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ЗАХІДНОУКРАЇНСЬКИЙ
НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ

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*на засіданні кафедри іноземних мов
та інформаційно-комунікаційних технологій
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Навчально-методичний посібник «Тексти для виконання самостійної роботи із дисципліни «Іноземна мова» (англійська)» призначений для студентів програми «Бізнес-комунікація та переклад» денної форми навчання. Цей посібник можна використовувати для студентів ОКР «Бакалавр» та ОКР «Магістр».

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Методичні вказівки

У Західноукраїнському національному університеті вивченню іноземних мов надається вагоме значення, оскільки саме вони є дієвим чинником соціально-економічної, науково-технічного і загальнокультурного процесу та важливим засобом міжнародної інтеграції.

Зважаючи на те, що іноземні мови відносяться до групи спеціальних дисциплін – особлива увага звертається на використання та активізацію методів та форм навчання, головне завдання яких спрямоване на найбільш ефективне практичне оволодіння мовами.

Даний навчально-методичний посібник «Тексти для виконання самостійної роботи із дисципліни «Іноземна мова» (англійська)» призначений для студентів освітньо-кваліфікаційних рівнів «бакалавр» та «магістр» денної та заочно-дистанційної форм навчання студентів програми «Бізнес-комунікація та переклад».

Ця навчально-методична розробка містить цілу низку текстів найрізноманітнішої тематики та вправ до них. Варто зазначити, що така форма роботи сприяє збільшенню словникового запасу, автоматизує вживання студентами у процесі мовлення складних граматичних та лексичних структур, удосконалює процес говоріння іноземною мовою, привчає до самостійної роботи.

1. Read and translate the text

Build a Wall to the Sky...

Israel is militarily strong, but its spirit is weakening. Unless it ends the occupation, the nation may not survive.

No matter what comes out of the current cease fire negotiations, the future of Israel looks bleak. This may seem a strange thing to say about a state which, on paper, possesses one of the most powerful armed forces on earth. But it is Israel's very strength that is working against it now.

At the beginning of the 20th century, there were just 50,000 Jews in the Holy Land, forming less than 10 percent of the population. From that modest start, Israel has spent almost their entire history fighting and growing, growing and fighting. Faced with the prospect of annihilation, Israel had no choice but to fight and prevail. As a result, they developed a military and a fighting spirit that, particularly between about 1956 and 1980, became the envy of the world.

Now, David has become Goliath. In 1982 Israel invaded Lebanon, a country which at that time was little more than a collection of militias, none of which had a single modern tank. Since then the mighty Israel's Army has fought nothing but enemies far weaker than itself. That has sapped the national spirit and led to sharp internal divisions.

The signs of weakness are everywhere. Israel's troops have become so dispirited that they pursue terrorists while riding in 60-ton tanks. Other soldiers appear afraid to expose themselves to harm, and send Palestinian civilians to knock on doors in the refugee camps. Week in and week out, Israel's soldiers are photographed weeping over their comrades' graves; yet each Palestinian casualty brings out thousands of mourners who shout for revenge. Palestinian motivation is so strong – created by 30 years of occupation – that even women have begun to act as suicide bombers.

It is true that by this calculus, much more Palestinian blood will flow than Jewish, a fact that should make Mr. Arafat pause. In the long run, however, it is Israel that has no escape. Should the uprising go on, then Israel will be defeated just as surely as the Americans were beaten in Vietnam, the Soviets in Afghanistan and so on.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

Skyline Sculptor

Oskar Niemeyer, the master Brazilian architect, hates airplanes. "Flying is crap," he says, succinctly. He loathes flying so much that he has stood up presidents, media grandees and tycoons. Fidel Castro once joked about sending a ship to fetch him. It's a wonder Brasilia, the city he conjured from red clay in the middle of the Brazilian nowhere, ever got built. But if his fear of flying has been one of Brazil's longest-standing jokes, Niemeyer has always had the last laugh: after all, he has built a career out of mocking gravity with concrete, stone and glass. At his best, he has made buildings soar, sculpting vertiginous whorls, waves, pods and chalices. Today, at 94, Niemeyer hasn't changed. When a grand retrospective of his work opened last month at the Galerie Jeu de Paume in Paris, Niemeyer remained where he always does: at home in Rio.

That's just where Brazil likes him. Half a century after unveiling his boldest work – the city of Brasilia – he is still the obligatory reference for building design in Brazil. Architecture has long been a notoriously gray-headed vocation – Philip Johnson is still building and Frank Lloyd Wright was at his drawing table almost until he dropped, at 96 – and Niemeyer is going stronger than ever. Sketches and scale models for half a dozen projects, from Rio to Ravello, Italy, clutter the tables and walls in his studio, a spare penthouse overlooking Copacabana. Long known as Brazil's "official architect," he enchants students and established designers alike, casting a long shadow over the country's sprawling landscape. In fact, the Institute of Brazilian Architects recently asked its 100,000 members to select the architect of the century. Guess who won?

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

A Modest Proposal

Drug companies are finally acting to change the economics of the AIDS crisis. Now rich countries have to do their part – and that means money.

While America debates the disposition of \$5 trillion in budget surpluses over the next decade, tens of millions of impoverished people in Africa will die needlessly of AIDS and other killer diseases because they lack the minimal income needed for lifesaving drugs and medical care. Their deaths will leave behind tens of millions of orphans, who will lose the chance for an education and an emotionally secure upbringing. Neither President George W. Bush nor his political adversaries have yet to mention the poorest of the world in their debates over how to spend America's great bounty. So far, the United States and other rich countries have done almost nothing to help the poorest of the poor to fight AIDS, the greatest pandemic in modern history. The disease is hard to combat for several reasons. Most important, treatment is expensive. An annual drug regimen might cost about \$500 per patient per year, but the poorest countries in Africa can afford only a few dollars per person per year in total healthcare spending, an amount that in principle must cover not only AIDS, but other killers like malaria and tuberculosis that ravage the continent.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

Using Students as Metal Detectors

Tattling may be the only way to stop the next Santee.

Neil O'Grady laughed when he heard about it. "Andy talked for a while about getting a gun and bringing it to school to shoot people," said the Santana High School 15-year-old of his close friend, Charles Andrew Williams. "He even told me to stay home Monday, but I just sort of laughed because I thought it was a joke. He likes to joke around a lot." Josh Stevens, another good friend, also dismissed the threats, which he believes Williams shared with "20 or 30 people." That in itself was reason not to worry, Stevens reasoned: "If he was serious, you wouldn't think he'd tell people."

Andy Williams, it seems, was the kind of kid no one took too seriously. Skinny and jug-eared, he was teased by the older teens at Woodglen Vista Park, where he would hang out to ride his skateboard and smoke pot. "We'd tell him to

shut up and sit down, and he'd just do it," says Jessie Cunard, 18, a dropout from Santana himself. "People stole his shoes and skateboard and other stuff, and he just let them." Raised in small towns in the East, Williams was ill at ease in Santee, Calif., a suburb on the far fringes of San Diego, where he moved with his divorced father last summer. To his friends back in Brunswick, Md., where he lived until 1999, he would complain about the casual brutality of a teenage culture in which any display of vulnerability marked you as a "faggot." "He got a haircut and they beat him up," says Mary Neiderlander, whose daughter, Kathleen Seek, had a brief moment of celebrity as Williams's former girlfriend. But although school officials were still checking their records last week, Williams apparently didn't impress most adults as the kind of alienated loner who bore watching. "Even the week before the shooting, Andy was a great, loving and fun guy," says Ashley Petersen, a 14-year-old from the neighborhood. Which is why even the people he'd told about it were shocked on Monday when, according to police, Williams pulled out an eight-shot, 22-caliber handgun and began firing in a boys' bathroom, killing two students and wounding 13, including two adults.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

Take One: Prague

In a blizzard-wept forest, 600 Allied soldiers trudge through frozen mud toward the Stalag 3 prison camp. Inside the barracks, an American GI looks through a window as German guards drag his struggling buddy beyond view. A shot rings out. The camera rolls. And MGM counts the savings. Shooting "Hart's War" in a Bohemian forest north of Prague cost MGM just \$70 million, and more than a quarter of that went to star Bruce Willis. "I sold the movie to MGM on the basis that it could be made for the price of two cheeseburgers and a Coke," says "Hart's War" producer David Ladd, relaxing during a break in filming.

