

FINAL EXAMINATION IN ENGLISH

Mark:_____

[illegible]

Read the text below and do ALL the exercises that follow.

AMBER ALERT

Every year, thousands of children are reported missing in the United States alone. Most of these children have run away from home, have got lost, or have been taken by another family member. However, a very tiny **minority** of them are abducted by a stranger or by someone they don't know very well. This is many parents' worst nightmare, because these are the children who are most in danger. Research has shown that between 40 and 150 children are abducted and murdered in the US each year.

The life of an abducted child is most at risk within the first three hours after they are taken. Therefore, it is vitally important that there is an extremely **rapid** response when a child goes missing. That is where the Amber Alert system comes in.

The Amber Alert programme was started after Amber Hagerman, a nine-year-old girl from Texas, was abducted and then killed. This tragedy shocked her whole community and several people suggested that if special alerts were **broadcast** to the public, it might prevent such events in the future. The idea is that if people are made aware of abductions, they can act as the extra eyes and ears needed to find the children and bring them back home safely again.

Now, the Amber Alert programme is in operation across the entire United States. It gives the police and the media guidelines on how they should cooperate when a missing child is thought to be in danger. In such a case, the police will provide the media with as much information as possible: for example, a description and photograph of the child and, if possible, a description of the suspected abductor, the vehicle used, and the direction they are thought to be heading in.

Then all TV and radio stations in the area will broadcast alerts providing the public with this information, and giving them a telephone number they can call if they know anything. All of the media, including newspapers and magazines, are part of the programme. In addition to this, other companies or organisations in the local area may be asked to deliver messages about the abduction to their customers. In this way there is **maximum** public awareness of the ongoing situation.

The Amber Alert system has proved to be very successful. Since it was introduced nationwide in the US in 2002, it has helped to rescue about three hundred children. A good example of this took place in January 2007, in Arizona. A six-year-old girl was abducted by a family acquaintance. When this was reported, it was discovered that the abductor was a known criminal, and an Amber Alert was issued. The abductor heard the alert and decided to **release** the girl by the side of the road. Another driver in the area, who had also heard the alert, recognised the child, picked her up and contacted the police. The girl was soon safely back with her family.

Success stories like this encouraged other countries to adopt similar systems for dealing with cases of missing children. France was one of the first countries in Europe to introduce such a system, and members of other European Union countries, such as Belgium and Spain, are following France's lead. In May 2007, Greece launched its own Amber Alert programme. All Greek television and radio stations and mobile phone companies, as well as other large organisations, have become partners in the programme. If all EU countries develop similar systems, it could be particularly helpful in the fight against the **trafficking** and exploitation of children throughout the EU.

A. Choose the correct answer a, b, c or d according to the text.

(5x2=10 marks)

1. In the United States, according to the text,

- a. most missing children have been abducted by a stranger.
- b. between 40 and 150 children are reported missing each year.
- c. of all missing children, those who have been abducted are most at risk.
- d. most abducted children get home safely in less than three hours.

2. Why are the first three hours of an abduction case so important?

- a. The public provide more information during this time.
- b. The police find it easier to capture a suspect quickly.
- c. The media are more interested in an abduction right after it happens.
- d. The child is in greatest danger during this time.

3. The Amber Alert programme aims to

- a. prevent children from running away from home.
- b. inform children about dangers from strangers.
- c. give parents information to stop children being abducted.
- d. inform people about an abduction so that they can help.

4. The case of the six-year-old girl abducted in Arizona is mentioned because it shows

- a. some problems with the Amber Alert programme.
- b. how the Amber Alert programme works in practice.
- c. what happens if the Amber Alert system isn't used.
- d. that an Amber Alert isn't always necessary to solve an abduction case.

5. According to the text , other countries have started similar programmes because

- a. they saw that the US Amber Alert system got results.
- b. there was an increase in the number of children being abducted.
- c. the EU wanted to introduce a Europe-wide programme.
- d. European children are more at risk than American children.

(3x2=6 marks)

(8 marks)

In your opinion how could parents and teachers help prevent abductions?

[illegible]

C. Match the words in column A, with the words/phrases in column B, according to the text. (More words than needed are given in column B). (6x1=6marks)

Column A	Column B	Answers
1. minority	a. sent out	1. _____
2. rapid	b. set free	2. _____
3. broadcast	c. buying and selling (people, drugs, etc.) for your own advantage	3. _____
4. maximum	d. rewarding	4. _____
5. release	e. small number	5. _____
6. trafficking	f. the greatest possible	6. _____
	g. quick	
	h. employ	

PART III: USE OF ENGLISH

(20 MARKS)

A. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. (5x1=5 marks)

- John is too short to reach the top shelf. **TALL**
John is _____ the top shelf.
- I'm sure they informed you about the meeting tonight. **MUST**
You _____ about the meeting tonight.
- Sandra wanted to go out but she was too tired. **IF**
Sandra would have gone out _____ so tired.
- "We had not committed the burglary", the men said. **DENIED**
The men _____ the burglary.
- He invited all his friends to the party last week. **INVITED**
All his friends _____ last week.

B. Fill in the gaps in the following text with the correct form of the words given in capitals. (10x1=10 marks)

Habitat Destruction

Many species around the world are currently, struggling to survive. Some are 1. _____ (**THREAT**) with extinction because of hunting, disease or the 2. _____ (**INTRODUCE**) of new species into their eco-system. However, by far the most common threat to 3. _____ (**DANGER**) species is habitat destruction. This occurs when the place where a species lives becomes 4. _____ (**ABLE**) to support it any longer and humans are usually responsible for this. Mankind can be very 5. _____ (**SELF**) about land; we spread into every corner of the globe, often without really considering the 6. _____ (**ENVIRONMENT**) impact of our actions. Ancient forests and other important 7. _____ (**NATURE**) habitats are being destroyed so that the land can be used for farming or to build houses. Even in places where habitats are supposed to be protected, rich and 8. _____ (**POWER**) mining and logging companies often find ways to get around the law. Climate change and global 9. _____ (**WARM**) will only make the situation worse and, unless we change the way we treat the world around us, huge numbers of plant and animal species could 10. _____ (**APPEAR**) for ever.

C. Fill in the gaps in the following text with only ONE WORD. (10x0.5=5 marks)

WATER

Experts warn that the world 1. _____ soon be facing some very serious problems. They're worried 2. _____ the world's ever-growing population and the necessity 3. _____ more food and water. By the year 2025, probably more 4. _____ 50 countries will be suffering 5. _____ water shortages, which will create very unhealthy living conditions for approximately 3.2 billion people. In addition, factories pump waste and chemicals 6. _____ rivers, and these rivers are often the 7. _____ source of water for nearby villages. Experts are extremely worried and are making great efforts to find solutions to 8. _____ problems. Generally speaking, we will 9. _____ to find a way to increase the water supply 10. _____ protecting its quality. There is no denying that this is going to be a difficult task.

The Headmaster

George Josephides

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