

1. **Listening comprehension: Birthday parties**

(10 BE)

Listen to a conversation about birthday parties between three friends in the UK and do the following tasks.

You now have 2 minutes to read the following tasks.

You can find the audio-file on the website (www.eliahsilber.cu.ma/cotta-12).

You will hear the text twice.

Task 1: Tick the correct answer.

1. Charles thinks a surprise party is ...
 - a. a chance to relax.
 - b. too much of a shock.
 - c. a different way to celebrate.
2. Charles sees himself as someone who ...
 - a. prefers to be in the background.
 - b. likes to be the centre of attention.
 - c. organises nice things for other people.
3. Why can't he organise a trip to the cinema for the ninth birthday party?
 - a. Children prefer to go rock-climbing.
 - b. Another child has had a cinema party recently.
 - c. It's not a good idea to repeat parties from the year before.
4. Charles stopped celebrating birthdays because ...
 - a. he thinks they're not suitable for adults.
 - b. it became hard to find people to celebrate with.
 - c. it's less fun when you can't play kids' games.

Task 2: Complete the sentences.

1. Charles complains that organising his own party is a _____ .
2. The idea of a surprise party makes Charles _____ .
3. Dora is offended that Charles says she is _____ .
4. Marco realises that birthdays can be a _____ subject.
5. Charles likes drinks with friends or dinner – celebrations that are quite low-_____ .
6. They agree that having a children's style party could be fun and _____ .

2. Reading comprehension: The state of the world

(10 BE)

Read an article about the state of the world to practise and improve your reading skills.

If your view of the world comes from watching the news and reading newspapers, you could be forgiven for lying awake at night worrying about the future. Apparently, rising violence and population rates mean humans are both killing each other in ever larger numbers and being born at rates the world's resources can't sustain. To make matters worse, all the wealth is concentrated on a handful of people in the world's richest countries. People in low-income countries live in poverty while the West gets richer. Depressing, isn't it?

But do the statistics support our negative world view or is the world actually improving? Let's take global population first. It's around 7 billion now, in line with figures predicted by the UN in 1958. By the year 2100, the same experts predict it will be around 11 billion. But did you know that 11 billion is probably as high as that number will get? The rate of increase will slow down in the second half of this century thanks to falling birth rates today.

Falling birth rates? Yes, that's right.

In the last two centuries, improvements in technology and health meant fewer children died young, fuelling rapid population growth. These large families produced even more children who survived into adulthood and had their own children. But with the wider availability of contraception in the 1960s, the global average number of babies per woman has declined from six babies per woman to as low as two.

The biggest factor in child mortality is poverty. And while it's still true that only 20 per cent of the world takes about 74 per cent of the world's income, 60 per cent of the world now falls into a middle-income group, with 11.6 per cent – the smallest amount of people in history – still living in conditions of extreme poverty. If the majority of the world's people have money, international aid could realistically achieve the UN target of eradicating poverty by 2030. As poverty goes down, life expectancy goes up, birth rates go down because parents can expect their existing children to survive, and the global population stabilises.

As for news stories that make us think the world is an increasingly violent place, there is cause for some optimism too. Between the end of World War II and 1990, there were 30 wars that killed more than 100,000 people. Today there are still civil wars, but countries are mostly co-existing more peacefully than in the past. However, terrorism has shot up in the last few years and, since World War II, wars have killed many more civilians than soldiers. Even for civilians, though, the statistics are not all bad. Although deaths are nine times more likely to be a result of violent crime than political conflict, the global murder rate fell slightly, from 8 per 100,000 people in 2000 to about 5.3 in 2015.

Of course, none of this means the world is perfect, and whether you personally are affected by war and poverty is often down to the lottery of where you're born. Also, we still face huge problems of our own making, particularly environmental ones like global warming, and wealth and natural resources need to be distributed more fairly. But not all the news is bad news, whatever the TV and newspapers might say.

Task 1: Write the correct number for the given fact.

1. _____ the expected peak global population
2. _____ the size of the richest group of people
3. _____ the amount of the richest group's income
4. _____ the amount of people who are neither rich nor poor
5. _____ the amount of people with the least money
6. _____ the number of murders per 100,000 people in 2015

Task 2: Tick the correct answer.

1. Which statement about population levels is correct?
 - a. About two hundred years ago, the child mortality rate dropped significantly.
 - b. The rate is growing steadily now.
 - c. The rate will start to drop in the year 2100.
2. Which factor does not cause the birth rate to fall?
 - a. Improvements in healthcare
 - b. The availability of contraception
 - c. Poverty
3. One of the UN's targets for 2030 is to ...
 - a. end poverty.
 - b. increase life expectancy.
 - c. make population levels stable.
4. There is reason to be optimistic because ...
 - a. you might win the lottery.
 - b. there are some positives despite the newspapers report.
 - c. we're making progress with environmental problems.

3. Paraphrase the words given in English with your own words. (3 BE)

stereotype – prejudice – cliché

- 4a. "I believe being British is showing pride, respect and being proud of living in the UK. It also means showing knowledge and respect for the royal family and drinking lot of tea!" (5 BE)

Show typical characteristics about British people using this quote.

- 4b. Make two more suggestions, which is typically British and explain your choice. Write 70-100 words. (4 BE)
5. Why does English dominate in the world? Name 4 reasons. (4 BE)
6. Is Britian multicultural? Explain and compare it to Germany. (6 BE)

Gesamtpunktzahl: 42 BE

15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
41,5	40,5	40	37,5	35	32,5	30	27,5	25	22,5	20	17	14,5	11,5	9