These days it seems the secret ambition of every other city in the world is to be a big-time film producer. But in a world sprouting low-rent alternatives to

Hollywood, the buzz is all about Prague. Fleeing high costs, strict work rules and actor and writer strikes at home, U.S. studios are farming out more and more work to locales from Cambodia to Canada – but no would-be Hollywood is hotter right now than the graceful capital of the Czech Republic. In the past 18 months, six of the seven major American studios have used Prague as an all-purpose European backdrop. The city doubled as both Zurich and Paris for a Universal spy thriller, "The Bourne Identity," starring Matt Damon; as fifth-century England in "The Mists of Avalon," a TNT-Warner Brothers television drama, and as London in "From Hell," an updated Jack the Ripper tale from Twentieth Century Fox with Johnny Depp. Anthony Hopkins is on the way to play a CIA agent in "Black Sheep" for Disney, and Wesley Snipes arrives this week to reprise his cartoon-abased crimefighter in "Blade II."

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

Havel's Exit Strategy

Preparing to step down, the Czech president wrestles with his – countrymen's – disillusionment.

He was the hero of 1989, the philosopher king of Czechoslovakia's bloodless, cheerful and inspiring "Velvet Revolution." And soon, little more than a year from now, after 12 years in the Castle high above Prague, Vaclav Havel will step down as president of his country. This shy intellectual, a playwright cum dissident turned politician, will be missed on the world's stage, where he has long been admired for his modesty, wisdom and personal courage. Yet when it comes to his own countrymen – not to mention the Czech political establishment – his prospective retirement is cause for relief. Out of touch. A meddler, they call him. And Havel, who was admitted to feelings of depression, is well aware of those unkind sentiments, which perhaps explain why he's leaving not only his presidential offices but also plans to spend far more time out of his country.

Fast forward to next year. Havel sits on his veranda, sipping his morning coffee and, together with his wife, looking out to sea. Accompanied by a couple

of dogs, perhaps, he will stroll along the steep streets of the Portuguese coastal town of Albufeira. Then he will go back to his house on a hill, which has served as his get-away in the Algarve since he bought it two years ago. From the very beginning of his political career, Havel has dreamed about returning to his writing. And that's what will keep him busy in his study, a sort of intellectual exile, far from the prying eyes and sharp tongues of home.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

A Plan for Global Security

The new paradigm: the globalization model will endure. But to thrive it must gain a new dimension: a worldwide agreement to install controls, checks and inspections while permitting the free flow of trade.

Two factors made the attacks of September 11 possible: globalization and human nature. Neither is likely to change much. As long as we live in an open, accessible, interconnected world and as long as there are evil men and women, we will face the specter of international terrorism. Even if Al Qaeda is destroyed, even if other terrorist groups are disrupted, even if some of their state sponsors are punished, we will live with the knowledge that it can happen again – and again. Free trade, the technological revolution, the Information Superhighway, all these wondrous aspects of the open world economy make it easier than ever before to penetrate and disrupt it. As we have painfully discovered, one explosion strategically placed can cause massive harm.

The 1990s produced a paradigm through which to view the world: globalization. It held that capitalism, trade and technological revolutions were transforming the world and breaking down old obstacles and mind-sets. Global capitalism was the only game in town, and countries had to play by its rules or be left behind – far behind. Politics would have to accommodate itself to these new realities, moving from the center stage to a supporting role.

Since September 11 we seem to have been looking at the world using a new paradigm. Politics is back, culture is back, ideology is back and, above all,

government is back. Other changes wrought by the attacks will pass – comedy and irony will return, as will cruise vacations and binge shopping. But one shift that is likely to persist is the renewed centrality of government. After a decade of the dominance of business, economics and entertainment, government is back because it is needed to fulfill its fundamental role: the provision of security for its citizens.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

The Secret of a Rock

Two scientists bicker over whether a stone contains the oldest fossils on earth or just junk. How will they ever decide about life on Mars?

The hunt for the oldest records of life is not a simple task," wrote the eminent paleontologist J. William Schopf in his 1999 book "Cradle of Life: The Discovery of the Earth's Earliest Fossils." "Like trying to solve a really complicated mystery when only a few clues have been revealed, it's easy to make mistakes. These can be worse than embarrassing, major blunders that set back the search for knowledge." To Schopf's eyes, the most serious such blunder of recent times is the claim that a meteorite found in Antarctica, ALH 84001, held the fossils of Martian microbes. From the moment it was unveiled at a NASA press conference in 1996, Schopf has been a trenchant critic of the purported evidence of Martian life. Now a team of scientists is pointing to a similar blunder considerably closer to home. According to a paper in last week's issue of the journal Nature, microscopic fossils found in Australia aren't fossils at all. And to give the whole story an irony, the scientist who devoted much of his life to studying the Australian fossils, and who proclaimed them to be the earliest evidence of life on earth, was none other than Schopf himself.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

Universal Appeal

Andrey Kurkov, 39, is one of the few living Ukrainian authors whose books are regularly published abroad. Up to now, his novels have appeared in translations in England, France, Holland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Croatia. This year his books will be published in Spain, Italy, Canada, the USA, Turkey, Taiwan. Latin America is also on the list. Very impressive, indeed. Kurkov's books are published not as limited editions for high-brow readers but in dozens and dozens of thousands of copies. Probably, it will not be much of an exaggeration to say that no other author from the countries of the former Soviet Union enjoys such a popularity in the world. It is definitely a very interesting phenomenon to be studied by literary critics and analysts. Why Kurkov, among hundreds of other talented writers? What makes his prose attractive for the western – and now eastern, too! – readers and publishers? We, at *Welcome to Ukraine Magazine*, got interested and intrigued. We wanted to find out more about Kurkov. *Welcome to Ukraine* is not a specialized literary journal, so we are primarily interested in the personalities rather than in the peculiarities of their achievements. Writing about prominent artists, actors, musicians or athletes, we do not describe the technicalities of their activities, we want to present them as human beings, remarkable in their achievements, yet as someone the readers could relate to. Similarly, we shall not analyze the literary style, plots, etc. of Kurkov's works. We shall let Kurkov tell his story himself,

A *Welcome to Ukraine* correspondent, Alex Pan, talked to Andrey Kurkov in his "studio" which is, in fact, an apartment turned into a writer's den. The house it is in is situated next door to the Hagia Sophia of Kyiv, an 11th century magnificent church with golden domes and a bell tower that dominate a vast square. A several minutes walk will take you to another, recently reconstructed, architectural landmark – the golden-domed St. Michael's Cathedral. A still shorter walk will take you to the Andriyivsky Uzviz, an informal art center of Kyiv. I do not mean to imply that this high concentration of modern and ancient culture gives Kurkov a special inspiration (though maybe it does, in a way), it is just the setting which you cannot help noticing and being influenced by. His much more spacious apartment is not far from his studio, situated in a

neighbourhood also packed with architectural landmarks, cafes and elegant stores.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

Gutenberg Prints the Bible

Of all the millennium's technological revolutions, the most far-reaching started just before the era's midpoint. Throughout history, the ability to read and write had been confined mostly to tiny elites of nobles, priests and scribes. But in the 15th century a literate middle class arose in Europe. Its hunger for knowledge led inventors to seek a way to mass-produce the written word. And when German goldsmith Johann Gutenberg succeeded – creating his masterpiece, a run of 200 gorgeously typeset Bibles, in 1455 – he unleashed an information epidemic that rages to this day.

