

VIDEO TEST 1

Study the following words:

Aspiring – directing one's hopes towards becoming a specified type of person.

Accession- the attainment or acquisition of a position of rank or power; the action or process of formally joining or being accepted by an institution or group.

Suspend- temporarily prevent from continuing or being in force or effect; defer or delay (an action, event, or judgment).

Impose- force (an unwelcome decision or ruling) on someone; put (a restriction) in place; require (a duty, charge, or penalty) to be undertaken or paid.

I. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

EU Summit

1. The participants of the present meeting

- a) are set to toughen their tone towards aspiring new members.
- b) are eager to admit Turkey to the EU.
- c) are determined to express anxiety over Ankara's democracy.

2. Widespread public anxiety is acknowledged over

- a) human rights in Ankara.
- b) a partial freeze of Ankara's entry negotiations.
- c) allowing more nations to join the EU.

3. The recent research shows that

- a) 45 per cent of EU citizens are against further expansion.
- b) 55 per cent of EU leaders support allowing more nations to join the 25 member bloc.
- c) 45 per cent of EU citizens approve of the bloc's enlargement.

4. Foreign ministers came to the conclusion

- a) to support Turkey's accession.
- b) to completely block Turkey's entry negotiations.
- c) to suspend Turkey's entry negotiations.

5. It was agreed to impose penalty on Turkey for

- a) the state of its democracy and human rights.
- b) its refusal to cooperate with Cyprus.
- c) the opportunity to anchor an important majority Muslim nation.

6. Further enlargement of the EU is feared to

- a) result in mass eastward immigration.
- b) lead to mass westward immigration.
- c) have resulted in a huge pressure on the EU's finances.

EU- Television

7. The aim of the TV Without Frontiers Directive is

- a) to restrict the income of audiovisual companies.
- b) to provide alternative sources of earnings for mass media companies.
- c) not to give additional ways of income for audiovisual companies.

8. Product placement

- a) is forbidden only in programs for children.
- b) is permitted every 20 minutes in all types of programs.
- c) is not allowed in children's, political, documentary programs and advice shows.

9. Only an anonymous signal on the sort of product should be

- a) at the beginning of the program.
- b) at the end of the program.
- c) during the program.

10. Product placement

- a) is not legalized in EU countries and the USA.
- b) is a major revenue earner in the US.
- c) has been allowed in many EU countries for a long time.

II. Answer the multiple choice questions:

Diana

11. What is the main conclusion of a long-awaited report of the British police?

- a) The findings prove that Al Fayed and Diana's relationship was embarrassing the Royal family.
- b) The report backs the official French police conclusion that it was an accident.
- c) A new twist in the inquiry of the case is being investigated.

12. What has Mohammed Al Fayed always maintained?

- a) He has always maintained that it was an accident.
- b) He has claimed that American and French secret services were involved in the case.
- c) He has maintained that his son and the Princess were the victims of the British secret services.

13. According to the report, what was the accident caused by?

- a) Fast driving caused the accident.
- b) The accident was caused by the chauffeur who was drunk and driving fast.
- c) The accident was caused by the journalists pursuing their Mercedes.

14. What is the reaction of a man outside Buckingham Palace to the tragedy?

- a) He is sure that Diana was a victim of drunken driving.
- b) He admits that the inquiry cost more than six mln Euros.
- c) He confesses that nobody knows what really happened.

15. What is said in the report about a new twist in the inquiry?

- a) It is claimed that the couple was planning to marry.
- b) It is expected to confirm that Diana's telephone was bugged by secret services.
- c) Al Fayed has been revealed as being an informant for the secret services.

II. Decide whether these statements are true or not:

Autostrade

- 16. Italy's Autostrade and Spain's Abertis have decided to combine their efforts to become the world's biggest road operator.
- 17. Both the Italian government and Autostrade share holders are against the plan to merge.
- 18. Rome is concerned that the tie-up will lead to the decrease in investment in Italian roads.
- 19. The European Commission supported blocking the merger as Abertis' share –holders included a construction company.
- 20. When Italian roads were privatized, the builders were restricted from having major shares in operating companies.

VIDEO TEST 2

Study the following words:

Abduction- the action of forcibly taking someone away against their will; (in legal use) the illegal removal of a child from its parents or guardians.

Detain- keep in official custody. Typically for questioning about a crime or in a politically sensitive situation.

Riot- a violent disturbance of the peace by a crowd.

Unrest- a state of dissatisfaction, disturbance, and agitation, typically involving public demonstrations or disorder.

Surge- a sudden powerful forward or upward movement, especially by a crowd or by natural force such as the tide.

I. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

Chad

1. According to the news,

- a) a Spanish crew are facing charges after being involved in a child abduction scandal.
- b) a Spanish crew are released and on their way home.
- c) a Spanish pilot, co-pilot and flight engineer are still detained in Chad.

2. It can be inferred from the news that

- a) six French charity workers were released from detention after claiming they were taking children to their foster homes.
- b) all the children were orphans.
- c) the crew were about to fly 103 African children to France.

Pakistan

3. B. Bhutto spoke out

- a) for a planned rally.
- b) against her house arrest.
- c) to voice opposition to President Pervez Musharraf.

4. The demonstration

- a) was planned by Bhutto and cancelled afterwards.
- b) resulted in clashes with riot police.
- c) turned out to be a peaceful one.

5. B. Bhutto demanded that President Musharraf

- a) should set a date for general elections, distort the Constitution and release the arrested.
- b) should determine the date for general elections, resign from being Army Chief and renew the Constitution.
- c) should announce presidential elections, adhere to the Constitution and act only as Army Chief.

6. According to the news,

- a) B. Bhutto called for emergency state in the country.
- b) President Pervez Musharraf announced that elections would be held before than planned.
- c) elections will be held before mid-February, a month later than planned.

Georgia

7. There are fewer troops in the city compared to yesterday

- a) despite the fact that the government has given green lights to the state of emergency.
- b) as the government has unanimously boycotted a 15-day state of emergency.
- c) because riot police clashed with protestors and detained many of them.

8. Saakashvili

- a) was criticized by aliens.
- b) blamed Russia for stirring unrest in Georgia.
- c) is not questioned whether he'll regain popularity after his brutal attitude to protestors.

Italy

9. Public transport strike in Italy

- a) didn't affect Rome thanks to a heavy downpour of rain.
- b) disrupted not only railway but also caused chaos in air traffic.
- c) didn't interfere with the flights, notably of national carrier Alitalia.

10. The strike was caused by

- a) an agreement signed by the government and the Cobas union.
- b) an increase in the retirement age and changes in other employment laws.
- c) a progressive rise in payment for casual labour.

Weather

11. Britain

- a) seems to have been battered by the flooding from the tidal surge.
- b) expected the tidal surge in coastal areas of Norfolk and it proved to be true.
- c) has been affected by the tidal surge but not so severely as expected.

12. The warnings of severe weather

- a) prevented 307 locals from being killed.
- b) forced people to recall the previous deadly tidal surge.
- c) led to mass evacuation all over Britain.

13. The 1953 tidal surge

- a) was similar to the current.
- b) was caused by the sea level 50 cm higher than normal.
- c) was 50 cm higher than this one.

14. According to the news,

- a) a giant barrier near Rotterdam has been closed for the first time ever to protect the Dutch port.
- b) the eastern counties and the capital do not expect flooding.
- c) the Netherlands suffered heavy losses after the tidal surge 3 m high in 1953.

VIDEO TEST 3

I. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

David Blunkett

1. The key British cabinet minister David Blunkett has been forced to resigned

- a) for the first time for the last two years.
- b) twice within a year.
- c) for the third time in less than a year.

2. Tony Blair has been reported to have accepted the resignation

- a) eagerly.
- b) voluntarily.
- c) unwillingly.

3. The opposition Conservatives

- a) have accelerated the course for Blunkett's resignation.
- b) have hampered the course for Blunkett's resignation.
- c) have slowed the course for Blunkett's resignation.

4. The cause for Blunkett's resignation is

- a) corruption.
- b) an affair with a married woman.
- c) speculation on shares.

5. In disorders in France

- a) 44 people were detained by the police.
- b) 34 people were detained by the police.
- c) 54 people were detained by the police.

6. The unrest was triggered by

- a) the death of the rebels' leader followed by the police.
- b) the boys who were electrocuted.
- c) the death of the 3 teenagers

7. Spain Parliament discussed the question whether

- a) to grant the poor region of Catalonia greater autonomy.
- b) to grant the rich region of Catalonia greater anatomy.
- c) to grant the rich region of Catalonia greater autonomy.

8. Rioting in Argentina has been triggered by

- a) severe reforms in the country.
- b) series of delays of trains.
- c) a TV serial.

9. The riot broke out as a result of

- a) passengers' protest over high fares.
- b) passengers' protest over delays in service.
- c) passengers' protest over poor service on trains.

10. One of the Argentinean ministers has accused

- a) communists of this riot.
- b) unionists of the riot.
- c) unionists and leftists of the riot.

11. More than

- a) 80 people were arrested in this violence.
- b) 70 people were arrested in this violence.
- c) 60 people were arrested in this violence.

12. This riot occurred before

- a) the 34th UNO summit.
- b) the 34th OSCE summit.
- c) the 34th summit of the Americas.

13. Ten thousand people gathered together in Iran to mark

- a) 1975 siege of Italian Embassy in Teheran.
- b) 1975 siege of American Embassy in Teheran.
- c) 1979 siege of American Embassy in Teheran.

14. The leader of Iran called for

- a) wiping off tears and making peace with Israel.
- b) annihilating Israel as a state.
- c) converting Israel into an Islamic state.

15. In Kashmir, in the car bomb attack

- a) 44 people were killed.
- b) 4 people were killed.
- c) 5 people were killed.

16. The 3 main militant Islamic groups have declared that

- a) they claim responsibility for the act.
- b) they have nothing to do with it.
- c) they were in exile when the bomb accident happened.

17. Measures against tobacco use are

- a) being steadily lifted.
- b) being steadily slowed down.
- c) being steadily reinforced.

