

## TEXTS

<b>National University of Public Service</b> <b>Language Testing Centre</b> <b>NATO STANAG 6001 LEVEL 3</b>  <b>READING PRACTICE TASKS</b>	<b>Number of tasks: 4</b> <b>Time: 90 minutes</b> Task 1 is worth 7 marks Task 2 is worth 5 marks Task 3 is worth 8 marks Task 4 is worth 5 marks <b>Passing score: 15</b>
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**Reading Task 1, Questions 1-7** Read the text **Is this Axis Evil?** and choose the best word for each gap. For each question mark one letter (**A, B, C or D**). Question **0** is an example.

Write your final answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

### IS THIS AXIS EVIL?

It may not be evil, but it is an axis. Quietly, the strengthening powers of China, the Internet and Wal-Mart are .....**0**..... a global surge in cutthroat competition. This prevailing trend .....**1**..... down prices worldwide. China continues to .....**2**..... as the world's largest and cheapest manufacturer. The Internet is .....**3**..... all shoppers in a kind of global consumer cartel, chipping away at the price of everything from home mortgages to plane tickets and used dolls.

The pressure grows with every new offensive from Wal-Mart, a retail corporation that operates a chain of hypermarkets, discount department stores, and grocery stores. The retailer has expanded from its home base in Bentonville, Arkansas to more than 4,400 stores in 10 countries, and from general .....**4**..... to food and gasoline. It squeezes discounts out of its 30,000 suppliers, who squeeze their suppliers, and so on around the world. The discount ripple effect travels at light speed over Wal-Mart's private satellite communications network, the largest system of its kind in the world, forcing rival stores to .....**5**..... , too.

With 247 billion dollars in sales, Wal-Mart is already the world's largest company by revenue – approximately 60 billion dollars according to the Fortune Global 500 list, and it .....**6**..... to double in size by 2008, even as the retail market is set to grow by just 25 percent. It is now .....**7**..... with car sales and financial services, and opening new stores in Europe, Japan and China.

## TASKS

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**Reading Task 1, Questions 1-7** Read the text **Is this Axis Evil?** and choose the best word for each gap. For each question mark one letter (**A, B, C or D**). Question **0** is an example.

Write your final answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

### Example:

0.  **A.** fuelling      **B.** trying      **C.** sweeping      **D.** forwarding

- |    |                         |                     |                       |                      |
|----|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | <b>A.</b> reduces       | <b>B.</b> drives    | <b>C.</b> decreases   | <b>D.</b> puts       |
| 2. | <b>A.</b> consider      | <b>B.</b> create    | <b>C.</b> evolve      | <b>D.</b> induce     |
| 3. | <b>A.</b> dissociating  | <b>B.</b> dividing  | <b>C.</b> spreading   | <b>D.</b> uniting    |
| 4. | <b>A.</b> merchandise   | <b>B.</b> sale      | <b>C.</b> trade       | <b>D.</b> commercial |
| 5. | <b>A.</b> answer        | <b>B.</b> provide   | <b>C.</b> launch      | <b>D.</b> respond    |
| 6. | <b>A.</b> refuses       | <b>B.</b> aims      | <b>C.</b> protests    | <b>D.</b> directs    |
| 7. | <b>A.</b> experimenting | <b>B.</b> analysing | <b>C.</b> discovering | <b>D.</b> inquiring  |

## MARKING GUIDE AND KEY

<b>National University of Public Service</b> <b>Language Testing Centre</b> <b>NATO STANAG 6001 LEVEL 3</b>  <b>READING PRACTICE TASKS</b>	<b>TASK 1 is worth <u>7 MARKS</u></b>
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Each correct answer is worth 1 MARK

### Is this Axis Evil?

1. B (1)
2. C (1)
3. D (1)
4. A (1)
5. D (1)
6. B (1)
7. A (1)

## TEXTS

**Reading Task 2, Questions 8-12** Read the text **Grading Fiasco**. For each question choose one name from the list of people, groups or institutions in the box.

Some of them can be used more than once. **A** is an example.