To appreciate Gutenberg's achievement, it is necessary to understand what he did not do. He didn't invent printing: the craft emerged in 8th century China, using multiple characters carved on a single woodblock. He didn't invent movable type (letters rearranged for each new page): Chinese printer Pi Sheng did, around 1040. Gutenberg didn't even invent movable *metal* type: the Koreans did, in the 14th century. But wood-block printing of text reached Europe only in the early 1400s, and it appears that no one on the continent knew of Asia's more advanced techniques. Movable type had not, in fact, caught on widely in China or Korea, where writing involved 10,000 characters. In Europe, however, such technology seemed fall of promise. What Gutenberg devised was the first Western movable-type system that worked – so well that it remained virtually unchanged for 350 years.

Gutenberg designed a new kind of press, based on those used to squeeze olives. He came up with an alloy of lead, tin and antimony, and a precisely calibrated type- mold to pour it into. He concocted a smudge-resistant ink of lampblack, turpentine and linseed oil. Each page of his Bible probably took a worker a day to set, but once the type was in place, the rest was relatively easy.

Gutenberg's methods spread with stunning rapidity. By 1500, an estimated half a million printed books were in circulation: religious works, Greek and Roman classics, scientific texts, Columbus's report from the New World. An acceleration of the Renaissance was only the first by-product of the Gutenberg press. Without it, the Protestant movement might have been stillborn, as well as the industrial and political revolutions of the succeeding centuries. Gutenberg, however, got none of the glory. His brainchild bankrupted him; in 1455 a creditor took over his business. Little more is known of the inventor – in part because he never put his own name into print.

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1. Read and translate the text

Challenger of Convention

At Merrill Lynch – says Arshad Zakaria, its recently appointed co-head of global markets and investment banking – the convertible bond is not only a product. It is a metaphor.

A convertible bond offers investors a fixed return on their principal along with an option to buy a stock. Issuance of these securities has boomed in recent months and Merrill has proved itself to be a master of the convertible market.

Mr Zakaria, 40, who was named co-head of investment banking with Paul Roy as part of a management shuffle at Merrill Lynch last autumn, sees a practical lesson in this experience.

Structuring and selling convertibles – or equity-linked products as they are sometimes known – is a multidisciplinary effort, requiring a variety of investment banking skills.

Mr Zakaria says he hopes to foster a similar spirit of co-operation as he and Mr Roy work to refocus Merrill's investment bank during tough times on Wall Street.

"This is a business that is done by a team of people," Mr Zakaria says. "The business is more integrated than it has ever been. You need to function less and less as a silo."

Creating this sense of teamwork will be challenging for Mr Zakaria and Mr Roy because they are both trying to target growth opportunities and cut costs at the same time.

This focus on efficiency has been a hallmark of Merrill's new president and chief operating officer, Stanley O'Neal, who took over day-to-day control of the firm after being named to the posts last July.

David Komansky, chairman and chief executive officer, has said he plans to retire when he turns 65 in 2004.

Mr Zakaria and Mr Roy have tried to give a sense of a new era at Merrill by changing the name used internally for their unit. Formerly known as the corporate and institutional client group, it is now called global markets and investment banking. "It symbolised a fresh start," Mr Zakaria says. "This symbolises the business we are actually doing."

As a personal symbol, Mr Zakaria also is an example of Merrill's new direction under Mr O'Neal. Merrill began as a brokerage house, with an Irish-American flavour in upper management. Mr O'Neal is an African-American who began working on an automobile assembly line and made his way up through the ranks on the investment banking side of Merrill's business.

Mr Zakaria offers yet another contrast. A native of India, he earned a degree in applied mathematics at Harvard before attending business school. His mathematical background is hardly an accident – Mr O'Neal is keen to build Merrill's derivatives capabilities.

Mr Zakaria joined Merrill in 1987 and rose quickly, becoming chief operating officer of the corporate finance group by March 1996 and its head in March 1999. He became head of corporate risk management in May 2000, and assumed his current position in October.

Like Mr O'Neal, Mr Zakaria is unafraid of challenging convention at Merrill. He makes clear that he and Mr Roy will cut businesses that disappoint, while investing in those with greater potential.

"In a bull market the focus is not so much on efficiency as pure revenue growth," he says. "What Paul and I decided is we wanted to size the business for what the revenue opportunity was. One of the ways to keep returns up is to increase productivity."

Doing more with less, he says, will require greater connections among bankers. Mr Zakaria said this lesson was reinforced during his stint in risk management.

Risk managers can often become unpopular figures in a bank, because part of their job is to object to revenue-producing opportunities. Mr Zakaria says his way around this obstacle "was creating a sense of partnership with the businesses".

Mr Zakaria says that in his new post "teamwork and partnership" will be rewarded. "There is clearly a place for star bankers as long as they are part of a culture where there is this teamwork and accountability," he says.

Mr Zakaria knows how to produce results, as well. During his watch in corporate finance, Merrill returned to a position of dominance in the product that so exemplifies his strategy-convertibles.

Last year, Merrill topped the league table for convertible underwriters, according to Thomson Financial. Merrill helped companies raise Dollars 29.2bn in 69 transactions, giving it a 17.9 per cent market share, which compares with 12.9 per cent for Goldman Sachs and 12.2 per cent for both Morgan Stanley and the Salomon Smith Barney unit of Citigroup.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

Laura Kriho Held out against a Guilty Verdict in a Drugs Trial

The trial and conviction of Laura Kriho, a juror whose views put her in the dock, have become an issue pitting an increasingly authoritarian US judicial system against a people's jury movement.

Kriho is appealing against her conviction and a \$ 1,200 fine for contempt of court. On the grounds of her personal beliefs, she was the lone hold-out among 12 jurors in a trial of a woman charged with possessing amphetamines. In Britain, where a majority verdict secures a conviction, her stance would pass unnoticed. But in America, where all but two states require a unanimous verdict, the growing movement of "jury nullification" is causing grave concern.

In punishing Kriho, Judge Henry Nieto appears to have invented a new crime: "failing as a potential juror to disclose information the court would like to have heard". The concept of "jury nullification" so scares the US legal establishment that Judge Nieto formally denied it in his ruling; deciding instead that she "obstructed justice".

Nullification is a right dating back to 17th century England, when a London jury refused to convict the Quaker William Penn (who later founded Pennsylvania) of preaching to an unlawful assembly.

Since then, juries in both countries have been able to ignore a judge's directions and vote according to their consciences, even if this goes against the evidence. But in the US, courts are prevented from informing jurors of this right under a Supreme Court ruling in the 1890s.

In Britain juries are sworn "to give a true verdict according to the evidence", but jurors in several high-profile cases have brought in "perverse" verdicts against the weight of the evidence to reflect their disapproval of the prosecution.

In the case in which Kriho sat as a juror last year, the panel divided 11-1 and a mistrial was declared. But Judge Kenneth Barnhill became suspicious when the jury passed out a note asking if a juror could be dismissed for looking up the sentence for drug possession on the Internet, something Kriho acknowledged she had done.

The judge thought he recognized the imprint of the Fully Informed Jury Association (the FIJA), a nationwide movement of libertarians who are pushing for juries to exercise their right to veto the law. Kriho knew about FIJA and believed that minor drug offences did not belong in a courtroom. Her views have made her yet another fallen soldier in America's long war on drugs.

Judge Barnhill issued contempt of court charges against her. Her fellow jurors were forced to give evidence about their arguments with her, thus breaking the promise that jury room deliberations are forever secret.

Four months later, Judge Nieto issued his ruling, dismissing two of the contempt charges and declining to imprison her, although she faced a maximum sentence of six months. Kriho's lawyer, Paul Grant, told the judge: "The court is trying to intimidate anybody with an independent mind. The government cannot tell its citizens to think critically of the law or the government."

Grant condemns the Nieto ruling as "dangerous" because it threatens every juror with criminal prosecution "for not volunteering what they were not specifically asked". What this conviction establishes is that courts can exclude from the jury any juror who understands the historical rights of jurors, and any juror who thinks critically of the government and its laws, or who reserves an independence of mind to determine what would constitute a just verdict.

