

L2 English Test⁰⁰⁹



GAUTIER Arthur
L2 - 2014

Semester 4

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Student's Name:

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Group:

2

(PRINT IN CAPITALS)

Point Breakdown by Section	TOTAL
Listening Comprehension 1	8
Listening Comprehension 2	10,5
Reading Comprehension 1	3,5
Reading Comprehension 2	8
Reading Comprehension 3	6,5
Synthesis	14
Overall Total	

TOTAL:

$\frac{50,5}{1} / 60 \times 20 =$	
16,8	20

Corrector's
initials



Listening Comprehension 1

You are going to listen twice to a news report about 3-D printers. Before the listening comprehension starts, you have 1 minute to read through the task.

A. Circle whether the statements about the report are TRUE or FALSE (each correct answer is worth 1 point, 8 points total).

- 1) According to the report, last year engineers built nearly an entire car using a 3-D printer in just 7 days..... TRUE FALSE
- 2) According to the report, the manufacturing demonstration facility at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee contains lots of 3-D printers..... TRUE FALSE
- 3) According to Lonnie Love, the laboratory manager, 3-D printers make a continuous hissing sound..... TRUE FALSE
- 4) According to Love, 3-D printers use various materials to create objects, such as plastic and carbon fiber..... TRUE FALSE
- 5) According to the report, it's currently impossible to order and collect a 3-D printed car within 48 hours..... TRUE FALSE
- 6) According to Love, molds are becoming less expensive to manufacture..... TRUE FALSE
- 7) According to Love, it took longer to transport a mold for an airplane part than it did for the engineers to make it..... TRUE FALSE
- 8) According to Love, in the future engineers will need to collaborate more closely with artists..... TRUE FALSE

Source: www.npr.org/2015/04/21/401167175/3d-printers-are-changing-the-way-people-think-about-manufacturing

Listening Comprehension 1 Total: 8 8

Listening Comprehension 2

You are going to listen twice to a news report about a computer program designed to play the card game poker. Complete the task below. Before the listening comprehension starts, you have 1 minute to read through the task.

A. Answer the following questions below. You will not be graded on grammar or spelling (each question is worth a specific number of points, 12 points total).

I) What year did Martin Jacobson win the poker world championship? (1 point)

He won the poker world championship in 2014

II) Give two things needed in a game of poker which are mentioned in the report. (2 points)

a) Statistics

b) Bluffing Psychology

III) According to the report, how many times has Michael Bowling, a computer scientist at the University of Alberta in Canada, played poker in Vegas? (1 point) Once

IV) According to Bowling, how many different decision points are there in the game of poker? (1 point)

There are 10 to 16 billion different decision points

V) Bowling talks about a "lifetime" of playing poker. (3 points)

- How many hours does Bowling mention?
- How many hands per hour does Bowling mention?
- How many years does Bowling mention?

12 hours a day
200 hands per hour
10 years

VI) According to the interviewer, what are two limitations of the supercomputer? (2 points)

One opponent at a time and the program very long software to develop

VII) According to the report, why does the human brain have the edge over computers? (2 points)

A human can play multiple games when a software can play only one

Source: www.npr.org/blogs/codeswitch/2014/10/07/354230888/alaska-must-translate-election-material-into-2-indigenous-languages

Listening Comprehension 2 Total: 19.5 12

However, all's not perfect.

France is living an employment crisis, according to
Sir M. Toye, "with more than 10 percent of the population
out of work." At the opposite of the UK which managed to create
a lot of jobs 1.8 million since David Cameron's election. France didn't
manage to get out of the economical crisis of 2008 and is unable
to offer jobs to the people who need it. What's more,
according to Sir M. Toye, the employment crisis and the French
regulations are strangling its economy. France growth is "just
0.4 percent (in 2014) and 1 percent (expected in 2015)" which are really
few percentages when the world just start to breathe again after
being buried by 2008 crisis.

To conclude, I would say that the main problem is working in
France is to find a job. But, when it's done, there is plenty
of advantages!