18. The first country in Europe to ban smoking totally was

- a) Northern Ireland.
- b) Iceland.
- c) Ireland.

19. According to the survey,

- a) 6 out of 10 Frenchmen would like smoking to be banned in public places.
- b) 8 out of 10 Frenchmen would like smoking to be banned in public places.
- c) 7 out of 10 Frenchmen would like smoking to be banned in public places.

20. It can be inferred from the video news that

- a) 3000 deaths per year are caused by passive smoking.
- b) 2000 deaths per year are caused by passive smoking.
- c) 4000 deaths per year are caused by passive smoking.

VIDEO TEST 4

Study the following words:

Endorse- declare one's public approval or support of smth.

Faction- a small organized dissenting group within s larger one, especially in politics.

Landslide- an overwhelming majority of votes for one party or candidate in an election.

Offensive – an attacking military campaign.

I. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

NATO

1. NATO ministers in Brussels have promised

- a) to stop violence in Kosovo provided the territory and Serbia declare independence.
- b) to decrease troop numbers as soon as the territory becomes independent.
- c) the alliance's support if Kosovars make their choice to become independent from Serbia.

2. According to the news,

- a) Russian minister Serguei Lavrov rejoiced at the idea of Kosovo's independence.
- b) NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer expressed the alliance's determination to play their part in Kosovo depending on the outcome of the status process.
- c) the alliance is determined to ensure peace in Kosovo regardless of the outcome.

3. It can be inferred from the news, that

- a) Kosovo will be recognized as an independent state regardless of Serbs' resistance.
- b) NATO bombing in 1999 started a military operation against ethnic Albanians.
- c) Kosovo leaders and the Serb minority have come out of the deadlock thanks to international mediation.

Lebanon

4. Lebanon has put back presidential election

- a) for the 6th time since September.
- b) despite the fact that the ministers welcome favorably the consensus around a compromise candidate for the presidency.
- c) due to the disagreement between rival leaders concerning armed forces chief Gen Michel Suleiman.

5. The two feuding political factions failed to clinch a deal

- a) because anti-Syrian ruling majority are determined to amend the constitution.
- b) as they couldn't decide on constitutional provision of Suleiman taking the job.
- c) because the Hezbollah-led opposition withdrew from the talks.

6. Analysts say that

- a) the factions are on the wedge of reaching agreement.
- b) the postponement will prevent parliament from getting a quorum to endorse Suleiman.

c) the delay is a sign of a two-thirds quorum required.

7. Michel Suleiman emerged as a candidate

- a) because he is clearly opposed to Syrian influence in Lebanon.
- b) because Saeed Hariri and his allies gave up the idea of electing an anti-Syrian candidate.
- c) because he was officially endorsed by the two factions.

EU-Africa

8. There has been talk of a “new chapter” in EU African relations

- a) as the summit has reached agreement on all the questions.
- b) in spite of some disagreement at the summit.
- c) which will open in 2010.

9. The 67 countries present in Lisbon

- a) unanimously signed up the proposals without demanding further discussion.
- b) couldn't come to the consensus over the Economic Partnership Agreements which could boost their economies.
- c) had different opinions of how the proposals affect the poorest and more developed countries.

10. Zimbabwe's President's presence at the summit

- a) forced British Minister Gordon Brown to boycott the meeting.
- b) put an end to his continuing poor record.
- c) united African and European leaders in their vision of human rights.

US

11. The first results of New Hampshire primaries

- a) turned out to be a bitter disappointment for John McCane.
- b) proved to be Barack Obama's landslide.
- c) confirmed Hillary Clinton's popularity.

12. The polls for New Hampshire primary are predicting that

- a) the two-horse race will continue.
- b) Hillary Clinton is heading for a clear victory.
- c) Barack Obama's supremacy will be confirmed.

13. It can be inferred from the news that

- a) elder statesman John McCane is popular both locally and nationally.
- b) commentators are tipping Rudy Giuliani to win Republican nomination.
- c) Mitt Romney has a chance of getting “silver” in the race.

Sri Lanka

14. Tamil Tiger rebels

- a) want an independent homeland in the north and east.
- b) officially recognized their involvement in the assassination of the housing minister.
- c) have been conducting military offensive for about 40 years.

15. A ceasefire

- a) was terminated by the attack on a bus full of wounded female soldiers.
- b) became shaky after the election of the new president.
- c) was followed by the extension of the state of emergency.

II. Decide whether these statements are true or not:

Italy

- 16. Italy is hit by transport shutdown due to hundreds of private vehicles disrupting the traffic.
- 17. The first interviewee puts the blame on public which have to suffer the consequences.
- 18. The railway worker thinks that trade unions betrayed transport workers.
- 19. Alitalia employees have also gone strike protesting over the plans to sell the company.
- 20. Taxi drivers are demanding more taxi licenses to address growing demand for taxis.

VIDEO TEST 5

I. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

Asia Quake

- 1. The only way to identify many of the victims will be through**
 - a) DNA analysis.
 - b) RNA analysis.
 - c) Break-even analysis.
- 2. There is a huge risk of lethal water- borne diseases breaking out in the affected region from**
 - a) raw sewage, rotten water supplies and contaminated bodies.
 - b) raw sewage, rotten bodies and contaminated water supplies.
 - c) raw sewage, decomposing debris and unbearable smell.
- 3. The US has almost doubled its aid contribution to**
 - a) 45 mln.
 - b) 35 mln.
 - c) 3,5 mln.
- 4. Other aid workers meanwhile are rushing to Sri Lanka to combat**
 - a) breakdown of communications.
 - b) landmines displaced by the giant waves.
 - c) the civil war in the region stricken by the giant waves.
- 5. The cost of clean-up and repair operation is likely**

- a) to run into billions of Euros.
- b) to exceed billions of Euros.
- c) to run short of billions of Euros.

6. Authorities have also lost track of

- a) 200 Czechs, 1 88 Israelis, a hundred Germans and a hundred Italians.
- b) 200 Czechs, 88 Israelis, a hundred Germans and a hundred Italians.
- c) 300 Czechs, 1 88 Israelis, two hundred Germans and a hundred Italians.

7. The Russian emergency ministry cargo plane landed in

- a) Moscow late in the morning with 17 holiday-makers evacuated from tsunami stricken Indonesia.
- b) Moscow early in the evening with 17 holiday-makers evacuated from tsunami stricken India.
- c) Moscow early this morning with 1 8 holiday-makers evacuated from tsunami stricken Sri Lanka.

Ukraine

II. Answer the multiple choice questions:

8. What did Yushchenko tell in his supporters in his speech?

- a) Any meeting of an illegitimate government can be allowed to take place.
- b) No meeting of an illegitimate government can be allowed to take place.
- c) No meeting of the legitimate government can be allowed to take place.

9. What do preliminary results of the elections show?

- a) Yushchenko has taken 44% of the vote with Yanukovych on roughly 52%.
- b) Yushchenko has taken 52% of the vote with Yanukovych on roughly 44%.
- c) Yushchenko has taken 54% of the vote with Yanukovych on roughly 42%.

10. What is Prime Minister Yanukovych's reaction to the results of the elections?

- a) He has refused to concede defeat even though he has been sacked by Parliament.
- b) He has agreed to the results even though he has been sacked by Parliament.
- c) He has conceded defeat even though he has been sacked by Parliament.

11. What did Yanukovych do in response?

- a) He launched a new satellite.
- b) He launched complaints of the election commission and the country's top court.
- c) He launched a new election campaign due to the alleged violations during the presidential poll.

IRAQ

12. How did security forces comment on the blast in Baghdad?

- a) It may have been carried out by insurgents blamed for numerous attacks across Baghdad.

- b) It may have been carried out by Arab terrorists blamed for numerous attacks across Baghdad.
- c) It may have been carried out by foreign terrorists blamed for numerous attacks across Iraq.

MIDEAST

13. What did Mahmoud Abbas stress in his rally ahead of Palestinian presidential elections?

- a) He seeks a state through a war with Israel.
- b) He seeks a state through talks with Israel.
- c) He seeks a state through the referendum.

III. Decide whether these statements are true or false:

Susan Sontag

- 14. American literature is mourning the writer Susan Sontag who is dying of lumbago at the age of 71.
- 15. Ambivalence and complexity are characteristic of the relationship between the USA and Europe.
- 16. She wrote 17 works in total which have been translated into more than 40 languages.
- 17. Europe stock markets are mostly down on the day.
- 18. Damages claim from the disaster would be more than 100 million euros`.
- 19. Oil companies shares lost value as the price of crude continues to rise.
- 20. Euro again reached its record against dollar: 1 dollar 36-46.

VIDEO TEST 6

I. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

Climate Summit

1. The biggest climate summit

- a) is sure to sign a treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol.
- b) is unlikely to do anything significant.
- c) is likely to result in a deal.

Climate: Wildlife threat

2. If the world fails to act,

- a) the World Wild Fund for Nature will go extinct in the next several decades.
- b) one third of species might disappear soon.
- c) the elephants will expand their living space.

3. According to the WWF plan,

- a) the economies of developing countries will grow more slowly than those of industrialized countries.

- b) both industrialized and emerging economies are expected to reduce emissions.
- c) all countries should make a commitment to destroy 36 football pitches.

3. The WWF argues that

- a) deforestation is responsible for 50 % of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- b) every minute the forest area as big as 36 football pitches is destroyed.
- c) by 2020 the emissions will be reduced by 75 %.

Romania

4. Trian Basescu was officially declared the winner in Romania's presidential election

- a) after his landslide victory.
- b) after a narrow victory.
- c) due to his involvement in corruption.

5. It can be inferred from the news that

- a) an IMF rescue plan was postponed and might be suspended longer.
- b) political stability will enable the country to get some financial assistance from the IMF.
- c) the new government might add more pressure to the political uncertainty.

Greece

6. The riots in Greece

- a) marked the first anniversary of the police killing a teenage youth who injured the Dean of the university.
- b) required 600 riot police on the streets to prevent violence escalation.
- c) grew into massive dissatisfaction with the unemployment rate and the decline of economy.

