

ABAU Practice Examination: Like On Mars.

Read the text and the instructions to the questions very carefully. Answer all the questions in English.

As part of the preparations for a manned space flight to Mars, Russian scientists outfitted a special spaceship in Moscow. They wanted to study how human beings will react physically and psychologically when living in conditions that mimic those of a mission to Mars.

The Mars – 500 project had a multi-national crew of six – three Russians, two Europeans and one Chinese man – chosen from among thousands of applicants who went through a year of intensive training before they were selected. The crew entered the “spaceship” and stayed there for 520 days. During the experiment, volunteers lived in the same conditions as astronauts. Air was recycled, food was rationed, and no tobacco or alcohol was available. There was no contact with the outside world, with the exception of Internet and phone lines which had a delay of up to 20 minutes in order to simulate the delay expected with a real Mars mission.

While the volunteers watched films, read books and played computer games to pass the time, they also spent a lot of time sleeping. As the “trip” progressed, they slept more and more, and on their return journey they spent 700 hours more in bed than on the outward trip. Some volunteers were affected more than others. One man began living a 25-hour day schedule, which meant that after 12 days, it was the middle of the day for him when everyone else was sleeping. Another man slept at night, but took long naps during the day. Together, they spent 20 per cent of their time sleeping while their colleagues were awake. Another volunteer had difficulty sleeping at all, which drastically affected his ability to concentrate. A fourth member began to suffer from depression.

All of the men underwent daily medical, physical and psychological tests during their period on the “spaceship”. The results were a cause for concern among the scientists who were monitoring them since it is crucial that astronauts are able to cooperate effectively when on a mission.

Questions

1. Write a summary of the text in English, including the most important points using your own words (approximately 50 words; 1 point).
2. Mark the following sentences true or false (T/F) according to the text. Then write the part (and ONLY that part) of the text which justifies your answer. (1 point; 0.25 each)
 - a. The volunteers were given basic training before they started the experiment.
 - b. They weren't allowed any kind of contact with the outside world.
 - c. The volunteers reacted differently to the experiment.
 - d. The scientists were worried by the results of the experiment.
3. Find words and phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here. (1 point; 0.25 each)
 - a. copy
 - b. controlled, limited amounts
 - c. short sleeps
 - d. essential
4. Pronunciation. (1 point; 0.25 each)
 - a. In which of the following words is the ending “-ed” pronounced /ɪd/?
stayed – recycled – affected – entered
 - b. Write the word whose underlined letters are pronounced differently.
outfitted – thousands – through – hours
 - c. Write the word in which the underlined letters are /e/ the same as in “bed”.
react – real – meant – colleague
 - d. Find a word in the text that includes the sound like the /ju:/ in “schedule”.
5. Rewrite the following sentences without changing the original meaning. Use the word in brackets and/or the expression given, making the necessary changes. (1.5 points; 0.5 points each)
 - a. Lisa didn't bake a cake – she bought one. (*instead of*)
Lisa ...
 - b. They will announce the names of the winners next week.
The names ...
 - c. “Did you pay for the meal?” Liz asked me.
Liz asked if ...
6. Write about what you would do if you had the opportunity to go into space. Give reasons for your answer (Approximately 120 words; 3 points)