BILINGUAL MATURA PRACTICE

TASK 1. (0–4)

You are going to hear three people talking about starting a fire while preparing food. For questions 1.1.–1.4., choose the right speaker (A–C) and put a cross (X) in the appropriate column in the table. One speaker must be chosen twice. You will hear the recording twice.

Which speaker		A	B	C
1.1.	tried to prepare a meal despite his/her poor record as a cook?			
1.2.	deliberately damaged a piece of equipment to handle an emergency situation?			
1.3.	aggravated the situation by acting too hastily?			
1.4.	missed the moment when the fire started?			

TASK 2. (0–6)

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). Questions 2.1.–2.3. are for Text 1, questions 2.4.–2.6. are for Text 2. You will hear the recording twice.

Text 1

2.1. The phrase "the magic number of greatness" refers to

A. the amount of time needed to achieve an expert level at a skill.
B. the years of experience necessary to refine genuine talent.
C. the statistics describing a person's natural aptitude.
D. the hours required to research guided practice.

2.2. Which is TRUE about Dan's challenge?

A. Dan convinced Dr Ericsson he had to spend over six hours a day on the golf course.
B. Dr Ericsson opted for shortening the project to three and a half years.
C. Time spent with the ball counts twice as much as other forms of practice.
D. Extra-curricular activities do not contribute to the hours clocked by Dan.

2.3. Which of the following is stated in the text as a <u>fact</u>, and not an opinion?

A. Qualifying for the PGA Tour is a challenge equal to climbing Mount Everest.
B. Working on specific aspects of a skill optimizes the overall result.
C. Dan's challenge has drawn the attention of a growing number of observers.
D. Extended golfing practice is what most men dream about.

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Text 2

2.4. Markus got involved in water-drop photography because

A. he had come across an inspiring article written by a high-speed photography expert.
B. he had been challenged by another photographer to try new settings.
C. he had become disheartened by unsuccessful trial-and-error attempts in other genres.
D. he had been impressed with photographs he had seen online.

2.5. When taking pictures using the "drop on drop" technique, Markus

A. uses water thickened with milk or cream.
B. adjusts the moment of releasing the second drop.
C. releases drops at regular, precisely timed intervals.
D. makes sure that the second drop lands on the crown the first drop created.

2.6. In his final response, Markus

A. explains what calculations are necessary to produce perfect water-drop photos.
B. describes specialized tools indispensable for taking water-drop photos.
C. draws attention to a quality a water-drop photographer should possess.
D. sums up the topics he covers in water-drop photography.

TASK 3. (0–5)

You are going to hear an interview about cryptozoology. Complete each sentence (3.1.–3.5.) with a word or phrase, according to what you have heard. You will hear the recording twice.

3.1. When Loren Coleman was a teenager, his teachers _____ his interest in the Yeti.

3.2. Cryptozoologists' work involves collecting _____ _____.

3.3. The public at large is most interested in mysterious creatures which _____ _____.

3.4. Loren criticizes mass media for _____.

3.5. Loren points out that many scientists do not recognize cryptozoology as science because _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TASK 7. (0–5)

Read the text. For questions 7.1.–7.5., choose the word or phrase which fits best in each gap. Circle the appropriate letter (A, B, C or D).

REDUCING TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN LOS ANGELES

L.A. traffic congestion is the worst in the nation. It takes its **7.1.** _____ on the quality of life, economic competitiveness and driving safety. And it is more than certain that it will continue to worsen unless policymakers intervene. But what steps should be taken? To answer this question, a group of researchers conducted a study to identify strategies that could be **7.2.** _____ and might produce significant effects within five years. The scientists concluded that tackling the problem of congestion should mean **7.3.** _____ increasing the supply of road space or reducing the demand for peak-hour automotive travel.

However, the prospects for building the way out of congestion are grim. Most residents fear **7.4.** _____ by fast-flowing traffic day and night and oppose the construction of new roads or the expansion of existing ones in their neighborhoods. And even if people **7.5.** _____ to new highways, there is very little space to add road capacity in the areas where congestion is most intense. Therefore, the most realistic option is to find ways to manage the weight of the traffic during peak hours.

adapted from www.rand.org

7.1.
- **A.** toll
- **B.** impact
- **C.** bearing
- **D.** influence

7.2.
- **A.** driven
- **B.** sampled
- **C.** implemented
- **D.** proceeded

7.3.
- **A.** neither
- **B.** likewise
- **C.** either
- **D.** otherwise

7.4.
- **A.** disturbing
- **B.** being disturbed
- **C.** to be disturbed
- **D.** having been disturbed

7.5.
- **A.** complied
- **B.** endorsed
- **C.** sanctioned
- **D.** consented

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TASK 8. (0–5)

Read the text. For questions 8.1.–8.5., use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits the gap. The text must be logical and correct in both grammar and spelling. Write the missing word in the space provided.

