LISTENING WORKSHEET

France Telecom – Minitel online service

Task 7 (p.31): Listen to Jean-Yves Martin, a *sales representative of France Telecom explains Minitel online service to Paul Burgess, an English reporter.* Complete Paul's note.

Description

Online service linking terminals in homes to telephone network – 'a telephone you can write with'.

Examples of Minitel services

1. Weather forecasts
2. _____
3. Home-shopping services
4. _____
5. "Minitel rose"

Advantages of system

6. Cheap
7. _____
8. _____

Original disadvantages

9. Primitive graphics
10. _____
11. _____

Possible future developments

12. Addition of _____ to the system (for bank and stock-market transactions from the home)
13. _____ linked on broadband radio channels (for use in cars)

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Extra questions: Listen again and answer the following questions.

1. What is Minitel best described as?
   A. A type of telephone
   B. A small computer terminal linked to the telephone network
   C. A new type of smartphone
   D. A system for sending handwritten messages

2. What is the main purpose of Minitel?
   A. To help users make phone calls more easily
   B. To provide access to various types of information
   C. To improve television broadcasts in France
   D. To develop high-speed internet

3. Which of the following services is NOT mentioned as available on Minitel?
   A. Train schedules
   B. Stock-market figures
   C. Video streaming
   D. Home-shopping services

4. What was 'Minitel rose'?
   A. A system for paying bills
   B. A dating and chat service
   C. A company that manufactured Minitel devices
   D. A government program to improve technology in schools

5. How did the Minitel system start in France?
   A. The government replaced printed telephone directories with Minitels
   B. It was launched as a paid subscription service
   C. France Telecom introduced it as a new internet alternative
   D. The system was first developed in the United States

6. Why did Minitel become successful?
   A. It was free for everyone
   B. It was easy to use and inexpensive
   C. It had high-speed internet and high-quality graphics
   D. It was the only way to communicate in France at that time

7. What was one major disadvantage of Minitel?
   A. It was too expensive for most people
   B. The system was difficult to use
   C. The graphics were simple, and transmission was slow
   D. It did not offer many services

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8. How might Minitel develop in the future, according to Jean-Yves Martin?
   A. It will be used for making bank transactions
   B. It will be replaced by the internet immediately
   C. It will stop working due to high costs
   D. It will become a new television system

9. What can be inferred about Minitel compared to modern internet services?
   A. Minitel was more advanced than the internet today
   B. Minitel had limited functions but was innovative for its time
   C. People preferred Minitel over modern digital services
   D. Minitel was only used by businesses, not individuals

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