

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)

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

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