SILENT DRAMA

Pantomime is a popular form of theatrical entertainment **8.1. (CHARACTER)** _____ by wordless storytelling. This art form is sometimes **8.2. (COMPANY)** _____ by music in the background to make for a dramatic performance. The stories are often based on nursery rhymes with stock characters that sing, dance and perform dressed in elaborate costumes. Pantomime actors make gestures and use **8.3. (EXPRESS)** _____ facial or bodily movements to communicate, rather than speech.

This form of dramatic technique has its roots in ancient Greece, but is now popular in many different locations in theaters, street performances, and dance studios.

The term pantomime is often used **8.4. (INTERCHANGE)** _____ with the word mime. Both words can be used to describe either the performance or the performer himself. In general, though, the word mime is most commonly used to describe the performer, while the word pantomime is used to define the performance.

8.5. (REGARD) _____ of which word is used, performances are often placed into two style categories: the narrated story or the silent story.

adapted from www.wisegeek.com

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TASK 9. (0–5) For questions 9.1.–9.5., 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 six words including the word given.

9.1. It is believed that the Prime Minister is trying to establish good relations with the opposition.

BE

The Prime Minister is believed _____ an effort to establish good relations with the opposition.

9.2. If we hadn't persevered, we wouldn't have achieved our goal.

BEEN

_____ our perseverance, we wouldn't have achieved our goal.

9.3. Unfortunately, two months from now holidays will be over.

COME

Unfortunately, holidays _____ in two months' time.

9.4. It is very unlikely that John will be given a pay rise soon.

OF

There is little _____ given a pay rise soon.

9.5. Organising this drama performance was Miss Gill's idea.

FORWARD

It was Miss Gill _____ the idea of organising this drama performance.

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TASK 4. (0–7) Read two texts. For questions 4.1.–4.7., choose the answer that best matches the text and circle the appropriate letter (A, B, C or D).

Text 1

THE SPICE OF LIFE

I find it difficult to describe what British cooking is really like. The adjectives commonly used are 'good' and 'plain', with the latter being used as an insult as much as a compliment, sometimes with some justification. Yet, plain food cannot be bettered if its quality is right and the freshness palpable. And British food certainly wasn't all that plain for most of its history! An interesting question to ponder is how the inherently conservative people of the British Isles have come to accept and encourage influences from all round the world throughout centuries, and still do so at an ever-increasing rate. You have only to consider that one entire generation believes that the Chinese take-away, tandoori chicken, spaghetti, kebabs and hamburgers they love so much are all British. The generation just older than them will think longingly of British cooking as baked apples and sweet cured hams, of the mellowness of cinnamon and the bite of cloves in baking, and of peppery beef stews, without ever realizing that the ingredients which make them so special – the spices – are all imported from far-away eastern lands.

The earliest cooked food in Britain was meat roasted over flames, and gruels of grains, sometimes flavoured with vegetables and herbs. The first contact with spices was during the long Roman occupation, but when the Romans left and the Dark Ages cast their pall over Europe, the British returned to a less sophisticated style of food. The most monumental change came with the last successful invasion of these shores by the Duke of Normandy. As well as introducing new and more luxurious styles of cooking, the Normans also gave us many new words for food, for instance pork and beef. And after the Normans came the Crusaders who reintroduced spices to Britain and also brought with them sugar, dried fruit and rose water. Over the centuries, the rise and fall of a dozen empires and kingdoms have made their contribution to British food. For generations Britain has taken what has been offered, chewed it over and kept what it liked the most.

I hope you will be surprised at this book. When gathering material, I was certainly surprised many times. For instance, at how quickly foods which have been common for centuries can disappear. Why did we stop using rose water about 60 years ago, or flavouring our custards with bay leaf or orange? Is it a silly snobbishness that led to the virtual disappearance of the once envied British puddings based on breadcrumbs?

