

Mini-texts 1

Read the texts below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the best alternative – A, B, C or D. Write your answers in the boxes.

- 1 Out of the Zimbabwe teak forest a giant shadow is advancing. Sunlight gleams on two heavy tusks – it is Conan. Moments later he is looming over our Land Rover, flapping his big ears. I scatter a handful of acacia seedpods on the ground, and we watch as Conan swings round and lowers his trunk to sniff out the tasty pods.

It is clear that Conan is ...

- A a zebra
- B a donkey
- C a giraffe
- D an elephant

- 2 Underwater devices which make a loud noise is the latest invention salmon farmers have introduced to keep seals away from their fish cages. However, seals are pretty smart, and once they have discovered the noise is associated with a salmon farm, it is a signal saying “It’s mealtime”.

It is suggested that ...

- A salmon have to be fed at fixed hours
- B fish farming is a business in difficulty
- C seals prefer salmon to other fish
- D the devices mentioned do not serve their purpose

- 3 Residents of a tiny Devon village hoaxed millions of radio listeners yesterday in an April Fool's Day prank possibly unrivalled since the BBC screened its celebrated footage of "spaghetti trees" in 1957.

The text is about ...

- A a new radio play
- B a remarkable joke
- C disappointed BBC employees
- D a spaghetti dish

- 4 Hardly any attention has been paid in England to a great TV series on Scottish art.

It is suggested that ...

- A the TV series has not cost a lot of money
- B English people take little interest in Scottish art
- C the TV series has started a vivid debate
- D Scottish art is becoming very popular

- 5 Sir Winston was hard up for most of his life but had extremely extravagant tastes.

It is suggested that Sir Winston ...

- A had a handicap that he tried to conceal
- B lost the fortune he had inherited
- C tended to live beyond his means
- D had a weakness for good dinners

- 6 A year ago environmentalists cheered when Howard McCrindle, the last shark hunter to use harpoons in British waters, gave up his fishing boat. While his boat was scrapped, however, its two harpoon guns survived. McCrindle has now fitted one of them to a new boat and goes on fishing off the west coast of Scotland.

We are told that ...

- A other shark hunters have taken over McCrindle's equipment
- B defying environmentalists, McCrindle continues harpoon fishing
- C McCrindle only sold one of his two harpoon guns
- D a better boat has enabled McCrindle to enlarge his fishing area

- 7 Before committing themselves to a holiday, many serious skiers scratch their heads raw over a shortlist of candidate resorts, agonising about the blackness of black runs, the length of lift queues and average snow depth.

What are the skiers contemplating?

- A If winter holidays are worthwhile
- B What place they should go to
- C If the weather will be fine enough
- D What travel bureau would be preferable