It is well known that both sides use the US "voir dire" process, in which jurors are asked their opinions, often on personal matters, to exclude anyone with forceful opinions or extra knowledge of the case and its political or social context. A powerful campaign exists in America to limit jury powers further, ending the present system by exchanging ordinary citizens for retired lawyers and judges.

The Kriho case is crucial to this debate. It is the first time in US history that a juror in a criminal case has been tried and convicted for telling fellow jurors they have the right to acquit, even if they believe the accused broke the law.

Some judges have denounced FIJA's aims as a "return to anarchy". But an editorial in the American Bar Association's Litigation journal supports a proposed law in Missouri to compel judges to inform jurors of their rights. "A clear and adequate instruction could be conveyed in a single sentence," it says, "explaining that the jury should (not 'must') convict anyone proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, unless the jurors have a firm belief that a conviction would be fundamentally unjust." That seems simple enough, but Grant believes he may have to go to the Supreme Court for a final ruling.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

The Natural Traveller

I like drugs; good honest conventional pharmaceutical medicines. So when it was suggested that I give homeopathic remedies a try, I was more than a little sceptical. I was surprised to find that there are homeopathic kits aimed specifically at the traveller, so the least I could do as a traveller was to give them

a go. A couple of weeks' holiday didn't work out as a significant trial – I'm sorry, but I just didn't get ill. When I joined a group of 25 people travelling on an overland truck, however, it was a different matter. Some were staying with the trip for six months and there would always be people with ailments. The kit consisted of 36 remedies for the traveller – all packed up in a neat little green case.

My first impression was that a lot of thought had been put into the design. The box is made of strong plastic which makes it easily packable and portable. The vials containing the little pills have screw caps which is a lot more practical for travelling than the cork stoppers that are used by some other homeopathic pharmacies.

Two sheets of information are provided. The first is a general introduction to the subject explaining the bare minimum of the principles of homeopathy. The second information sheet lists common complaints and suggests a number of remedies that might be suitable for treating the symptoms.

The first treatment I gave was when a girl got hit in the face by a swinging door caught in the wind. It was quite a serious accident and Alberto, a doctor on board, put a couple of cross stitch plasters over the gash that opened up above her eye. After a deal of commotion and sympathy, the mood settled and I gave her an Arnica from the kit. Amazingly, there was very little swelling and her face never even bruised – spooky. Alberto was unimpressed.

On another occasion someone's hand swelled up like a cow's udder as a result of a mosquito bite. Apis from the kit brought the swelling under control in about twenty minutes. On the other hand, the swelling on someone's legs caused by a kind of heat rash didn't respond to Apis, Belladonna, Ledum or anything else I could find. Cantharis, however, did bring some relief to a case of sunburn. These were all cases of swellings where the cause was pretty plain to establish, but the treatments, even with the information available, were a bit hit and miss.

Altitude sickness high in the Peruvian Andes is something that should have been relatively easy to treat. The locals chew copious quantities of Coca leaves to combat the effects of the thin air, so the little vial of Coca tablets were easy to diagnose. Unfortunately they didn't work and I'm not quite sure why the minimal near-non-existent dose principle of homeopathic remedies should work when local knowledge has found that the more of the stuff you chew the better.

There were a couple of rather unexpected problems that I actually did manage to find treatments for. The first was that rather comical disorder – piles. Reading between the lines of the materia medica I figured that the phrases "refreshes the parts Arnica cannot reach" and "reduces after-effect of lengthy sitting" meant that Bellis Perennis was the remedy to use for the offending haemorrhoids. Sure enough it worked.

The biggest surprise, though, was one girl who joined the trip not feeling at her best. After a few weeks she realized she was pregnant and morning sickness took its toll. Well, there wasn't a traveller's remedy for this, but the closest ailment I could find was travel sickness, for which Cocculus was suggested. Believe it or not, the remedy relieved her symptoms.

The kit continued its journey for a full six months and it has to be said that some things worked and others didn't. It seems to me that this is an entire area of medicine that warrants careful consideration. As a person with no experience in this field and a sceptical outlook, I was still able to find remedies that were of genuine benefit. My scepticism has been tempered, and my knowledge broadened. I like to think I have an open mind about homeopathy, even if some medical doctors do not.

As I understand it, the classical concept of homeopathy is to treat a person rather than a symptom – to take a holistic approach. Because most of us aren't accustomed to doing this, there is a temptation to use a kit like this in the wrong way. It seemed quite natural to look up the ailment and expect to find a remedy prescribed for its cure.

Had I set out with a box full of conventional drugs and no medical training, my results would probably also have been hit and miss. The great difference is that the homeopathic remedies are non-toxic so there is nothing to be lost by prescribing the wrong remedy. Conventional medicine, however, is dangerous in the hands of the unqualified.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

The Alien Half-Century

Fifty years ago – in June 1947 – an American businessman named Kenneth Arnold was flying his private aircraft near Mount Rainier in Washington State when he saw a group of strange objects flying in the sky. He said that they ‘skipped like saucers across the water’. News agencies immediately coined the expression ‘flying saucers’ and pretty soon strange objects in the sky were being reported from all over America and, to a lesser extent, from other countries. Right from the start the most popular theory was that they were spacecraft from another planet.

What Arnold actually saw, if anything, has never been established. He reported several more sightings in future years, which makes him sound more than a little dubious. Yet he has launched the greatest myth of the age.

Nothing in a present scientific picture of the universe excludes the possibility of intelligent extraterrestrial life, but there is a complete absence of evidence for it. There is nothing that we can look at and analyse, only strange tales. There are some interesting scientific arguments which suggest that life must be very rare and that we may even be alone. Yet this is not a popular view and nobody wants to hear about it.

America is the world centre of the UFO cult, although there is an amiable and in some ways more sensible British offshoot. Fashions change in space aliens as in everything else. In the 1950s and 60s the space aliens were thought to be benevolent and worried in case the human race destroyed itself with nuclear weapons.

Carl Jung in his *Flying Saucers: A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Sky* (1959) considered that flying saucers reflected ‘a religious vacuum at the heart of modern man’. They had come, Jung argued, at a time of general anxiety coupled with growing religious doubt and expressed the desire for some external power to save us. Jung very likely got close to the heart of the matter, even if the aliens are not seen as saviours any more. In our darker and more paranoid time the aliens are far from benevolent and are frequently abducting people, especially bored and lonely housewives, and carrying out unpleasant experiments on them.

Of course the US government was held to be hiding things from the start. Probably the US air force made a mistake in setting up Project Blue Book in 1948

to look into flying saucer reports. It was all quite innocent, but it created the ineradicable impression that the air force knew there was something going on. Actually the air force had no idea what was going on in 1947, but by 1950 had come to the conclusion that there was no great flying saucer mystery.

For example, the alleged Roswell incident took place in 1947 when a farmer found some debris – probably from a secret military balloon – on his farm near Roswell, New Mexico. There was quite a song and dance for a while about a ‘crashed saucer’, but it was soon forgotten.

Thirty years later, however, Roswell was being cited as evidence of alien visitation and official deceit, in the Roswell case – which has been the subject now of half a dozen books and one feature film – aliens and their spaceship are alleged to have been spirited away and hidden by the air force. American space technology, however, has a very lucid history from the space shuttle back to the German V2s acquired in 1945. It would have been different if they had had access to alien technology.

At the root of conspiracism lies the belief that the world is not a chapter of accidents but that, on the contrary, everything is under control and going according to plan – somebody’s plan. In America such journals as *Critique*, published in California, and *Conspiracy Tracker*, published in New Jersey, maintain a running commentary on the various conspiracies.