I hope you will use the recipes included in this book judiciously, altering the proportion of ingredients as it suits you – but without moving away from the spirit of the dish. Spirit seems to me to be the great link between the extraordinarily different styles of British food. Through this book we can follow in our predecessors' footsteps with respect and with the lightness of our own touch.

adapted from The Cooking of the British Isles by Glynn Christian

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4.1. In the first paragraph the writer implies that

A. the plainness of British food is its worst enemy.
B. British cooking has deservedly earned its unrivalled reputation.
C. embracing international food is a recent phenomenon in Britain.
D. British people are often ignorant about the origins of some popular foods.

4.2. Which of the following sentences is TRUE?

A. Britons refrained from using spices at the time of the Roman conquest.
B. During the Dark Ages British food lost some of its refinement.
C. The Crusaders were the first to flavour British food with spices.
D. The Normans did not influence the British diet in any significant way.

4.3. The author of the text

A. reviews a book discussing the quality of British food.
B. previews the content of his own publication on British food.
C. weighs different hypotheses about the origins of British food.
D. outlines historical research supporting his theories about British food.

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Text 2

MY EARLY RETIREMENT

The life expectancy of the average UK male is 74. Hearing about government plans to hike state pensionable age, I realized that not much time might be left to enjoy the life of a pensioner. That's why, last August, I decided to retire at the age of 33. I gave up my job as a journalist, rented out my London flat and moved to the south-west of France with my girlfriend, who heartily agreed with my plan. It was fear and a tinge of weariness that gave me the impulse to do it. ❶ I worried that I was wasting the best years of my life blinking at a computer screen and that when I did eventually pack up work, I would have hours to kill but no energy or strength to make use of them. The solution seemed obvious, if a little risky: retire now and work later.

Many will think me foolhardy, as did some of my friends, not to mention bosses. But I want to enjoy life in my prime. I have worked hard. I started as a journalist at 17. Early shifts, night shifts, weekends, bank holidays and Christmases: check. And what was it all for? ❷ I got halfway up the ladder and realized I was afraid of heights – or to be precise, of professional responsibility and the attendant drudgery.

Some doubts I had obviously harboured were allayed when it transpired that with the income from my London flat, a modest, stress-free life in France was a realistic possibility. Modest being the operative word. ❸ In return, here we are in France, having spent the winter reading books by the wood burner. A hectic life and economic blues have been swapped for country walks and fireside chats. Stress has been reduced to wondering which route to take or whether the fire will crackle into life.

There are risks, of course. I'm not as fortunate as some of my colleagues who can take on a contract whenever they fancy, so work is not guaranteed when I decide to return to London. And another question mark is about successful repatriation. ❹ If a job is found, how to overcome the daily grind of self-doubt, to tolerate the early-morning starts and office politics once more? Still, it'll surely be worth it for the sweltering Monday afternoons when I can sit by the pool with a glass of freshly squeezed orange juice in hand, listening to the birds singing and the rustle of leaves. Normally, I would be slumped at a desk most of the day, filling in papers, listening to the hack and whirl of the coffee machine. Now honestly, which would you prefer?

adapted from www.independent.co.uk

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4.5. Look at the circles marked 1–4 in the text and decide where the following sentence fits best in the passage.

The customary trappings of city life such as delights of cuisine or the enchantment of clubs and theatres would have to be skipped.

A. In the space marked ❶
B. In the space marked ❷
C. In the space marked ❸
D. In the space marked ❹

4.6. The author's decision to retire and move to France

A. was openly questioned by his girlfriend.
B. was feasible thanks to a London property he owned.
C. resulted from serious health problems he had experienced.
D. was sparked by the prospect of being made redundant in the near future.

4.7. Which of the following is NOT mentioned by the author as a potential problem facing him on returning to London?

A. snide remarks made by former colleagues
B. getting accustomed to mundane activities
C. insecurity about getting a job
D. lack of confidence

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TASK 5. (0–4)

Read the article. Four fragments have been removed from the text. Complete each gap (5.1.–5.4.) with the fragment which fits best and put the appropriate letter (A–E) in each gap. There is one fragment which you do not need to use.

HOW DO EMOTICONS AND CAPITALISATION AFFECT PERCEPTION OF EMAIL?

Compared with face-to-face communication, nonverbal cues in email are lacking. But humans are fabulous at generating meaning even when cues are sparse. A group of psychologists from Stanford University have put forward a theory that our motivation for generating meaning is to reduce levels of uncertainty and help predict other people's behavioural patterns. **5.1.** _____ Both of these enable the people we are addressing to predict our behaviour, mood and intentions.

