



SAMPLE TEST - BA LEVEL

Text 1 Comprehension

Instructions:

- Cross the right answer with a X on the letter
- In case of afterthought, circle the wrong answer and put a X on the right one

N.B. – ONLY ONE AFTERTHOUGHT IS ADMITTED

The gilets jaunes movement is the longest-running protest in France since the Second World War. It has lasted for 13 weeks but has mobilised fully for only 13 days – all of them Saturdays.

In the protesters' own eyes, this is not a protest. It is an insurrection which happens mostly at the weekends. Through a series of Saturday putsches, the yellow vests hope not merely to bring down President Emmanuel Macron but to rip up the constitution of the Fifth Republic and replace representative democracy with popular government. Their support, always limited compared with previous French rebellions, is waning. They will not give up easily or soon. They are mostly peaceful, but acts and words of great violence are committed and spoken.

There is no simple explanation for the gilets jaunes. It is not a monolithic, single-minded movement. It has no leadership structure, no single, accepted programme of demands. That's what makes it fascinating. And worrying.

In May last year, a young businesswoman of French West Indian origin, Priscillia Ludosky, 31, placed a petition online complaining about the high cost of petrol and diesel in France. Reaction – practically nothing. Ludosky is a calm young woman with dreadlocks who runs her own cosmetics business from home. She is an unlikely pioneer for a populist movement which is sometimes accused of being racist and far right (as parts of it undoubtedly are).

In October she was contacted by Eric Drouet a 33-year-old lorry driver, who teamed up with her to promote her original petition. Drouet is a car fanatic, a "petrol head", but also someone with extremist political tendencies. He is now, many weeks later, probably the most influential figure in the gilets jaunes.

There is confusion in France about whether he should be seen as far right or far left. Drouet's original motivation may well have been his car obsession rather than his politics. Pre-gilets jaunes, he was a loud-mouthed young man more likely to watch Top Gear than to read Das Kapital or Mein Kampf. By the time he intervened, petrol prices were spiking because of a rise in world oil prices. Ludosky's original petition exploded online, attracting hundreds of thousands of signatures.

It was Drouet, from Melun in the brie cheese country east of Paris, who thought of the idea of a nationwide protest against fuel taxes on 17 November. Someone else had the brilliant PR idea of dressing everyone up in the yellow hi-vis vests that French motorists must by law carry in their cars.



Petrol prices rapidly set alight other grievances in rural and outer suburban France, some concrete, some more existential: a lack of public services, the high cost of living, a new tax on some pensions, the fact that Macron had partially abolished a tax on wealth.

(from: John Lichfield, "Just who are the gilets jaunes?" The Guardian, 9 February 2019)

1. Can the gilets jaunes movement be defined as a permanent strike?

- a) Yes, because it stops workers and services from operating in France.
- b) Yes, because it stops the distribution of fuel in the country.
- c) No, it is more of a weekly insurrection.
- d) No, because it is mostly peaceful, with some episodes of violence.

2. Is the gilets jaunes movement explicitly and entirely racist?

- a) Yes, because it is aimed at expelling migrants from France.
- b) Yes, this is one of the central features of the movement.
- c) No, this is only an occasional aspect of the movement.
- d) Yes, because its central aim is an attack against the government

3. Is the gilets jaunes movement clearly left-wing?

- a) Yes, because it is an attack against the government and the institutions.
- b) Yes, because most of its demands are left-wing.
- c) No, because it is mostly a right-wing movement.
- d) No, because, its features are partly left-wing and partly right-wing.

4. Are Das Kapital and Mein Kampf the ideological sources of the movement?

- a) No, because these would be contradictory sources.
- b) Yes, these texts inspired some of the initiators of the movement.
- c) Yes, because the movements is both left-wing and right-wing leaning.
- d) No, because books do not seem to count much as inspirations to the movement.

5. Is tax pressure the main motivating factor of the gilets jaunes movement?

- a) Yes, because it is an anti-government movement.
- b) No, there are several other reasons, including a lack of public services and the high cost of living.
- c) No, the central factor is the cost of fuel.
- d) No, the main factors are the cost of fuel and the cost of living.



MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Instructions:

- Cross the right answer with a X on the letter
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1. Which of the following countries does not border the Baltic Sea?
 - a) Sweden
 - b) Norway
 - c) Denmark
 - d) Finland

2. Magyars are the people of which country?
 - a) Slovakia
 - b) Romania
 - c) Hungary
 - d) Moldova

3. The islands of Seychelles are located in the
 - a) Arctic Ocean
 - b) Atlantic Ocean
 - c) Indian Ocean
 - d) Pacific Ocean

4. The imaginary line on the surface of Earth that roughly follows the 180° meridian is called the
 - a) International Date Line
 - b) Tropic of Cancer
 - c) Equator
 - d) Prime Meridian at Greenwich



5. Where is Guantánamo?
 - a) Bolivia
 - b) Florida
 - c) Texas
 - d) Cuba

6. Which among the following planets of our solar system is smaller than the Earth?
 - a) Uranus
 - b) Jupiter
 - c) Neptune
 - d) Venus

7. Greenland is under the rule of
 - a) Denmark
 - b) Turkey
 - c) Germany
 - d) Portugal

8. Give the correct chronological sequence of the following authors:
 - a) Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Thomas Mann, Victor Hugo, Torquato Tasso
 - b) Victor Hugo, Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Torquato Tasso, Thomas Mann
 - c) Torquato Tasso, Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Victor Hugo, Thomas Mann
 - d) Thomas Mann, Torquato Tasso, Victor Hugo, Johann Wolfgang Goethe

