TRANSKRYPCJA TEKSTÓW DO SŁUCHANIA

ARKUSZ I

TASK 1.

News item 1.
Fewer than one in three of Ireland's population smokes and according to several surveys the move to stop people puffing cigarettes in work places has prompted about a quarter of smokers to try to give up. Ireland has more than ten thousand bars and it's the pub industry that's worried that the ban will lead to a collapse in trade, as smokers are forced out into the street. The Department of Health claims smoking costs the country's economy about six million dollars every day in sick leave from work and lost productivity. It also costs the Government more than a billion dollars every year to provide health care for people suffering from tobacco-related illnesses.

News item 2.
As interstellar dust and debris crashes into the earth's upper atmosphere, it burns up in an intense streak of light across the night sky. No meteor shower is more spectacular than the annual Perseid showers which astronomers consider one of the most rewarding sky watching events of the year. The showers, named after the constellation Perseus, happen as our planet crosses through the stream of debris left behind by the comet Swift-Tuttle. The particles, most no larger than grains of sand, crash at up to fifty kilometres per second, where they burn up as shooting stars.

News item 3.
The most high-profile of exercises is planned for central London where a catastrophic incident will be simulated shortly. No specific details of the exercise have yet been given, but it could involve the aftermath of a chemical or biological attack. Other drills will cover disruption of the national gas supply and flood defences. Ministers have also been giving more detail about fourteen new civil contingency reaction forces that are being set up around the country. And local police chiefs will be able to call on military assistance if there's an incident in their area.

News item 4.
This is the Mayor of London's big moment. The introduction of the Congestion Charge was his idea and he's been prepared to stick by it. The new charge of £5 a day has caused outrage from builders, florists and other small businesses which operate in and around London. But broadly speaking, Londoners are in favour of the new Congestion Charge. Their city's become a dirty, polluted and overcrowded capital. It is believed that the new Congestion Charge, which applies on weekdays between 7.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m., will encourage more people to use public transport.

News item 5.
The World Health Organisation estimates that four million people die from smoking-related illnesses every year and over the past two years it's been working on establishing an international health treaty which could curb tobacco advertising and marketing. The WHO now suggests litigation is also a valuable tool with which to control smoking and in a new report outlining various countries' experience with legal action for harm caused by smoking, the organisation says it's ready to offer support for any further actions and would consider the possibility of international litigation against tobacco companies.

News item 6.

Almost thirty years ago, NASA's Mariner Ten spacecraft took the most recent pictures we have of Mercury, revealing a rocky surface – wrinkled like an old apple. It found a planet of extremes, with surface temperatures reaching five hundred degrees Celsius and shady crevices plummeting to minus two hundred. Later observations seemed to show ice there, which is one of the things the new spacecraft - Messenger - will search for. Despite the absence of a lander, Messenger will learn much about the internal workings of this strange planet.

adapted from: *BBC World Service*

TASK 2.

In general, I believe our society is becoming one of giant enterprises directed by a bureaucracy in which man becomes a small, well-oiled cog in the machinery. The oiling is done with higher wages, fringe benefits, well-ventilated factories and piped music, and by psychologists and "human-relations" experts. Yet all this oiling does not alter the fact that man has become powerless, that he does not wholeheartedly participate in his work and that he is bored with it. In fact, the blue- and the white-collar workers have become economic puppets who dance to the tune of automated machines and bureaucratic management.

The worker and employee are anxious, not only because they might find themselves out of a job; they are anxious also because they are unable to acquire any real satisfaction or interest in life. They live and die without ever having confronted the fundamental realities of human existence as emotionally and intellectually productive, authentic and independent beings.

Those higher up on the social ladder are no less anxious. Their lives are no less empty than those of their subordinates. They are even more insecure in some respects. They are in a highly competitive race. To be promoted or to fall behind is not only a matter of salary but even more a matter of self-esteem. When they apply for their first job, they are tested for intelligence as well as for the right mixture of submissiveness and independence. From that moment on they are tested again and again – by the psychologists, for whom testing is a big business, and by their superiors, who judge their behavior, sociability, capacity to get along, and so on. This constant need to prove that one is as good as or better than one's fellow-competitor creates constant anxiety and stress, the very causes of unhappiness and psychosomatic illness.

The "organization man" may be well fed, well amused and well oiled, yet he lacks a sense of identity because none of his feelings or his thoughts originates within himself; none is authentic. He has no convictions, either in politics, religion, philosophy or in love. He is attracted by the "latest model" in thought, art and style, and lives under the illusion that the thoughts and feelings which he has acquired by listening to the media of mass communication are his own.

He has a nostalgic longing for a life of individualism, initiative and justice, a longing that he satisfies by looking at Westerns. But these values have disappeared from real life in the world of giant corporations, giant state-administration and giant labor unions. The individual feels so small before these giants that he sees only one way to escape the sense of utter insignificance: he identifies himself with the giants and idolizes them as the true representatives of his own human powers, those of which he has dispossessed himself. His effort to escape his anxiety takes other forms as well. His pleasure in a well-filled freezer may be one unconscious way of reassuring himself. His passion for consumption is still another symptom, a mechanism which psychiatrists often find in anxious patients who go on an eating or buying spree to evade their problems.

adapted from: *Our Way of Life Makes Us Miserable by Erich Fromm*

TASK 3.

JOAN GARFIELD: Concerns this year about freedom and license have touched all media. The Internet has proved a Pandora's box, allowing all manner of spam and worse into the home, and raising fears of wide-ranging invasions of privacy. But according to Lawrence Lessig, a Stanford University law professor and author of *Code and Other Laws of Cyberspace*, the proposed cures may be worse than the disease, resulting in even less freedom and less privacy. Professor Lessig, welcome back to the show.

LAWRENCE LESSIG: Thanks for having me back.

JOAN GARFIELD: In a recent article for *Newsweek International*, writer Steven Levy described one possible future for the Internet – a very dark future. He wrote the following: "Picture, if you will, an information infrastructure that encourages censorship, surveillance and suppression of the creative impulse; where anonymity is outlawed and every penny spent is accounted for; where the powers that be can smother subversive or economically competitive ideas in the cradle, and no one can publish even a laundry list without the watchful eye of Big Brother." And you, Professor Lessig, he described as "the Dean of Darkness" as you've been predicting for years that an open internet is doomed. Tell me, Cassandra, when does the catastrophe strike? Will it be soon?

LAWRENCE LESSIG: Well, sadly I think the coming years will continue the march. We're seeing an increasing number of technologies and government-sponsored plans for finding ways to monitor and track what people do in the context of the Internet, and those technologies will radically change the nature of what it's like to be on the Internet.

JOAN GARFIELD: Well, let's discuss the principal mechanism that will enable your every transaction or utterance, or for that matter, crime to be tracked digitally. It's called "certification." Would you tell me how it works?

LAWRENCE LESSIG: The basic objective of these technologies of certification is to make it easier for people transacting with you on the Internet to have confidence that you are who you say you are; that you actually have the money you say that you have; that you have the authority to make the order that you say you want to make. So this in some sense raises confidence about transactions on the Internet. But each of these technologies is both privacy-protective and privacy-invasive, and the invasive half is that it makes it easier to collect and monitor data about what people are doing or where they've been or what kind of content they've been browsing or what kind of email exchanges they've been having and that's where I see the catch.

adapted from: *www.onthemedia.org*