In Britain the atmosphere is far less fevered. Researchers such as Jenny Randies, Hilary Evans and Paul Deveraux seem a touch uncritical at times, but they inhabit the same universe of the mind as do the rest of us. UFOs may not be from another planet but in general, space aliens are not much fancied in Britain and British ufologists are more inclined to put UFO reports into the category of the paranormal, along with telepathy, precognition and ghosts. Sceptics will certainly agree that UFO stories – and all that we can examine of UFOs are the stories – should be put into that department.

Most of us at this point would be happy to shut the door quietly and silently make off. My own Boring Theory of History (BTH) states that the true explanation of any mystery is the most tedious explanation consistent with the facts, in the case of the UFOs the BTH predicts that when you have eliminated regular aircraft, irregular aircraft, balloons, the planet Venus, lunatics, liars and

film producers and other conventional categories, what you will be left with is nothing.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

Playing with Fire

Normally the tiny village of Kurama in the North of Kyoto is a peaceful place where visitors relax in the natural hot springs, or follow the shrine trail far on up the mountain. But today was different. Today was the annual 'Hi Matsuri' (Fire Festival) and the stores of blazing torches and glowing skies had lured others too. Lots of others. The streets were alive as dusk fell and the darkness crept in. All the villagers had opened their traditional houses, and had each lit a small fire near the entrance way. The chanting had begun. The stamping followed. Men beclothed in little more than G-strings and leaf mini-skirts started pacing the streets, slowly at first, getting accustomed to the weight of the 15ft torch on their shoulders. Small children clutching their own brands followed in their fathers' footsteps, their proud smiles revealed by the dancing flames. The soft chant increased in volume and intensity until the words became a war cry filling the raw night air. Through the streets they marched, past the crowds and up the front steps of the shrine, on a mission intended to guide the gods on their way around our world.

Part of the fascination with Japan is that its people have so many faces. The scantily clad torch-bearer by night is probably a blue-suited *salariman* by day, the average Japanese person's life being a continual fluctuation between the extremes of contemporary and tradition. Much of this tradition, as all over the world, has its roots in deity worship, and Japan in particular sees the thread of religion tightly woven into everyday existence. The Japanese are exposed to Buddhism, but also to Shinto (the religion indigenous to Japan), to the moral codes of Confucianism, and even, to a more limited extent, to Christianity. If, during their lifetime, a Japanese person had taken part in Shinto festivals, had a Shinto or Christian wedding, and had lived day-to-day by the teachings of Confucius, and then had a Buddhist funeral, few eyebrows would be raised.

Essentially harmonious, side by side they educate in matters of the spiritual kind. Festivals are predominantly Shinto and are generally seen as opportunities for locals to dance, wear bizarre clothes and drink copious amounts of local *sake* (rice wine). Such festivals go on, somewhere in Japan, almost every day. Whereas Shinto finds its home in shrines, Buddhism favours temples, and there the atmosphere tends to be somewhat more calming.

As for the Buddhist monks (*obosan*), they can often be heard walking the streets of an evening, chanting in deep, haunting tones whilst holding a collecting bowl in an outstretched hand. These monks have a habit of turning up where you'd least expect them, as I recently discovered. Shaved, head held high, back stiffened and with purpose in his eyes, the obosan stared straight ahead of him. With peculiar wooden sandals on his feet and a conical straw hat in his hands, even the way his navy robe fell about him described an air of assuredness, grace and wisdom. Then he hopped on the bus.

Any guide book on Japan will go to great lengths to describe the country and its people as a nation of contrasts, but only because it is a hard point to ignore. I don't know how I'd expect the Buddhist monk to get to work – maybe I had a dream-like image of him just meditating by a small waterfall, pausing only to strike the temple gong, with no regard to office hours or public transport. And maybe it was in that same temple that I assumed the possessionless monk would find his home. But seeing him on the bus made me wake up to my romantic vision, and simultaneously fired off a stream of observations about the blatant contrasts in this country – my paper-windowed, *tatami-illoored* room with its state-of-the-art TV; the kimono-clad woman with her mobile phone; the old lady bent double praying alone in the small street shrine, oblivious to the hideous silver *pachinko* parlour overshadowing her. Each one of these things is as true a reflection of today's Japanese society as the next.

A haven for culture vultures, Kyoto is the ancient capital of Japan and it was from here that I based my explorations. Surrounded on three sides by mountains and with over 2000 temples and shrines, the city provides the Japan that foreigners dream of – *geisha* girls, raked sand gardens and stunning old buildings. Unfortunately at the more famous sites you are likely to see more of chattering schoolgirls and the flags of Japanese tour guides than of what you actually came to see. But if you go early and listen carefully, you can smell fresh incense and hear the monks being called to morning prayer and meditation. And

whilst listening you can ponder whether their bald heads get cold in winter, how they manage to walk in those shoes, or where they actually keep their bus tickets.

As for the geisha girls, they are the epitome of everything traditionally Japanese. Literally ‘accomplished in the arts’, the *maikos* (trainees) and *geikos* (fully fledged geisha) learn age old skills such as dancing, *ikebana* (flower arranging) and the tea ceremony (preparation of frothy green tea which is served with bean cakes, very slowly and gracefully). They are phenomenally expensive to ‘hire’ for an evening – far beyond the average individual’s budget, and are usually employed for office functions. Once widespread, the geisha community is today limited to Kyoto and parts of Tokyo. To follow the tripping step of a maiko through the streets of Gion, Kyoto’s entertainment district, is to take a step back in time. Past wooden-fronted restaurants with red paper lanterns swinging in the breeze, the white-faced immaculate geisha walks on, pigeon toed, through the narrow streets to work. Same makeup, same hair, same kimono, same job, same streets as generations of geisha before her.

Traditional villages grew up deep in the mountains and religious fastidiousness guided the lives of the Japanese for many years. The festivals and rituals that survive today display but a handful of the superstitions and beliefs of the nation centuries ago. Though it is easy to get swept off your feet by the romance of the country, the images of old are rapidly fading. The *samurai* have gone and the geisha are going. Japan, the land of the Rising Sun, is being swept behind a cloud of hi-tech industry and visions of the future. But if you look carefully, very carefully, you will see a patch of blue sky.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

Peak Performance

The Alpine Club in London has all the ambience and bonhomie of a country pub, where the regulars have been coming for years to chew the fat over great climbs. Many mountaineers have spoken here before; this particular evening, the floor is given over to Alan Hinkes, who is introduced by the club’s president, Sir Chris Bonington. Hinkes is speaking before he sets off on his

attempt to become the first Briton to climb all 14 of the world's highest peaks over 8,000 metres. While five men have already achieved this feat, he will be the first to climb six within a year.

Even his good friends only give him 100:1 odds of achieving this goal, says Bonington, "his less good friends 1000:1". But Hinkes refuses to even listen to such doubting talk. It is not a case of "if" he manages to achieve his final ascent (Nepal's Anapurna I) but, he says, "when".

It was during his first attempt at an "8000er" in the Himalayas in 1987 that he first thought about attempting "the 14", as the world's 14 highest peaks are known in mountaineering circles.

Over the next 10 years, Hinkes gradually climbed another seven of the 8000ers. Then followed three years during which he made three attempts on the world's hardest mountain, Pakistan's 8611-metre-high K2.

"K2 is not much lower than Everest", explains Hinkes, "so you have all the same altitude problems". It is also much more difficult to climb, he adds. "In 93 I had to retreat to help a guy down who was in a really bad way, then the next year I got very near the top but wasn't happy with the snow conditions – I thought it might avalanche".

Hinkes' maxim, which he repeats seemingly as much to remind himself as anyone else, is "No mountain is worth a life, the summit is a bonus". It did not stop him attempting to summit in 1995 though. "It's always difficult to enjoy it on top of the mountain because you know you have to get back down".

Descending is always harder, Hinkes says. "You're exhausted – particularly if you burn up loads of calories going 'yahoo!' on the summit like some people do. You have to keep yourself under control for the descent.

Death is an inescapable fact of high-altitude mountaineering.

