Bilingual Matura Practice

Task 2.

You are going to hear two texts. For questions 2.1.–2.6., choose the answer which best matches what you have heard by circling the appropriate letter (A, B, C or D). You will hear the recording twice.

Text 1.

2.1. The speaker points out that transactions between customers and vendors

A. are fundamentally simplistic in nature with few extra considerations.
B. contain more nuanced elements than the base mechanism alone.
C. cease to include further obligations the moment that goods are handed over.
D. are governed differently depending upon the source of a purchase.

2.2. The right of redress is important for consumers as it

A. maintains a unified standard for the consistent quality of goods for sale.
B. stipulates the requirements for the objective representation of goods.
C. provides legal assistance in a court of law during a dispute.
D. guarantees the entitlement to reimbursement following any grievances.

2.3. From the description of British consumer protection law we can infer that

A. it lacks the extensive scope of European Union measures.
B. it has resulted in widespread social criticism and activism.
C. it is perhaps surprisingly recent when compared to other countries.
D. it was directly influenced by American measures and policies.

Text 2.

2.4. According to Jackson, the multi-agency dynamic is

A. only in place to boost the efficacy of the organisation.
B. essential to a doctrine that the group values highly.
C. centrally led by the Centre of Environment and Climate Action.
D. the result of the equal placement of organisational priorities.

2.5. Which is NOT mentioned as a factor causing scientists to question the use of planned burning?

A. the undeniable damage that they cause to the local ecosystem
B. the unpredictability of a controlled burn once the process is underway
C. the conflicting nature of pursing a course of action that is diametrically opposed to firefighting
D. the involvement of unqualified civilian focus groups during the planning stage

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2.6. Jackson makes use of a popular idiom in order to

A. explain the need for a particular course of action.
B. justify the unexpected result of an event he was involved in.
C. explain a complex procedure in lay terms to non-experts.
D. dismiss concerns that he feels are invalid and unhelpful.

Task 6.

THE WELFARE STATE

Read the text. For questions 6.1.–6.4., choose the appropriate paragraph and write the corresponding letter (A–E) in the table. One paragraph does not match any of the questions.

A. Welfare states are forms of government where the state and its various social institutions serve to protect and support the wellbeing of its citizens. This can be done in numerous ways to cover the social and economic needs of people while pursuing the principles of equal opportunity, public responsibility, and equitable distribution of wealth. In their most basic forms, welfare states offer provision for public pensions and forms of social insurance for the public good, although they can include much more extensive measures and nuanced features depending upon the country.

B. Welfare states are often described as a European construct as they can trace their beginnings back to the European continent. This is a valid view as the European origin can actually be closely linked to Germany in the late 1800s. During the process of industrialisation, Imperial Bismarck Germany expanded significantly on existing policies. Bismarck measures included compulsory social insurance, sickness insurance and protection for industrial accidents. Such social policies allowed European countries to tackle the enduring problems of social misery and lay a foundation for stable economic growth while maintaining social order.

C. Welfare states have often found themselves interconnected with severe global events that served to usher in measures. Examples of such events include the First and Second World War and the Great Depression of the 1930s. Interestingly, the very term ‘welfare state’ was coined by the Archbishop of York in 1941 as a response to the Nazi notion of a ‘warfare state’. This in part also stemmed from a reluctance to adopt the original German term ‘social state’ in English speaking countries. Although the Archbishop popularised the term, the idea also has parallels with Benjamin Disraeli’s 1845 novel *Sybil*. In it, Disraeli (who would later become Prime Minister) states ‘power only has one duty – to secure the social welfare of the PEOPLE’. This was a view that Disraeli shared with others who wanted to improve the conditions of the working classes and believed in the ‘dignity of labour’.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D. Welfare states are usually divided into two main classes: universal, which allows provisions for all members of society regardless of their economic status, and selective, which focuses on the needs of most economically disadvantaged. In the United Kingdom the welfare state covers health, education, employment and social security and is classified as a liberal welfare state system. One of the key features of the British model is the National Health Service (NHS), a healthcare system that is entirely publicly funded and that offers free healthcare to each and every citizen. The NHS is a key element of British society and its existence is seen as a source of national pride by many and an ideal example of social responsibility.

E. Despite their benefits and ethical righteousness, welfare states are not always universally praised. In some countries a strong social stigma is attached to the concept. There is a clear relationship between this hostility and liberal states (the most extreme example being the United States of America) and an appreciation and acceptance in social democratic states such as those found in Europe. This is in part due to resentment towards the redistribution of resources to those that are deemed unworthy or lazy and a culture of working oneself out of trouble instead of offering unemployment benefits.

In which paragraph does the author

6.1. validate an assertion about the origins of a social construct?
Answer _____

6.2. highlight reluctance towards the implementation of social policies and public benefits?
Answer _____

6.3. make a comparison between two different notions about social morality and ethical conduct?
Answer _____

6.4. provide a widely-loved exemplar of civic duty and compassion towards fellow citizens?
Answer _____

Task 5.
Read the article. Four passages have been removed from the text. Complete each gap (5.1.–5.4.) with the passage which fits best and put the appropriate letter (A–F) in each gap. There are two passages which you do not need to use.

