B1 Practice Test

WOMEN OF 2005 (from the Guardian 16.12.05)

TEXT 1
Fifty years ago, on December 1 1955, a black woman travelling on a bus in Alabama, refused the conductor’s order to give up her seat to a white person. Arrested, found guilty of violating the segregation law and fined, the bold action of *****, who died this year aged 92, prompted a 381-day boycott of the bus company, and started the US civil rights movement. Throughout her life, ***** continued her activism by travelling extensively to lecture on the civil rights movement and the social and economic problems that continued to plague black Americans.

TEXT 2
As presenter of The Kingdom this Morning, ***** was one of the best-known faces on Saudi Arabian tv. So when she published pictures of her horrendously bruised face after she was beaten, almost to death, by her husband in April 2004, she forced out the dark secret of domestic violence in the kingdom. This year she has been a strident voice for sufferers of domestic abuse, although her campaign has now forced her to flee abroad. In a country where women are not allowed to drive, travel without authorisation from a father or a husband, vote or participate in politics, her actions have been deeply shocking. “The core problem is not the violence itself, but the immunity for men,” she says.

TEXT 3
In August, ***** , one of the best-loved figures in British politics, died aged 55. The former Northern Ireland secretary was known for being tough, irreverent and very good at her job. Many women in the Labour party viewed her as an inspiration for her uncompromising approach to her career and her scorn for the masculine affectations of the establishment. She had the courage to visit the Maze prison in Belfast when the peace process was being boycotted by the loyalists, and oversaw the Good Friday peace agreement between the IRA and Westminster. As for her irreverence, she would swear like a trooper (her favourite word was f**k) and had a habit of kicking off her shoes in the House of Commons.

TEXT 4
***** , who was killed this year, aged 28, by a car bomber in Baghdad, was an extraordinary woman who worked unflinchingly to raise compensation for victims of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. *****’s campaigning began at the age of fifteen, when she was suspended from high school for leading a protest against the first Gulf war; by the time she died she had created her own charity, CIVIC, (Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict). Through tireless lobbying and fundraising, she collected $20 million for victims in Iraq.

TEXT 5
When she won the election to become president of Liberia in November, ***** , a Harvard-educated economist, became the first female leader in Africa. But she has a very tough job ahead of her. Liberia has an unemployment rate of 85%, the capital has no electricity or running water, and a 14-year civil war ended just two years ago. It is a country that is struggling to survive, but perhaps the election of ***** brings some hope of change.

TEXT 6
This was the year that Topshop, the clothes shop for women, defined itself as one of the greatest British brand names, largely thanks to ***** , its brand director. Once seen as a cheap store selling rather tacky clothes it copied from other labels, Topshop now employs its own designers, and is considered an exciting and innovative dress label. During the worst consumer downturn for 20 years, Topshop made a profit of £100 million, and even staged its first catwalk show. ***** has been personally responsible for numerous Topshop successes, including the introduction of a range of maternity wear.

TEXT 7
In the 45 years since manned (and yes, we mean manned) space flight began nearly 450 people have travelled in space but only ten percent of them have been women. But when the shuttle Discovery blasted off in Jul, it was commanded by Lt Col ***** . She is the first woman to fly the shuttle and the first to command one, and by doing so has managed to blaze a trail for other women.
QUESTIONS FOR READING COMPREHENSION

PART 1
Choose the best title for each text from the list below. (NB: There are 6 extra titles) Write the letter of the title (A, B, C etc) against the appropriate TEXT number on your answer sheet.

A. Mary McAleese
   Prime Minister of Eire.
B. Rania al-Baz
   campaigner for women’s rights in Saudi Arabia.
C. Condoleezza Rice
   US Secretary of State–.
D. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
   African stateswoman.
E. Ferial Masry
   Saudi politician
F. Eileen Collins
   astronaut.
G. Jane Sheperdson
   British businesswoman.
H. Alice Walker
   Afro-American writer.
I. Marla Ruzicka
   American aid worker and peace campaigner.
J. Mo Mowlam
   British Member of Parliament.
K. Stella McCartney
   British dress designer.
L. Winnie Mandela
   head of the ANC Women's League in South Africa.
M. Rosa Parks
   Afro-American activist.