Bolivia

7. Evo Morales

- a) belongs to the left wing which is against state control over economy.
- b) is in the opposition to the left wing.
- c) owes his landslide victory to the Indians.

8. It can be inferred from the news that

- a) Evo Morales won 63 per cent of the vote while Manfred Reyes Villa got 36 per cent.
- b) Morales' closest rival got only 27 per cent of the votes.
- c) Evo Morales fabricated the results of the vote.

9. The president elect

- a) is accused of abusing his power before the election.
- b) is unlikely to make Congress more cooperative in carrying out economic reforms.
- c) is thought to neglect his promise to help the poor during his five-year second term.

Iraq

10. It is reported that

- a) Iraq's parliament failed to overcome the political crisis.
- b) the adopted law will let ethnic and religious minorities have their say.
- c) the seats in parliament were redistributed evenly between MPs and Sunni and Kurdish minorities.

11. The elections

- a) will have prevented the USA from ending combat operations by next August.
- b) will enable the Iraqi military to take over security from the US.
- c) will exacerbate (обострять) deep sectarian divides in the country.

Iran-UK

12. Five British yachtsmen arrested by Iran have been released

- a) because there were clear parallels to British military seized in Iranian waters two years ago.
- b) because they drifted towards the Iranian island to take control over it.
- c) because there was no malicious intent in their actions.

Iran

13. In its bid to go nuclear

- a) Iran is planning to build ten uranium enrichment sites with Russia's support.
- b) Iran might turn out to be alone as Russia is going to comply with international sanctions, as it was reported from an unidentified source.
- c) Iran is ready for discussions as it was stated in president's defiant rhetoric.

USA- Afghanistan

14. American troops in Afghanistan

- a) will be withdrawn next summer.
- b) will significantly increase in number.
- c) will instigate another conflict.

15. According to Obama, this troop surge is not another Vietnam because:

- a) its legitimacy is supported by all the nations in the world.
- b) insurgency movement in Afghanistan is not so broad and popular as in Vietnam.
- c) his strategy will make his reputation as a strong commander-in-chief.

II. Decide whether these statements are true or not:

Lisbon Treaty

16. The Lisbon Treaty ratification was delayed even though it was signed two years ago.
17. The EU leaders' Council will choose a full-time president on January, 1.
18. Belgian Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy will be a foreign policy chief with broad powers.
19. These political figures are expected to improve the EU's world image so as to match its economic power.
20. The officials said the EU would concentrate on overcoming the economic and financial crisis.

VIDEO TEST 7

I. Choose the best completion to the following statements.

- 1. The USA-Italian leaders want**
 - a) to put a ban on country members.
 - b) to put a strain on allies' relationships.
 - c) to impose embargo on Iraq.
- 2. Berlusconi urged George Bush against**
 - a) invading Kosovo.
 - b) invading Iraq.
 - c) invading Serbia.
- 3. Berlusconi's decision to send troops to Iraq**
 - a) was welcomed by Italians.
 - b) helped him to win the elections.
 - c) was unpopular at home.
- 4. After the parliamentary elections in Poland**
 - a) fierce economic reforms will continue.
 - b) fierce economic reforms will be hastened.
 - c) fierce economic reforms will be slowed.
- 5. Both political groups emerged from**
 - a) pro-communist solidarity movement.
 - b) anti-communist solidarity movement.
 - c) anti-capitalist solidarity movement.
- 6. Today these two groups seem**
 - a) to be the closest in their political stance.
 - b) to be different in their political stance.
 - c) to be complete opponents.
- 7. The disorders in France started because**

- a) 3 teenagers were electrocuted.
- b) 2 teenagers were electrocuted.
- c) 5 teenagers were electrocuted.

8. The Interior Minister is to meet

- a) the ministers of the Cabinet.
- b) the President.
- c) the parents of the children.

9. Greek Authorities will

- a) lift a ban on bacon movement in Kayos region.
- b) b)lift a ban on people's movement in Kayos region.
- c) lift a ban on poultry movement in Kayos region.

10. The virus is potentially dangerous in

- a) Romania and Israel.
- b) Turkey and Poland.
- c) Romania and Turkey.

11. The pro-British loyalist volunteer force ordered their units

- a) to stand against.
- b) to stand down.
- c) to stand by.

12. Other protestants could

- a) break the peace agreement.
- b) follow the suit.
- c) c)continue military action.

13. The final results of the elections are to be announced on

- a) Sunday.
- b) Wednesday.
- c) Monday.

14. The situation is degenerated into a running battle with

- a) opponents.
- b) security forces.
- c) military forces.

15. The people in Cote d'Ivoire are

- a) protesting against President's result to remain in power.
- b) welcoming the newly-elected President.
- c) protesting against new economic reforms.

16. The President stated that he would never allow

- a) decapitation of the state.
- b) disorientation of the state.
- c) disqualification of the state.

17. The country was split by

- a) confrontation of the parties.
- b) wars.
- c) the President.

18. Spain's future queen gave a birth to her

- a) first child.
- b) second child.
- c) third child.

19. The baby weighed

- a) 3,600g.
- b) 3,500g.
- c) 3,400g.

20. Spain's future queen gave a birth to the baby

- a) after 17 months they had married.
- b) after 18 months they had married.
- c) after 20 month they had married.

VIDEO TEST 8

I. Choose the best completion of these statements:

Algeria

1. Several people who are reported to be injured in a roadside bombing

- a) were foreigners working in Algeria.
- b) six Algerians.
- c) two foreigners and a few Algerians.

2. The bombing followed Al-Qaida's #2 appeal for

- a) ridding North Africa of French and Spanish nationals.
- b) cleaning North Africa with the help of French and Spanish nationals.
- c) invading North Africa.

3. What made two French citizens leave the country is

- a) the injures they got in the bombing.
- b) the fear to be kidnapped.

- c) the threat to be killed.

Lebanon

4. Antoine Ghanem, who was killed in Beirut car bombing,

- a) was the former president of the country.
- b) was the seventh after a series of assassinations of anti-Syrian MPs.
- c) was the only victim of the bombing.

5. According to the news,

- a) all the blame is put on Damascus which admitted its involvement.
- b) Damascus condemned the bombing and denied its involvement in it.
- c) the victim's allies accused Damascus of the blast without any grounds.

6. It is believed that

- a) the elections will not take place because of the absence of rival leaders.
- b) the elections will go ahead in the absence of rivalry between two leaders.
- c) due to the rivalry between two leaders the elections are unlikely to proceed.

7. It is said that choosing a new president two months before Emile Lahoud's term expires is seen as

- a) a step towards an endless political crisis.
- b) reconciliation attempts after a long political crisis.
- c) a vital step towards the Civil War.

8. Analysts are speculating on

- a) how many pro-Syrian MP's are involved in assassinations.
- b) the number of anti-Syrians to be killed to reduce the ruling party majority.
- c) how many members of opposition will be needed to be killed.

9. According to the footage,

- a) there were 74 casualties of the blast.
- b) the blast killed only 4 people.
- c) 20 kg dynamite was enough to injure 70 people.

10. The portrait of the perpetrator was established

- a) thanks to the bank's workers.
- b) witnesses of the blast.
- c) surveillance cameras.

II. Decide whether these statements are true or not:

Afghanistan

11. The Taliban admitted its involvement in the bomb attack.
12. The list of casualties comes to several soldiers.

13. The blast set a military bus ablaze.
14. 40 militants were killed in a joint operation.
15. The purpose of the mission was to clear insurgents from the region and to establish control over the river.
16. 6 people were killed on Thursday.
17. The total of civilians killed in Afghanistan is more than 50.
18. Afghanistan has seen a steady rise in violence in the past two years since 2001.

VIDEO TEST 9

Study the following words:

Hike – a sharp increase, especially in price or cost.

Stance – the attitude of a person or organization towards something, a standpoint.

Revulsion- a sense of disgust and loathing.

Condemn – express complete disapproval of; censure.

Crack down on – take severe measures against.

Complicity – the fact or condition of being involved with others in an unlawful activity.

I. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

Myanmar

1. **On the 11th consecutive day, the army is trying**
 - a) to suppress the military regime in Myanmar.
 - b) to play the deadly game of cat and mouse.
 - c) to prevent demonstrations.
2. **According to the news, the uprising in August**
 - a) was caused by the monks who showed a sign to South-Eastern Asian Nations.
 - b) was the only one on this scale in impoverished South-Eastern Asia.
 - c) was due to the hikes in fuel price.
3. **According to the official data,**
 - a) several people have been detained in raids on monasteries.
 - b) at least ten people died.
 - c) death toll is hundreds and real figure may be higher.
4. **Japan has launched an investigation**
 - a) into the death of the Japanese photographer.
 - b) into the brutal repression of Myanmar's military junta.
 - c) in order to confirm whether the photographer was the first foreign victim or not.

5. The video showing him being shot during the demonstration

- a) was smuggled out of the country.
- b) was shot in August.
- c) proves him to be the initiator of the demonstration.

6. The reason why it is unknown if he was there officially or not is that

- a) he didn't have a visa.
- b) Myanmar rarely issues visas.
- c) Myanmar issued him a visa.

7. Japan has been criticized in the past

- a) for their alliance with leaders.
- b) for not having a firm stance against the regime.
- c) for suspending humanitarian aid as the killing was deliberate.

8. The Association of South-Eastern Asian Nations

- a) criticizes its members directly.
- b) expressed revulsion at criticism.
- c) expressed disapproval of repression.

9. Showing solidarity with the people of Myanmar,

- a) riot police was called to challenge the Myanmar Embassy in Australia.
- b) protestors in Manila condemned the monks.
- c) the clergy in Bangkok called for an end of shooting and freedom of political prisoners.

Pirates

10. Pirates in the Gulf of Aden

- a) have spilled the oil from the tanker into the sea.
- b) continued hijacking ships after capturing a massive oil tanker 'Sirius star'.
- c) have started negotiations with Thailand, Hong Kong and Greece.

