

**TASK 1**  
**BBC WORLD NEWS**

ANSWER BOX

EXTRACT	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
ANSWER	H	L	I	J	M	E	A	C	K	F

**TRANSCRIPT**

**H. MEMBER STATES URGED TO ENSURE ACCESS TO VACCINE**

0. Hello, you're watching BBC world news. These are the headlines. As much of Europe struggles to cope with a new surge of the coronavirus, the president of the European Commission says work should start immediately to prepare the infrastructure for a mass vaccination program.

**L. SUSPECT TERRORIST IN CRITICAL CONDITION**

1. French troops to be deployed to protect religious buildings and schools after a Tunisian man killed three people in a church in Nice. The suspected attacker is in a serious condition in hospital after being shot by police.

**I. MILLIONS CHOOSE TO VOTE AHEAD OF TIME**

2. President Trump and his democratic rival Joe Biden have entered the final four days of the U. S. election campaign. More than 80 million Americans have already cast their ballot as early voting hits record levels.

**J. MOST VOTERS IN FAVOUR OF NEW LAW**

3. Preliminary results following a referendum in New Zealand indicate that a large majority has voted to legalize euthanasia.

**M. VIOLENT PROTESTS AGAINST POLICE SHOOTING**

4. There's been a second night of unrest in Philadelphia after another black man was shot dead by police. Looting and violence broke out after hundreds of people took to the streets.

**E. FINANCIAL DISASTER PLUS INADEQUATE TESTING**

5. Heathrow Airport has recorded a loss of almost two billion dollars in the first nine months of the year due to the corona virus pandemic. Chief executive, John Holland-Kaye, says Britain is falling behind because it's being too slow to take up passenger testing.

**A. DEADLY BOMB BLAST AT SEMINARY**

6. Seven people have been killed in a bomb attack on a religious school in the Pakistani city of Peshawar. More than eighty others are reported to have been wounded, some of them with critical injuries.

**C. FALL IN PROFITS TO BE FOLLOWED BY MASSIVE JOB LOSSES**

7. Europe's biggest bank, HSBC, revealed a 36% drop in pre-tax profits as it grapples with the financial fallout of coronavirus. Plans are also underway to cut costs with around 35,000 jobs set to go.

**K. RIVAL SHOW OF FORCE ON THE STREETS**

8. In Thailand royalists and pro-democracy protesters are on the streets of Bangkok as the king's motorcade is due to pass. It's expected to be one of the most tense days of protests in Thailand in recent years.

## F. FRAUDULENT FOLLOWERS REMOVED FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

9. Twitter has suspended a number of fake accounts which claimed to be run by black supporters of Donald Trump. They're thought to have attracted more than a quarter of a million retweets or mentions before being taken down.

(Adapted: youtube.com, 19/11/2020, 3:28 minutes)

### TASK 2 WHAT IS FORT KNOX?

#### ANSWER BOX

0.	Fort Knox is an <u>ARMY BASE</u> located in Kentucky.
10.	It is also the name of the US depository, which is <b>NEXT TO/NOT PART OF</b> the army base.
11.	More than <u>147 MILLION</u> troy ounces of gold are kept in the depository.
12.	The gold <u>BARS</u> at Knox Fort measure 17cm x 9cm.
13.	Using gold as <u>MONEY</u> was forbidden under President F. Roosevelt.
14.	People were only allowed to have gold <u>JEWELLERY</u> or coins for coin collections.
15.	The depository was built in order to keep the <u>GROWING</u> quantity of gold.
16.	Colloquially, if you say something is like Fort Knox, you mean that it is <u>CAREFULLY PROTECTED</u> .
17.	The depository can only be opened by several people, each with a <u>SEPARATE CODE</u> .
18.	The Magna Carta, the Gutenberg Bible and the <u>DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE</u> have been kept at Fort Knox.

#### TRANSCRIPT

Our question this week comes from Nigeria. A listener named Funsho asks about Fort Knox.

**Fort Knox is the name of an Army base (0)** in the southern state of Kentucky. But the name is better known for its link to gold.

Since 1937, the United States Bullion Depository at Fort Knox has housed a large portion of the government's gold reserves. **The depository is next to**, but not part of, **the Army base (10)**. The building is under the control of the United States Mint, which is part of the Treasury Department.