"You find lots of bodies on the north side of Everest," he told the Alpine Club audience matter-of-factly. After all, who is going to bring them down?

"The deaths of other mountaineers do cross your mind," he says, "but I'm not going to stop climbing just because somebody dies. And when somebody does die, I'm not going to be shocked out of my box thinking 'Oh I didn't know that could happen', because I know it can, just as I know it can on a car journey."

Getting enough food is a crucial aspect of Hinkes' back-to-back climbs expedition. "Doing an 8000er is like running three marathons. You can lose stones in weight because you are burning off calories every day and can't carry

enough food to get them back. You'd have trouble eating that much food anyway because it doesn't assimilate properly at altitude. The key is to have a good cook at base camp and plenty of food." This means egg and chips, bacon sandwiches and other "real" food. The mere mention of dehydrated food makes Hinkes splutter: "I wouldn't eat it if it was given to me free. It's revolting for a start and won't reconstitute properly on a big mountain because you need water that is boiling at 100° Celsius."

Hinkes celebrates his 43rd birthday 011 23 April 1997, the day he intends to summit Lhotse. "You're at your peak in the Himalayas in your late 30s and early 40s," he maintains. "I was as fit as a butcher's dog 20 years ago but it would have been difficult to force myself to go slow and the way to get fit on big mountains is to keep pushing slowly."

For all his pragmatism, flippancy and northern brusqueness, Hinkes is very obviously relishing the task ahead. If he makes it – and he refuses to be drawn into rating his own chances of success – he is well aware that it will be largely down to his ability to keep mind, body and soul together in situations where the mountains have the final say. He is angry at any reference to the fact that he is "conquering" anything. "Mountaineers have never spoken about 'conquering' mountains. It is the media and non-climbers who talk in this way. You never conquer a mountain; a mountain lets you sneak to the top and sneak back down. It lets you have a good time or a bad time on it, but it never allows you to conquer it."

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

The Problems Stack up

The decision to go ahead with Heathrow's fifth terminal won't solve the problem of congestion in Britain's skies. Reform of the nonsensical way the aviation business is run would help.

Aviation is the graveyard of Whitehall policymaking. For 40 years, successive governments have dodged awkward decisions as airports serving London have become increasingly overloaded. Pressures on Heathrow and

Gatwick, already grossly congested, are forecast to get much worse as demand for air travel grows.

A decision on where to site a new runway in the south-east is pressing. More people want to fly, but no one wants an airport anywhere near them. Public concern over noise, traffic, safety and pollution is growing – hardly surprising when two human bodies and quantities of frozen human excrement have fallen from planes coming in to land at Heathrow in the past five years.

This government is no keener to address these issues than its predecessors were. But on December 12th, it will cautiously stick up a small finger with a consultative document on "The Future of Aviation". The publication of this green paper, unusually late in a parliament, has been timed to leave politically sensitive decisions until after an election.

Judgement on the inquiry into the fifth terminal at London's Heathrow airport, whose report will be handed to ministers in the next few days, will similarly be delayed. Late next year, there will be a white paper setting out the government's policies on aviation. In the meantime, the consultative document poses more questions than it answers. But it does at least set out the issues that will have to be addressed.

The key problem is capacity. Over the past 20 years the number of passengers handled by British airports has trebled. Freight movements have doubled. The green paper predicts that if demand is unrestrained, it will double again by 2015. Where will these planes land?

The pressure is particularly acute in the south-east. London's five airports at Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Luton and London City have only six runways between them. Compare that with Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport, which has three runways and a fourth under construction, and with Amsterdam's Schiphol, which has four runways and a fifth due to open in 2003.

Between 1995 and 1998, passenger traffic at London area airports increased at an annual rate of more than 7 % , according to the British Air Transport Association. BATA says that the number of passengers who want to land at Heathrow and Gatwick but are prevented by the shortage of landing slots is already 10 m. It predicts that this frustrated demand will grow to 18 m by 2015 and nearly 100 m by 2030.

Pressure on other London airports is also growing rapidly. The growth of budget operators such as Easy Jet, Go, Ryanair and Virgin Express has caused

budget passenger numbers to grow 50 % a year over the past three years. A report published earlier this year by the London Chamber of Commerce predicts that current runway capacity at all London airports will be exhausted within the next ten years.

The capacity problem can be solved only by a new airport to serve the south-east. Possible sites such as Maplin Sands, Cublington, Yardley Close and Northolt have long been buried under a pile of Whitehall reports. It took three decades of argument and public inquiries before a single runway at Stansted got the go-ahead. This is one decision which ministers hate to think about, let alone make. But, unless they do, the capacity constraints, already serious, will become much worse.

The easiest short-term option is almost certainly a new runway at Stansted. That has a number of advantages for ministers, not least that there are few Labour marginal seats anywhere near. But an enlarged Stansted would need better transport links to central London for it to be a viable alternative to Heathrow and Gatwick.

Even a new runway will not remove capacity constraints in the south-east. Air space, like road space, is finite. The minister for aviation, Chris Mullin, noted earlier this year that the demand for air travel would have to be managed in the interests not just of the passengers but also of the environment. "Predict and provide' did not work for roads. It did not work for housing, and it will not work for aviation," he said.

The industry will have to start managing demand more sensibly than it has in the past. For a start, it should reform the nonsensical pricing system that currently makes one of the most congested airports in the world one of the cheapest to land at. At present, the way Heathrow calculates its landing charges takes into account the profits earned from all the airport's businesses, including retailing. This "single till" regime could, if the shops are doing well enough, result in planes being actually paid to land at Heathrow.

Reform of aircraft take-off and landing rights, known as slots, is also long overdue. Airport congestion has multiplied the value of these rights, so that they have become currency in the aviation business. Until now, slots have been jealously held by incumbents on a historic basis. Their scarcity value has allowed privileged airlines such as British Airways to make huge sums out of them: surplus slots are traded behind the scenes for hundreds of millions of pounds.

National airlines do very well out of the system. Passengers, taxpayers and governments do not. The government's consultation document rightly suggests that, to make better use of airport capacity, a proper market should be created and available slots should be auctioned. And what of the issue of who should benefit from this reform? On that central, sensitive matter, the government has not divulged its views.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

Diving for Dollars

A search for gold on a sunken steamship becomes a knuckle-biting high-tech adventure story.

What a yarn! In 1857 the SS Central America, a side-wheel steamship bound for New York City out of Havana, ran into a hurricane halfway up the Eastern Seaboard. The crew and the passengers bailed water for two days in a futile effort to keep the ship afloat, but on Sept. 12 the ship went down, taking with it 450 of the 600 passengers and between \$500 million and \$1 billion in gold (in today's dollars) from the California mines. It has been called the worst maritime disaster in American history. For more than a century, the ship and its hoard lay undisturbed, a mile and a half under the Atlantic. Then in the 1980s an oddball crew of scientists, sailors, engineers and treasure hunters, led by an eccentric jack-of-all-trades named Tommy Thompson, set out to find the Central America and its treasure. They began with only the vaguest notion of where to look, and they weren't entirely sure how to retrieve any gold they might find. No one had ever excavated a wreck under 8,000 feet of ocean, certainly not while being circled by sharks, other treasure hunters and several packs of lawyers.

It took Thompson most of a decade to find the treasure. It took Gary Kinder another decade to research and write *Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea* (507 pages. Atlantic Monthly Press. \$27.50). It takes only a few evenings to read, but if you sign on for the cruise, go in knowing that you're going to miss meals and a lot of sleep.

