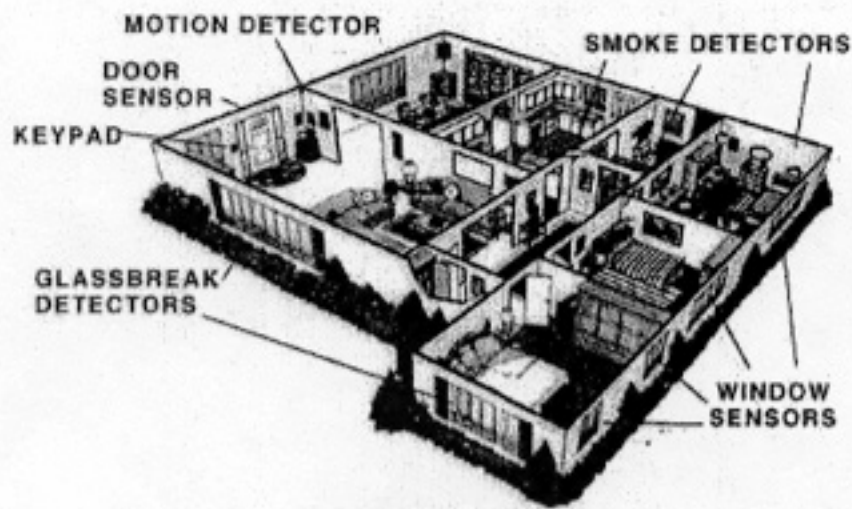


I Text Comprehension 1

Home Security Systems



Control Panel: The control panel is a computer. It's the "brain" of your home security system. All detectors and devices communicate with the control panel. The control panel reacts in specific ways depending on the communication it receives from the various detectors. For example, if the system is activated and an intruder trips a motion detector, the motion detector will send a signal to the control panel, which can activate the sirens, and notify the Monitoring Service for proper alarm handling procedures. The control panel can easily be programmed to match your needs.

Door/Window Sensors:

Door/Window sensors use magnets to sense a break-in or intruder. When your home security system is activated, and a protected door or window is opened (or the magnets are separated), the unit sends an alarm signal to the control panel which in turn activates the sirens, flashes the lights, and notifies the Monitoring Service for proper alarm handling procedures.

Glassbreak Detectors: sense the sound of broken glass and work in combination with your home security system's control panel to notify authorities of an intrusion when the system is armed.

Keypad:

If you have the proper code, you can control all the features of your home security system through the keypad. The display will tell you, in plain English, the status of the alarm system.

Motion Detectors:

Most motion detectors use PIR (Passive InfraRed) to detect the body heat of an intruder. When your First Alert Professional home security system is activated and an intruder moves within the motion detector's range, it will send a signal to the control panel which activates the sirens, flashes the lights, and notifies the Monitoring Service for proper alarm handling procedures. Motion detectors can be used in almost any room. If you have pets, you can adjust motion detectors to permit your pets to move about freely, and these will still detect intruder's movement

Smoke Detectors

Monitored Smoke Detectors provide additional life safety protection, and can qualify you for additional discounts from your insurance provider. Ask us for complete details.

Panic Buttons:

When you're aware of an emergency situation, you may opt to utilize a panic button which sends an alarm signal to the control panel. Immediately the monitoring service is notified and the proper authorities are contacted. Panic buttons may be designated for medical, fire or police response only.

Source of text and illustrations: First Alert Security Systems

Task 1

Choose one of the following alternatives:

1. Why can the control panel be called the "brain" of the system?
 - a. because all systems are linked to the control panel
 - b. because it reacts in specific ways when it receives a signal from a system
 - c. because it can activate a siren
 - d. because it can easily be programmed
2. What happens when an intruder breaks in?
 - a. the door/window sensor activates a magnet
 - b. the doors and windows are protected by magnets which cannot separate
 - c. the door/window sensor sends a signal, after that a siren goes off
 - d. the monitoring service activates a siren and flashes the lights
3. What is the function of the key pad?
 - a. it enables you to find the proper code
 - b. it enables you to control the security system
 - c. it will speak to you in plain English
 - d. it is a demo of the security system
4. What is the advice for people who use motion detectors and also have pets?
 - a. don't let them move about freely
 - b. detect intruders' movements
 - c. change the settings of the detectors
 - d. let the detectors detect the movements of the pets
5. Which of the following statements about panic buttons is correct?
 - a. Panic buttons are sometimes designated for medical, fire or police response.
 - b. Panic buttons are used to contact the doctor, fire fighters or the police and not for anything else.
 - c. Panic buttons are designed by doctors, fire fighters and the police
 - d. Panic buttons are used by doctors, fire fighters and the police.

