and even traded with distant settlements thus establishing a support system between communities.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 10 min. Read the passage below and summarize it using one sentence. Type your response in the box at the bottom of the screen. You have 10 minutes to finish this task. Your response will be judged on the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the key points in the passage.

Some regard the arrival of robots with dread, envisaging a world controlled by mechanical androids. Others recognize the advantages they will bring, such as freeing people from menial jobs. What is certain is that robot technology is advancing at an ever-quicker pace. So what applications of the robots are in store for the future?

Many medical operations require a level of precision which very few humans possess. Those who do can be susceptible to ill judgement, overwork and tiredness, or nerves. A robot is immune to these failings and, provided it has been programmed correctly, cannot make a mistake. A revolutionary concept called nano-surgery is in its infancy, but scientists believe that one day miniature medical machines will be introduced into a body to perform minute surgery directly on the diseased organ, completely independent of a surgeon.

Transportation is another area where robots will play an important role. Driverless cars are now a reality and 'pilotless' planes may follow if public opinion can be won over. Robots are often employed in difficult and dangerous tasks, and few environments are more so than outer space. Probes have already landed on Mars and when humans follow they will be accompanied by a team of communicative artificial colleagues.

Popular-press articles have focussed on the functions robots may perform both in the house and as companions to people with communication or social problems. The former is less likely to happen in the near future: while a computer-operated machine is highly capable of complex logical analysis—playing a game of chess, for example—physical tasks such as making a bed or cooking a meal would pose serious problems. The second application is more feasible. Machines capable of answering verbal questions and robotic pets responding to commands already exist today, and they are becoming more sophisticated with time.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Summarize spoken text

In the test, there are 2–3 tasks. For each task, you listen to the audio then type your summary into the box on the screen. The wording in the instructions below is the same as you will see in the actual test. See page 45 for help.

You will hear a short lecture. Write a summary for a fellow student who was not present at the lecture. You should write 50–70 words.

10 min. You will have 10 minutes to finish this task. Your response will be judged on the quality of your writing and on how well your response presents the key points presented in the lecture.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Re-order paragraphs

In the test, there are 2–3 tasks. For each task, you drag paragraphs from the left and drop them into the correct order on the right. The wording in the instructions below is the same as you will see in the actual test. See page 35 for help.

The text boxes in the left panel have been placed in a random order. Restore the original order by dragging the text boxes from the left panel to the right panel.

1

A The researchers left an envelope with a visible five-euro note sticking out of a postbox on a city street. Initially, just 13 per cent of people passing by took the envelope.

B Similarly, when the ground around the postbox was covered in litter, 25 per cent of passers-by gave in to temptation.

C It seems fairly clear that people's perceptions of the state of the surroundings affected their moral decision-making.

D However, when the exact same postbox was painted in graffiti, more than twice as many people, 27 per cent, took the money.

E A recent experiment by Dutch scientists suggests that human behaviour and morality may be influenced by environmental signs of disorder or neglect.

2

A Despite recent technological advances in music notation and recording, the most common form of communication in human musical experience is still live oral transmission.

B For example, children learn songs from each other in the playground, and fans pick up the chants sung during football matches.

C Therefore, when musicians rehearse new pieces of music, they still need to play together in order to learn all the elements that are too complex or subtle to be conveyed on paper.

D Even people who have never taken music lessons will have some experience of learning music directly from other people, without the use of specialized notation.

E Furthermore, even professional musicians who do use notation often need extra information that has to be explained or communicated in person.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Re-tell lecture

In the test, there are 3–4 tasks. For each task, you see an image on the screen. Listen to the lecture and then speak into the microphone. The wording in the instructions below is the same as you will see in the actual test. See page 20 for help.

40 sec. You will hear a lecture. After listening to the lecture, in 10 seconds, please speak into the microphone and retell what you have just heard from the lecture in your own words. You will have 40 seconds to give your response.





LIVEWORKSHEETS

Read aloud

In the test, there are 6–7 tasks. For each task, you read the text aloud into the microphone. The wording in the instructions below is the same as you will see in the actual test. See page 12 for help.

40 sec. **Look at the text below. In 40 seconds, you must read this text aloud as naturally and as clearly as possible. You have 40 seconds to read aloud.**

Exam anxiety can affect even the best students, resulting in marks that do not reflect their abilities or preparation. Despite having the knowledge, skills and attitude to succeed, they often become overwhelmed by the pressure of the exam's significance. Students worry that a poor performance might impact their future prospects and, ironically, this often causes them to underperform.

Erasmus is a student-exchange programme which was set up within the European Union in 1987. In 2006, more than 150,000 students, or nearly 1 per cent of the European student population, participated in it. Students spend between three months and a year studying in another European country. There are academic advantages, and the students are encouraged to learn about the culture of their host country.

LIVEWORKSHEETS