Kinder includes enough on the shipwreck to satisfy disaster fans looking for this summer's "Into Thin Air" and "A Perfect Storm," then fast-forwards to focus on the true – and far stranger – subject of his tale: Tommy Thompson, an autodidact scientist and engineer who spent his childhood in the '50s in Ohio with a flashlight under the bedcovers, building things with Tink-ertoys long into the night. The curious child was father to a brilliant but wayward man, who floated in and out of think tanks, slept in his car and ran up thousands of dollars in long-distance charges talking to experts who might shed light on his mad-scientist projects, such as his plans for an amphibious bus. "I wanted to be an inventor," he said, by way of describing his aimless college days, "but there's no college training for that." In the mid-'70s he stumbled into the world of Key West treasure hunters and found his niche. Dismayed by the haphazard way most of them looked for loot, Thompson determined that he could go them one better – into the deep ocean, two miles down, where neither scavengers nor scientists nor anyone else had ever gone.

Thompson impressed everyone – from his shipmates to his investors – as a man more interested in science than gold. When the premier authority on oceangoing search theory first met Thompson, he made the mistake of calling him a treasure hunter. "He bristled and he corrected me rather sharply," the scientist recalled. "He wasn't in it strictly for the money." It proved harder to disarm critics who said flatly that what he planned to do couldn't be done. Wrecks had been scavenged in shallow water. A depth sounder had found the Titanic two and a half miles below the ocean surface in 1985. But to find and retrieve a fortune more than a mile below the ocean surface demanded robotic equipment that didn't exist in the mid-'80s. So Thompson and his crew invented it. Using old ships' logs, 1857 newspaper accounts and modern sonar equipment, the scavengers trolled for three summers before they found the ship off the North Carolina coast. By then they had perfected the 6,000-pound undersea robot that could pick up stacks of gold coins a hundred at a time without scratching a one. By 1989 they had hauled up a total of 21 tons of gold.

Kinder's publisher could have helped him out by including photographs and a list up front identifying the mammoth cast of characters, but the plot speeds along so relentlessly that you almost forget that you don't know what anything or anyone looks like. Kinder steers his complicated narrative with a born storyteller's assurance. From his terrifying description of the sinking ship to his

minute-by-minute account of Thompson's racing a competitor through a storm to put his claim before a federal judge, Kinder spins a tale as informative as it is knuckle-biting. Who knew you could have this much fun watching other people get rich.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

Computers, Viruses and War

Has the information revolution transformed the nature of international conflict? Finance, trade, transportation and energy supply all depend upon smooth and uninterrupted information flows. In strategic thinking, dependence soon becomes a vulnerability and then by extension a potential target. In the 1970s, action by OPEC suddenly made Western states aware of their dependence on external oil supplies, and for a while "energy security" was a major concern.

Now the same translation from dependence to target has been made with information. Viruses can destroy vital systems in a surprise attack. Small campaigns of information warfare are becoming quite commonplace. The Pentagon's computers appear to be under almost continual, though largely unsuccessful, bombardment from hackers who see it as a special challenge. All this has led to anxieties that new opportunities are opening up for hostile states or terrorists. According to the National Defense Panel of the United States, "information warfare threats to the United States may present the greatest challenge in preparing for the security environment of 2010-2020."

Such "information warfare" might involve disabling air-defences: systems, sending missiles off course, leaving local commanders in the dark and senior commanders confused by interfering with software or hardware. Television images might be distorted to make an enemy leader appear ridiculous; misleading signals could be sent to top commanders; false orders might be delivered to key units. Civilian life might be disrupted through attacks on the information systems supporting the financial or transportation systems.

There are possibilities here that any responsible government must take seriously. But it is dangerous to let imaginations run riot. Though such tactics

could play a supportive role in certain conflicts, it is difficult to see how they could be decisive by themselves.

Vulnerabilities in the information sphere are rare. In war it is natural to target the enemy's supplies of food, fuel, equipment and ammunition, for they cannot be readily replaced. But information is becoming the ultimate renewable resource, and while its collection can be impeded and its movement frustrated, acquiring, storing and communicating information are all getting progressively easier. In any event, information is not knowledge and knowledge is not wisdom.

Moreover, it's not easy for anyone to dominate the flow of information. Military-relevant information can be obtained through the civilian sphere and shared by friend and foe. The immediate dissemination of news of a high intelligence value by CNN and the BBC has come to be taken for granted. Radios, mobile phones and personal computers have become portable and widely available. As many as 70 million people now use the Internet. The Pentagon itself now relies on commercial telecommunication for 95 percent of its information traffic. Commanders can find it quicker, and as reliable, to turn to news channels than to wait for information to pass – and be filtered – through a military hierarchy. The consequences of this were noticed in a war game organized by the U.S. Army last September. The enemy was able to use commercially available communication and navigational satellites, and developed an impressive communications network using cellular phones – which could not be jammed.

Clever plans to target an enemy's information systems will always be subject to basic uncertainties. Have the right systems been targeted? Can the enemy switch easily from one system to another? As with espionage and psychological-warfare operations in the past, information-warfare operations will be seen as potentially valuable supplements to a campaign, but not something upon which total reliance can be placed. Even if a successful strategic-information campaign could be designed and mounted, the victim might not respond in kind. As with other "non-lethal" weapons, there is no guarantee that retaliation will be of equivalent "non-lethality." Furthermore, when faced with the task of disabling a critical facility, clever and subtle forms of electronic warfare may well seem unnecessarily risky when compared with something cruder. Why be a hacker when you can use a bomb?

The concern with the vulnerability of information networks may be missing the most profound strategic consequence of the Information Age. Even

before the Internet, new forms of communication were giving rise to new forms of subversive action. Thus, audiotapes were employed during the 1978 overthrow of the Shah of Iran, videotapes in the mid-1980s Philippine revolution and fax machines in the campaign against Gen. Manuel Noriega of Panama in the late 1970s. More recently, when the Mexican government moved against the Zapatistas, the rebels used laptops to issue commands and the Internet to publicize allegations of government atrocities to gain support from international organizations. Authoritarian regimes are now struggling to control the Internet or enforce bans on satellite receivers. With good reason; communist governments were unable to stop people picking up from their radios and televisions compelling images of a freer and more prosperous way of life.

In short, the most effective information attacks may be more positive than negative in their effects. The information revolution may turn out to be less about disrupting the smooth functioning of governments and armies and more about stimulating political change by sending unwelcome messages into closed societies. Remember: the free flow of information helped end the cold war.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

Weak Men, Strong Women

The western stereotype of Japanese women is out of date. It certainly fit in the 1960s, when I joined the Asahi Shimbun, one of the biggest dailies in Japan, straight out of a graduate school in the United States. I won the reporter's position in competition with many other candidates, and you can't imagine how high my spirits were when I walked into the office on my first day. My enthusiasm didn't last long. First I was told that I wasn't going to be a full-time staffer, which meant I wouldn't receive any benefits. "You are a woman," my editor told me. "You've got to come to work 30 minutes before the men show up. Wipe the desktops, clean the ashtrays and serve everyone tea." In those days, you were fired if you complained. But the situation of Japanese women was gradually changing. Eight years after my humiliating start, I got an exclusive interview with a half-Japanese princess of Oman – and was made a full-fledged company

employee. My working conditions began to change rapidly. I was the first woman at Asahi to be dispatched to our New York bureau as a foreign correspondent. Although it was (and is) quite natural for Japanese men to be stationed overseas while their families remain in Japan, my situation was novel – my husband stayed in Japan. That was big news in Japan. Magazines interviewed my husband, asking him about what it was like to be left behind, taking care of household chores. He wasn't the only man who had to make adjustments. I was promoted to a senior staff writer, and when I became the first woman editor of the Asahi Journal (in 1990), an intellectual weekly that later closed, it was a trial for me – but it must also have been a great culture shock for male reporters who had never had a female boss.

Just think of it. When I joined the Asahi Shimbun there were fewer than 10 female reporters among the 2,500 reporting staff. Now, there are 300 women reporting or editing stories for the same paper. They cover every field, including politics, economics, sports and foreign news. It's no longer considered strange – or newsworthy – when women are stationed away from their families. From a legal standpoint, there is no job a woman cannot pursue in Japan. We have jet pilots, firefighters, physicists and an astronaut – occupations that were once considered out of bounds for women. The number of female CEOs may be lamentably small, but we're starting to see progress. While I still work as a freelance journalist, I am also president and CEO of a public health center with 500 employees. I chair the board, even though I am the only woman and the youngest of all the directors. But neither I nor my male colleagues have any feeling of discomfort such as I experienced when I became a magazine editor for the first time.