ADVERTS AIMED AT YOU

When the Tom Cruise blockbuster *Minority Report* was released in 2002, one of the scenes that caught people's attention at the time was the personalised ads that greeted Cruise's character when he walked around the futuristic city and addressed him directly. **5.1.** _____ Nowadays, this same idea that fascinated us so much just twenty years ago has stepped out of science fiction and is a part of our everyday lives. So much so, in fact, that many people wouldn't even give it a second thought.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Although most of our personalized adverts today don't talk to us as interactive videos, in the same way as those of *Minority Report*, they follow essentially the same principles.

One example is the rise of targeted advertising, and in this respect we can see a direct comparison to the mall scene of *Minority Report*. Targeted advertising works by flagging goods or brands based on our interactions online and the areas where we have signalled interest. Advertisers of today aren't scanning your retina every time you walk past a billboard (like in the film) but they do have access to a tool just as effective and powerful: your online data, browser search history, and interactions and behaviour on social media. This is exactly how social media algorithms present tailored targeted ads to you on your newsfeeds in different social networks. **5.2.** _____

Another type of advertising that is more closely linked to the concept presented in Cruise's film is that of dynamic ad creative. Dynamic creative is very similar to targeted advertising by taking the same idea and creating an even more customised commercial. In the film, this is presented by the advert literally talking to Cruise's character and addressing him by name. **5.3.** _____ This groundbreaking speaker offers a truly immersive experience that could have numerous applications.

These techniques and new developments in technology are all very good and well, but how are they actually received by consumers and the public at large? There would seem little use to them, after all, if they are shunned by people and found to be an annoyance. Thankfully, for advertisers' sake at least, this doesn't appear to be the case. Research has found that personalised ads are actually very popular, with 71% of consumers actually preferring them to traditional advertising. **5.4.** _____ While the shift towards personalised ads is welcomed, 75% of people asked stated that they wanted fewer ads in general, with that reduced number aligning closely to their personal interests. Less, it seems, is very much more in this respect. *Minority Report's* mall scene is a brilliant example of how science fiction and popular culture serve as inspiration and driving forces for social change. The question is, to what extent does cinema and literature predict the future and to what extent does it actually make it manifest? Was *Minority Report* witty social commentary based on observation, or the root of an idea that has permeated every aspect of our daily lives?

A. Such targeted advertising isn't limited to social media either, you can find it presenting itself as banners on numerous websites, from email accounts through to popular online dictionaries.

B. There remains an important takeaway from this study however, as this popularity doesn't mean that people are willing to accept a great deal of it.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C. *Minority Report's* powerful use of personalised adverts as powerful topical satire remains a benchmark for directors.

D. This level of direct engagement isn't far off and is currently in development; in fact one company already has innovative speakers that direct personalised audio into your ears only by creating a bubble of audio around an individual's ears.

E. It goes without saying that Tom Cruise, like many other actors and celebrities, appears as the face of numerous global advertising campaigns.

F. It was a small, trivial detail but captured the imagination of many people around the globe.

TASK 8

For questions 1-8, read the text below and think of the word which fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

Taste is **(1)** ……..... simply the preserve of a tiny aristocracy, of the court culture of the European, Abbasid or Chinese past or the 'foodie' of the present. In the social history of ordinary people, calorie intake, the threat of famine and the supply of urban centres are among the topics **(2)** ……..... have given us **(3)** ……..... idea of the fragility and difficulty of pre-industrial life. The relevance of the history of the food in its **(4)**……..... basic sense needs **(5)** ……..... justification.

The exchange of products resulting **(6)** ……..... the discovery of the New World, the dependence of societies **(7)** ……..... one overwhelmingly important food source, or the impact of modern warfare on civilian diet **(8)** ……..... all clearly major topics. In the mid-twentieth century, historians' interest in societal conditions, particularly the history of ordinary people, inevitably involved questions of how peasants or workers lived in the past; how well or poorly nourished they were; and how they coped with the unpredictability of harvests, food supply and prices.

TASK 9.

Complete the second sentence so that it is as similar in meaning as possible to the first sentence and it is correct in both grammar and spelling. Use the word given. Do not change the word given. Use up to five words. in each gapo, including the word given.

1. The administration has attempted to make the situation seem less serious.
   PLAYED

The administration _____ of the situation.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. He claimed that his success was due purely to luck.
   ATTRIBUTED
He _____ luck.

3. The stimulation package needs to be supported by the local town council.
   BACKING
The stimulation package _____ the local town council.

4. The weather was so nice that we were able to sit in the garden.
PLEASANT
It _____ we were able to sit in the garden.

5. Julie stopped the course because she found the seminars very dull.
UNINSPIRING
Julie found_____ she stopped her course.

6. He realised immediately that the story was fabricated.
THROUGH
He _____ story.

7. The majority of their clientele is made up of wealthy expatriates.
COMPRISE
Wealthy expatriates _____ their clientele.

8. At the moment I only have time to think about my project.
PREOCCUPIED
At the moment I _____ my project.

LIVEWORKSHEETS