11. It can be inferred from the news that

- a) that countries did nothing to prevent anchoring the ship in the pirate's haven.
- b) the pirates suffered some losses.
- c) the officials in the region, adhering to their promises, are cracking down on pirates.

US

12. Barack Obama has become the target of Al-Qaeda

- a) because he officially urged Christians to continue attacks on Islam.
- b) for his declaring to support Israel during his presidential campaign.
- c) For being half-Islamic and half-Christian.

Russia

13. The constitutional amendment

- a) is thought to bring the possibility of a return to the top for former president a step closer.
- b) has caused happiness among the opposition.
- c) is aimed at extending the presidential term to 5 years.

14. It can be inferred from the news that

- a) Putin is eager to return to presidency.
- b) the top leadership wants to announce early elections.
- c) the amendment was put forward by the Putin's protégé and successor.

Anna Politkovskaya

15. It is reported that

- a) an open trial of the men accused of complicity in the killing was revoked on Monday.
- b) Jury members refused to support the judge's decision.
- c) the accused did not want to be identified.

VIDEO TEST 10

Study the following words:

Impasse – a situation in which no progress is possible, especially because of disagreement; a deadlock.

Unanimity – agreement by all people involved; consensus.

Exempt – free (a person or organization) from an obligation or liability imposed on others.

1. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

EU Summit

1. The EU leaders emerged embracing and slapping each other on the back in sheer relief because

- a) they reached a consensus on a new treatment of the crisis.
- b) a new European Treaty was adopted by general consent.
- c) it was the second day of their gathering.

2. According to the Portuguese PM,

- a) the agreement will undermine confidence in Europe's future.
- b) the members got themselves into a blind alley.
- c) the block got out of the impasse.

3. Clinching a deal

- a) was rejected by French and Dutch voters.
- b) prevented Poland from delaying EU decisions by unanimity.
- c) gives a chance to move amendments to the Constitution.

EU Summit Treaty

4. The Treaty

- a) incorporates the key changes in the flag, anthem and other symbols.
- b) stipulates the reforms in the Constitution.
- c) exempted Britain from being a member state.

5. According to the new changes, the Minister of Foreign Affairs will not

- a) report to the EU governments.
- b) have power over the EU external aid budget.
- c) walk off in case a member state is attacked.

6. Qualified majority voting will be defined

- a) as 65 per cent of the EU's population.
- b) as 15 per cent of the EU population.
- c) as 55 per cent of the EU population.

7. The redistribution of seats in the European Parliament resulted in

- a) Italy's and Britain's equal number of seats
- b) an enlarged EU population.
- c) giving France fewer seats.

8. According to the Treaty,

- a) the number of seats will be 750 including the parliament's president.
- b) the European Council will be chaired by a President appointed for two and a half years, renewable once.
- c) the President of the European Council will be chosen for 6 months in rotation.

Bhutto

9. Last night's attack against Mrs. Bhutto in Karachi

- a) totaled the casualties to more than 430.
- b) proved that Islamic terrorists have nothing to do with it.
- c) was organized by the state or the government.

10. The bomber managed to get through the cordon

- a) because no police forces were involved to protect Mrs. Bhutto.
- b) with the help of security men.
- c) in spite of 20 000 police and security men.

11. According to the news,

- a. Mrs. Bhutto has been negotiating with President Pervez Musharraf over a possible power-sharing deal.
- b. Mrs. Bhutto doesn't want to work with President Pervez Musharraf.

- c. will leave Pakistan because of the attack.

Philippines

12. The blast in Manila

- a. killed 70.
- b. was deliberate.
- c. was caused by gasoline in a restaurant.

Paedophilia

13. The man accused of being the world's most wanted paedophile

- a) was caught in Cambodia.
- b) was detained in South Korea.
- c) was traced off Bangkok via calls on a mobile phone.

14. Interpol shot unprecedented global arrest warrant

- a. after his victim's claim of being sexually abused.
- b. because his face was digitally camouflaged on the Internet.
- c. thanks to the hackers.

15. It can be inferred from the news that

- a. Christopher Neil will end up in jail in Canada as the country will seek his extradition.
- b. Christopher Neil can be prosecuted in Thailand.
- c. sex crimes committed abroad result in 20 years in jail.

VIDEO TEST 11

Study the following words:

Concerted – jointly arranged or carried out; coordinated.

Unilateral – (of an action or decision) performed by or affecting only person, group, or country involved in a situation, without the agreement of another or the others.

Aggravate – make (a problem, injury, or offence) worse or more serious.

Do a roaring trade –do very good business.

Hindrance – thing that provides resistance, delay, or obstruction to something or someone.

Pillage – rob (a place) using violence, especially in wartime.

Assault – make a physical attack on.

1. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

Financial Crisis

1. According to the news, the financial crisis on Wall Street

- a) and Tokyo's drop took the Nikkei to the lowest point since 1997.
- b) ended up in the Dow Jones index falling below 8.000 points.
- c) was brought on by the plunge of South Korean and Australian markets.

2. Massive central bank intervention

- a) is urgent to prevent the global recession.
- b) is bound to stem the panic.
- c) might not save the whole world from recession.

Financial Crisis- IMF

3. The International Monetary Fund chief

- a) encouraged countries to take unilateral action to fight the crisis.
- b) stressed that a collective fund to combat a crisis is a must.
- c) urged countries to take concerted actions.

4. Dominique Strauss-Khan used the Irish government's action as an example

- a) to follow.
- b) to show that a country can't solve the problem by bailouts if other countries can't do the same.
- c) to explain that the Irish aggravated their neighbors' problems.

5. It is reported that

- a) the UK is going to take over its banks, its own version of a federal bailout.
- b) the Dutch government plans to inject billions into its banking system.
- c) Fortis will be supported by the government.

6. The President of the World Bank

- a) thinks that the G7 group should be enlarged.
- b) acknowledged that the World Bank needs better equipment.
- c) admits that the current world leadership structure has a great potential to deal with the global crisis.

Financial Crisis- Security

7. The financial crisis

- a. is not a hindrance for some businesses to do a roaring trade in the UK.
- b. boosted investments in Germany.
- c. revealed scarcity of gold for investments.

NATO

8. NATO summit in Budapest

- a) expressed its readiness to provide help for Somalia.
- b) couldn't address the problem quickly due to the financial crisis.

- c) stopped its work immediately.

9. According to the news,

- a) Somali pirates deprive half of the population of food and aid supplies.
- b) a group of seven ships will be sent to this region to tackle Somali pirates.
- c) 40% of the population lives on pirates' pillage.

10. Somali pirates

- a) have allies in the north of the country.
- b) have their representatives in the government.
- c) hired a Ukrainian cargo with weapons and tanks to support them.

Lithuania

11. Lithuania

- a) has had coalition governments since it became independent.
- b) has experienced a steady growth rate since 1991.
- c) has 6 political parties.

12. One analyst thinks that

- a) the Social Democratic Party will play a dominant role.
- b) no party will play a dominant role.
- c) the coalition will be comprised of 12 or 16 parties.

13. The referendum which is much awaited

- a. will decide the future of the Ignalina nuclear power station.
- b. will convince the EU to extend the life of the plant.
- c. is only consultative and the station will be closed anyway.

14. Kosovo

- a) has received a hard blow from its former province.
- b) has been recognized by Montenegro and Macedonia.
- c) has been recognized only by 40 western countries.

15. Libya decided to stop all economic cooperation with Switzerland

- a) in response to the financial crisis.
- b) because of the way the police in Geneva mistreat the country's diplomats.
- c) as a result of diplomatic misunderstanding.

16. Hannibal Gaddafi

- a) was arrested on suspicion of assaulting two domestic workers.
- b) arrested two employees.
- c) was accused of withdrawing all assets in Swiss banks, some 5 billion euros worth.

II. Decide whether these statements are true or false:

17. H5N1 virus killed the whole poultry farm near Dresden.
18. Hu Jia, a leading contender for the Nobel Peace Prize, is an outlaw in China.
19. The Chinese foreign ministry spokesman made it clear that naming Hu Jia the winner will contradict the purpose of the prize.
20. Lidia Yusupova is known as a champion of the Beijing Olympics.

VIDEO TEST 12

Study the following words:

Ally – a state formally cooperating with another for a military or other purpose.

Notorious – famous or well known, typically for some bad quality or deed.

I. Choose the best completion of these statements:

Russia- Georgia

1. **The information about the blast**
 - a) was reported by the Defence Minister.
 - b) was confirmed by the Defence Minister.
 - c) came from South Osetia authorities.
2. **The bomb exploded**
 - a) near the barracks.
 - b) on the borderline.
 - c) at the headquarters of Russian troops.

UK

3. **When T. Blair was in power, Mandleson used to be**
 - a) Trade Secretary.
 - b) Northern Ireland Secretary.
 - c) T. Blair's assistant.
4. **According to the news,**
 - a) Mandleson helped drive the party to power in 1997.
 - b) he was fired because of his fall out with the Prime Minister.
 - c) one of the reasons why Mandleson was fired once was his meddling with European Commission affairs.
5. **Mandleson's return is dramatic because**
 - a. he has become the minister for the 2nd time.
 - b. he is back in government for the 3rd time.
 - c. he has come to ruin G. Brown's political image.

6. It can be inferred from the news that Mandleson

- a) has been one of the most divisive figures in British politics.
- b) will remain in politics until the Prime Minister throws a dice at him.
- c) has been the Prime Minister's faithful ally.

Crisis

7. Mini Summit

- a) declared that they had found a solution to the financial crisis.
- b) calls for stricter control and coordinated economic efforts.
- c) has become a European response to the crisis.

8. According to the news,

- a) the U.S. and Thailand provide a strategy which will work wonderfully for Europe
- b) all European governments should guarantee their banks.
- c) what worked well for other countries won't do for Europe.

9. It is reported that France

- a) is the first country to experience recession.
- b) is suffering economic contraction including job employment stall and house sales drop.
- c) experienced a significant economic growth in the 2nd quarter.

