

ENGLISH COMPETITION 2014.

FOR YEAR 9 AND 10 STUDENTS IN GRAMMAR AND
SECONDARY SCHOOLS

YOUR CODE: ____ . ____ ____ ____
 year class ID school code

SCORES: TASK 1 ____

TASK 2 ____

TASK 3 ____

TASK 4 ____

TOTAL ____

Teacher's (coordinator's) signature: _____

TASK 1

FILL IN THE GAPS WITH THE RIGHT WORD FROM THE WORDLIST. /TWO WORDS ARE NOT NECESSARY/ THERE IS AN EXAMPLE

WORDLIST: reveal, prove, exposed, bulging, jut, core, formation, despite, declared, shaped, mere, split



Rocks That Grow? Hmm . . .

By Meera Dolasia on January 7, 2014

The Romanian town of Costesti is home to one of the world's most amazing natural 0. **phenomena** - rocks that grow. Named Trovants or '*cemented sand*' the spherical 1. _____ stones are believed to have first appeared on earth about six million years ago, following a powerful earthquake.

At first sight, Trovants that comprise of a hard 2. _____ and sandy shell, appear to be like any other rocks. The magic begins when it rains. As soon as the last drop dries out, small formations start 3. _____ from the sides - almost as if the stones have come alive.

And the growth is not minuscule either. Researchers claim that stones that were once a 4. _____ six to eight millimeters often end up measuring six to ten meters wide. As they get larger, Trovants tend to 5. _____ from their 'birth mother' and continue the magical growth process, independently. What's even more amazing is that when cut horizontally, Trovants 6. _____ growth rings that are similar to ones found in the cross section of tree trunks.

The strangest part is that 7. _____ having known about them for many years, scientists have no idea how Trovants '*grow*'. One of the most plausible theories is that the growth is caused by the high mineral content present in the rocks. Researchers speculate that when 8. _____ to moisture, the minerals expand and in turn put pressure on the sandy shell, forcing it to 9. _____ outward and making the stones '*grow*'. The other mystery of course is why these rocks are found only in one area of the world.

Not surprisingly, the unusual rocks have become superstars and the Muzeul Trovantilor museum dedicated to them is visited by millions of tourists every year. In order to protect them for future generations, the area was 10. _____ a national preserve in 2004 and is also one of the 193 natural sites protected by UNESCO.

0 – phenomena, 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____
6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____ 10. _____

TASK 2

READ THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE. PARTS OF SOME SENTENCES ARE MISSING. YOUR TASK IS TO FILL THEM IN (1-10) FROM THE LIST BELOW (A-M). WRITE THE LETTERS IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACES AS IN THE EXAMPLE. REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE TWO EXTRA LETTERS YOU DO NOT NEED.

Why we have to turn electronic devices off on planes

5 June 2013

What should we 0) _____ recent news reports speculating about whether mobile phones cause cancer? It's all about how we 1) _____.

I have a guilty secret to confess. My plane was preparing for take-off from London's Heathrow Airport in March when a flight attendant made the usual request for passengers to turn their electronic devices off. Far from complying, I pushed my smartphone deeper into my pocket. I had important work messages to check, and surely my little handset wasn't going to cause the plane to 2) _____, was it?

It seems I'm not alone. A recent survey found around four out of 10 US air passengers admitted they don't always 3) _____ on flights. One notable occasion saw the actor Alec Baldwin reacting furiously on Twitter after being kicked off a Los Angeles-to-New York flight before take off for refusing to stop playing the online game Words With Friends on his phone.

According to regulations, which are pretty uniform around the world, the use of portable electronic devices is not allowed below around 3,000m (10,000ft), even in "flight mode" which stops the transmission of signals. Above this height devices like laptops and music players can be used, but phones must 4) _____. These rules are important, we are told, to avoid potentially dangerous interference between signals from these devices and sensitive onboard electronic systems. But do these fears have any scientific basis, or is it time to 5) _____?

The fear of interference comes from the fact that gadgets connect to the internet or to mobile phone networks using radio waves. To explain the theoretical dangers, Peter Ladkin, Professor of Computer Networks and Distributed Systems at Bielefeld University, Germany, uses the analogy of holding a blowtorch to your household heating pipes. The central heating system in your house makes changes based on the readings of thermometers within those pipes, so the blowtorch will heat the water, change the temperature readings and 6) _____ to make adjustments.

Personal mobile devices could act in a similar way on aeroplanes, on which hundreds of electronics-based systems, known as avionics, are used for navigation, to communicate with the ground and to 7) _____ the components that keep them in the air. Some involve sensors that communicate information to cockpit instruments. It's not just an issue with mobile phones. Kindles, iPods, laptops, handheld gaming consoles – they all 8) _____. If these are at frequencies close to those of the avionics, signals and readings could be corrupted. This could affect systems such as radar, communications and collision avoidance

technology, and the problem is potentially magnified if gadgets are damaged and start emitting stronger radio waves than they should, or if signals from multiple devices combine.

So much for the theory, but is there any proof that this is a problem? There are no known recorded incidents of crashes having been definitely caused by such interference, but that said the causes of accidents can sometimes 9) _____. A flight recorder may not identify that a critical system has failed because of electromagnetic interference from passengers' devices.

System malfunction

But while definite proof may be lacking, there is plenty of anecdotal evidence that the risks should be taken seriously. A report summarising 50 cases of safety issues thought to have been caused by personal electronic devices, was published in January this year. These were compiled from the US Aviation Safety Reporting System, a database maintained by Nasa, to which crew members can anonymously 10) _____ of safety problems. One such case was summarised as follows: "First Officer reports compass system malfunctions during initial climb. When passengers are asked to verify that all electronic devices are turned off the compass system returns to normal."

