

Test 1

PAPER 1 READING (1 hour 15 minutes)

Part 1

Answer questions **1–16** by referring to the newspaper article about clock radios on page **9**. Indicate your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

For questions **1–16**, answer by choosing from the sections of the article (**A–E**) on page 9. Some of the choices may be required more than once.

In which section are the following mentioned?

- | | |
|--|---------|
| a tester admitting that he did not trust any type of alarm clock | 1..... |
| a tester later regretting having touched the controls | 2..... |
| a tester approving of a model because of its conspicuous appearance | 3..... |
| the testers being able to operate the model without reference to the manual | 4..... |
| a tester's praise for a model despite the existence of a technical fault | 5..... |
| doubts about the reliability of a model because of the design of an additional feature | 6..... |
| the testers feeling positive about their success in getting the model to work | 7..... |
| doubts about whether anyone would wish to follow certain instructions from the manual | 8..... |
| an explanation of why companies had started to make better radios | 9..... |
| the intended market for the model being apparent from its design | 10..... |
| a tester realising that he had drawn the wrong conclusion about a particular feature | 11..... |
| the testers agreeing on the usefulness of a particular feature | 12..... |
| an additional feature which made the price seem competitive | 13..... |
| uncertainty over whether the radio controls had been set in the correct sequence | 14..... |
| a tester's reaction to the imprecision of the alarm | 15..... |
| surprise at the commercial success of a particular model | 16..... |

SOUND THE ALARM

Stuart Harris reports

Many of us listen to the radio when we get up in the morning and most of us also require some external means to persuade us to get out of bed. Thus we have the clock radio. But how do you pick a good one? Our panel, which consisted of myself plus the inventor Tom Granger and the broadcaster Paul Bridges, tested five currently available.

A

The 'dual alarm function' that is advertised with this model does not allow you, as I first supposed, to be woken by the buzzer, snooze a while and then finally be driven out of bed. The instruction booklet advises you to use this function to set two different wake-up times, one for work days and one for weekends, but whose life is programmed to this extent?

Since this model costs more or less the same as the second model tested, the inclusion of a cassette player is quite a bargain – you can fall asleep to your own soothing tapes and wake up to a day without news. We all thought the quality of the radio excellent, too – if only the whole thing was smaller. It's as big as a rugby ball. Paul Bridges said, 'Any clock radio I buy has to leave enough space on the bedside table for my keys, wallet, glasses and telephone. Anyway, I'm completely paranoid and always book a wake-up call in case the alarm doesn't go off.'

B

This model was voted best in the beauty stakes and overall winner. Paul Bridges declared himself 'in love with it', although the clock on the one he tested 'kept getting stuck at 16.00'. I was fascinated by the digital display, with its classy grey numbers on a gentle green background. The wide snooze bar means you can tap it on the edge with your eyes shut. Unfortunately, the smooth undulations and tactile buttons, like pebbles on the beach, encouraged me to run my fingers over them as if they were keys on a piano, which proved my undoing when I finally looked at the 80-page instruction booklet.

The clock has a self-power back-up so you don't have to reset it if someone unceremoniously pulls the plug out in order to use a hairdryer or the vacuum cleaner; this met with unanimous approval. However, we all found it a technical feat to set up – though completing the learning curve made us feel 'cool' and sophisticated.

C

Tom Granger described this model with its extra built-in lamp as 'unbelievably tacky' in the way it's made. 'You have to wrench the funny light out of its socket to

get it to work, which makes me wonder about the quality of the rest of it.' He complained that he had to read the instruction booklet twice before he could get it to work; the clock kept leaping from 12.00 to 02.00 so he had to go round again.

The light was certainly hard to position; you would never be able to read by it – it only shines on the clock, which is illuminated anyway. Paul Bridges said he was 'very tickled' by the lamp idea but agreed that the radio was hard to tune. The buzzer is reminiscent of 'action stations' on a submarine and made me feel like hurling the whole thing across the bedroom. Interestingly, however, this model is the third most popular on the market.