Reading Comprehension 1

Read the text below:

Reminder: At the end of this exam, you will be asked to write a synthesis of these three articles. Keep that in mind as you read them.

Labour's Chuka Umunna says French workers are more productive than Britons

By Lizzie Dearden, www.independent.co.uk, 16 February, 2015

The British shadow Business Secretary, Chuka Umunna, has called on British workers to emulate their “more productive” counterparts in France to boost the UK’s economy.

Chuka Umunna claimed employees in France and Germany completed work that would take the entire working week in Britain by Thursday afternoon.

“The issue isn’t just that we have more employment but the nature of the work,” he told BBC Radio 4’s Today Programme.

“Too much of our work is low paid, it isn’t secure, we don’t have high skilled jobs. We have got to deal with the productivity problem in this country.”

The Labour MP said that people needed “the right skills” to fulfil a range of jobs that boost the economy. He continued: “They (France and Germany) are actually more productive than us.”

“People can say what they want about France but ultimately coming back to the UK we have got to make sure we are more productive and that means we need more long-term investment and reform to our economy.”

France has a reputation for strikes, including last summer’s walk-out by air traffic strike controllers that grounded hundreds of flights.

A spokesperson for Mr Umunna said he did not mean that Britain should be more like France. “Chuka was simply making the observation that despite our many strengths, compared with other major European economies Britain lags behind our competitors on productivity,” he said. “That’s why today Labour is launching its better plan for prosperity to boost the number of better-paid, high skilled jobs.”

France is usually derided by right-wing politicians and big business leaders for its strict laws on working hours, minimum wages, contracts and high taxation that they argue hinders growth. For example, François Hollande, the President of France, brought in a 75% super-tax as an act of ‘social justice’ and ‘patriotism’ but later revoked it.

Adapted from: www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/generalelection/labours-chuka-umunna-says-french-workers-are-more-productive-than-britons-10048884.html

Reading Comprehension 1 Questions

A. Circle whether the statements are TRUE or FALSE.

(each correct answer is worth 0.5 points, 4 points total)

- 1) According to the article, Chuka Umunna wants British workers to imitate the "more productive" French workers..... TRUE ~~FALSE~~
- 2) According to Mr Umunna, on average it takes a British worker five days to do what a French worker does in just three days..... ~~TRUE~~ FALSE
- 3) According to Mr Umunna, too many of the jobs in the UK are insecure and poorly paid..... TRUE FALSE
- 4) According to the article, Labour has introduced education reforms to help British workers improve their skills..... TRUE FALSE
- 5) According to the article, it is well-known that the French often engage in industrial action..... TRUE FALSE
- 6) According to Mr Umunna's spokesperson, the UK is less productive than France.... TRUE FALSE
- 7) According to the article, right-wing politicians often criticize France's employment laws and fiscal policies..... TRUE FALSE
- 8) According to the article, in France there is a super-tax rate of 75%..... TRUE FALSE

Reading Comprehension 1 Total: 3.5 4

Synthesis Writing Synthesis Writing

Write a synthesis (using your own words) of the three articles you have just read.
 You will not be graded on the length, so please do not feel obliged to use all the pages available.
 You will be graded on the following criteria: 20 points total

<u>Structure (6 points)</u>	<u>Content (6 points)</u>	<u>Language (8 points)</u>
<i>Introduction & conclusion</i> <i>Paragraph structure</i> <i>Transitions</i> <i>Appropriate introduction of quotes</i> <i>Correct citation of sources</i> <i>Etc.</i>	<i>General cohesion</i> <i>Pertinent emphasis of key themes / points</i> <i>Identification of similarities / differences</i> <i>Summary of contents</i> <i>Personal opinion</i> <i>Etc.</i>	<i>Grammar</i> <i>Vocabulary</i> <i>Punctuation</i> <i>Syntax</i> <i>Faux-amis</i> <i>Etc.</i>
<u>4</u> /6	<u>4</u> /6	<u>6</u> /8
Corrector's Comments: <i>Clear intro, but give <u>titles</u> of articles too.</i>	Corrector's Comments:	Corrector's Comments:

Here we have 3 texts, all talking about work in Europe and more
 precisely in France. They are all web articles. The first is
 from Lizzie Dearden, for independent.co.uk, published in
 February 2015. It talks about the productivity of the British workers. That
 is worse than the productivity of French or German workers. The second

was written by Sam McFague for daily mail.co.uk and was published in October 2014. It talks about the fact that, according to David Cameron, France's 35 hours are nonsense. The last text is from Richard Vartiainen for bbc.com and published in March 2014 and it presents that the France's 35 hours work week is more a myth than a reality. But according to the texts, what are the pros and cons of working in France?

First let's talk about the pros.

In France, there is a lot of advantages for the workers. For example, the 35 hours work week. This law, ~~and story~~ is not as strict as people tend to think. Indeed, it is, according to French economist Jean-Marc Palard, "simply a threshold above which overtime or rest days start to kick in", that is to say that people will work until the tasks are done, but the overtime they will work will be counted and the workers will get a compensation "for the hours they work beyond 35 with rest days" (according to Richard Vartiainen). Also, jobs in France tend to be better paid and more secure than in G-Britain for example. According to Lizzie Dearden and Chukwu Umanna, "The issue is [...] the nature of the work. Too much of our work is low paid, it isn't secure [...]". Also, laws in French like minimum wages or law on vacation or rest days make the country a really good place to work in.

Reading Comprehension 2

Read the text below:

Cameron ridicules France's 'nonsense' 35 hour working week in latest swipe at socialist president Francois Hollande

By Tom McTague, www.dailymail.co.uk, 14 October 2014

David Cameron has taken a fresh **swipe** at the French government – ridiculing its ‘nonsense’ rule stopping people working more than 35 hours a week.

The Prime Minister said the French ‘obsession’ with the policy was to blame for the country’s unemployment crisis – with more than 10 per cent of the population out of work, while the UK’s jobless rate has **plummeted** to just 6.2 per cent.

Mr Cameron’s jibe, which will spark fury in Paris, comes after the International Monetary Fund predicted Britain would **overtake** France to become the second-biggest economy in Europe next year.

David Cameron, talking to pensioners and older working people at Age UK's **headquarters** in London today, said French regulation was strangling its economy

The UK economy is expected to grow by 3.2 per cent this year and 2.7 per cent in 2015, compared with just 0.4 per cent and 1 per cent in France.

Mr Cameron said France was in danger of falling for the ‘nonsense’ idea that there were a fixed number of jobs in the economy and that a 35-hour week would help **share** the work around.

Mr Cameron launched his attack on the French employment model while responding to questions from pensioners and older workers at Age UK's London head office.

He was asked about prejudice against over-50s in the workplace and how some older workers felt pressured to retire to make way for a new generation.

But Mr Cameron said: “People feeling **guilty** that they are somehow hogging a job that could otherwise be available to a young person? I just think we should have no truck with that argument at all.”

“The idea - economists would call it the lump of labour fallacy - the idea that there is just a fixed number of jobs and all you have got to do is try and divide them up between young people, old people, males, females - I think it's nonsense.”

“What we have demonstrated in the last four years, and of course it’s been a difficult time economically for many, we have demonstrated that you can create millions more jobs. There are 1.8 million more people in work today than when I became Prime Minister.”