Write your final answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

### GRADING FIASCO

A review of the exams system in England is proposing a new diploma to replace the current General (GCSE)-and Advanced (A)-level system. Mike Tomlinson, in his review, is looking at strengthening vocational studies and setting up a framework of qualifications with a four-level diploma of achievement. He said that at the moment excessive testing drives the content of curriculum. His proposal would involve a “coherent approach” in which the curriculum is supported by “assessment that is fit for purpose”.

In a debate about the new exams system, Liberal Democrat Phil Willis stressed that what the country requires is a testing system that includes the assessment of pupils’ skills they need to join the world of business in today’s competitive environment. “For young people and employers GCSE results are becoming increasingly irrelevant”, he said.

“The A-level system has been bankrupted by grade inflation”, claims examiner Patricia Voute who reported her experience with marking exam papers. She dreams of schools with their own “chartered examiners”, accredited teachers whose job would be to check exams and maintain standards. The furore over alleged grade-fixing in A-levels makes the call for reform even stronger. Minister David Miliband rejected accusations that A-levels are getting easier and said that people “should not fall for this national idea that if more are doing well, it’s a problem.”

Although problems persist with the existing qualifications, scrapping them altogether would not be the best way to boost youngsters’ skills and employability, said Digby Jones. It would destroy an educational standard known, understood and respected by employers. He expressed concerns that vocational options were seen as being for low achievers, and too often failed those whom they should serve. The School Standards Board also rejected suggestions that GCSEs should be scrapped. “It would be a mistake to go for years with no progress check of the sort that GCSE provides.”

Tom Collin’s comments echo the concerns of some sectors of industry. He said the education system was not ensuring that pupils achieved acceptable standards of literacy and numeracy. He estimates industry losses through lack of basic skills “as high as £10bn annually”.

## TASKS

**Reading Task 2, Questions 8-12** Read the text **Grading Fiasco**. For each question choose one name from the list of people, groups or institutions in the box. Some of them can be used more than once. Question **0** is an example.

Write your final answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

**A. Tom Collin (Example)**

**B. Digby Jones**

**C. Phil Willis**

**D. David Miliband**

**E. Patricia Voute**

**F. Mike Tomlinson**

**G. GCSE providers**

**H. School Standards Board**

**Example:**

**0. Who claims that skill deficiencies affect the economy?**

**A**

**8. Who claims that disrupting the current system might lead to confusion among employers?**

**9. Who expresses the need for more standardised assessment?**

**10. Who implies that too much testing has a negative effect on education?**

**11. Who emphasises that the exams system should be in line with market demands?**

**12. Who denies the claims that high achievement rates are related to declining standards?**

## MARKING GUIDE AND KEY

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**Each correct answer is worth 1 MARK**

### Grading Fiasco

- 8. B (1)
- 9. E (1)
- 10. F (1)
- 11. C (1)
- 12. D (1)

## TEXTS

**Reading Task 3, Questions 13-20** Complete the text **Facing the Threat** by choosing the right word for each gap. Three of the suggested words do not fit at all. Question **0** is an example.

Write your final answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

<b>A. protection (0)</b>	<b>D. capability</b>	<b>G. compound</b>	<b>J. component</b>
<b>B. offensive</b>	<b>E. aware</b>	<b>H. contaminated</b>	<b>K. shifting</b>
<b>C. installation</b>	<b>F. investment</b>	<b>I. decontaminated</b>	<b>L. acquire</b>

### FACING THE THREAT

NBC .....**0**..... has rarely been a high priority in Western defence ministries. The former Soviet Union, on the other hand, saw NBC as a vital .....**13**..... of its warfighting plan. Consequently, countermeasures were an important consideration. In those days, though, detection systems for liquid chemical warfare agents consisted of impregnated paper strips and there was no biological warfare agent field detection .....**14**..... at all. The latter part of the last century saw the outlawing of NBC weapons, and the states involved in the continued production of .....**15**..... NBC weapons were exposed more severely.

With the technological focus .....**16**..... to countermeasures, in recent years there have been two periods in their accelerated developments. The first was in 1991 when coalition forces faced the very real prospect of operating in a severely .....**17**..... environment.

The second period is today. In the aftermath of September 11<sup>th</sup>, Al-Qaeda was identified as the aggressor, which highlighted its stated intention to .....**18**..... weapons of mass destruction. The anthrax letters in the US made populations .....**19**..... of their vulnerability to the use of biological warfare agents in the domestic terrorism arena. As a consequence, the greatest Western technical .....**20**..... is now in detection – especially biological warfare agent detection.