**The Fort Knox Bullion Depository holds over 147 million troy ounces of gold (11)**. A troy ounce is a measurement used for jewels and metals like gold and silver.

The amount at Fort Knox is equal to more than four and one-half million kilograms of gold. The gold is in the form of coins and bars. **The bars measure about seventeen centimeters long and nine centimeters wide (12).**

In 1933, **President Franklin Roosevelt ordered an end to the use of gold as money (13).** The newly elected president did this as part of his New Deal economic plan during the Great Depression. **Private ownership of gold that was not in the form of jewelry or collectable coins became illegal (14).**

So people who owned gold exchanged it with the government for paper money. Soon, **the government needed a safe place to store its growing amounts of gold (15).** The Treasury Department started building the Fort Knox depository in 1936.

As you can imagine, the building has very high security. In fact, the term "Fort Knox" is used in popular language to describe something that is **carefully protected (16).**

The gold is housed in a two-level vault made of concrete and steel. The Treasury Department website says no one person knows the code that opens the vault. Instead, **several people must each enter a separate code (17)** to unlock it.

Other valuable objects have been stored at Fort Knox over the years. These include **the Declaration of Independence (18)**, the Magna Carta and three versions of the Gutenberg Bible. The Gutenberg Bible was the first major book printed in Europe with movable type.

Don't get too excited about visiting Fort Knox. The bullion depository is not open to the public.

*(manythings.org/voa/places/202.html, 03/04/2018, 2:58 minutes)*

### TASK 3 KEN FOLLET'S NEW BOOK

#### ANSWER BOX

QUESTION	0	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
ANSWER	B	B	C	B	A	B	C	A

#### TRANSCRIPT

I've spent this year writing a first draft of a new book. **The story begins in Kingsbridge, the fictional town that was the setting for 'The Pillars of the Earth' and 'World without End'. So this would be my third Kingsbridge book (0).** It starts in 1558, the year Queen Elizabeth I came to the throne of England. **A lot of people wanted to kill Queen Elizabeth, including the King of Spain, the King of France and the Pope (19).** So she set up the first English Secret Service to protect herself. It was a success because despite many plots she lived to be an old lady.

**The Secret Service was run by Sir Francis Walsingham, who was the 16th century forerunner of 'M', the spymaster in the James Bond stories (20).** The hero of my book is a young man who works for Walsingham trying to identify and catch the plotters, who want to kill the Queen. Walsingham had spies in all big European cities so my research for the new book has taken me on some fascinating trips.

I'd never previously been to Seville, which was the biggest city in Spain at that time when Spain was the richest and most powerful country in the world. **Galleons loaded with gold and silver from America, which was called New Spain in those days, came across the Atlantic Ocean to Seville, unless they were hijacked on the way by English pirates (21).**

I don't need much of an excuse to go to Paris, the location for a lot of the action in my story. If Seville was the richest city in the world, Paris was probably the smelliest. The protagonist in this part of the story is a young woman bookseller. **And if you wonder how a bookseller can be the hero of an adventure, remember that at this period the punishment for selling banned books was death (22).**

I went to Scotland to see Loch Leven, a prison on an island in the middle of a lake. Astonishingly, **Mary Queen of Scots escaped from this jail**. I've recreated her dramatic flight and for that, of course, it was important to get all the details precisely right. I followed her route from Loch Leven across Scotland to the south west coast and over the water to **England, where she was imprisoned once again (23)**.

I'm about to send this first draft to my editors for their comments and criticisms and to half a dozen historians who will check it for errors. **I will rewrite the book in 2016. I always rekey the whole thing as opposed to editing because the act of typing out a scene or a sentence often helps me see ways to improve what I wrote originally (24)**. But it takes a long time unfortunately so this book is scheduled to be published in the fall of 2017.

A game company called Daedalic is making a video game of *The Pillars of the Earth* and I've been fascinated to watch the process of creating this game. They call it interactive literature, the kind of game where the player takes the role of a character in a story. A group of highly expert young people in Hamburg, a busy drawing Kingsbridge and its Cathedral and devising ways in which players can be part of the story and make choices that change outcomes. I gave permission for this partly because I hope it will interest young people in my story **but mainly because I was just so curious to see what the game designers would do (25)**.

(Adapted: [youtube.com/watch?v=powkCqxjP\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=powkCqxjP_4), 12/11/2020, 3:51 minutes)