PART 2
Are the following sentences true or false? Write TRUE or FALSE on your answer sheet.

1. The woman in Text 1 was imprisoned for sitting in the white person’s part of a bus in Alabama.
2. After her action, the bus company was boycotted for over a year.
3. The woman in Text 2 used to be a television actress.
4. The woman in Text 3 was involved in the negotiations for peace between the British government and the IRA.
5. The woman in Text 4 had been an anti-war campaigner since she was a teenager.
6. The woman in Text 5 went to Harvard University in the US.
7. Liberia is a rich nation.
8. The woman in Text 6 is responsible for changing the image of Topshop.
9. One of the things she did was to introduce clothes for pregnant women.
10. Text 7 says that only about 100 of the 450 people who have been in space were women.

PART 3
The last sentence is missing from each text. The sentences which were taken out of the texts are below. Which sentence goes with which text? Write the letter of the sentence (A, B, C etc) against the appropriate TEXT number on your answer sheet.

A. As former Labour Prime Minister, Neil Kinnock, put it: “She was one hell of a woman.”
B. We salute you, Captain!
C. She is now thought to be the most influential woman in British retail.
D. “She is the best opportunity the country has had in decades” Kofi Annan said.
E. Her life story is a reminder of the need to continue the fight for equality of all kinds.
F. In my country there is the idea that men can do what they like.”
G. It is tragic that she too was a victim of the war.
PART 4
Below are ten words and expressions from the text. In the text they are in bold. For each one, choose an expression from the box which has a similar meaning IN THIS CONTEXT. (NB: There are extra words in the box, and you can use the same word twice.)
For example, if you think bold means , write the word generous against number 1 on your answer sheet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>constant</th>
<th>exhausting</th>
<th>difficult</th>
<th>main</th>
<th>nice</th>
<th>poor quality</th>
<th>stupid</th>
<th>courageous</th>
<th>return home</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>escape to another country</td>
<td>torment</td>
<td>help</td>
<td>make it easier to do the same thing</td>
<td>behave like a soldier</td>
<td>use bad language</td>
<td>lift</td>
<td>collect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **bold** (text 1)
2. **plague** (text 1)
3. **flee abroad** (text 2)
4. **core** (text 2)
5. **swear like a trooper** (text 3)
6. **raise** (text 4)
7. **tireless** (text 4)
8. **tough** (text 5)
9. **tacky** (text 6)
10. **blaze a trail** (text 7)
The following text comes from a composition by an English schoolchild. Some of the lines in this composition contain a word that shouldn’t be there, either because it’s incorrect or because it’s in the incorrect position.

Write the word in the column on the left. Other lines are correct. Put a tick (✓) against the lines which are correct. There are 4 correct lines.

The first three are examples.

**A WELL-LOVED CHARACTER ACTRESS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dame Thora Hird, who has died aged 91, she was one of Britain’s most</th>
<th>she</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>talented character actresses and a “much-loved institution” said The</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Times. A frank, warm-hearted Northerner, she played often the roles</td>
<td>often</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 of talkative old spinsters* or bossy mother-in-laws and could to act</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 in both the comedies and tragedies, though she preferred comedies.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Thora Hird was been born in Morecambe in Lancashire in 1911. Her</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 mother was an actress while her father was manager of the Royalty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Theatre in Manchester. Thora has made her stage debut when she was</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 eight weeks old in a melodrama was about a village girl who has an</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 illegitimate baby. “It was a non-speaking part.” she used to say.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Although she did not have a film star looks, she had a photographic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 memory and he was very good at imitating people. Thora based many</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 of her later roles on the women which she met at the supermarket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 where she started working when she was 14 years. In 1931 she got a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 full-time job at the local theatre and eight years more later she was</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 seen by George Formby, who was looking for somebody to play his</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 mother in a film he was making for Ealing Studios. After her role in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 that film she did not stop acting never until she was in her mid eighties.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* spinsters: zitelle
WRITING: COMPOSITION

Write a composition of 150-180 words on ONE of the following:

Either:
Describe a person you admire. It can be a famous person, or just someone you know. Remember to say why you admire the person.

Or:
Describe a visit of yours to the theatre. If you have never been to the theatre you can describe a live ballet or concert you have seen.