D

Clearly aimed at young people, with its brightly coloured casing and matching bootlace strap, this one appealed to the child in Tom Granger and me. 'I would choose this one because it doesn't disappear into the background like the others,' he said. In fact, the traditional design of the controls made it the only one we managed to set up without reading the instruction booklet. Too bad the alarm is allowed a hilarious 20-minute margin for error; the manual notes, 'the alarm may sound about 10 minutes earlier or later than the pre-set time'. Paul Bridges scoffed at such a notion, adding that this model was 'terribly fiddly' and, indeed, 'completely useless'.

E

The simplest and cheapest of all the models tested, this scored points with Tom Granger because it 'seemed very standard and took up little space', but also because it has old-fashioned dial tuning. 'It's more intuitive to set up. With modern push-button tuning you're never really sure if you've pressed all the buttons in the right order so you can't have confidence that the thing will actually work.' He accepted, however, that manufacturers had been obliged to improve the quality of radios because of the advent of button-tuning. I thought the tuning rather crude, as did Paul Bridges, but we agreed that the radio quality was fine. The buzzer on this model certainly works; it succeeded in getting me out of bed in just two beeps!

Test 1

Part 2

For questions 17–22, you must choose which of the paragraphs A–G on page 11 fit into the numbered gaps in the following magazine article. There is one extra paragraph which does not fit in any of the gaps. Indicate your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

THE BOAT OF MY DREAMS

The best boat design should combine old and new, says Tom Cunliffe. And he put it into practice in his own craft, 'The Westerman'.

This week, the Summer Boat Show in London is resplendent with fine yachts, bristling with new technology. Nearly all are descendants of the hull-shape revolution that took place 25 years ago. By contrast, my own lies quietly on a tidal creek off the south coast. She was designed last year but, seeing her, you might imagine her to be 100 years old and think that her owner must be some kind of lost-soul romantic.

17

It has to be said, however, that despite being an indispensable tool in current design methods and boat-building practice, sophisticated technology frequently insulates crews from the harsh realities of maritime life. These are often the very realities they hoped to rediscover by going to sea in the first place.

18

The occasional battle with flapping canvas is surely part of a seaman's life. And for what purpose should we abandon common sense and move our steering positions from the security of the aft end to some vulnerable perch half-way to the bow? The sad answer is that this creates a cabin like that of an ocean liner, with space for a bed larger than the one at home.

19

Her sails were heavy, and she had no pumped water, no electricity to speak of, no fridge, no central heating, no winches, and absolutely no electronics, especially in the navigation department, yet she was the kindest, easiest boat that I have ever sailed at sea.

20

The Westerman has never disappointed me. Although Nigel Irens, the designer, and Ed Burnett, his right-hand man, are adept with computer-assisted design programs, Irens initially drew this boat on a paper napkin, and only later transferred his ideas to the computer. After this had generated a set of lines, he carved a model, just as boatyards did in the days of sail. Together we considered the primary embryonic vessel, then fed the design back into the electronic box for modification.

21

Her appearance is ageless, her motion at sea is a pleasure and her accommodation, much of it in reclaimed pitch pine, emanates an atmosphere of deep peace. Maybe this is because she was drawn purely as a sailing craft, without reference to any furniture we might put into her. That is the well-tried method of the sea.

22

Constructed in timber treated with a penetrating glue, she is totally impervious to

water. Thus she has all the benefits of a glass fibre boat yet looks like, feels like and sails like the real thing.

