

Reading Test (8th form, Term II)

Task 1

Reading

3 For questions 1–7, complete the article about Marks and Spencer by choosing the correct sentence, A–J. There are two sentences you do not need to use.

- A One year later, in 1905, Thomas Spencer died.
- B He used this money to start his Penny Bazaar in Kirkgate Market.
- C Before this, in 1902, the company had over 50 market stalls.
- D ~~This was what Michael Marks big idea on his first market stall in Leeds in 1884.~~
- E The first international store opened in Canada in 1973.
- F And over the next few years Marks and Spencer opened market stalls in many other places around the city.
- G The money the company made went down quickly after this.
- H His family were from Poland.
- I They became the first shop in the world to make £1 billion (£1,000,000,000!) profit, in 1997.
- J In 1894, when Marks got a permanent stall in Leeds covered market, he invited Spencer to become his partner.

/7

/20

Marks and Spencer: from penny shop to £1 billion.

'Don't ask the price, it's a penny!' ⁰ D But when Michael Marks became partners with Tom Spencer, the company really found success.

Marks arrived in the UK in 1882 and moved to the northern city of Leeds. ¹ _____. He started working for a company which employed foreign people who came to live in the UK. He borrowed £5 from a friend (who also taught him some English).

² _____. Tom Spencer, who was a shop assistant, worked for the same friend. ³ _____.

They moved the original Leeds Penny Bazaar to Manchester. ⁴ _____. The company opened its first shop in 1904. ⁵ _____. Michael Marks died two years after this in 1907, but the company continued to grow!

Throughout the 20th century, Marks and Spencer opened shops all over the UK. ⁶ _____. Shops in France followed this in 1975. ⁷ _____. So from small beginnings, large things can grow!

*market stall = a small shop in a market

Task 2

Reading

3 For questions 1–6, read the article about a man's personal adventure in a boat and choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

- 1 How old was Louis?
A 23
B 29
C 37
- 2 When did the German sailors save Louis?
A in January
B in February
C in April
- 3 What caused the problem with Louis's boat?
A bad weather
B a very large fish
C a hole in the boat
- 4 Where did the ship find Louis?
A 320 km from the land
B 320 km from where he started
C 320 km from his father's house
- 5 Why did Louis have plenty of food at the beginning?
A He was going on a long journey.
B The boat was also where he lived.
C He caught some really big fish.
- 6 What did Louis worry about most?
A his health
B his family and friends
C seeing other ships or boats

/6

/20

Lost at Sea

American sailor Louis Jordan went missing in the sea for more than two months in 2015. He was found alive and well by a German ship, which took him from his small boat to safety. Jordan, 37, left Conway, South Carolina, on 23 January, telling his family he was going on a fishing trip for a few days to 'catch some really big fish'. His father called the police to report him missing on 29 January, when he didn't hear from his son. The Coast Guard (an organisation that helps people who are in trouble at sea) looked for Louis until 18 February, but then thought that he must be dead. The ship found him on 2 April.

The sailor said his boat turned upside down in the night during bad weather. The boat began filling with water, but it turned over again so it didn't sink and no more water got in. His father, Frank, didn't think he would ever see his son again.

But 66 days later, the passing German ship found him 320 km from the coast of North Carolina.

Mr Jordan survived because he had quite a lot of food on his boat. It was also his home, so he had lots of clothes, tools and other equipment on board too. When there was no more food and water, he caught fish and collected as much rainwater as he could, but he didn't have enough. Jordan only drank about half a litre of water a day, which is just above the daily

minimum needed to stay alive (300 ml–500 ml).

Mr Jordan says that when he first saw the German ship, he waved his hands slowly to show them that he needed help.

During his time alone, he was more worried about his family and friends, who would think he was dead, than he was about himself. As soon as he could, Mr Jordan had a very long and emotional phone call with his father.

Task 3

READING

- 1 Read the text and decide if sentences 1–10 are True or False, or if the text Doesn't say. Put a cross (X) in the correct place in the table.

	True	False	Doesn't say
1 El Alto is in one of the highest regions of Spain.			
2 El Alto is in the south of the country.			
3 Bolivia's capital city is smaller than El Alto.			
4 El Alto is a modern city.			
5 The city grew quickly as soon as schools started opening.			
6 Most people who live in El Alto came from Spain.			
7 Most police officers in El Alto work for the traffic police.			
8 The traffic police in El Alto have unusual uniforms.			
9 It rains most in El Alto in November.			
10 The coldest month is June.			
11 El Alto now has some industry.			
12 The city got its own government 20 years ago.			

/12

THE HIGHEST CITY IN THE WORLD

The city of El Alto (a Spanish word meaning 'the high place') is the world's highest city at 4,150 m above sea level. It is Bolivia's second biggest city, after Santa Cruz de la Sierra, and has a population of around one million. The South American country also has the world's highest capital city, La Paz.

Strangely, the city of El Alto didn't even exist until 1903, when the railway passing from Lake Titicaca to La Paz arrived. It has very few historical buildings, unlike the nearby La Paz, which started life 400 years earlier.

The first school opened in 1939, mainly for the children of railway workers who lived there.

The city grew enormously in the 1950s when it became connected to the water pipes that came under the ground from La Paz. Until then, water had to be brought to El Alto in lorries.

The majority of people in El Alto are not of Spanish origin, but are Aymara people, who lived in Bolivia before Europeans arrived. The city's traffic police officers, are largely Aymara women dressed in traditional brightly-coloured skirts and shirts, which seems an unusual sight to most outsiders.

The climate there is cool. Even in summer, the maximum daytime temperature is only 17°C in the warmest month, November. In winter, it's about 7°C in the coldest month, but it's much drier than the warmer summers, the driest month being June.

For a long time, El Alto was a residential area housing the workers from La Paz, with little industry of its own, but this has changed over the last 20 years or so. The city now even has a special day when they celebrate the date when politicians decided that El Alto should have its own city council (March 6th 1985) and when El Alto became an independent city.