

# TELC TEST

## 1. Reading Comprehension (Part 1)

*First read the ten headlines (a-j). Then read the five texts (1-5) and decide which text goes best with which headline.*

- a) Relocating Your Home
- b) Aquapark: Ready to Roll
- c) For the Price of Two Packs
- d) 60,000-hectare Open Air Museum
- e) A Step Closer to the Opening
- f) Treated Badly but Paid Well
- g) Moving with Children
- h) Rural Hungary in a Day
- i) Maid Life is Hard
- j) From Chinatown to the Manhattan Bridge

1. Construction of the Ramada Plaza – Aquaworld complex started one year ago. Structural works on what will be Central Europe largest indoor aqua fun park and the four-star superior Ramada Plaza Hotel are now complete, and internal works have begun. The development is on the outskirts of Budapest, next to the Megyeri Bridge on the M0 orbital motorway, in a setting of approximately 8.6 hectares. The conference and wellness hotel will offer unique services; it will have 309 rooms (two for the disabled), suites and apartments with internet connection; a 1,000-person conference center; its own spa, wellness and fitness unit, and restaurants, bars and entertainment center. The fun park has developed its own brand under the name of Aquaworld – Water Park. It will have a capacity of 1,800 people, and will be open year-round. (The Budapest Sun)

2. For those wishing to see and participate in the colourful customs of old rural Hungary, the Skanzen at Szentendre is the best destination.

The name Skanzen comes from the district in Stockholm where the first true open-air museum opened in 1891.

Inspired by the Swedish original, Hungary's skanzen was founded in 1967, with the aim of preserving disappearing regional styles in building, as well as the authentic folk customs and religious observances of ethnic areas with especially colourful old traditions. There are cemetery and a Calvary, mills and more than 200 houses spread over part of the Duna-Ipoly National Park – a 60,000-hectare nature reserve. Ethnographers at the Skanzen continue to seek artefacts to add to the collections, to present a panoramic picture of village life between the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in Hungary.

3. One-way bus from New York City Chinatown to Boston for \$15 – it's so cheap that you might think of a long ride in a crowded tin can. Surprisingly, on Forsyth Street, you can see two rows of long, gleaming tour buses in the shadow of the Manhattan Bridge. In the age when you cannot buy two packs of cigarettes for \$15, it sounds shocking that the same money will get you to the nation's capital, non-stop, often with an in-ride movie.

Like so many things, the industry started out simply enough: Chinese immigrants needed an inexpensive way to travel to see relatives or, often, find work in nearby cities. Eric

Roetter, 22, is one of a growing number of students turning to the Chinatown buses. „Normal bus ride,” he said last week on a visit from Philadelphia. „Not over-packed, there are no lines and no hassle,” he summarizes. (The New York Times)

4. Moving is always a pain for everyone. For kids, however, the emotional strain of losing friends can be even worse. Here are some useful tips you must consider before moving. Tell your kids the news immediately; children need time to prepare themselves. By letting them pack and unpack their own rooms you give your children some control. A good way is to let them distribute stamped, blank postcards with their new address so they will have mail from old friends when they arrive at the house. Get kids involved right away by scoping out activities ahead of the move. Go on walks or bike rides and pinpoint houses of families with kids their age.

5. According to one survey, the average monthly pay of a maid in the prosperous city of London is \$154. She typically works from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Three in 10 report they do not get breaks, and half do not get even one day off per month. Expatriates from America can mean hitting the jackpot for the maids. They tend to pay above that miserable average salary, give every Sunday off and treat them better.

Apart from the long hours and low pay, there are other disturbing realities of the maids' working lives. Elvy, a tiny 31-year-old Filipina was physically and verbally abused by her employer. Such abuse concerns the government. As of April 1, first-time employers now have to sit through a four-hour “orientation” course on how to treat a foreign domestic worker.

## 1. Reading Comprehension (Part 2)

*Read the following text, then choose the answers to questions 6-10.*

### **Seattle Superbus**

Adopted from Andrew Romano, Newsweek, Sept 6/Sept 13, 2004, p. 62

Jim Boon is a hybrid kind of guy. He drives a Toyota hybrid to work, a Honda hybrid on weekends, and as a manager for Seattle's public transportation system, he recently placed the world's largest order for hybrid electric buses.

