**ENGLISH FIRST LANGUAGE TEST**

**LANGUAGE MARCH 2005**

**Read the following passage and answer the questions:**

**Chip shops offer fat chance for fry-drive revolution**

Waste oil could fuel many more cars, if only there were more of it

**John Vidal  
Monday October 21, 2002  
The Guardian**

* + 1. Every week, sales manager Jim drives past several Shell and Esso garages and heads for one of Britain's smallest oil companies, based in a shed on a trading estate near Doncaster.
    2. He is met by Jane Myatt, the oil company's all-in-one chief executive, head chemist, top engineer and saleswoman. She fills his Renault Laguna with 20 litres of diesel, takes his money and then goes back to filtering old vegetable oil that has been used to fry fish and chips.
    3. Ms Myatt's company, Envirodiesel, is invisible to Shell, Texaco and the big oil companies, but the fuel which she and two others make - "biodiesel" - is taking off fast as it dawns on people that Britain's estimated 30m diesel engines could be run more efficiently, economically and ecologically sensitively on chip fat than on conventional petrol-based diesel.
    4. Envirodiesel makes about 3,000 litres a week. "It's not rocket science to make diesel from vegetable oils," says Ms Myatt, a trained chemist. "We collect the waste oil, clean it up, filter it, wash it, take out the contaminants - you can get anything from paper towels to fags and chips in it - then add methanol. The quantities have to be very precise to get it right, but it ends up clean and runny and then we wash it again and dry it. It can go straight in the engine."
    5. These are boom times for Britain's few professional biodiesel makers. The largest are now making more than 5m litres a year, the majority under 10,000 litres a week. Most are expanding fast and are selling it for a few pence cheaper a litre than normal diesel.
    6. Meanwhile an unknown number of amateur backwoodsmen are making small quantities and customs and excise, the police, the environment agency and local authorities would like to meet them.
    7. Evading fuel taxes can, say the authorities, lead to vehicles being impounded, £2,000 fines and prison. Ironically, the case this month of Dyfed Powys police cracking down on the people of Llanelli who were dodging the 45p a litre tax by taking ordinary supermarket cooking oil and mixing it with a shot of methanol is thought to have helped popularise the legal purveyors of biodiesel.
    8. The legal business, which mostly sells its fuel for as little as 63p a litre compared with 75p for petroleum-based fuel, attracts everyone from techno-enthusiasts to green messianics. Some would like to convert more than your car, but all are united in being sniffy about the diesel sold by oil companies.
    9. They call it "dino-diesel" (as in dinosaur) and they all rave about how their fuel is completely biodegradable, non-carcinogenic, non-mutagenic, non-allergenic and more energy efficient than the petrol equivalent.
    10. Meanwhile biodiesel is rapidly becoming the greens' favourite fuel. Lili, a low impact, educational co-operative based in Buckinghamshire, offers weekend courses in how to make it. "The process is more complicated than you might think. It's reasonably simple but there are safety issues and I don't recommend making it without training," says John Halle, who is hoping to set up a co-operative.
    11. "Your car may have a distinct Saturday-night, sweet, chippy smell, but it's better than dino-diesel," he says. "And the feeling of driving a car that is using recycled fuel is awesome."

**QUESTION 1: COMPREHENSION**

The following questions refer to **'Chip shops offer fat chance for fry-drive revolution**'**.** Its paragraphs have been numbered for ease of reference. Read it carefully before you start answering.

***Use your own words as far as possible.***

Paragraph 1

1.1 What is the function of the apostrophe used in 'Britain's'?

[1]

Paragraph 2

1.2 What is implied by the term 'all-in-one'?

[1]

1.3 Which job description was Jane Myatt performing in order to help Jim?

[1]

Paragraph 3

1.4 What does the writer imply when he says "Envirodiesel, is invisible to Shell, Texaco and the big oil companies"?

[2]

1.5 'Envirodiesel' is a contraction of which two words?

[2]

1.6 What does the word 'Enviro-' in 'Envirodiesel' imply?

[1]

1.7 What does the abbreviation in '30m' refer to?

[1]

1.8 Quote a phrase of **THREE CONSECUTIVE WORDS** that means "People are beginning to realise...'

[1]

Paragraph 4

1.9 Write down a synonym for 'fags' as it is used in context.

[1]

1.10 Explain what Ms Myatt means with the idiomatic expression 'It's not rocket science...'

[2]

1.11 Through how many steps do they go before the vegetable oil is successfully converted to Envirodiesel?

[1]

Paragraph 5

1.12 Explain the meaning of the phrase 'boom times'.

[1]

1.13 What is the difference between 'largest' and 'majority'?

[2]

Paragraph 6

1.14 What does the phrase 'amateur backwoodsmen' refer to?

[2]

\*1.15 The origin of the expression 'amateur backwoodsmen' is

A boxing

B forestry

C military

D law enforcement

[1]

1.16 Quote the phrase in this paragraph which you consider to be an example of litotes.

[1]

Paragraph 7

1.17 Does the writer have reason to use the term 'Ironically'. Give a reason for your answer.

[2]

1.18 What is the meaning of the word 'purveyors'?

[1]

Paragraph 8

1.19 What is the difference between a 'techno-enthusiast' and a 'green messianic'?

[2]

1.20 What are you if you are being 'sniffy' diesel sold by oil companies? Give the literal and figurative meanings.

[2]

Paragraphs 9

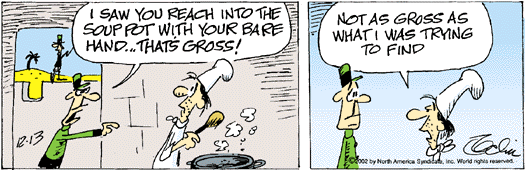
1.20 Why do you think do they call it 'dino-diesel' (as in dinosaur)? What are they trying to imply?

[1]

Paragraph 10

1.21 Who does 'greens'' refer to?

[1]

**/30/**

3.7 Quote an example of slang from the cartoon.

[1]

3.8 What is the meaning of the expression that you quoted in 3.7 in the context of the cartoon?

[1]

3.9 In standard English the word you quoted have up to five possible meanings. Use the word in an explanatory sentence as standard English.

[2]

3.10 Write down a homophone for the word 'bare'.

[1]

3.11 Complete the following sentence. If soup is made in a pot then you eat it in a soup \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[1]

3.13 Both men in the cartoon are wearing uniforms. Identify the two types of uniforms and write them down.

Read the following QUOTE and answer the questions that follow:

[2]

**Beyond Mickey Mouse**

**"With so many innovative comics around, why do we end up reading the same old cartoons with their predictable clichés?"**

Garo Salibian, Montreal, Canada

Time

\*3.14 The question mark here mainly poses...

A a rhetorical question

B a simple question

C a challenge

D a problem

[1]

\*3.15 "Innovative" means

A exciting

B creative

C recent

D novel

[1]