- A) plummet from the sky
- B) remain unknown
- C) submit reports
- D) turn the mobile on
- E) deal with uncertainty
- F) emit radio waves
- G) turn their gadgets off
- H) remain off
- I) trigger the system
- J) relax the rules
- K) keep track of
- L) break the rules
- M) make of

0 -M, 1 _____, 2. _____, 3. _____, 4. _____, 5. _____, 6. _____, 7. _____, 8. _____, 9. _____, 10. _____

TASK 3

YOU ARE GOING TO READ AN ARTICLE ABOUT SHARKS

WORDS ARE MISSING FROM THE TEXT. USE THE WORDS IN BRACKETS TO FORM THE WORDS THAT FIT IN THE GAPS (1 – 10.) THEN WRITE THE APPROPRIATE FORM OF THESE WORDS ON THE LINES AFTER THE TEXT. USE ONLY ONE WORD FOR EACH GAP. THERE IS AN EXAMPLE (0) AT THE BEGINNING

In Western Australia Even Sharks Send Out 'Tweets'!

on January 6, 2014

The fact that Twitter, the social networking **0. networking (network)** and **microblogging** site which **1. _____ (able)** users to send 'tweets' or 140 character messages to their followers is popular, is no secret. However so far the service was being used only by humans. Now it appears that some sharks that **frequent** the **2. _____ (coast)** regions of Western Australia have also joined the fray. But before your **3. _____ (imagine)** runs wild, these fish are not swimming around with mobile phones and using their fins to type messages. Rather, over 330 of them have been tagged with electronic devices that remotely send out a tweet through *Surf Life Saving Western Australia's* Twitter account, anytime they get to within a kilometer of a local beach. Besides warning them about the **4. _____ (present)** of the shark, the tweet also provides details on its size and location. It is hoped that this instant information will give swimmers and surfers enough time to steer away and avoid a **5. _____ (confront)**. Though this a great first step to helping both fish and humans, the researchers caution residents from getting too **6. _____ (complace)**. That's because only a small number of sharks have been tagged and the electronic devices only send out signals when they are within a specific radius. Besides using the sensors to help against attacks, the researchers are also hoping to gain more **7. _____ (sight)** into shark behavior and movements, with the help of an extensive network of monitors that have been placed on the seabed around the coastline. Though Western Australia is considered to be the most dangerous in the world for shark attacks, the numbers are actually quite small. In 2012, the area recorded just 14 attacks and only a total of 64 fatal ones have been recorded worldwide, since 2001. However, the **8. _____ (perceive)** and fear of the fish is so high that measures like this are deemed necessary, to provide residents some comfort. In addition, **9. _____ (conservation)** are also hoping that it will help save the fish whose numbers are already greatly reduced, thanks to human activity. That's because a recently passed Australian law allows professional fishermen to kill sharks that are larger than three meters, if they appear in certain zones. As if that is not bad enough, the law also stipulates that sharks that come close to the beach in the summer can be baited to locations one kilometer offshore, and killed. Hopefully the 'tweeting' sensors that will last for a decade before requiring **10. _____ (replace)**, will help prevent unnecessary killings.

1. _____ , 2. _____ , 3. _____ , 4. _____ , 5. _____ ,
6. _____ , 7. _____ , 8. _____ , 9. _____ , 10. _____

TASK 4

This text comes from David Copperfield by Charles Dickens. Put in the missing letters on the lines in the text. There is an example.

On the occasis s i o n of this dom little party, I did not repeat my former exte preparations. I merely prov a pair of soles, a small leg of mutton, and a pig -pie. Mrs. Crupp broke out into rebe on my first bashful hint in refe to the cooking of the fish and jo , and said, with a dign sense of injury, 'No! No, sir! You will not ask me such a thing, for you are better acquai with me than to suppose me capable of doing what I cannot do with ampial satisf to my own feelings!' But, in the end, a compromise was effe and Mrs. Crupp cons to achieve this feat, on cond that I dined from home for a fort afterwards. And here I may remark, that what I unde from Mrs. Crupp, in conse of the tyr she established over me, was drea . I never was so much afraid of anyone. We made a compr of everything. If I hesi , she was taken with that wonderful diso which was always ly in amb in her system, ready, at the shor notice, to prey upon her vit . If I rang the bell impat , after half-a-do unavailing modest pulls, and she appeared at last - which was not by any me to be relied upon - she would appear with a repro aspect, sink breat on a chair near the door, l her hand up her nankeen bosom, and become so ill, that I was gl , at any sacr of brandy or anything else, to get r of her. If I obje to having my bed made at five o'clock in the afternoon - which I do st think an uncomfortable arran - one motion of her hand tow the same nankeen region of wou sensibility was enough to make me falter an apo . In short, I would have done anything in an honou way rather than give Mrs. Crupp off ; and she was the terror of my life. I bought a second-hand dumb-waiter for this dinner-party, in prefe to re-engaging the ha young man; aga whom I had conc a prejudice, in conse of meeting him in the Strand, one Sunday morning, in a waistcoat remar like one of mine, which had been mis since the former occassion .

1. Teachers should not be allowed to contact students through social media.
2. Students should do community work

CHOOSE A TOPIC (either 1. or 2.) AND WRITE a composition giving your pros and cons (Write 150-200 words – do not write more than 250 words)