Now, with the biggest hybrid bus fleet in the world, Seattle has become the main testing ground for a technology that claims it can drastically cut air pollution and fuel consumption. In the late 1990s, small demo fleets of 35 buses or less started cropping up in cities such as Tempe, Arizona. Sixteen of these early hybrids still service Genoa, Italy, where drivers switch from diesel to electric power when passing the city's downtown architectural treasures. But no city has gone as far as Seattle, which last year bought 235 GM (General Motors) hybrid buses at \$645,000 a pop. When the final one hits the streets this December, the region's bus system will be 15 percent hybrid.

But why Seattle and why now? The Pacific Northwest has long been a hotbed of both green politics and cutting-edge technology. Fourteen years ago, the Seattle area bought 236 Italian – made Breda buses to service a kilometre-long downtown tunnel. They were supposed to operate as clean and silent electric trolleys underground, but the switching

mechanism often failed and the bus drove through the tunnel as a diesel. “It was pretty loud and smoky”, says Boon.

When the Bredas hit mandatory retirement age in 2002, Boon went shopping. He chose the GM model because it uses an automatic transmission and diesel boosts that provide the power needed to deal with inclines without much effort. In hilly Seattle, the prospect of a hybrid that could climb like a diesel but accelerate without thick black fumes helped justify its price, which is about \$200,000 higher than a conventional bus. “The days of seeing a diesel pull away and pour out smoke are over,” says Boon. “After we drove these hybrid buses across the country, I wiped a handkerchief inside a tailpipe. It came out spotless. I bet there are tables in your living room that are dirtier.”

Experts say buses are critical to realizing the hybrid dream of greater efficiency and cleaner air. It would take thousands of hybrid cars to save as many litres of gas (3.4 million) as Boon expects his buses to save Seattle each year.

And a major step forward in the marketplace: Philadelphia; Honolulu; Long Beach; California; and Albuquerque, New Mexico have all bought the GM buses in recent months. GM has launched an ad campaign called All Aboard the Magic Bus, presenting itself as the top hybrid bus innovator. But the game is heating up: Siemens is among the global giants competing with GM for new business, and New York plans to deploy 325 BAE Systems hybrids by 2006. “There’s room for competition,” says James Cannon, editor of Hybrid Vehicles newsletter. Seems Seattle isn’t the only city trying to leave the past behind.

*Now decide which is the correct answer (a, b or c) to the items 6-10.*

6. Seattle

- a) has placed a large order for hybrid cars.
- b) has the most hybrid buses in the world.
- c) has a mayor who is into hybrid vehicles.

7. Hybrid vehicles were tried before

- a) and worked exceptionally well.
- b) but they failed to operate properly.
- c) and cleaned the air out but was quite noisy.

8. Boon chose GM vehicles because

- a) they were less noisy.
- b) they cope with slopes more easily.
- c) they were only slightly more costly than conventional buses.

9. The buses were tested by

- a) measuring the cleanliness of the air.
- b) determining their efficiency.
- c) wiping their pipe with a piece of cloth.

10. GM

- a) is the leading innovator in hybrid vehicles.
- b) has many major competitors from New York, Honolulu and Albuquerque.
- c) says there is room for competition.

## 1. Reading Comprehension (Part 3)

*First read the ten situations (11-20) and then read the twelve texts (a-l). Decide which text goes best with which situation. Each text can be used only once.*

11. You are looking for the most romantic getaway for a week in Britain in an urban area.
12. You are fed up with junk mail and looking for a way to stop it.
13. You are looking for a charity to support.
14. You are looking for creative ideas for your new garden.
15. A male friend of yours has gained some weight and he has dressing problems.
16. A teenage son of a friend is good with his hands won't go to higher education.
17. You would like to buy a generous present for a friend who is into protecting the environment.
18. You will be staying with a friend in London through September and you like paintings.
19. You want to spend a weekend in London but you don't have time to organise it.
20. A friend of yours is looking for someone to take care of his Spanish summer house all-year-round.