Unemployment in the UK has fallen **steadily** since 2011, while France has seen its jobless rate **spike**.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2792787/cameron-ridicules-france-s-nonsense-35-hour-working-week-latest-swipe-socialist-president-francois-hollande.html>

Reading Comprehension 2 Questions

A. 8 of the words in the text have been put in bold and underlined. Circle the word/expression/definition that best fits each word's meaning in the given context. (each question is worth 1 point, 8 points total)

1) swipe

look	scan	strike
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2) plummeted

dropped drastically	dropped a little	risen substantially
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3) to overtake

to do the same	to do better	to do worse
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4) headquarters

major concern	popular destination	main offices
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5) to share

to follow up	to divide up	to invest in
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6) guilty

respectful	remorseful	grateful
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7) steadily

erratically	dramatically	regularly
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8) spike

peak	drop	comparison
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Reading Comprehension 2 Total:

8

8

Reading Comprehension 3

Read the text below:

Busting the myth of France's 35-hour workweek

By Richard Venturi, www.bbc.com, 13 March 2014

In the collective imagination, there are two Europes: the industrious north, with relatively low unemployment and dynamic economies, and the sluggish south, where people would just as soon kick back, sip an espresso and watch the world go by.

Many people would lump France, the land of the 35-hour workweek, long lunches and even longer vacations, with the south. But anyone who has worked as a professional in the country knows otherwise.

Olivier, a senior counsel in a large French multinational in the construction industry in Paris (he requested his surname not be used), described his workweek one recent evening in his office. "I work about 45 to 50 hours a week, from roughly 09:00 till 19:30," he said.

So what about the infamous 35-hour workweek, which is the envy of much of the rest of the professional world? Is it merely a myth?

Contrary to many stereotypes, 35-hours is "simply a threshold above which overtime or rest days start to kick in", according to French economist Jean-Marie Perbost.

Blue-collar workers are expected to work precisely 35 hours, but the hours white-collar workers (*cadres* in French) amass each week are not clocked. Like professionals in, say, the United States, most *cadres* work until the tasks at hand are done. But unlike in the US, French professionals are compensated for the hours they work beyond 35 with rest days, which are negotiated on a company-by-company basis (there were nine rest days, on average, given by companies in 2013).

Even blue-collar workers work more than 35 hours. According to French government statistics, 50% of full-time workers put in paid overtime in 2010. That percentage was likely to be higher in 2013, said Perbost. Of course, compared to the hours certain professions tally on a weekly basis, the average worker in Europe doesn't have it so bad. Take lawyers. According to France's national bar association (CNB), 44% of lawyers in the country logged more than 55 hours on a weekly basis in 2008.

It's not just France where the laid-back workweek is more myth than reality. Professional hours in Spain also contrast with the country's popular image. Pablo Martinez, a senior sales and engineering manager at a German multinational in Madrid, said he starts at 08:00 and rarely leaves before 18:30.

Another factor that may have fed the short workweek legend: most people only consider full-time staff when they take a look at the average work week, but in much of Europe, more people are working part time. This has been a growing trend for at least 15 years and it was exacerbated by the global financial crisis that began in 2008.

Take a close look at part-time working hours across Europe and a startling trend emerges. The French even work *longer* part-time hours than their peers.

Adapted from: www.bbc.com/capital/story/20140312-frances-mythic-35-hour-week

Reading Comprehension 3 Questions

A. Please answer the following questions in complete sentences. You will be graded on the content and the quality of your English e.g. spelling, vocabulary, grammar, punctuation. Use your own words! Do not copy the text word for word!! (each question is worth a set number of points)

1) According to the author, how do people often imagine the north of Europe to be like? (2 points)

According to the author, the north of Europe is really industrial, nearly everyone has a job and the economy is going very well. not exactly

2) According to the article, which stereotypes are associated with France's 35-hour workweek? (2 points)

People tend to think that the French workers work less, they take a long time to eat lunch and they have longer vacations than other countries. 2

3) According to the article, what is the difference between white collar workers in France and in the United States of America? (2 points)

Both of American and French white collar workers until the war is over. But the difference is that the French are will get "paid" for the hours they work in addition of the 35 with not days. 1.5

4) According to the article, how has the trend in part-time work evolved in France? (2 points)

In France, more and more people decide to work in part-time and even more since the 2008 crisis. And the part-time workers in France work longer than the part-time workers in other European countries. 1.5

Reading Comprehension 3 Total:

5.5

8