



**Euro Graduation Access / Concours EG@**  
**Avril 2013**

Nom :

Prénom :

N°:

Date de naissance :

Signature :

**English Test**

- Aucun document n'est autorisé.
- Durée de l'épreuve: 90 mn

Barème : /40

**Part One**

Choose the right answer (A, B, C, D) and **write A, B, C, or D in the box provided**

1 She can't find her glasses. Oh no! I think she \_\_\_\_\_ them at home?  
A. leave B. left C. has left D. leaves

2 I am looking forward \_\_\_\_\_ you at the fair next week.  
A. to see B. to seeing C. seeing D. that I will see

3 The cost of living in Italy has \_\_\_\_\_ since the elections.  
A. risen B. lifted C. arisen D. raised

4 I phoned him \_\_\_\_\_ I heard the news.  
A. minute B. during C. by the time D. the moment

5 Normally his meetings always begin \_\_\_\_\_ time.  
A. on B. at C. for D. in

6 He had to \_\_\_\_\_ money from the bank.  
A. let B. loan C. borrow D. lend

7 Replacing the stove top that we purchased only a year ago seems quite\_\_\_\_\_.  
A. waste B. wasted C. wasting D. wasteful

8 Even if Paul had studied harder, he \_\_\_\_\_ passed his exams.  
A. had not B. wouldn't C. wouldn't have D. Ø

- 9 The advice he gave me was \_\_\_\_\_ .
- A. valueless B. worthy C. priceless D. invaluable
- 10 My pick-up truck's \_\_\_\_\_. I must get a mechanic
- A. in a crash B. out of order C. gone off D. broken down
- 11 Money is very important to \_\_\_\_\_ people.
- A. most of B. most C. many of D. the most

## **PART TWO - Find the mistake**

In this part of the test you must identify the one underlined expression (a, b, c, d) that must be changed in order to correct the sentence. **The answer a, b, c, or d must be put in the box provided.**

- 12 It is no longer necessary to take a reservation on the nightly express
- train. a b c d
- 13 We looked to hundreds of files before we found what we were looking for.
- a b c d
- 14 I don't believe there is anyone best suited for the position than Ms. Jones.
- a b c d
- 15 One of a manager's much valuable assets may be his ability to delegate.
- a b c d
- 16 As we were entering the building, I noticed a sign that someone
- a b
- has put on the door which said, "Wet paint".
- c d

## **Part Three**

**Underline** the correct word **a-d** from the list below to complete the article.

### **Conquering Babel**

The Economist – Vocabulaire du 7 au 20 Février

1. In "Star Trek", a television series of the 1960s, no matter how far across the universe the Starship Enterprise <sup>17</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, any aliens it encountered would converse in fluent Californian English. It was explained that Captain Kirk and his crew wore tiny, computerised Universal Translators that could scan alien brainwaves and simultaneously <sup>18</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ their concepts into appropriate English words.
2. Science fiction, of course. But the best sci-fi has a habit of presaging fact. Many believe the <sup>19</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ communicators also seen in that first "Star Trek" series inspired the design of clamshell mobile phones. And, on a more <sup>20</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ note, several armies and military-equipment firms are working on high-energy laser weapons that <sup>21</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a striking re-semblance to phasers. How long, then, before automatic simultaneous translation becomes the norm, and all those tedious language lessons at school are declared redundant?
3. Not, perhaps, as long as language teachers, interpreters and others who make their <sup>22</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ from mutual comprehension might like. A series of announcements over the past few months from sources as varied as mighty Microsoft and string-and-sealing-wax private inventors suggest that workable, if not yet perfect, simultaneous-translation devices are now <sup>23</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ at hand.
4. Over the summer, Will Powell, an inventor in London, <sup>24</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a system that translates both sides of a conversation between English and Spanish speakers—if they are patient, and speak slowly. Each interlocutor wears a hands-free headset linked to a mobile phone, and sports special goggles that display the translated text like sub-' titles in a foreign film.
5. In November, NTT DoCoMo, the largest mobile-phone operator in Japan, <sup>25</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a service that translates phone calls between Japanese and English, Chinese or Korean. Each party speaks consecutively, with the firm's computers <sup>26</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and translating his words in a matter of seconds. The result is then spoken in a man's or woman's voice, as appropriate.
6. Microsoft's contribution is perhaps the most beguiling. When Rick Rashid, the firm's chief research officer, spoke in English at a conference in Tianjin in October, his per-oration was translated live into Mandarin, appearing first as subtitles on overhead video screens, and then as a computer-generated <sup>27</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. Remarkably, the Chinese version of Mr Rashid's speech shared the characteristic tones and inflections of his own voice.
7. Though the three systems are quite different, each <sup>28</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the same problems. The first challenge is to recognise and digitise speech. Just as important is converting what has been learned not only into foreign words (hard enough, given the ambiguities of meaning which all languages display, and the fact that some concepts are simply untranslatable), but into foreign sentences. These often have different grammatical rules, and <sup>29</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ different conventional word orders. So even when the English words in a sentence are known for certain, computerised language services may produce stilted or humorously inaccurate translations.
8. Google's solution for its Translate smart-phone app and web service is crowd-sourcing. It compares the text to be translated with millions of sentences that have passed through its software, and selects the most appropriate. Jibbigo, whose translator app for travellers was <sup>30</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ from research at Carnegie Mellon University, works in a similar way but also pays users in developing countries to correct their mother-tongue translations.
9. Microsoft is betting that listeners will be more forgiving of errors when dialogue is delivered in the speaker's own voice. Its new system can <sup>31</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the distinctive timbre of this by analysing about an hour's worth of recordings. It then generates synthesised speech with a similar spread of frequencies. The