10. Mr. Plane says that recession

- a) affects only wealthy people.
- b) undermines everything in economy.
- c) leads to a low risk of investments.

11. Germany

- a) is tittering on the brink of war.
- b) is coming out of the recession.
- c) is feeling strain in its exports.

II. Decide whether these statements are true or false:

Vice-Presidential Debates

12. The duel between rookie Democrat Joe Biden and the experienced Republican Sarah Palin has been eagerly awaited.

13. It was Biden who struck first, attacking John McCain over the US financial crisis.

14. Two Mondays ago at 9 o'clock John McCain foresaw the decline in the US economy and at 11 o'clock his statement was confirmed.

15. Recent polls showed concerns about Palin's relative inexperience.

16. Not to be outdone, Palin attacked Barack Obama over tax and the war in Iraq.

17. Palina's performance in the debate evoked sympathy and attention among American voters. But she performed worse than it had been expected.

Dutroux

18. Dutroux is the name of the notorious place.
19. The pedophile kidnapped, raped and murdered 6 girls.
20. Dutroux was sentenced to life imprisonment.
21. The community expects the authorities to respect the memory of the site and come up with a project rather than sell the house.

VIDEO TEST 13

Study the following words:

Avert – prevent or ward off (an undesirable occurrence).

Tackle – make determined efforts to deal with (a problem or difficult task).

I. Decide whether these statements are true or not:

Financial Crisis

1. The investors responded negatively to the government's decision to fund the banking system of the US.
2. Wall Street investors moved back into the buying mood because they are cheered by the fact that credit markets are showing signs of loosening up.
3. Investors moved back because last week Dow Jones showed the least ever index.
4. The US region shares showed 7% growth.
5. European stock markets reacted positively to the government's mood to rescue banking system.

II. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

Financial Crisis. Eurozone.

6. **Global moves to restore confidence to the money markets have paid off because:**
 - a) European governments agreed to strengthen their financial systems.
 - b) the exact figures of investments have already been announced.
 - c) it was clear that Eurozone countries expected at least the most powerful countries to accept their obligations.
7. **Sarkozy says that**
 - a) the market operators didn't realize the scale of challenge.

- b) the leaders of Eurozone have made an unprecedented effort to tackle the crisis.
- c) the market operators have already shown a sense of responsibility.

8. It can be assumed from the news that

- a. the German bank is going to rescue more than 600 bln. euros.
- b. German's rescue plan is being fast-tracked through by its parliament.
- c. Chancellor Merkel wouldn't issue a bank cheque.

9. It is believed that

- a) lessons should be learned from this crisis.
- b) the worst of the crisis hasn't been over.
- c) governments' actions mustn't be massive.

Financial Crisis: Germany

10. German government has committed to invest money.

- a) to support the banking industry interests.
- b) to protect the people's interests.
- c) to support the stability of the world's market system.

11. It is something of a u-turn for Chancellor Merkel who

- a) is still insisting she is not going to throw public money.
- b) is trying to restore the flow of loans to companies.
- c) had once said that she could not waste money on the problem.

Crisis: UK

12. 47 bln. euros of taxpayers' money

- a) will go into 2 major UK banks.
- b) will accelerate the process of merging of 3 UK banks.
- c) will go to bail out Royal Bank of Scotland, HBOS and TSB.

13. To return for getting public money

- a) the banks have to limit on executive pay.
- b) the banks have to limit on their dividends to shareholders.
- c) top bosses will not step down.

14. In extraordinary times,

- a) the government left people on their own.
- b) the government must be the rock of stability.
- c) the financial markets don't cease to work.

Nobel Prize

15. The prestigious prize recognized Krugman's

- a) criticism of Bush's administration.

- b) work as a prominent journalist in The New York Times.
- c) new theory of free trade and globalization.

16. In his works, Krugman

- a) doesn't praise the efforts world leaders in averting the global crisis.
- b) insists that the crisis should be even more terrifying.
- c) concentrates on the analysis of trade patterns of the countries who dominate in the world's trade.

17. The decision of France not to extradite a former member of Red Brigades terrorist group

- a) was due to her weakened state and depression
- b) weakens French resolve to fight terrorism
- c) was due to the support of Carla Bruni (the wife of French president) who spoke on behalf of Petrella.

18. This decision

- a) is reached because Petrella was not an accomplice in murdering and kidnapping.
- b) is disrespectful for the victims' relatives who stand on the side of the law and order.
- c) will be followed by vendetta and the Red Brigades campaign.

Video Test 14

Study the following words:

Rum - crash violently against something.

Deliberate – done consciously and intentionally.

Predecessor – a person who held a job or office before the current holder.

Bipartisan- involving the agreement or cooperation of two political parties that usually oppose each other's policies.

Secular – not connected with religious or spiritual matters.

Ardent – very enthusiastic or passionate.

I. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

France

1. According to the news,

- a) French anti-terror police are on the hunt for the famous terrorist organization.
- b) the search for the saboteurs comes after a high speed TGV train rammmed two concrete blocks placed on rails.
- c) French police are looking for vandals who blew up France's rail network.

2. It can be inferred from the news that

- a) the TGV was destroyed completely.
- b) the collision resulted in light damage to the train.
- c) the same train was hit several times later on Sunday night.

3. The vandalism

- a) was one in a series of sabotage incidents.
- b) has been proved to be a deliberate act of terrorism.
- c) has nothing to do with terrorism.

4. Severe delays

- a) affected only the TGV.
- b) were due to the damage inflicted on overhead electric cables.
- c) did not cause widespread chaos across France.

Italia

5. Italy's transport system unions

- a) have called a one-day strike to exert pressure on national contract talks.
- b) have called the 24 hour stoppage but offered additional services for tourists.
- c) have scheduled short breaks during the strike to allow commuters to stage their own demonstration.

Deutschland

6. Environmental protestors

- a) prevented the train with cargo of nuclear waste from arriving at the destination.
- b) managed to block the route of shipment of nuclear waste in Germany.
- c) failed to stop the shipment altogether.

7. It can be inferred from the news that

- a) the demonstrators later turned their attention to the lorries intended to transport the waste, chaining themselves to them.
- b) the demonstrators forced a delay of 24 hours.
- c) the toxic material was treated in Gorleben, Germany.

Iraq

8. Iraq's relative stability

- a) has shattered a 13-year-old girl.
- b) has been terminated by violence.
- c) has been shaky lately.

9. The blasts in the Kasra district

- a) left 28 dead and 17 injured.

- b) were caused by a car bomb.
- c) resulted in almost 100 casualties.

10. It can be inferred from the news that

- a) Iraq has witnessed a dramatic decrease in violence over the past year.
- b) bomb attacks are characteristic of daily life in Baghdad.
- c) massive strikes on military targets and civilians never happen at all.

11. The sequence of events is as follows:

- a) A car was blown up and some people died. A second device in another car went off and more people died.
- b) A car blew up causing 4 deaths. A crowd of people gathered and another device went off and killed a 13-year-old girl who was in the middle of the crowd.
- c) A car blew up and killed 4 people. A 13-year-old girl, who was among those who rushed to help the victims, blew herself up and the blast inflicted many deaths.

USA

12. It is expected that

- a) Barack Obama will touch upon economy in Iraq and Afganistan in his briefing.
- b) will set foot in the White House for the first time.
- c) will be toured around the White House by his predecessor.

13. It has been made clear that as soon as Barack Obama takes office

- a) new administration will reinforce several policies decided by George W. Bush.
- b) some policies will be inverted by executive order.
- c) stem cell research and oil drilling will be banned.

14. Obama has promised

- a) that bipartisanship will be the basis for the Cabinet.
- b) to reverse the interior design of the Oval Office.
- c) to make the Cabinet by partisan approach.

Turkey

15. Turks have been paying tribute to Mustafa Kemal Ataturk

- a) who transformed the country into a secular state.
- b) who supported the ruling AK Party.
- c) who died at the age of 70.

16. A recent film on Ataturk's life

- a) has portrayed him as an ardent follower of his religion.
- b) has portrayed his strengths, fondness for women being among them.
- c) has caused a contradiction between a revered figure and a drinker, among other flaws.

II. Decide whether these statements are true or false

Miriam Makeba

17. South African singer Miriam Makeba collapsed right on the stage in Italy.
18. She became famous in 1959 in America.
19. She was awarded Grammy Award for proper wording of anti-racism movement.
20. "Mama Africa" had a happy life except for the death of her daughter.

VIDEO TEST 15

Study the following words:

Trafficking – dealing or trading in something illegal.

Exaggerate – represent (something) as being larger, greater, better, or worse than it really is.

I. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

Rwanda

1. People in Rwandan capital Kigali

- a) are protesting against the extradition to France of their president.
- b) are besieging the French embassy and the German radio station.
- c) are expressing their objection to the unlawful treatment of one of the country's officials.

2. The reason for the arrest of Rose Kabuye is

- a) that she is one of those who killed Rwandan former president in 1994.
- b) her participation in preparation of a European tour for Rwandan president Paul Kagame.
- c) that she accuses nine French officials of complicity in the assassination of Juvenal Habyarimana.

3. According to the reporter,

- a) Rwandan president initiated an anti-French campaign by breaking off diplomatic relations and substituting French for English in schools.
- b) 80 000 people turned out to be victims of genocide.
- c) France is viewed by Rwandan people as an ally.

UK

4. New government proposals

- a) are a crackdown on prostitution in general.
- b) will make prostitution controlled by a pimp (сутенер) or a trafficker illegal.
- c) will prosecute men paying for sex.

5. Some officials think that

- a) the law will reduce the demand and supply of trafficked women.

- b) the bill will solve the problem altogether.
- c) the changes will liberate women.

6. However, critics say that

- a) women will be put at risk even more.
- b) women might report rape and other violence to scare unreliable clients away.
- c) the bill will drive the sex industry to the tube instead of streets.

7. It can be assumed that

- a) sex trade is not restricted at all in Britain.
- b) sex trade is allowed in brothels (публичный дом) and on the streets.
- c) accosting a person with an offer of sexual relations in return for money is not a violation.