### **A) A garden tour in Normandy**

To see a fabulous garden with a modern twist, head to Normandy. Le Jardin Plume, ten miles from Rouen, combines geometric formality with informal, unregulated wildness to stunning effect. A clever innovation is a rectangular pond without edging that sits in the ground „like a mirror”. There is an orderly sense of tightly controlled nature here.

**Clare Whatley's Normandy Garden Tours. Two-day itinerary £245**

**B) If you're buying a new computer, invest in these stylish additions. The monitor, keyboard and mouse are made from tough, fast-growing bamboo as opposed to plastic.**

Price: monitor, from £220, keyboard, £24.99; mouse, £17.99.  
[www.nigelecostore.com](http://www.nigelecostore.com)

### **C) Longing for a short break?**

Since 1986 we have been tailor-making luxury holidays. Our first-hand knowledge of hotels in over 60 cities and 150 countryside locations means you can trust us to select just the right accommodations for you.

We can arrange first class rail, opera tickets and restaurant reservations for a special occasion; we also provide private transfers and our unique Kirker Guide Notes to the best restaurants and museums.

**Call now for our new 2008 short breaks brochure 0870 421 1205**

### **E) Moleskin Trousers**

Special offer £30 a pair when you buy two pairs or more

Why pay £60 plus for luxurious moleskin trousers of this quality when you can buy two pairs for the same price?

Made in tough 100% cotton super soft fabric with a reinforced French bearer fly, tidy and secure waist fastening that will never pull out of shape. Plus they are the only moleskin trousers with the ultimate waist comfort system that flexes with you every move. Too tight? The waistband expands to give you more room. The secret is in the two hidden adjusters that give up to 4 extra inches of comfort.

**Free return service and money back guaranteed if not delighted.**  
**Order now!** 01273 493 393

### **D) Second Home Stewards of the Costa Brava**

- Weekly inspection of your vacant holiday home
- Opening/closing for your arrival/departure
- Post forwarded
- Typical monthly fee 95€ (£65)
- Emergency home repairs in your absence
- Personal assistance while in residence
- Serving the Costa Brava area

UK Tel: 020-7993-8004

Spain Tel: 00-34-619-061-599

### **F) Two-day green woodwork courses in West Dorset**

- Informal, fun and relaxing
- All tools, materials and a light lunch included.
- Beautiful setting just outside Bridgeport.

[www.mallinson.co.uk](http://www.mallinson.co.uk)

### **G) The Witchery, Edinburgh**

Located at the top of the Royal Mile, close to the castle gates, The Witchery must be Britain's most romantic love nest. Its suites – booked months in advance at weekends – have oak four-posters, sensual fabrics, subdued lighting, and roll-top baths that are perfect for two. The restaurant is cosy, intimate room lit by candles, built on the spot where witches were burnt in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The wine list is excellent and the service is faultless. You can breakfast here, or have it delivered to your room, before emerging reluctantly for the midday checkout. Suites from £295.

Contact: 0131-225 5613

### H) Tips of the week

Unsolicited post is a lucrative source of income for the Royal Mail, but there are ways to stop it if it annoys you.

- Opt out of door-to-door mailouts by contacting 0845-774 0740
- Ask companies to mark your account „Do not sell or trade my name to other company”
- Try to avoid giving out your address when you sign up for things
- Choose a fake middle name or misspell your address when you sign up for loyalty schemes or catalogues. That way you will be able to find out if someone is illegally distributing your details.

### I) Last minute offer

Hire a cottage

Hire a cosy cottage on rural Dartmoor for seven nights during September from £197, based on two sharing with Helpful Holidays.

It is the most romantic getaway with beautiful surroundings.

### J) New Zealand – Riding at the Thermals

„I was really turned on by New Zealand. We went to look at the royal albatrosses which nests there, and to see those graceful creatures with their three-meter wingspan was an extraordinary sight. These are some of the most vigorous oils I have done for some time.” Donegal

#### Exhibition 13th to 30th September

Fully illustrated catalogue with foreword by HRH The Prince of Wales  
8 Cork Street, London

### K) Looking for an alternative to university?

- How about learning the craft of woodwork and furniture making while acquiring the business skills necessary to succeed in almost any commercial environment?
- How about studying in the beautiful Scottish countryside yet having the vibrant if Edinburgh on your doorstep?
- How about meeting like minds from all over the world?