system worked well in China, where Mr Rashid's computerised (and occasionally erroneous) Mandarin was met with enthusiastic applause.

10. A universal translator that works only in conference halls, however, would be of limited use to travellers, whether inter-galactic or merely intercontinental. Mr Powell's conversation translator will work anywhere that there is a mobile phone signal. Speech <sup>32</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ by the headsets is <sup>33</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ speech-recognition software on a nearby laptop, and the resulting text is sent over the mobile-phone network to Microsoft's translation engine online.

11. Some problems remain. In the real world, people talk over one another, use slang or chat on noisy streets, all of which can foil even the best translation system. But though it may be <sup>34</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ more years before "Star Trek" style conversations become commonplace, universal translators still look set to beat phasers, transporter beams and warp drives in moving from science fiction into reality.

17	a. travelled	b. has travelled	c. had travelled	d. travel
18	a. converting	b. converted	c. convert	d. convertedly
19	a. flip-up	b. flip-down	c. flip-open	d. flip-out
20	a. sinister	b. sinster	c. sinistral	d. sinisterness
21	a. bear	b. bears	c. bare	d. bore
22	a. lives	b. live	c. living	d. life
23	a. close	b. open	c. closed	d. shut
24	a. demonstrated	b. was demonstrating	c. had demonstrated	d. have demonstrated
25	a. had introduced	b. has introduced	c. introduced	d. will introduce
26	a. eaves	b. heaves	c. eavestrough	d. eavesdropping
27	a. voice	b. voices	c. voicing	d. voiced
28	a. are facing	b. faces	c. faced	d. have faced

29	a. Consequently	b. nevertheless	c. however	d. thus
30	a. spun up	b. spun down	c. spun in	d. spun out
31	a. decode	b. encode	c. code	d. record
32	a. picked out	b. picked up	c. picked from	d. picked
33	a. fed to	b. fed through	c. fed into	d. fed in
34	a. a little	b. a few	c. few	d. little

## **Part Four** – Reading Comprehension

Read the text below and answer the questions that follow. **Put the correct answer a, b, c or d in the box provided.**

France says farewell to the Minitel — the little box that connected a country

Angelique Chrisafis in Paris  
The Guardian, Thursday 28 June, 2012

It is known as the "Little French Box", a 1980s design classic now seen as the ultimate in beige plastic kitsch. But once it was an audacious precursor to the world wide web, introduced the first cybersex into people's living rooms and had a user-friendly design that may have inspired Steve Jobs's first Macintosh computer.

Yet, on Saturday, the plug will finally be pulled on the Minitel machine, France's one-time pride and joy, 30 years after its launch.

And while the nation marvels at the fact that 800,000 of the clunky terminals with massive buttons are still in circulation, the Minitel is shedding its square image and enjoying a moment of mass nostalgia. Farewell parties and newspaper memorials are reminiscing about the time when, thanks to the Minitel, the French public could electronically check the weather, book a holiday, monitor their bank accounts and view share prices or horoscopes more than a decade before any other country. And yet the Minitel failed to sell abroad and existed in almost glorious isolation in France.

The Minitel was dreamed up in the 1970s when France was lagging behind on telecommunications, with the nation's homes underserved by telephones — particularly in rural areas. Amid a technological dawn in France, it was, with the TGV railway, a matter of political and national pride.

