

FINAL TEST 2025-2026

Task 1. You are going to read an article about a man who takes photos of celebrities. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-G the one which fits each gap (1-6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

I'm a photographer based at Heathrow Airport in London. Airlines often commission me to take photos of aircraft or their staff. But mostly I concentrate on getting shots of celebrities as they come through the arrivals hall. I sell some photos directly to the daily newspapers and celebrity magazines, and the rest go to a picture agency.

On a typical day I look out for the flights arriving from Los Angeles on the major airlines. [1] _____ Most of them fly either with British Airways because it's such an established company, or with Virgin Atlantic because the owner, Richard Branson, moves in those celebrity circles.

You've got to cover all the incoming flights though – Victoria Beckham took to flying with Air New Zealand at one time. I know the ground and security staff here very well. [2] _____ That can really make all the difference to being in the right place at the right time.

I've been working here for many years now, so I've seen thousands of celebrities throughout the decades. In my experience, the old stars are the best. Joan Collins is my favourite – she sends me a Christmas card every year. Mick Jagger also knows me and always says hello. People like Paul McCartney and Rod Stewart are lots of fun, too. [3] _____ I guess that's because they can see the value of it.

Today's big stars are generally okay and give you a polite smile. I won't mention names, but there are some who wave me away rudely, whilst others even have their managers popping up from nowhere, saying: 'no pictures' to the waiting photographers. [4] _____ You've probably seen photographers leaping around in this manner on TV footage of celebrities arriving at airports and wondered why they do it – well often that's why.

[5] _____ One time, Naomi Campbell refused to come out from behind a pillar. She called up for a buggy and hopped on the back, so there I was chasing it, trying to get a shot of her. But the next time I saw her she'd just got engaged and came up to me to show me the ring.

But if today's stars don't make my job as easy as it was, today's technology more than makes up for it. When I started out it was much less sophisticated. I remember when the British queen's granddaughters, Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, were just babies. I heard that their mother, the Duchess of York, was coming through Heathrow with them. She was carrying both babies in her arms. [6] _____ I realised I had a good chance of getting one of them onto the front page of the newspaper, which is always the photographer's aim.

So, I called my editor to warn him, took the shots, then rolled up the film, labelled it, put it in an envelope and organised for a motorbike dispatch rider to pick it up, take it back to the newspaper offices and have it developed. It had taken three hours. Today, using digital cameras and a laptop, the office gets images in three minutes.

- A. You get the impression that they enjoy the attention.
- B. I was lucky enough to get some lovely shots of them.
- C. Often it's one of them who tips me off that a big star has just come through passport control.
- D. That's where you generally find the celebrities.
- E. They could be appearing in the arrivals hall at any time, night or day, of course.
- F. When that happens, they have to do what we call 'duck and dive' to get a shot.
- G. With some stars, however, you're never quite sure what you're going to get.

Task2. You are going to read a blog post. Decide whether statements 1–6 are True (T) or False (F) according to the information in the text.

The inspiration for today's blog came from an unexpected source and had me spending far too long staring at the screen. Normally, as you know by now, I enjoy sharing my views on the latest films, TV series, documentaries – you name it, I'll comment – with the proviso that it's available to be streamed and it doesn't cost a fortune or require a visit

to the cinema. Not that I'm saying the cinematic experience isn't worth it from time to time – it is – but I'm focusing on what is easily available to people out there.

So, to get back to my unexpected source of inspiration. It was my cousin, Raquel, who has just seen the most recent *Dune* and wanted to know how I felt it compared to the original 1984 film of the seminal Frank Herbert sci-fi book. It was a good question. Being a film buff, of course I'd seen the original, but I thought I'd do a 'back-to-back' and watch both versions. Hmph. That took a while! But what a fascinating project. Both films are excellent in their own ways, but whereas the original *Dune* met with negative critical responses and has survived in popularity mainly as a cult film, the second won six Academy Awards and, in my opinion, richly deserved them.

When watching them one after the other it's easy to see why, and it is not simply because the advances in cinematography allow better special effects (visual and sound). The second is far more impactful and remains more faithful to the book because the length (two hours thirty-five minutes) gives it breathing room to explore and present the different threads of the story and the background. This second *Dune* is notably only Part One and covers just over half of the plot of the original. For the first film in 1984, the story had to be compressed and the result was inevitable confusion over what was happening and why – audiences found it hard to keep track of the complex family links, politics and other intricacies of the story. There is a report that those first cinema audiences were handed out information sheets so that they could fill in what wasn't shown and follow the film without getting too frustrated! This is not to say that the film was without merit. It attracted a devoted cult following who watched the film over and over, and probably read the amazing book as a result. But for me, the new *Dune* uses the time it is given to build tension and drama, and bring out all the background themes – political, religious, spiritual – in beautifully scripted and executed scenes.

However, there are still many elements of the first film that have yet to be covered in *Dune* Part Two, and I, for one, will be waiting with bated breath. If Part Two maintains the power of Part One, there may be even more Academy Awards in store.

1. The writer primarily recommends films that can be accessed online. **T / F**
2. The writer watched this film because of a family recommendation. **T / F**
3. Both *Dune* films were acclaimed on their release. **T / F**
4. The main difference between the films is the use of more advanced technology. **T / F**
5. The first film suffered from the length of time it ran. **T / F**
6. The writer believes many of the fans of the original were inspired to watch it by the book. **T / F**

Task 3. You are going to listen to an extract from a social commentary. Decide whether statements 1–6 are True (T) or False (F) according to the information you hear.

According to the speaker;

1. the majority of people care and show kindness to others. **T / F**
2. the community work people do is related strictly to poverty. **T / F**
3. the media educates people about social deprivation. **T / F**
4. Dickens wrote about social injustice in at least three of his books. **T / F**
5. London is a main character in Dickens' books. **T / F**
6. homeless women and children in Victorian England went to prison. **T / F**
7. social injustice was a concern for other writers at a similar time to Dickens. **T / F**
8. we should consider whether we have eradicated the problems Dickens mentions or not. **T / F**

Task 4. You are going to listen to an extract from a radio programme. For questions 1–6, choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

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| 1. According to the expert, introspection is something
A that everyone does.
B that has a negative result.
C that entails recording and analysing our thoughts. | 3. Engaging with our inner voice often
A takes up far too much of our time.
B results in brain freeze.
C causes us to panic and make the wrong decisions. |
| 2. Overanalysing our motivations and actions can
A lead to a lack of self-belief.
B make us take the blame for all negative events.
C affect our interactions with others negatively. | 4. Advice on dealing with our inner voice includes
A giving vent to our feelings.
B leaving the problem overnight.
C addressing ourselves as 'you'. |