9. Who published the novel Ivanhoe?
 - a) George Eliot
 - b) Walter Scott
 - c) Samuel Taylor Coleridge
 - d) Lord Byron

10. Which of these works is not by Tolstoj?
 - a) War and Peace
 - b) Anna Karenina
 - c) Pride and Prejudice
 - d) The Kreutzer Sonata



11. One of these masterpieces does not belong to German literature:
 - a) The Sorrows of Young Werther
 - b) The Magic Mountain
 - c) Ulysses
 - d) The Tin Drum

12. One of these masterpieces does not belong to American literature:
 - a) The Sound and the Fury
 - b) Moby Dick
 - c) The Great Gatsby
 - d) Lord Jim

13. Which of these works is not by Goethe?
 - a) Elective Affinities
 - b) The Sorrows of Young Werther
 - c) Faust
 - d) Don Carlos

14. Who published the novel One Hundred Years of Solitude?
 - a) Pablo Neruda
 - b) Miguel de Cervantes
 - c) Federico Garcia Lorca
 - d) Gabriel Garcia Marquez

15. What was the Marshall Plan?
 - a) A plan created by the United States to assist reconstruction in Europe after World War II
 - b) A plan created by the United States to assist African countries
 - c) A plan created by the Soviet Union to assist reconstruction in Europe after World War II
 - d) A plan to aid to rebuild Iraqi economy after the Persian Gulf War

16. The basis of European Union begun with the signing of
 - a) Maastricht Treaty
 - b) Treaty of Paris
 - c) Treaty of Rome
 - d) Treaty of Lisbon



17. Give the right chronological sequence of the following composers:
- a) Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Wagner, Stravinsky
 - b) Bach, Stravinsky, Beethoven, Mozart, Wagner
 - c) Mozart, Bach, Beethoven, Wagner, Stravinsky
 - d) Beethoven, Bach, Mozart, Stravinsky, Wagner
18. Who was the political and ideological leader of the Russian Revolution of 1917?
- a) Mao Zedong
 - b) Leon Trotzky
 - c) Vladimir Lenin
 - d) Joseph Stalin
19. When was the Berlin Wall erected?
- a) 1945
 - b) 1947
 - c) 1954
 - d) 1961
20. When was apartheid formally abolished in South Africa?
- a) 1970
 - b) 1989
 - c) 1994
 - d) 2001
21. Give the right chronological sequence of the following ancient nations:
- a) Greeks, Romans, Visigoths, Egyptians
 - b) Visigoths, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans
 - c) Romans, Egyptians, Greeks, Visigoths,
 - d) Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Visigoths
22. Who is one of the major thinkers and writers associated with the decolonization movement starting from Algeria in the 1960s?
- a) Aimé Césaire
 - b) Franz Fanon
 - c) Edward Said
 - d) Jacques Derrida



23. The penicillin is produced by
- bacteria
 - an alga
 - a fungus
 - synthetic means
24. The universal law of gravitation was propounded by
- Kepler
 - Galileo
 - Newton
 - Copernicus
25. A person having AB group of blood can donate to a person having
- A group
 - B group
 - AB group
 - O group
26. Who among the following scientists received two Nobel prizes?
- Albert Einstein
 - John Nash
 - Marie Curie
 - Rita Levi-Montalcini
27. Albert Bruce Sabin is famous for
- the development of a vaccine against polio
 - the development of a vaccine against diphtheria
 - having proved that the paediatric use of vaccines is associated with an increased risk of autism
 - the discover of the DNA structure
28. In humans, each cell normally contains
- 44 pairs of chromosomes
 - 48 pairs of chromosomes
 - 46 pairs of chromosomes
 - 23 pairs of chromosomes



29. The speed of light is
- a) faster than the speed of sound
 - b) as fast as the speed of sound
 - c) slower than the speed of sound
 - d) about 1000 Km per hour
30. Tetanus is caused by bacillus and affects:
- a) human brain
 - b) nervous system
 - c) skin
 - d) none of them
31. In which city does The Film Festival award the Palme d'Or?
- a) Paris
 - b) Berlin
 - c) Monte Carlo
 - d) Cannes
32. Christine Lagarde is
- a) The President of the International Monetary Fund
 - b) The President of the World Bank
 - c) The President of the European Central Bank
 - d) The President of the Federal Reserve
33. Which of the following countries does not belong to the "Group of Eight" (G8)?
- a) China
 - b) France
 - c) Canada
 - d) Japan
34. What is Gazprom?
- a) A large Russian company, selling natural gas
 - b) A large British company, selling natural gas
 - c) A special camping tool
 - d) A humanitarian aid project in Nigeria



35. The acronym OPEC stands for
- Organization of Pacific Exporting Countries
 - Organization for Pana-American Exporting Countries
 - Organization of Petroleum Exporting Companies
 - Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
36. Who is Lula?
- The title of a German song of the last century;
 - The name of an Argentine soubrette;
 - The former president of Brazil;
 - The name of a carbonated drink
37. In recent weeks there has been talk of "Tariff War", about:
- the increase in the prices of flights connecting US and China;
 - the imposition of US duties on some Chinese goods and China's economic revenge against goods imported from America.
 - US and China have lowered the price of some of their industrial products;
 - the difficulties in signing new economic deals between the United Kingdom and the European Community after Brexit.
38. The World Bank main aim is
- reduction of poverty
 - promoting monetary cooperation internationally
 - increasing the richness of the western countries
 - controlling the international trade
39. Which film won the Oscar 2018 for the best film?
- Black Panther (Coogler);
 - The Shape of Water (Del Toro);
 - The Post (Spielberg);
 - Star Wars: The Last Jedi (Johnson).
40. Where is the city of Aleppo?
- Greece
 - Ukraine
 - Syria
 - Egypt