España

8. According to the news,

- a) a Spanish entrepreneur was shot dead in his attack against ETA
- b) the armed separatist group ETA is responsible for the death of the Basque businessman.
- c) the town of Azpeitia was under the attack of ETA terrorists.

9. The company the businessman worked for

- a) has been involved in building a new high-speed rail line
- b) has never been threatened before
- c) has disrupted construction work on high-speed railway several times.

10. The terrorists claim that

- a) they will protest against other projects in the Basque country.
- b) the rail line is not in the interests of the Basque people.
- c) the company will do damage to the environment if the company continues the project.

UK

11. It is reported that

- a) Queen Elizabeth II attended state openings of Parliament every year except for 1949 and 1963 when she was pregnant with Prince Charles and Prince Andrew.
- b) the main issues addressed by Her Majesty were crime and world economic crisis.
- c) modern day politics has nothing to do with the historical ceremony.

Cholera

12. The cholera epidemic is sweeping Zimbabwe

- a) but morbidity and mortality are low thanks to well-prepared health system.
- b) the government is exaggerating the death toll so as to get more international aid.
- c) the exact number of victims is unknown because the government doesn't reveal the information.

13. Many people have fled to South Africa

- a) otherwise they won't survive.
- b) because they want to set up temporary medical centers along the border.
- c) to escape from President Mugabe's regime.

14. Cholera

- a) is not a deadly disease provided there is treatment and clean water.
- b) has brought Zimbabwe to the edge of collapse.
- c) has brought on unrestrained inflation.

Financial Crisis: Wall Street

15. It is reported that

- a) US Stocks did not react to private companies' jobs cuts.
- b) November witnessed the biggest number of axed jobs in 7 years.
- c) figures are not so bad as expected.

Financial Crisis: Euro Zone

16. Retail sales

- a) fell more in October than in November.
- b) are an index of supply.
- c) fell dramatically because they are manifestation of consumers' fears.

17. The reason for the dropping consumer demand

- a) is neither inflation nor job insecurity.
- b) is the fall of oil prices.
- c) is not only inflation but also job insecurity and expected interest rates cut.

18. Companies in Britain and Germany

- a) can easily borrow money due to interest rates cuts.
- b) find it difficult and costly to borrow money from banks.
- c) are not experiencing any problem now thanks to huge bank rescue packages.

Iraq

19. The blasts in Iraq

- a) came when people were standing in line to become members of the police.
- b) have become more frequent over the last year.
- c) claimed no casualties.

20. It can be inferred from the news that

- a) US forces will not leave Iraq next year.
- b) US troops will be withdrawn from the country after Iraq's government passes a pact.
- c) Iraq doesn't want to take over responsibility from US troops.

VIDEO TEST 16

Study the following words:

Bury the hatchet – end a quarrel or conflict and become friendly.

Stampede – a sudden rapid movement or reaction of a mass of people in response to a particular circumstance or stimulus.

Trample – tread on and crush.

Bailout – an act of giving financial assistance to a falling business or economy to save it from collapse.

Austerity – difficult economic conditions created by government measures to reduce a budget deficit, esp. by reducing public expenditure.

Turmoil – a state of great disturbance, confusion or uncertainty.

Rigging- manipulating something so as to produce a result or situation to their advantage.

I. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

Koreas

1. As a result of artillery fire from North Korea

- a. one South Korean soldier was killed and three seriously injured
- b. one South Korean soldier was killed and 14 injured
- c. dozens of South Koreans were killed and 17 injured

2. It is reported that

- a) the South Korean government held an emergency meeting in a bunker
- b) all the residents of the island were evacuated to the mainland
- c) Seoul fired 200 shells in retaliation

3. South Korea's president intends

- a) to stop escalation of violence in the region
- b) to continue artillery firing as North Korean's actions are illegal and provocative
- c) to bury the hatchet and launch a negotiation process with Pyongyang

4. The US ruled out de-nuclearisation talks with North Korea

- a) because Pyongyang violated the agreement about nuclear weapons
- b) because Pyongyang instigated a conflict with Seoul
- c) until Pyongyang stopped its work at the uranium enrichment plant

Koreas: Seoul reactions

5. The first South Korean interviewee thinks that

- a. war has broken out

- b. he might be called up in the army as a reservist
- c. the government will declare war on North Korea

6. There was a cross border shooting accident

- a. between US soldiers and North Korea
- b. after a G-20 summit in Seoul
- c. on the eve of a G-20 summit in Seoul

Cambodia

7. According to the news story, at a festival in Cambodia

- a) 340 people were electrocuted in a stampede
- b) hundreds of people were drowned because of the collapse of a small bridge
- c) several people were trampled to death

8. Cambodia's authorities

- a) launched an investigation into the tragedy
- b) expressed sympathy to the relatives who frantically searched for family members
- c) ordered police to stop chaos

Ireland

9. The Irish prime minister declared about

- a) the government collapse before measures were pushed through
- b) the support of his party members and determination to complete the undertaken job
- c) the support of Parliament ahead of an austerity budget

10. Though the Green Party called for a January election,

- a) the coalition government will likely fall at the ballot
- b) they are unlikely to win
- c) the winds of political change will not affect the country

Ireland: reaction

11. The European Commission

- a) will give the assistance loan to Ireland on rigorous conditions
- b) have doubts whether support to Ireland will give financial stability to the Eurozone
- c) haven't come to any conclusion on the situation in Ireland

12. The EU officials are disappointed because

- a) Greece refused to accept Euro bailout
- b) Greece asks for a bailout again
- c) Greece failed to stop the financial turmoil in the country

13. Portugal hopes that

- a) the Irish deal will set an example to other Euro members
- b) receiving a bailout will enable it to make its own decisions
- c) its own austerity package will solve the financial problems

II. Decide whether these statements are true or false:

New Zealand

- 14. The rescue operation suffered a setback as the robot sent to the mine went out of order.
- 15. Air quality tests allowed rescuers to continue the operation.
- 16. The police official doesn't seem hopeful of finding anyone alive.
- 17. Though the miners have enough fresh air, food and water stored in the mine, they don't answer the phone.

Egypt

- 18. The Muslim Brotherhood is accused by the Egyptian government of rigging the vote.
- 19. 1200 members of the banned opposition group remain free, while 500 were detained.
- 20. The Human rights group called on the Egyptian president and the opposition group to provide free and fair elections.

VIDEO TEST 17

Study the following words:

Warrant – a document issued by a legal or government official authorizing the police or some other body to make an arrest, search premises, etc.

Condemn – express complete disapproval of, typically in public; censure.

Condone – accept and allow (behavior that is considered morally wrong or offensive).

Intimidate – frighten or overawe (someone), esp. in order to make them do what one wants.

I. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

Iraq

1. Both the Vatican and Russia call on Iraq's president Jalal Talabani

- a) to sign an execution order for Tareq Aziz
- b) to postpone the execution because of the ex-Iraqi foreign minister's health problems
- c) not to carry out the death penalty

2. It remains unclear whether

- a) president Talabani will be able to prevent the execution from being carried out
- b) president Talabani will be persecuted by Islamic parties

- c) the opposition party leader will sign the death warrant

Western Sahara-UN

3. The UN Security Council

- a) condemned a Moroccan police raid on a camp in Western Sahara
- b) condoned a deadly Moroccan police raid on the disputed territory
- c) backed rebel calls to investigate into the violence

4. According to the news story, peace talks between Morocco and the Polisario Front rebels

- a) sparked clashes where hundreds were killed
- b) might end in a deadlock because of the November 8 raid
- c) are suspended until a cease fire agreement is reached

5. After meeting with his Spanish counterpart, the Moroccan Interior Minister agreed

- a) to take control of Western Sahara
- b) to comply with any request from Spain to look into the raid
- c) to put an end to the bitter dispute with rebels

Germany

6. Germany is put on high alert

- a) due to false warnings of the intelligence service
- b) so work of airports and train stations has ground to a halt
- c) because of the Islamist militants plan to strike the country in November

7. Germany's Interior Minister

- a) feels intimidated by a sustained effort of terrorists
- b) spoke about visible and invisible security measures enforced in the country
- c) suggested closing external borders of the European visa-free travel zone

Europe Crisis

8. Eurozone Ministers met in Brussels in order to

- a) prepare the bailout package for the cash strapped Ireland
- b) to fund Ireland till the middle of the next year
- c) to force Ireland to accept the bailout from the EU

9. EU officials fear that

- a) the Irish problem could affect other vulnerable member states
- b) Dublin will have to increase taxes
- c) some provisions of the Lisbon Treaty will have to be amended

10. The Council is ready to make money available, but

- a) feels concerned about protests mounting in Ireland

- b) doesn't announce the exact amount of it
- c) demands that Ireland should enforce an austerity plan

Europe Crisis: Dublin

11. Ireland's Minister for European Affairs

- a) definitely knows when Ireland will take the bailout
- b) vehemently opposes the interference of the partners in Europe
- c) promised to consult Euro zone members on the matter of the bailout

II. Decide whether these statements are true or false:

Tuna

- 12. The Forum in Paris is expected to thrash out a deal for next five years.
- 13. Protesters want to impose tougher restrictions on tuna fishing.
- 14. The Greenpeace activist admits considerable reduction of fishing quotas over the past few years.
- 15. According to the union official, fishermen might stop fishing if quotas are reduced to 6000 tons per year.
- 16. France, Italy, Spain consume the greater part of bluefin tuna in the world market.

UNESCO: cultural heritage

- 17. UNESCO recognized French cuisine and Azerbaijan's carpet weaving as cultural heritage.
- 18. Belgian Alst carnival and Spanish flamenco are included into the list of 2003 treasures to be preserved for future generations.

Mark Twain

- 19. Mark Twain's three-part autobiography book came out one hundred years after his death.
- 20. The author wanted some portions of his autobiography withheld for 500 years.

VIDEO TEST 18

I. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

WikiLeaks

1. From the leaked secret diplomatic messages it has become known that

- a) Israel continually urges Washington to be strict with Iran's nuclear program.
- b) UN officials are spying on the USA's activities.
- c) Washington plans to start war with Iran.