- A** It's not that I'm suggesting that sailors should go back to enduring every hardship. It's always been important to me that my boats have a coal stove for warmth and dryness and cosy berths for sleeping. But why go cruising at all if every sail sets and furls itself?
- B** Back on land, however, it is a sad fact that the very antiquity of classic boats means that they need a lot of looking after. When I had a bad injury to my back, I realised that my 15-year love affair with her had to end. Searching for a younger replacement produced no credible contenders, so I decided to build a new boat from scratch.
- C** In her timeless serenity, she is the living proof that it works; that there is no need to follow current fashions to find satisfaction, and that sometimes it pays to listen to the lessons of history.
- D** The next version was nearly right and by the time the final one appeared, the form was perfect. The completed boat has now crossed the North Atlantic and has won four out of her first six racing starts.
- E** At the same time, having lived aboard an ancient wooden beauty in the early seventies, it's easier to understand more of this area of the mechanics. My designer, for example, knows more about the ways of a boat on the sea than anyone I can think of.
- F** Perhaps I am, though I doubt it. This boat has benefited from all the magic of old-fashioned boat design, but it would have been a much harder job without the advances of modern know-how.
- G** For me a boat should always be a boat and not a cottage on the water. When I bought an earlier boat, *Hirta*, in which I circumnavigated Britain for a TV race series, the previous owner observed that she had every comfort, but no luxury. During my long relationship with her, *Hirta* taught me how wise he was.



New horizons: Tom Cunliffe on board 'The Westerman'

Test 1

Part 3

Read the following magazine article and answer questions 23–27 on page 13. On your answer sheet, indicate the letter A, B, C or D against the number of each question, 23–27. Give only one answer to each question.

Margaret and her liquid assets

Margaret Wilkins is said to have a 'sixth sense'. She can hold a forked hazel rod above the ground and detect water. She is increasingly in demand by farmers whose wells have dried up.

Together with her husband, Margaret Wilkins runs a well-drilling business, using technology such as drilling rigs and air-compressed hammers. But when it comes to locating water, she needs nothing more than a forked hazel stick. The couple's success rate is higher than 90 per cent. Dowsing – the ability to locate water, minerals and lost objects underground – is a so-called 'sixth sense'. There are many theories about how it is done, ranging from the physical, such as magnetism, to the spiritual. One of the most credible is based on the knowledge that everything on this planet vibrates, water more than other matter. It is suggested that dowsers have an acute ability to sense vibrations while standing on the Earth's surface; some dowsers say that they can 'sense' water, others that they can smell it, smell being the most acute sense.



For the Wilkins, the drought years of recent times have been busy, with an almost six-week-long waiting list at one stage. Most of Margaret's customers are farmers with wells that have dried up: 'We will see customers only once in a lifetime because wells last for a long time.' Other customers own remote cottages or barns, now holiday homes, where the expense of running water pipes for great distances is prohibitive. Others are golf-course developers with clubhouse facilities to build.

Margaret tries to locate water between 50 and 70 metres down. 'You can't drill a well where there is the slightest risk of farm or other waste getting into the water supply. The water we locate is running in fissures of impervious rock and, as long as we bring the water straight up, it should give a good clean supply, though Cornwall is rich in minerals so you have to watch out for iron.'

Another necessity is electricity to drive the pump; this is too expensive to run across miles of fields so ideally the well should be near to existing power supplies.

After considering all this, Margaret can start to look for water. On large areas, such as golf courses, she begins with a map of the area and a pendulum. 'I hold the pendulum still and gently move it over the map. It will swing when it is suspended over an area where there is water.'

After the map has indicated likely areas, Margaret walks over the fields with a hazel stick, forked and equal in length and width each side. 'Once I'm above water I get a peculiar feeling; I reel slightly. When it subsides I use the stick to locate the exact spot where we should drill.' Gripping the two forks of the stick with both hands, she eases them outwards slightly to give tension. 'When water is immediately below, the straight part of the stick rises up. It's vital to drill exactly where the stick says. A fraction the wrong way, and you can miss the waterline altogether. My husband will dowse the same area as me; usually, not always, we agree on the precise place to drill. If we disagree, we won't drill and will keep looking until we do agree.'

Margaret Wilkins is not in isolation, carrying out some curious old tradition down in the west of England. Anthropologists and writers have long been fascinated by this inexplicable intuition. Margaret calls it an 'intuitive perception of the environment' and that is the closest we can get to understanding why she locates water so accurately. If she did not have this 'sixth sense', how else could the family live off their well-drilling business year after year?