#### Chippendale International School of Furniture

To find out more about unique life experience check out  
[www.chippendale.co.uk](http://www.chippendale.co.uk)  
Places will be available from October 2008

### L) TREK Iceland

Five-day trek from the active Mt Hekla and then south to the mountains to the permanent icecaps and finally exploring the cosmopolitan city of Reykjavik  
No experience necessary flight, food and accommodation included

Only £199 plus minimum sponsorship of our foundation  
Raise much needed funds for our work with kids with autism  
Call now! 0800 0191 200

## 2. Language Elements (Part 1)

Complete the following texts by filling in the gaps to make words which fit into the context. Please note that only part of the word is missing.

### Wonderwoman saves boy from under a BMW

Lisa Hodgkinson \_\_\_\_\_<sub>21</sub>\_\_\_\_\_ doesn't know where she found the strength to free a badly injured schoolboy from beneath the wheels of a one-and-a-half ton car.

In theory she should not have been able to move the BMW as it threatened to crush Jean-Luc Archer to death.

Yesterday Jean-Luc was allowed home from hospital following operation on his damaged pelvis, two broken arms and a broken leg injury when he ran front of the car. \_\_\_\_\_22\_\_\_\_\_ to meet him was his slim 5 foot 7 inches rescuer - whom he now calls wonderwoman.

“I can’t really explain why I did it”, said Miss Hodgkinson, 30, a sales representative. “Some people panic or they don’t know what to do but I \_\_\_\_\_23\_\_\_\_\_ did exactly the same thing I would have done if it had happened to my little boy. At first I tried to lift it. But it didn’t move, so I tried pushing it from behind. I thought it wasn’t going to move, but I just \_\_\_\_\_24\_\_\_\_\_ trying and eventually managed to make it go forward enough to release Jean-Luc.”

Then she gave the boy mouth-to-mouth resuscitation \_\_\_\_\_25\_\_\_\_\_ an ambulance arrived. The accident happened when Jean-Luc ran into the path of a BMW near his home on Halloween.

“It was really uncertain weather Jean-Luc would make it”, said his mother Maggie, who is a nurse, yesterday. “He wouldn’t be here now if Lisa hadn’t done what she \_\_\_\_\_26\_\_\_\_\_.”

After the boy’s speedy recovery Miss Hodgkinson, who has a three-year-old son, said: “I go to the gym regularly but I still don’t know how I managed to move the car. I think nature must have \_\_\_\_\_27\_\_\_\_\_.”

Last night Dr Marc Harries, of the Olympic Medical Institute agrees with her theory. He said: “We normally use only 20-30 per cent of our muscle fibres, no matter how hard we try, because \_\_\_\_\_28\_\_\_\_\_ we might damage them. But in a desperate situation we can use more, and in an emergency people will show far more strength than normal. The fact that this was a woman saving a child is no \_\_\_\_\_29\_\_\_\_\_ – it’s a prime example of the maternal instinct kicking in.”

Jean-Luc’s mother who is separated from her husband and has two other sons, put it more simply. “I can’t thank Lisa enough”, she said. “I \_\_\_\_\_30\_\_\_\_\_ her everything.”

21. a) still  
b) yet  
c) however

22. a) Soon  
b) Where  
c) There

23. a) just  
b) then  
c) way

24. a) made  
b) kept  
c) held

25. a) so far  
b) up to  
c) until

26. a) did  
b) has done  
c) to do

27. a) made up  
b) given in  
c) taken over

28. a) anyway  
b) no sooner  
c) otherwise

29. a) surprise  
b) matter  
c) longer

30. a) own  
b) owe  
c) appreciate

## 2. Language Elements (Part 2)

### Bullies give school phobia

A 108-kilogram teenager has missed three years of school because she cannot \_\_\_\_\_31\_\_\_\_\_ with bullies tormenting her about her weight.

Sarah, 15, from Huddersfield, began \_\_\_\_\_32\_\_\_\_\_ weight at six when her mother Julie split up with her father Graham. At 11 she weighed 83 kilograms and at 14 she was nearly 114 kilograms. Dieting has helped her lose a few kilograms but, she says: “When I see a packet of biscuits I’m \_\_\_\_\_33\_\_\_\_\_ to eat them. I like junk food and sugary snacks.”