2. According to the news report

- a) H. Clinton connected the foreign officials to apologize for the contents of the messages.
- b) the released information is considered either harmless or embarrassing.

- c) US secret services will be persecuted.

WikiLeaks: reaction

3. In his reaction to the leaks an American diplomat in Germany

- a) named those who committed a crime.
- b) blamed WikiLeaks for being irresponsible.
- c) confirmed the facts of distrust in diplomacy.

4. In Italy's Foreign Minister's opinion the attack

- a) will take many human lives.
- b) might trigger another 9/11 tragedy.
- c) struck at the heart of international diplomatic relationships.

Iran

5. Two attacks in Tehran claimed

- a) lives of two scientists involved in Iran's controversial nuclear program.
- b) a life of the scientist involved in Iran's controversial nuclear program.
- c) a life of the scientist who wasn't closely involved in Iran's controversial nuclear program.

6. Iranian media blame Israel for

- a) conspiring with the West.
- b) making controversial comments about today's attacks.
- c) today's attacks.

Afghanistan

7. The attacker is reported

- a) to have killed six soldiers during a training exercise.
- b) to have killed a man wearing a police uniform.
- c) to have shot dead six policemen.

EU bailout

8. Following the weekend's 85 billion euro bailout of Ireland

- a) banks in London, Frankfurt and Paris have made early gains.
- b) European banks opened up except those in Frankfurt and Paris.
- c) Japan's Nikkei opened down with investors suspending their operations.

9. EU finance ministers made efforts to defend euro, but

- a) for the time being it remains unsteady.
- b) the official of the European Central Bank doesn't think much of that.

- c) Portugal and Spain are feared to be new victims.

Cancun

10. It is reported that

- a) the Mexican President switched off power at the UN conference's hotel.
- b) last year's Copenhagen summit was criticized as a failure.
- c) Cancun summit has high expectations.

11. The emerging economies came under pressure

- a) from the Greenpeace to advance their economies.
- b) from the Mexican president to come up with something concrete.
- c) from the EU to cut their green house gas emissions.

II. Decide whether these statements are true or false:

Haiti

- 12. Six out of eighteen presidential candidates didn't complain of fraud.
- 13. People were allowed to vote without identity cards.
- 14. Though there was a clear favourite, he wouldn't go to a run-off in January.

III. Fill in the gaps using the words from the video:

Cote d'Ivoire

The second round of the first presidential elections for ten years has been held in Ivory Coast. The atmosphere is tense, and there has been (15) ____ violence. Initial results are expected later on Monday.

Ivory Coast, the world's largest producer of cocoa, was once considered (16) ____ of peace and prosperity in West Africa. But civil (17) ____ in 2002 changed all that. (18) ____ President Laurent Gbagbo faces former Prime Minister Alassane Outtara in a tight race that has led to simmering tension and conflict.

IV. Decide whether these statements are true or false:

Leslie Nielsen

- 19. Nielsen had several jobs before he became an actor.
- 20. In his on-screen career Nielsen appeared in more than 160 films.

VIDEO TEST 19

I. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

Iran

1. For murdering her husband's first wife Shalha Jahed

- a) was reportedly hanged in prison.

- b) was reportedly stabbed in prison.
- c) was sentenced to life imprisonment at Tehran's prison.

2. The plight of another Iranian woman caused an international outcry

- a) because she committed adultery.
- b) yet she was stoned to death.
- c) and her case will reportedly be reviewed.

OSCE

3. It is reported that

- a) Kazakhstan will host OSCE meetings for further ten years.
- b) Kazakhstan is seen by some campaigners as a wrong country to chair the OSCE organization.
- c) Kazakhstan has improved its human rights record.

4. Hillary Clinton called on the OSCE countries

- a) to participate more actively in resolving Afghan problems.
- b) to strengthen borders with the conflict-torn countries.
- c) to provide supply routes for NATO forces.

Bad Weather

5. Snow has covered

- a) large parts of Poland up to 130 cm since Monday.
- b) Warsaw up to 30 cm.
- c) European capitals not less than 30 cm.

6. The victims of the freezing temperatures are

- a) two people in Germany who were trying to get to work.
- b) road workers who were battling against the elements.
- c) two homeless people in Poland.

7. The Canary Islands' authorities

- a) can't cope with the bad weather.
- b) evacuated people from the stricken area.
- c) take measures to protect the avocado harvest.

WikiLeaks

8. The US wants to bring criminal charges against Julian Assange

- a) because he comes under legal pressure from several quarters.
- b) as he is suspected of violating espionage laws.
- c) unless the whistle-blowing website stops releasing sensitive information.

9. Interpol put WikiLeaks founder on wanted list though

- a) his whereabouts are not a mystery.
- b) this doesn't prevent WikiLeaks from further revelations.
- c) he was detained over rape allegations in Sweden.

10. This week there have been riveting disclosures about

- a) China's intentions to ditch its ally North Korea.
- b) the US intentions to bomb Iran over its nuclear program.
- c) the pharmaceutical industry and the Bank of America.

II. Fill in the gaps using the words from the video

Brasil

A so-called Police Pacification Unit has been set up to combat drug (11)_____ and violence in advance of the 2014 World Cup. The city's governor was adamant the new unit would rise to the (12) _____. Last Sunday some 800 troops and 1800 (13) _____ police launched a military style invasion to bring (14) _____ and _____ to the Complexo do Alemão slum. The operation left 50 dead and recovered significant (15) _____ of drugs and weapons.

III. Decide whether these statements are true or false:

USA: prison

- 16. At a privately-run US jail guards allegedly beat a prisoner unconscious.
- 17. The incident became known thanks to the surveillance footage.
- 18. The FBI probe proved that prisoner human rights were breached.

Gay Military

- 19. Currently homosexuals can serve in the army as long as they comply with "Don't Ask Don't Tell" law.
- 20. Despite being decorated and commended, Stacy Vasquez decided to leave the army as she constantly lived in fear.

VIDEO TEST 20

Study the following words:

Casualty- a person killed or injured in a war or accident.

Stunt – an action displaying spectacular skill and daring.

I. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

Concorde Crash

- 1. A French court ruled out that

- a) one of the Continental mechanics damaged Concorde's fuel tank.
- b) the US airline Continental is guilty of the Concorde crash ten years ago.
- c) Concorde's wheel went off and crashed into a Continental plane.

2. Continental is going

- a) to appeal as the verdict was not legally justified.
- b) to protect French interests.
- c) to accept the verdict though it is far removed from justice and the truth.

WikiLeaks

3. The revelations of the secret diplomatic messages

- a) can endanger pharmaceutical facilities in Denmark and other countries.
- b) can unveil major terrorist strongholds.
- c) can't be considered vitally important for US security.

Iran: nuclear talks

4. According to the report

- a) Iran disproved the news that it had produced its own raw uranium.
- b) the UN intends to impose sanctions on Tehran for the first time.
- c) Iran avoided four rounds of UN sanctions.

5. The negotiations between Iran and key world powers about Tehran's nuclear program

- a) have been underway for more than a year.
- b) were suspended more than a year ago.
- c) are believed to end in a breakthrough.

Pakistan

6. First reports of the suicide bomb attack tell

- a) about forty casualties.
- b) about 100 casualties, 40 tribal leaders among them.
- c) about explosions at the entrance of the building and inside it.

7. Though there have been more than 400 bomb attacks over the past three years

- a) the Pakistani Taliban movement has reportedly been weakened.
- b) top government officials have never been reported injured.
- c) the tribal area of Mohmand has never been hit.

Cote d'Ivoire

8. Laurent Gbagbo, Ivory Coast's president is urged

- a) by his former prime minister to retain presidential power.
- b) by his rival to form a coalition government.

c) by the international community to quit.

9. In order to ease tension following the election

- a) the newly appointed premier Soro declared about a peaceful handover of power.
- b) Alassane Quattara's government decided to relinquish office.
- c) the African Union sent a mediator to the country.

10. The election in Ivory Coast

- a) led to an end of a ten year crisis between the west and the south of the country.
- b) resulted in two pretenders appointing their own governments.
- c) removed the country from the verge of renewed conflict .

India-France

11. It is a successful visit to India for Sarkozy as France agreed a deal

- a) to supply India with 22 nuclear reactors.
- b) to supply India with 2 nuclear reactors.
- c) to supply India with 2 nuclear reactors and several upgraded fighter jets.

12. The first lady of France Carla Bruni

- a) alongside her husband visited HIV-AIDS hospital.
- b) saw for herself how the HIV-AIDS patients are treated in hospital.
- c) visited the ambassador for the Global Fund in HIV-AIDS hospital.

Greece

13. During riots in Athens

- a) protesters threw missiles and petrol bombs at riot police.
- b) police were fired at with percussion charges.
- c) police killed a teenager who was among 500 protesters near the parliament.

14. The anniversary of youth killing is marked in a violent way

- a) and this might paralyze the Greek capital for weeks.
- b) because the policemen who killed him were cleared of murder.
- c) but many came to the spot where he died and stood silently.

II. Decide whether these statements are true or false:

Floods: France

- 15. It wasn't until after the flooding in 1949 that the authorities of the port of Cherbourg started building major flood defences.
- 16. Flood defences held back water of less than two meters.
- 17. Though there's no electricity and everything is covered with a thick layer of mud, the café owner hopes his café will survive.

Germany

18. In his 4th attempt Samuel Koch neglected the safety rules and tried to do his stunt without spring-loaded stilts.
19. This monthly night show has been on air for nearly 30 years and now its future looks unknown.
20. Germany's public broadcaster ZDF confessed that they had to introduce more and more dangerous stunts in a battle to win prime-time audience.

VIDEO TEST 21

Study the following words:

Reconcile- restore friendly relations between.

Allegation- a claim or assertion that someone has done something illegal or wrong, typically one made without proof.

Fraud – wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain.

I. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

Chile

1. The fire at a jail in Santiago

- a) broke out following a riot early in the morning.
- b) was caused by prisoners.
- c) reportedly killed more than 18 people.