Task 2:

Match the words below with the definitions.

6. a control panel	a. to be specifically meant
7. a security system	b. a component with which you can regulate something
8. an intruder	c. a system which protects against theft
9. a motion detector	d. to see
10. to be armed	e. to choose to do something
11. a keypad	f. a hole in which you can put a key
12. a smoke detector	g. to develop
13. to opt	h. to use
14. to utilize	i. a burglar
15. to be designated	j. to be embraced
	k. a system which warns when there is a fire
	l. a system which can spot movement of a burglar
	m. to be switched on
	n. a small keyboard
	o. a system which sets something into motion

Task 3:

You are John Green, a Facility Manager or caretaker responsible for the security of your school building. You have read the internet pages of First Alert and write a letter to ask for more information. Match the letters of the following words with the numbers in the text:

a. devices	f. adjust
b. notify	g. reference
c. separate	h. permits
d. features	i. additional
e. display	j. discount

John Green
514 Ongar Road
Epping
Essex EP8 4RT
Great Britain
9 April 1999
Pioneer Security Services Inc
911 Lomas Santa Fe Drive
C-415 Solana Beach
California 92075
United States

Dear Sirs

With (16).. to your internet pages I would like to have information about the(17).. of one of the (18).. in your collection.

On the internet you (19).. wireless security systems. Regarding the user code, I would like to know if I can get (20).. user codes for other staff members. I would also like to know if the system (21).. a brief interruption, so that I do not have to switch the whole system off when I go out for a few minutes. As I am not much of a programmer, could you please tell me if it is difficult to (22).. the system by remote control. Furthermore, I would like to know if the system allows me to (23).. areas of the building, so that I know in which part of the building the alarm is activated. Finally, could you please (24).. me of possible (25).. for cash payment.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

J.Green

John Green

II Text Comprehension 2

ELECTRIC CARS - THE ROAD TO LESS POLLUTION

It's the year 2010 and one of those glaring bright Hong Kong summer days that hurt your eyes the minute you step out of the flat. To escape the heat you flag down the familiar red taxi. It picks you up and hums away without a sound. Sweeping past the other silent cars, taxis and buses headed into Central, you feel as if you can almost touch the city's famous, flashy buildings, they look so close against the pure, clean sky.

It is nothing, you remember with a slight shudder, like the polluted scene of 2003. This is a vision of Hong Kong in the era of the electric automobile. Clean air, skies and running cars, which produce no deadly emission gases. Or so the environmentalists would have us believe. But back to the present: There has never been a quick solution to air pollution, and despite the optimism, there is still much scepticism. The detractors claim electric vehicles transfer the pollution load from the roads to the power plants, which produce the electricity. They are inefficient and slow. And who, they ask, would buy untested technology?

"Hong Kong is perfect for electric vehicles and the technology is available," said Al Morgan, a consultant who has been trying to sell his vision of an electrified Asia. "This could be the showplace for electric vehicles. The high profile of Hong Kong throughout the world and the limited road space make it a natural."

However, selling a dream has never been easy.

Elcar Asia Ltd, which saw the electrifying of the entire taxi fleet of nearly 15,000 vehicles, and sprinkling battery-swapping stations across the territory, as a future possibility, has since closed down. Its director, Dr. Donald Taylor, however, is **undaunted**: he is still pursuing the electrified road. Professor Chan Ching-chuen, director of the University of Hong Kong's International Research Centre for Electric Vehicles, heads a team of 10 researchers who have been relentlessly chasing the pollution-free vehicle.