## TASKS

**Reading Task 3, Questions 13-20** Read the text **Facing the Threat** and put the letter of each missing word in the correct box. Question **0** is an example.

Write your final answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

### Example:

0.	A
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13.	
14.	
15.	
16.	
17.	
18.	
19.	
20.	



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Each correct answer is worth 1 MARK

### Facing the Threat

- 13. J (1)
- 14. D (1)
- 15. B (1)
- 16. K (1)
- 17. H (1)
- 18. L (1)
- 19. E (1)
- 20. F (1)

## TEXTS

**Reading Task 4, Questions 21-25** Read the text **Nuclear Know-How** and then circle one of the statements (**A, B, C** or **D**) which you think fits best. Question **0** is an example.

Write your final answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

### NUCLEAR KNOW-HOW

Some American experts find that the most imminent threat to national security today is the danger that weapons of mass destruction or weapons-usable material could be stolen and sold to terrorists or hostile nation states and used against American troops abroad and citizens at home. Although concern about nuclear terrorism is not new, the proliferation of nuclear materials since the end of the Cold War has made the likelihood of a nuclear incident more feasible. According to various reports, nuclear fuels – such as highly enriched uranium – are highly available in research reactors. In addition, nuclear material control is lax in Russia and other countries, as physical security is insufficient.

A report published by the National Research Council revealed that a complete inventory of Russian materials is not available, so it is impossible to confirm that diversions of materials have not already occurred. A bipartisan Cooperative Threat Reduction Program established in 1991, among other things aims at improving the security of Russian control over fissionable materials. A past US advisory panel called for spending an average level of about \$3 billion a year over the next decade for securing, monitoring and reducing Russian nuclear weapons, materials, and expertise. The amount in the FY 2003 budget for these activities was only about \$750 million, even after substantial increases by Congress.

A recently released report by the US General Accounting Office examined programs administered by six federal agencies that spent \$86 million in about 30 countries to help them monitor and control the movement of radioactive materials. The investigators found that no agency coordinated the programs, resulting in the absence of an overall strategy, duplicate bureaucracies and marked differences in the quality of equipment given to different countries. The US lawmakers want to expand the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's authority to include monitoring radioactive materials used in a variety of commercial and medical activities, and are now considering legislation to require the agency to regulate materials that could become the source of a terrorist radiological weapon. The Act would also require the commission to recover lost or stolen radioactive materials. In addition, it would levy fines for industrial facilities, hospitals or food irradiation plants that do not properly handle or dispose of such materials.

## TASKS

**Reading Task 4, Questions 21-25** Read the text **Nuclear Know-How** and then circle one of the statements (**A, B, C** or **D**) which you think fits best. Question **0** is an example.

Write your final answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

**Example:**

**0. The new US national security threat is**

- A.** “home-made” nuclear weapons.
- B.** old nuclear installations.
- C.** Russian nuclear proliferation.
- D.** growing Russian influence.

**21. Nuclear terrorism is a real threat because of**

- A.** brain drain in nuclear industry.
- B.** easy access to nuclear materials.
- C.** better education in rogue countries.
- D.** cheap nuclear resources.

**22. The Cooperative Threat Reduction Program**

- A.** led to signing new non-proliferation treaties.
- B.** failed to staff its teams with proper experts.
- C.** supports peaceful nuclear installations.
- D.** failed to gain adequate financial support.

**23. The new US legislation intends to**

- A.** track missing nuclear materials.
- B.** tighten nuclear exports control.
- C.** tax commercial use of nuclear materials.
- D.** expand the use of nuclear materials.

**24. When monitoring programs, the US General Accounting Office found**

- A.** various financial irregularities.
- B.** the administration quite efficient.
- C.** inconsistencies in the implementation.
- D.** occasional misuse of radioactive materials.

**25. The exact amount of nuclear materials in Russia**

- A.** is available only for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- B.** will be confirmed after the recent report.
- C.** remains to be unspecified.
- D.** has been revealed by investigators.

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Each correct answer is worth 1 MARK

### Nuclear Know-How

- 21. B
- 22. D
- 23. A
- 24. C
- 25. C