2. According to the report

- a) volunteer firefighters rescued 200 people.
- b) Chile's prison industry hasn't experienced anything like that before.
- c) evacuated people battled alongside firefighters.

Mideast

3. Peace talks between Israel and Palestine are in crisis because

- a) Washington expressed its support to Israel in settlement building in the West Bank.
- b) Israel refused to renew a partial freeze on settlement building in the West Bank.
- c) Palestine doesn't want a genuine reconciliation with Israel.

4. Israel slammed Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay for their move

- a) to mediate between the two countries.
- b) to recognize Palestine on its pre- 1967 borders.
- c) to recognize Israel after the year 1967.

Pakistan

5. The blast at a busy market place in Pakistan

- a) left more than 13 casualties.
- b) is thought to have been carried out by one of the bus passengers.
- c) injured a dozen people.

6. Police reported that

- a) the explosion targeted a tribal chief opposed to Pakistan's Taliban.
- b) a tribal chief masterminded the attack.
- c) Pakistan's army delivered a blow on Taliban's stronghold in the north- west of the country.

Julian Assange

7. The 37 -year -old WikiLeaks founder

- a) will be released on December 14.
- b) is held in Swedish prison without bail.
- c) is detained by London court on allegations of sex crimes in Sweden.

8. Assange's supporters claim that

- a) Stockholm wants to charge him with espionage.
- b) false allegations are used to extradite him to the United States.
- c) WikiLeaks is not involved in releasing secret information.

9. WikiLeaks is under financial pressure as

- a) the site's account is blocked.
- b) the US State Department demands that the site should pay damages.
- c) Visa Mastercard and PayPal stopped making donations to the site.

Koreas

10. The worst crisis for years between North and South Korea was triggered by

- a) Seoul's artillery exercises near the disputed maritime border.
- b) the North's attack on the South's island.
- c) joint exercises of the USA and South Korea.

11. China is seen by South Korea and the USA as a country

- a) that could persuade the North to end its military activity.
- b) that could support the North's belligerent behavior.
- c) that could join their military exercises as an ally.

Haiti

12. The supporters of the popular musician Michael Martelly voiced the frustration because

- a) he was squeezed out of the run-off vote.
- b) he was accused of fraud.
- c) he was denied the opportunity to participate in the 1st round ballot.

13. Two other candidates

- a) are protégés of the outgoing president Rene Preval.
- b) are recognized by the US-embassy following the results of the vote-counts.
- c) are put by Haiti's electoral council for the run-off.

14. Due to the devastating earthquake and cholera outbreak

- a) 250,000 people were not registered to vote.
- b) many living people were acknowledged as dead.
- c) many people can't vote as they don't have identity cards.

Mexico

15. Emergency measures

- a) are taught at Mexican schools on a regular basis.
- b) were introduced into the school curricula as the city isn't safe to live in.
- c) have been taught at Mexican schools for 4 years.

Climate summit

16. The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called leaders for

- a) any deal on the gas emissions issue.
- b) a perfect agreement between rich and poor countries.
- c) a final agreement on all the issues

17. The aim of the summit is

- a) to consider the costs of such technologies as wind and solar power.
- b) to create a fund to help developing countries with eco-friendly measures.
- c) to take radical action on emissions worldwide.

II. Decide whether these statements are true or false:

La-Scala

18. It was the government's decision to cut the budget that provoked violence in the streets.

19. Italy's president expressed concern about the future of culture in the country and in Europe.

20. Italian Prime Minister S.Berlusconi attended the opera, but was forced to leave soon.

VIDEO TEST 22

Study the following words:

Truce – an agreement between enemies or opponents to stop fighting or arguing for a certain time.

Ceasefire – a temporary suspension of fighting, typically one during which peace talks take place; a truce.

Hostilities – acts of warfare.

1. **The conflict between Israel and Gaza Strip**

- a) lasted for eight days and resulted in casualties on Palestinian side.
- b) has confirmed that the differences between Israelis and Palestinians can be easily resolved.
- c) has brought uneasy truce.

2. **It can be inferred from the news that**

- a) The ceasefire is brief.
- b) The text of the truce doesn't exceed one page.
- c) The truce text was issued by Hamas.

3. **According to the news,**

- a) Both sides commit to stop hostilities.
- b) Free movement of people and goods will not be resumed.
- c) Egypt was an instigator of the conflict.

4. **It is said that**

- a) Beersheba was hit by 120 rockets during the conflict.
- b) people are sure that both sides will stick to their commitment.
- c) people make their judgements based on the previous experience.

5. **Israel**

- a) is deploying its troops, which is a sign of its attitude towards the ceasefire.
- b) is accusing Egypt of weapon smuggling.
- c) hopes to be backed up by international community.

6. **The series of attacks across Pakistan**

- a) brought the number of casualties to 13.
- b) were targeted at Pakistani Taliban celebrating the Holy month of Muharram.
- c) can be put down to Taliban.

7. **It can be inferred from the news**

- a) that southern Iraq has taken control over a strategic Syrian region.
 - b) that it took the Syrian Army long to surrender its artillery base to the rebels.
 - c) the rebels bombed the suburbs of Damascus.
8. **Two Iraqi towns Fallujah and Najaf are mentioned in the report**
- a) as their sectarian groups are against the rebels.
 - b) because they are still suffering from sectarian divide after American intervention.
 - c) because what is going on in Syria might spread to Iraq.
9. **The factory fire in Karachi**
- a) killed 250 people who were not able to get away from the factory.
 - b) didn't bring about any changes in work safety.
 - c) could have caused more deaths if the windows and exits had not been locked and barred.
10. **The authorities**
- a) raised the issue of safety without the media involvement.
 - b) put blame on workers' locking and barring exits and windows.
 - c) justify locked exits and barred windows by a high theft rate.

II. Decide whether these statements are true or false:

- 11. The rebels proved to be capable of undermining Syrian regime.
- 12. It is clear who provides support to the rebels.
- 13. Syrian Army used to have a tight control over the region next to Iraq.
- 14. 747 is a ship in a bottle.
- 15. The dwarf planet which is similar to Pluto turned out to be atmosphere-free.
- 16. The Japanese era of ninjitsu will cease to exist because it has become obsolete.

VIDEO TEST 23

III. Choose the best completion of the following statements:

Cubans eye foreign travel as restrictions ease

- 1. **It can be inferred from the news that**
 - a) hard-to-get exit permits used to be necessary for those who wanted to travel.
 - b) Cubans were allowed to travel without passports
 - c) Cuban passports were valid for 50 years.
- 2. **According to the news, passports**
 - a) have become much cheaper.
 - b) used to cost €75.

c) exceed what average Cubans earn by 5 times.

3. The change

a) will permit many Cubans to remain abroad for ever.

b) breaks the barrier that prevented millions from seeing their families when they wished.

c) will make swimming across the 145-km stretch of water possible.

Golden night at Golden Globes for Argo

4. According to the news,

a) both the film Argo and its director Ben Affleck were marked as best at Golden Globes.

b) the film is based on a true story – how the American Embassy started the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979.

c) the director of the film Ben Affleck also scored a best director Oscar nomination.

5. With regard to other awards at Golden Globes,

a) Jessica Chastain was chosen as best actress in the movie drama Argo.

b) Daniel Day-Lewis won best actor for his portrayal of Osama Bin Laden in the thriller Zero Dark Thirty.

c) Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln" took home the Best Actor in a Drama award for Daniel Day-Lewis.

6. It is said that

a) 'Lincoln' leads Oscar race with 12 nominations.

b) it came as no surprise that "Lincoln" was not awarded best drama movie.

c) Arnold Schwarzenegger was awarded for the best foreign language film.

German growth forecast

7. Germany

a) still feels immune to credit crisis of the Eurozone.

b) might experience slowdown in export demand.

c) is likely to lose its ground.

8. Philipp Rösler

a) is completely pessimistic about Germany's economy.

b) expects 1% growth for the next year in comparison with expected in spring 1.6% growth.

c) projects a significant economic growth for Germany while other countries of the Eurozone are seeking bailouts.

French anti-gay marriage rally

9. Huge turnout for an anti-gay marriage rally in France

- a) was a surprise even for France which is used to protests.
- b) was the result of the law passed in June.
- c) was organized to support President Francois Hollande who promised to change the law concerning gay adoption.

10. According to the news,

- a) Hollande's office has called a referendum to decide on the issue.
- b) the President is likely to change his opinion over the new law.
- c) the number of people who support gay marriage has reduced considerably due to the rally.

Arab leaders' funding

11. It is said in the news that

- a) Arab countries have agreed to help Abbas to upgrade Palestine's status.
- b) the money will support Abbas in his fight against Israel.
- c) the money will be a safety cushion for Abbas after Israel's seizure of funds.

12. President Mahmoud Abbas

- a) was appreciative of the Arab counties' offer and resentful of Israeli policy towards Palestine.
- b) gave Israel 15 days to fulfill its obligations.
- c) proposed a plan of action to give a significant boost to the peace process.

France launches ground offensive in Mali

13. According to the report,

- a) it is the sixth time French army tanks have been deployed in the military operation.
- b) the operation against militant islamists began six days ago.
- c) the north of the country is in the hands of the French army.

14. Foreign intervention in Mali

- a) started when Islamist rebels seized control of the key town of Kona.
- b) prevented Kona from being seized by islamist rebels.
- c) helped to prevent the town of Diabali from falling.

15. French ground operation

- a) will be a failure as it is not welcomed by Malians.
- b) is supported by many European countries.
- c) accounts for 25,000 soldiers deployed in Mali.

IV. Decide whether these statements are true or not:

Italy

16. Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti resigns because he thinks Italy will stop reforms.
17. The prime minister is confident that a new government will be cooperative with the EU.
18. Silvio Berlusconi blames the situation in the country on Monti's government for adopting the policy, imposed by Germany.
19. Berlusconi has a chance of being reelected.
- 20 Pier Luigi Bersa and the centre-left Democratic Party have a chance to win.