- 23** What does the writer say about the theory of vibration and dowzers?
- A** It has only recently been accepted.
 - B** There are limits to its application.
 - C** There might be some truth in it.
 - D** It is based on inaccurate information.
- 24** One reason why people employ Margaret to find water is
- A** the isolated position of their property.
 - B** the failure of their own efforts.
 - C** the low fees she charges for her work.
 - D** the speed at which she operates.
- 25** Margaret is cautious about new finds of water in Cornwall because they may be
- A** unfit for human consumption.
 - B** too insignificant to be worthwhile.
 - C** too deep to bring to the surface.
 - D** expensive to locate with certainty.
- 26** When Margaret and her husband use the dowsing stick to locate places to drill, they
- A** are unlikely to achieve the same result.
 - B** have regular differences of opinion.
 - C** employ different techniques.
 - D** are unwilling to take risks.
- 27** What does the writer suggest as proof of the effectiveness of Margaret's dowsing?
- A** the interest shown in it by anthropologists and writers
 - B** the regular income which can be made from it
 - C** people's appreciation of the tradition behind it
 - D** people's description of it as a 'sixth sense'

Test 1

Part 4

Answer questions **28–46** by referring to the newspaper article on pages **15–16** about giving up work to go travelling. Indicate your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

For questions **28–46**, answer by choosing from the sections of the article (**A–E**). Some of the choices may be required more than once.

Note: When more than one choice is required, these may be given **in any order**.

In which section(s) of the article are the following mentioned?

- | | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| the view that going travelling does not represent escaping from something | 28..... | |
| a belief that going travelling provides a last opportunity for fun before leading a more conventional life | 29..... | |
| anxiety as to how to deal with a practical issue | 30..... | |
| the feeling experienced immediately after giving up a job | 31..... | 32..... |
| regret at not having gone travelling | 33..... | |
| a feeling that the desire to travel may indicate immaturity | 34..... | |
| a feeling that older people may not fit in with other travellers | 35..... | |
| delaying the date of departure of a journey | 36..... | |
| a feeling shared by everybody who goes travelling later in life | 37..... | |
| losing self-respect by remaining in a job | 38..... | |
| considering the effect of going travelling on career prospects | 39..... | |
| the attitude of some employers to employees who go travelling | 40..... | |
| a belief that going travelling may result in greater flexibility as a person | 41..... | |
| the personal qualities required in order to decide to go travelling | 42..... | |
| the knowledge that permanent employment has become less usual | 43..... | |
| changes in life that prevent people from going travelling | 44..... | |
| having no strong desires professionally | 45..... | |
| looking forward more and more to going travelling | 46..... | |

I may be too old for this lark, but here goes!

At 34, Tim Pozzi has left a good job to go backpacking. He ponders what has made him – and others of his age – take the plunge.



A

This summer, I quit my job and resolved to rent out my flat and go travelling in South East Asia for a year. You might think I'm lucky, but I'm 34 years old, and I'm nervous.

It's not as if I haven't done the travelling thing before. After university, I spent two years backpacking around North and South America, and when I returned, was determined to do it again some day. But you know how it is ... I fell in love, embarked on a career, bought a flat and got used to earning a salary. But I gradually realised I had been sacrificing my own sense of worth for my salary. When I handed in that letter of resignation, it felt as though I'd taken charge of my life again.

I now have no ties. Many of my friends are now married with children and, while they wouldn't swap places with me, they envy me my lack of responsibilities. I'm no longer in a relationship, and I have no burning career ambitions. I feel almost obliged to make the most of that freedom – if only for my friends' sake!

B

Why am I so nervous? In the first place, it's a question of making the necessary arrangements. How could I bear to have someone else living in my home? And how would I go about organising the letting? And apart from anything else, I had to decide where to go.

I'm a shocking procrastinator, and am already several weeks behind my intended schedule. 'Might as well enjoy the summer in England,' I told myself. Then, 'Why not hang around for the start of the football season?' Severing emotional ties makes it even more difficult.

I'm putting it off because, deep down, I wonder if I can still cope with backpacking. Will I be able to readjust to a more basic way of life? Will I feel out of place among a community of backpackers fresh out of school and university?

Perhaps not. I've discovered it's increasingly common for Britons in their late twenties and thirties to want to disentangle themselves from the lives they've made for themselves and head off for foreign climes.

