

NAME: _____ 2º BACH A

OPTION 1

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

Any object or light reportedly sighted in the sky and which cannot be immediately explained by the observer automatically receives the label Unidentified Flying Object, or UFO. Sightings of unusual flying phenomena date back to ancient times, but UFOs (sometimes called flying saucers) became a favourite dinner table topic after the first widely publicized US sighting in 1947. Many thousands of such observations have since been reported worldwide.

At least 90% of UFO sightings are easily explained. Objects often mistaken for UFOs include bright planets and stars, aircraft, balloons, kites, aerial flares, peculiar clouds, meteors and satellites. The remaining sightings can probably be attributed to other mistaken sightings or to inaccurate reporting, hoaxes or delusions.

However, from 1947 to 1969 the US air force investigated UFOs as a possible threat to national security. A total of 12,618 reports were received, of which 701 reports, or 5.6%, were listed as unexplained. The air force concluded that 'No UFO reported, investigated and evaluated by the air force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security', and since then the US government seems to have lost interest in the matter.

Some enthusiasts nevertheless insist that UFOs are extraterrestrial spacecraft, even though no scientifically valid evidence supports that belief. The possibility of extraterrestrial civilizations is not the stumbling block; most scientists grant that intelligent life may well exist elsewhere in the universe. The problem is simply a lack of hard evidence –no one has produced scientifically acceptable proof.

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) Most UFO sightings are clear cases of mistaken identity.
 - b) Only ten per cent of all UFO sightings are genuine.
 - c) Since 1969 the US government has taken UFOs seriously.
 - d) Scientific opinion is evenly divided over the possibility of intelligent life on other planets.
3. Find words or phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here (1 point: 0.25 each):
 - a) seen, spotted
 - b) not correct enough
 - c) plans designed to deceive or trick someone
 - d) admit, accept something as correct or true
4. Pronunciation. (1 point. 0.25 each)
 - a) Find THREE words in the text where final <-ed> is pronounced /ɪd/ as in *listed*.
 - b) Find THREE words in the text that include the pronunciation /ju:/, as in *UFO*.
 - c) Find THREE words in the text that include the pronunciation /aɪ/, as in *light*.
 - d) Circle the word with a different stressed vowel pronunciation: any – evidence – threat – even – ever
5. Rewrite the following sentences without changing the original meaning. Use the word in brackets and / or the expression given, making the necessary changes. (3 points; 0.5 points each)
 - a) UFOs were first seen and widely publicized in the US 73 years ago.
UFOs ...
 - b) I would do anything in the world for him.
There's ...
 - c) True love is so complex that we cannot explain it.
True love is too ...
 - d) They believe that he killed three people and then escaped.
He ...
 - e) The last time Nancy came here was in 1986.
Nancy hasn't...
 - f) Although she spent all the afternoon on the project, she didn't finish it.
Despite...
6. Write a composition of approximately 120 words in answer to the following question: "UFOs exist only in people's imagination." What do you think? (3 points).

OPTION 2

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

The iconic Dakota building is located on the Northwest corner of 72nd Street and Central Park in New York City. This building, which was built from 1880-84, is one of Manhattan's most prestigious residential buildings, with apartments generally selling for between \$4 million and \$30 million.

Before the Dakota, apartments were only for the poor. The Dakota introduced the style of communal living to the wealthy people, who used to live in large, single-family houses. Its success prompted the construction of many other luxury apartment buildings in Manhattan.

The Dakota was incredibly opulent. Residents of the Dakota enjoyed a luxury life: there was a private dining room or, if people preferred, they could have meals served to them in their apartment. The building also had electricity and central heating. However, when the Dakota was opened, it was located quite far away from the city.

The building has 65 apartments, ranging in size from 4 rooms to 20 rooms. There was a playroom and a gymnasium under the roof. The top two floors were originally used for servants rooms.

Many celebrities have been residents of The Dakota, including Lauren Bacall, Roberta Flack and John Lennon. The ex-Beatle owned multiple apartments in the building.

The Dakota is best known as the location of Lennon's murder on December 8, 1980. He was fatally shot by Mark Chapman in front of the 72nd Street entrance to the building. Earlier that day, Lennon had signed an autograph for Chapman as he was leaving the building to go to a recording session with Yoko Ono. When they arrived home around 10:50 pm that night, Chapman shot Lennon multiple times. He was sentenced to 20 years–life in prison.

Questions

- Write a summary of the text in English, including the most important points, **using your own words** (approximately 50 words; 1 point).
- 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)
 - The Dakota building was built in the late 1880s.
 - The Dakota was the first apartment building conceived for the rich.
 - Lennon had just one apartment in the Dakota building.
 - Chapman shot Lennon more than once.
- Find words or phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here. (1 point; 0.25 each).
 - emblematic
 - triggered, encouraged
 - initially
 - possessed
- Pronunciation. (1 point; 0.25 each)
 - Find THREE words in the text with the sound /ʃ/ as in shot:
 - Circle the word with the sound /θ/ for the <th>: though – thought – although – thus
 - Write THREE words from the text that include the diphthong sound /aɪ/ as in “nice”.
 - Write THREE words from the text that include the sound /i:/ as in “seen”.
- Rewrite the following sentences without changing the original meaning. Use the word in brackets and/or the expression given, making the necessary changes. (3 points; 0.5 points each).
 - It's very interesting to talk to him.
He ...
 - It's the worst headache she's ever had.
She's...
 - I didn't have an umbrella with me, so I got wet.
If...
 - Despite having been vaccinated she caught the flu.
Although ...
 - My kitchen is being redecorated at the moment.
I am ...
 - I like you even though you have a strange sense of humour.
In spite ...
- Write a composition about: 'Advantages and disadvantages of being a celebrity'. (Approximately 120 words: 3 points)