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English B – Standard level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension
Anglais B – Niveau moyen – Épreuve 2 – Compréhension écrite
Inglés B – Nivel Medio – Prueba 2 – Comprensión de lectura

9 May 2024 / 9 mai 2024 / 9 de mayo de 2024

Zone A afternoon	Zone B afternoon	Zone C afternoon
Zone A après-midi	Zone B après-midi	Zone C après-midi
Zona A tarde	Zona B tarde	Zona C tarde

1 h

Text booklet – Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this booklet until instructed to do so.
- This booklet accompanies paper 2 reading comprehension.

Livret de textes – Instructions destinées aux candidats

- N'ouvrez pas ce livret avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Ce livret accompagne la partie de l'épreuve 2 portant sur la compréhension écrite.

Cuadernillo de textos – Instrucciones para los alumnos

- No abra este cuadernillo hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Este cuadernillo acompaña a la parte de comprensión de lectura de la prueba 2.

Text A

Learning to read at 104!

- 1** For almost a century, Kuttியമ്മ's daily routine was much the same. Getting up early at home in the village of Thiruvanchoor in Kerala, the 104-year-old began her day's work of cooking and cleaning, and feeding the cows and chickens.
- 2** But now, every morning, there's something new to get up for. She eagerly waits for the paper boy to deliver the local newspaper to her home.
- 3** For two hours, she reads the news and gets to know what's happening in the world. But it is only in recent months that she could achieve her dream to do this. In April last year, Kuttിയമ്മ finally began to learn to read.
- 4** "I was always curious about news around the world," she said. "Many times I regretted I could not read the newspaper. I depended on the younger generations at home to read out newspapers to me."
- 5** It was Kuttിയമ്മ's neighbour Rehana John, a 34-year-old literacy teacher, who persuaded her to start to learn to read. Rehana noticed Kuttിയമ്മ's curiosity about her grandchildren's schoolwork and gave her some books. Previously, Rehana's oldest student had been 85.
- 6** "Except for some vision and hearing problems, Kuttിയമ്മ was a perfect and sometimes naughty student. She made me feel my teaching work was a good thing," said Rehana. "She always has her textbook, notebooks and pens ready before I reach her home."
- 7** Rehana said, "She is like my mother now. We share a very close friendship." Rehana said Kuttിയമ്മ still asks for lessons every day and, at the same time, refuses to let any other family members take over the household chores or the cooking. "Her courage and commitment are exceptional," she said.
- 8** After months of evening classes, Kuttിയമ്മ took the Kerala state primary literacy exam last month, the oldest woman to do so. She achieved 89% in literacy and 100% in mathematics.
- 9** Kuttിയമ്മ now wants to take the fourth standard examination, which students normally pass at the age of nine. This time the subjects are Malayalam, English, environment and mathematics. "I don't think English is too difficult," said Kuttിയമ്മ. "I will try to achieve 100% marks in all papers."

Non-essential
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Text B

What is a “third space” venue—and could it be the future of hybrid working?

As many companies move towards a hybrid operating system where employees are split between office and home, a third way of working is growing increasingly popular. Logging on from a cafe, co-working space* or even a rural retreat is an attractive proposition for many.

A good alternative to home and office

5 “Third spaces”, such as bars or cafes, are often the venue of choice for both remote workers and freelancers—and they are popping up in locations around the world.

10 In New York, the wine bar Kindred offers work slots from 10am to 4pm. For \$25, you can drop in and out throughout the day and have access to high-speed wifi, charging stations and unlimited coffee. At Hudson

15 Yards, workers can have access to a connected outdoor work pod, seat, or a swing to plug into for the day if they make a reservation. In Tokyo, the shared working space Andwork is sited in The Millennials hotel. It offers communal tables and pods, access to a common kitchen, and the chance to refresh by taking a nap or a shower.

Good for new businesses as well as workers

20 “Giving people a place to go that is not their house is a huge business opportunity”, said Cal Newport, author of Deep Work. The concept of “deep work” is about enabling people to focus on mentally complex tasks without getting sidetracked. This idea was the inspiration for a UK start-up, FLOWN, which offers subscribers access to woodland cabins with floor-to-ceiling windows where they can undertake their tasks.

What the future holds for co-working

25 One outstanding question is how co-working will evolve. 90% of companies anticipate a hybrid approach to work with employees mixing and matching where they work according to their comfort levels. That also provides an opportunity for businesses to creatively develop their own “third spaces”.

30 However we end up working in the future, one thing is clear: there will be more variety than ever when it comes to the how, when and where.



* Co-working space: an office-type space where people from different companies can come to do work.

Text C

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Rooney, K., 2021. *What is a 'third space' venue - and could it be the future of hybrid working?* [online] Available at: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/07/third-space-remote-hybrid-working/> [Accessed 19 October 2023]. Source adapted.