Test 1

C

Jennifer Cox, of *Lonely Planet* guidebook publishers, identifies a growing awareness that adventure is there for the taking: 'The penny's dropped. The sort of people who always say "I wish I'd had that opportunity" are realising that they can have it any time they want. They just have to be brave enough and organised enough and confident enough to do it.'

For Danny, a 30-year-old accountant, and his girlfriend Tammy, a 28-year-old teacher, it's a chance to have a final fling before settling down. They have bought a round-the-world ticket for a year. 'I'm prepared to sacrifice job security to have the trip,' says Danny. 'There's always a niggling thought at the back of your mind that, "OK, I'm not moving up the career ladder, I'm going to be in the same position I was in before when I come back," but I think it's a risk you have to take. When I left the office, I threw my calculator into the river as a ceremonial act of defiance!'

For Matt, who'd just got out of the Army, the year he spent travelling amounted to a period of metamorphosis. 'When you're in the military, there's a set way of doing things, a pattern to the way you approach problems. I went away because I really needed to temper this, and get rid of this approach in some cases, in order to have a reasonable existence as a civilian.'

D

While there are as many reasons to go travelling at my time of life as there are travellers, there do seem to be common factors. 'We have a much more flexible workforce today,' says Angela Baron of the Institute of Personnel Development. 'There are more people working on short-term contracts and so if your contract's just come to an end you've got nothing to lose.' Larger companies are even adopting career-break policies. 'If you've spent a lot of time and money training someone, it's nice to know they're coming back at some point rather than going to work for a competitor.'

For Dan Hiscocks, managing director of Travellerseye, a publishing company that specialises in the tales of 'ordinary' travellers, an increasing number of thirty-somethings are taking stock of their lives. 'If you're not happy doing what you're doing – and many people aren't – it's no longer a question of just seeing it through. Now people are aware that opportunities exist and that a job isn't "for life" any more. Travel offers a chance to reassess, to take a step back and think about your life.'

E

Is giving in to wanderlust just another example of my generation's inability to come to terms with adulthood? Jennifer Cox thinks not. 'It's a sign of a better educated, more stable society when we're less concerned with paying the bills than wanting to live a balanced life. We're actually taking the time to ask "Is this what I want?"'

Ben, a 32-year-old picture researcher heading off to Central America for a year, does not believe he's running away. 'It's more a case of running towards something. It's trying to grab some things that I want for myself.' But he does feel some trepidation. 'It's the thought of what I'm leaving behind, that comfortable routine – just the act of going into the office every day, saying "hi" to everyone and sitting down with a cup of coffee.'

I share Ben's reservations about leaving behind an ordered life with few challenges and I'm not sure I'd be making this journey if I hadn't found my boss so intolerable. As Jennifer Cox points out: 'This is fairly typical. There's often a catalyst, like the break-up of a relationship or the loss of a job. Such an event can push people to go and do it.'

It may have taken a helpful kick up the backside to get me moving, but I'm now approaching the next 12 months with a mounting sense of excitement. Whatever the outcome, I'll be able to take satisfaction in having grabbed life by the horns. And in that I'm sure I speak for all of us ageing backpackers.

PAPER 2 WRITING (2 hours)

Part 1

- 1 You are studying at a college in Fordham in England. Fordham town council has decided to turn Greendale Park, which is opposite your college, into a car park. After reading an article in the local newspaper about this, your class conducted interviews and did a survey among residents in the town. You have decided to write a letter to the editor of the newspaper.

Read the newspaper article and look at the chart below, together with the comments from Fordham residents on page 18. Then, **using the information appropriately**, write the letter to the editor, responding to the article, briefly summarising the information from the survey and presenting your conclusions.

Council Sees Sense

The town council has at last decided to do something about the problem of parking in Fordham. Greendale Park is to become a large car park, with spaces for 800 cars.

This newspaper is fully in favour of turning what is a little-used area into something which will really help this town. We think that money will be better spent on easing the town's parking problems, rather than on looking after flowers and tennis courts!