I suppose that all of these changes became possible largely thanks to social and legal reforms in Japan as well as the influence of the feminist movement in the West. But it's also because Japanese women have an inner strength that is perhaps not apparent to the casual observer. When I recently interviewed Akihiro Miwa, a popular Japanese singer and actor, he said with a deep sigh "Until now, I haven't met a weak woman or a strong man." An exaggeration, perhaps, but he has a point: these days we hear so many stories about suicides by Japanese company presidents whose companies have collapsed, all of them men. "There are tens of thousands of women presidents of middle- and small- size

companies," Miwa said. "But I have never heard of a woman president hanging herself because her company went bankrupt."

The men who built modern Japan may not be very well equipped to move it forward now. Even Finance Ministry bureaucrats and bank officials are hanging themselves these days. In Japan, such elites are a fragile species. The industrial machine that such men have created during the last 50 years doesn't work anymore. The "male fortress" is collapsing. But Japan's male leaders, even though they talk about change and reform, are trying to hang on to their vested interests. In fact, real reform is what they fear most. Not so with Japan's working women. We are full of vitality. Our status may not be as high as we'd like it to be – not yet anyway but we're getting stronger. Japanese women are not afraid of change because we don't have as much to lose as our male counterparts. In fact, we want new challenges. If there is one thing Japanese men should fear, it may be Japanese women.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

Where the Stars Shine

It had all the glitz and glamour of a West End premiere. Liam Neeson was onstage as a towering and tortured Oscar Wilde in David Hare's latest work, "The Judas Kiss." A star-studded audience spilled out of the theater to sip champagne in the balmy London spring. Hare's wife, designer Nicole Farhi, was there; so were Lord Snowdon, Diana Rigg and Alan Bates. But this was no West End show. It was the latest sellout production from the Almeida, London's hottest theater company. "[Neeson] gives us a commanding, morally powerful and intellectually passionate figure," said the London Times. Next stop – Broadway, where Neeson will continue in the lead role. At the Almeida, tickets to see Kevin Spacey in Eugene O'Neill's "The Iceman Cometh" – opening later this month – are hard to get.

The eight-year-old Almeida is a triumph of big ideas over big bucks. Its artistic nerve center is a 300-seat theater in north London (though a scheduling logjam saw "The Judas Kiss" switched to a downtown playhouse). It pays the

minimum union rate and relies on corporate and private sponsorship to boost its income from the box office and government grants. Yet its repertoire – spanning Chekhov, Beckett, Albee and Pinter – attracts worldwide attention. Diana Rigg won a Tony Award for her performance in "Medea" when the production appeared on Broadway in 1994. She'll be back for the Almeida's summer festival in a new version of the Racine classic, "Phaedra," by Ted Hughes. The company's "Hamlet" also became a hit on Broadway in 1995 with Ralph Fiennes in the lead role. Fiennes returned to the Almeida for "Ivanov," which then wowed audiences in Moscow last year. The company's joint artistic directors, Ian McDiarmid and Jonathan Kent, have developed such a stellar reputation that the theater world's top writers, directors and performers are lining up to work with them. So, too, is half of Hollywood. Neeson follows Fiennes and Juliette Binoche (in Pirandello's "Naked") in appearing at the Almeida for a mere £ 225 a week. The trade-off: a chance to win critical acclaim for playing the part of a lifetime. Binoche was hooked after seeing Fiennes in "Ivanov." "I knew from Anthony Minghella [director of "The English Patient"] that the productions were good work. That's what I wanted to come here for," she told one interviewer. Still, Kent and McDiarmid insist the Almeida is not a star vehicle. Actors want to recapture a "sense of emotional risk" by performing live, says Kent. "People approach us because they like the quality of our work and the kind of plays we do."

Despite their success, Kent and McDiarmid are determined that the Almeida should stay loyal to its neighborhood roots. The theater is on a tiny side street in trendy Islington, former home of Prime Minister Tony Blair. Informality rules. The theater's bar – brick walls and stripped floorboards – draws locals and celebrities alike. The only person to cause a stir was Tony Blair, who arrived to see "Naked" with several bodyguards. The Almeida experience offers lessons for other London venues. The cash-strapped Donmar Warehouse in Covent Garden is talking to Nicole Kidman about David Hare's adaptation of "La Ronde." Hollywood agents take note: forget Oscars; think Oscar.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

1. Read and translate the text

The All-Day, All-Night, Global, No-Trouble Job Search

Jennifer Meltzer, a human-resources manager at Tiffanyd Co., was in a quandary. She had two corporate sales positions to fill – one in Austin, Texas, the other in Seattle – but didn't want to spend the crown jewels finding the right applicants. In the past, Meltzer would have placed ads in local newspapers and waited for up to a month to sort through all the resumes that landed on her desk. This time, besides running the want ads, she spent an additional \$750 to have a computer do the searching at CareerPath.com, an online jobs database. CareerPath identified more than 600 potential matches in its resume collection, and within two days the pool had been called to some 25 candidates. "It was incredible," she says. "This was an extremely efficient way to do it".

Future job hunters may never know the drudgery of typing, copying and mailing out sheaves of resumes. CareerPath.com (which is part owned by the Washington Post Company, NEWSWEEK'S corporate parent) combines in one place the help-wanted sections of dozens of the nation's largest newspapers and allows job seekers to post resumes free. It is among the largest of a growing number of online services that help potential employers and employees find each other. Mark Mehler, coauthor of "Career Xroads," an annual directory of job and resume sites, says there are now more than 1,000 such sites. "Two years ago we had trouble finding even 300," he says. There are nice databases like AsiaNet.com, which matches Pacific Rim opportunities with people who speak Asian languages. And nearly every profession, from architects to zoologists, has a Web site that posts jobs and career-management advice. About one in four companies today recruits via the Web a figure expected to double by the year 2000.

That makes sense. "Recruiting is such an expensive process, and many companies are looking for ways to streamline it," says Maury Hanigan, who owns a New York-based human-resources strategy firm. "Sourcing, recruiting and selecting from the Internet will be the driver in the future." Even interviews will be different. According to Hanigan, some corporations with international offices are starting to consider taking a first look at applicants through a fish-eye lens, instead of spending the money to jet potentially disappointing candidates abroad. "In the future, if you seek a job with a bank in London, for example, your first interview will probably be a teleconference from your PC."

Job seekers, too, will benefit. Since the early 1990s, when millions of workers were blindsided by layoffs, many people have been in a land of perpetual job search. Says CareerPath.com's interim CEO Renee LaBran, "There is much less job security out there, and we are finding that more people are becoming passive job seekers." Resume services allow for such passivity. Even if you're happy in your work and don't want to invest the time to actively look for a better job, you can post a resume online and open a bag of chips while waiting for the employer to find you. Essentially, our resumes will always be available to companies we've never even heard of. And the ongoing job search may force employers to work harder to keep their readily mobile workers happy.

Internet recruiting will be bad news for at least one segment of the job market, however. Many human-resources consultants agree that in the not too distant future, search firms and headhunters, which routinely charge between 15 and 30 percent of an employee's first-year salary, will themselves be looking for work. "There has definitely been a radical change in how middle-management positions are filled," says Victor Loewenstein, a headhunter with the executive-search firm Egon Zehnder. "Five years ago these electronic networks didn't exist, and companies used employment agencies to fill positions." Still, Loewenstein argues that while lower-level employment agencies may take a hit, firms like his own aren't in danger. "I hope I'm not saying this out of wishful thinking," he says, "because this is how I make my living." Maybe he ought to post that resume, just to be safe.

2. Analyse complex lexical and grammatical constructions.

3. Summarise the text.

4. Interpret the text.

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