The state communications company came up with a system combining the telephone and information technology and, in 1982, rolled out the Minitel, delivering the sets free to homes —

the first widely available screen-keyboard combination in any country.

First it was used as an electronic yellow pages. Other services quickly followed, paid very easily through charges per-minute on the family phone bill, with service providers receiving a cut. Soon the French were using it to check exam results, apply to university, book trains and chat online, years before the internet's blogs or social networking.

At the height of its glory in the mid-1990s, the French owned about 9n1 Minitel devices, with 25m users connecting to more than 23,000 services. Former president Jacques Chirac boasted that a baker in Aubervilliers outside Paris could check their bank account on the Minitel, asking pointedly: "Can the same be said of a baker in New York?"

One of the biggest hits on Minitel was the so-called "Minitel Rose", the world's first electronic adult chatrooms, where people using pseudonyms patiently exchanged steamy messages that took what would now seem an eternity to appear on screen.

Several of today's most influential media bosses made huge fortunes on the "pink messaging" services with their chatroom startup companies. Services with names such as Ulla gained mythical status in France, billboards advertised the services and even a pop ballad, Goodbye Marylou by Michel Polnareff immortalised these late-night erotic chat exchanges, musing on typing on his keyboard "all the voiceless words we say with our fingertips".

The longer users stayed online messaging, the more the service providers made.

The musician Gerome Nox recently told the newspaper Libération how he had worked on one of the services posing as a hostess called Julie to attract men and keep them online as long as possible. He compared the men replying to his messages to "starving piranhas, no bonjour, no pleasantries, it was direct and crude". He said he decided to stop as ""my Julie had become more and more disagreeable and hateful".

He unmasked himself, typing: "I'm not called Julie. I'm a man, just here to rack up your phone bill. You've been screwed, which was just what you wanted all along." He was fired.

France tried to market Minitel abroad but failed to get big international takers, and it was eventually overtaken in the late 1990s by the world wide web.

Minitel's official closure comes as many people in France still use it, ranging from farmers and elderly people without computers to professionals such as florists and tobacconists who still place supplier orders through it and people who kept old Minitel sets as an insurance policy in case their computers picked up a virus. As late as 2007, it was generating high revenues.

Janine Galey, 85, a mother of seven in Paris, said she used it for almost 20 years until around 2000, long after the advent of the internet. She did not have a computer at home and recently went straight from Minitel to an iPad tablet computer.

"As an object, it was pleasing to the eye, intelligently designed, it wasn't heavy and it didn't take up too much space," she said. "At first it sat in the study of my flat and then on a little table in my bedroom. It was easy to operate and I'd use it to find names and addresses, to check train times and reserve tickets."

Valérie Schafer, co-author of the book Minitel: France's Digital Childhood, said: "At the start in the 80s, there was a real sense of pride in Minitel as a success story of our national industry – with the

one problem that we never exported it; it remained very French. Then at the end of the 1990s and in 2000s the discourse changed and Minitel was talked about as quite square, outdated, behind.

"But now it's the end of Minitel, we're discovering that the French have an attachment to it, as part of our industrial history. Despite all the negative talk of the past, it's now being seen as a success in terms of the national economy.

"Despite everything, there's a nostalgia for an era when French developed new ideas, took risks on ideas that didn't just look to the US or outside models: a time when we wanted to invent our own voice."

**Write the correct answers a, b, c or d in the box provided**

35 Which of the following was not an application of the Minitel?

- a) Holiday reservations.
- b) On-line banking.
- c) Making appointments.
- d) Horoscopes.

36 The Minitel was launched in:

- a) 1980.
- b) 1970.
- c) 1982.
- d) the mid-1990s.

37 The French came up with the idea for the Minitel when France was:

- a) in the foreground of telecommunications.
- b) in the background of telecommunications.
- c) holding the monopoly in telecommunications.
- d) globalizing their telecommunications.

38 The Minitel was not marketed abroad because:

- a) It was taken over by the world wide web.
- b) The French preferred that it remained French.
- c) It was not powerful enough.
- d) It was impossible to find investors.

39 The service providers made money from the services offered by the Minitel by taking a cut \_\_\_\_\_ the charges.

- a) in
- b) from
- c) to
- d) of

40 The Minitel owes its success to:

- a) its directory.
- b) its adult chatrooms.
- c) its accessibility.
- d) its connection to every day services.