The research on nonverbal behaviour in emails is not as simple as "emoticons are good while capitalisation is bad". It seems that both writing in capital letters and using emoticons can evoke utterly different responses, perhaps much less polarised in the case of capitalisation, which is normally considered a no-no in emails. However, the usage of capital letters can also communicate excitement and not just senseless shouting. **5.2.** _____ Perhaps some of this variability in the perception of capitalisation and emoticons comes down to personality?

Psychologists researched this by asking college students to fill in a personality questionnaire and then read emails from an unknown person. These were simple messages such as requests for copies of academic papers or information about the university. Each participant was randomly assigned to read two out of several differently presented emails. **5.3.** _____ The students were then asked to rate the sender's likeability.

The researchers found that the reader's personality influenced how emoticons and capitalisation were perceived. Readers high in extroversion and emotional stability were likely to rate the sender's emails as more likeable if they had correct capitalisation and emoticons. The opposite was also true. For the introverted and emotionally unstable, correct capitalisation and emoticons tended not to affect the sender's likeability, perhaps even lowering it. These results are interesting but they also raise many more questions. Emoticons may make the sender appear more likeable, but further research is necessary to find out if they also make the sender seem less professional or whether they can make reading bad news less disturbing. In their study, the researchers only used a smiley face in the emails. **5.4.** _____ These are just some uncertainties. If more advanced ways of communicating emotion in email become a reality, surely many more questions will have to be answered.

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A. Some of them were all written with capital letters, others included emoticons and the rest neither, so that the researchers would be able to compare responses.

B. Researchers are currently working on electronic mail systems which involve expressive typography, graphical components as well as old-fashioned words to convey emotion.

C. This might explain how, in online correspondence, even two simple things like capitalisation and the use of emoticons can have important effects on the reader's perceptions.

D. We can't be sure whether the impact of other emoticons would be the same. It is also not clear what would happen if the sender used emoticons which the receiver did not understand.

E. For emoticons, there is a bulk of research which proves they can take the sting out of a message with a negative content. Other studies find they have no such impact.

TASK 6. (0–4)

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.

In which paragraph does the author		**Answer**
6.1.	mention the most spacious facility ever launched into space?	
6.2.	suggest how the problem of living in cramped conditions could be eased?	
6.3.	point to a feature vital in materials delivered from Earth to other planets?	
6.4.	refer to a design which did not go beyond its preliminary stage?	

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LET'S MOVE TO MARS!

A. Imagine a luxurious hotel with a view that's changing all the time, where there are 18 sunrises and sunsets every day and where food floats effortlessly into your mouth. Who wouldn't sign up for that? It's only a matter of time before space travel becomes a regular holiday option. We might even start living and working on the Moon. However, there are some problematic aspects to be resolved.

B. As civilian space travel inches closer, the role of architects is growing. More people travel to space for increasingly longer periods of time and their physical environment and its psychological effects are becoming more and more important. Surprisingly, the US space station, Skylab, which orbited the Earth from 1973 to 1979 and was recycled out of the fuel tank of a massive Saturn V rocket, remains by far the most generous habitat sent into orbit. It was palatial compared with the poky modules of the current International Space Station.

C. However, luxury is not an issue at this stage. First an efficient way to construct dwellings has to be invented. It would cost $500,000 to send a single brick to the Moon and lots more to Mars. As a result, the task has always been to develop lightweight materials and kits, that is to take a kind of astro-Ikea approach. Engineers' attention is now shifting towards inflatable structures, allowing entire habitats to be folded up and packed on board.

D. In 1974, Guillermo Trotti put forward a proposal for an inflatable habitat on the Moon. His lunar colony envisaged a network of domes and structures to house a community of 200 people. It never blasted off but it inspired other ideas. The current catchphrase among NASA people is *in-situ* resource utilisation, the space equivalent of using locally available resources. The surface of the Moon (and probably that of Mars as well) is an open mine of readily accessible minerals and compounds that could be used in construction projects.

E. Trotti is optimistic about life on Mars, arguing that deep-space exploration will be the largest industry in the world over the next 100 years, as well as the biggest challenge for budding space architects. The question is how to build an environment in which you can happily live for three years in a confined space with the same people. Virtual reality could be an answer, allowing people to escape mentally or to study remotely. You could take the Library of Congress or the Louvre up there with you and come back with a PhD.

adapted from www.theguardian.com

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