She says her problems began when she started secondary school at 11 and faced cruel and nasty remarks from the moment she \_\_\_\_\_34\_\_\_\_\_ the school bus. She says she was beaten up, threatened with hockey sticks and even had her hair \_\_\_\_\_35\_\_\_\_\_ on fire by gangs of older students. “They called me Fat Cow and flicked cigarette ash into my hair. I smelled \_\_\_\_\_36\_\_\_\_\_ and realized that the bottom of my hair at the back was on fire.”

The bullying became so serious that Sarah developed a ‘school phobia’. She began playing truant and \_\_\_\_\_37\_\_\_\_\_ from mystery illnesses to avoid going to school. She started shaking, sweating and feeling sick if she went near school gates and was \_\_\_\_\_38\_\_\_\_\_ to stay at home.

A long battle followed \_\_\_\_\_39\_\_\_\_\_ the school, education officials and Sarah’s mother over her absence. Mrs Williams says, she tried everything to persuade her daughter to attend school, but got nowhere. The family now collects work from school and Sarah does it at home. Her mother says she is bright and has no problems with the work, but she is physically unable to \_\_\_\_\_40\_\_\_\_\_ the school.

The authorities claim they have been unable to punish the bullies because Sarah has not identified them. They are now in discussion with the teenager to give her a place at a special school.

a) allowing   b) approach   c) appear   d) boarded   e) burning   f) cope g) forced   h) gaining   i) heard   j) involving   k) never   l) set m) suffering   n) tempted   o) taken
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### 3. Listening Comprehension (not included here)

### 4. Writing

You have two different tasks to choose from. Decide quickly which letter you are going to write as you only have a total of 30 minutes to complete the task.

Either:

1. A letter in response to an advertisement

Or

2. A letter of inquiry

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Situation: You have decided to read more in English. You see the following advertisement in a magazine:

<b>GET SIX FREE ISSUES</b>
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Subscribe to The Week today and you will get 6 FREE issues! If you’re not completely satisfied with The Week after 6 weeks, simply write to cancel during your trial issue period and you won’t pay a penny. But if your subscription will continue at the low rate of just £16.25 every 13 issues – that’s only £1.25 each issue instead of £2.15 in the shops.
--



THE WEEK, 800 Guillat Avenue, Kent Science Park, Sittingbourne, ME9 8GU

Write a letter to *THE WEEK* explaining your situation. Your letter should contain at least two of the following points and one other aspect.

- Information you need to provide in order to use the opportunity
- Your reason for wanting to read the paper
- Additional information you need in order to decide
- Inquire about annual subscription

Before starting the letter, decide on **the order** in which you think the points should be included as well as an appropriate **introduction** and **close**. Include **your address** and **the address of the magazine**, also the **reference line**, **date**, **salutation** and **closing formula**.

You have 30 minutes. Please write 150-200 words.

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You are remodelling your kitchen. You see the following advertisements in a magazine.

Zanussi ZBQ865

The Zanussi single oven is a good budget buy. It copes well with baking and grilling, but roasting is less successful – potatoes tend to be pale and a bit soggy. The fan is also noisy and the temperature dial is difficult to set. The back and sides of the oven are self-cleaning. Price: £399-420

Miele H4250B

This single, six-function oven is a great buy. The large grill pan toast nine slices of bread at a time, the roasting filter works well, protecting the fan from fat splashes. The instructions are excellent. The only drawback is that tinted glass makes it difficult to see through the oven door. Price: £799-899

THE WEEK, 800 Guillat Avenue, Kent Science Park, Sittingbourne, ME9 8GU

Write a letter to the editor of the magazine. Explain your situation. Your letter should contain at least two of the following points and one other aspect.

- Mention one feature that is important to you
- Ask about shop locations
- Give your reasons for your choice between the two types
- Your needs concerning the new kitchen

Before starting the letter, decide on **the order** in which you think the points should be included as well as an appropriate **introduction** and **close**. Include **your address** and **the address of the magazine**, also the **reference line**, **date**, **salutation** and **closing formula**.

You have 30 minutes. Please write 150-200 words.



This is the end of the test.