Nine experimental versions were built and tested before the latest proto-type the U2001 was completed. The project links researchers from the university with counterparts in Japan, China and the United States. The results are being carefully watched by those governments as well as the American Big Three car manufactures - Chrysler Corporation, Ford Motor Company, and General Motors Corporation. Honda in Japan is one of the project sponsors. This is not the work of lightweights. "Hong Kong does not have the manufacturing base to produce electric cars, but it is becoming a world leader in this technology and can act as a catalyst," project researcher, Chau Kwok-tong, said. "All across the world scientists are awaiting the go-ahead." In the US, reforms are in the works, which could alter how car-mad Americans see themselves. New York, California, and Massachusetts have, in an effort to clean up the environment, drafted laws mandating electric vehicle sales by 2004. In California, where the streets are clogged with Mercedes-Benz, Rolls Royces, Ford Broncos and low-riders, two per cent of all vehicle sales must be electric by that date. The Californian two per cent rule has left astounded manufacturers scrambling for a user-friendly electric car. But the **proponents** of electric cars are not without their enemies. Last month, the US car manufacturers rebelled and are now threatening to hold the three American states hostage. If California, Massachusetts and New York don't wipe their electric vehicle laws off the books, manufacturers have said they will kill plans to produce cleaner burning cars next year. The choice is loosen the emission restrictions and allow more time to find alternatives. The Big Three have said consumers will reject the current crop of electric vehicles because they are too expensive and inefficient. Given time, they **claim**, the emission standards for fossil fuels vehicles, can drop to near zero. But without the time, they say they will abandon research. Critics have complained that environmentalists are short-sighted when it comes to electric vehicles. Electric vehicles are zero emission producers, they say, but actually the two per cent scheme will not effectively control pollution because it only transfers **it** from the car to the power station.

Despite intensive research on how to power the vehicles, this remains one of the unresolved problems. Traditional lead-acid batteries appear to have the highest efficiency rates, but lead is one of the world's deadliest pollutants. And the more high-tech combinations, like nickel cadmium or zinc-air present environmental spillage problems, **not to mention**, their high costs.

Large amounts of lead are required to create the batteries needed to power huge numbers of electric cars. American researchers have suggested that emissions from mining, smelting and the recycling of this lead would expose thousands of people living or working close to production sites to near toxic levels of lead. If only five per cent of America's 200 million vehicles were powered by lead-based-batteries, an extra 21,000 tonnes of lead would be released into the environment annually.

The focus on electric vehicles may have clouded alternative zero emission options. New research is being done at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and other research centres worldwide. The industry is looking for other technological breakthroughs – fusion for example.

Other experts believe Mercedes-Benz and Mazda's research on hydrogen power and fuel cells might hit pay off both in dollars and clean air. Even the biggest sceptic has to agree that something must be done to solve the pollution crisis.

It is estimated that there are a billion internal combustion engines on the planet. The rule of thumb is that one dirty engine equals 40 well-maintained, clean ones. It is the insidious, subtle but dangerous, nature of air pollution and the inability of researchers to eliminate other factors and prove that the toxic cocktail of chemicals in our air is a direct health risk, which has led to confused and vague action by governments, worldwide.

But pollution costs. The American Lung Association puts a price tag of more than US\$ 40 billion (HK\$ 309.2 billion) a year on air pollution, in terms of medical costs, days lost at work and premature death. In the past decade, the rate of pollution-related respiratory problems in the area has leapt by 18.6 per cent.

The Government's statistics tell us that every day the people of Hong Kong breathe the equivalent of 250 beverage cans of toxic pollutants. And, they assure us that it is getting worse. When Governor Chris Patten arrived in Hong Kong, he was **hailed as** the "Green Governor". But the policy makers in the Government have sidestepped and ignored every opportunity to enact fresh air legislation. A survey conducted by the air action group CLEAR found that over 80 per cent of the people of Hong Kong would gladly pay higher taxi and bus fares, if it meant they would be able to breathe cleaner air. As legislator Christine Loh Kung-wai has pointed out: "Now is the time for action. The projection for increased commercial and container port traffic on the roads shows that it will only get worse. What we need is creative thinking, but we need it in a hurry. The health of people can't wait." Electric cars can help us breathe easier.

After reading the text choose the best alternative:

26. The main point of paragraph 1 is to:

- (a) outline the main causes of pollution
- (b) describe a hypothetical future
- (c) give background information and describe the article's outline
- (d) give the author's viewpoint on pollution

27. The main point of paragraph 2 is to:

- (a) present the argument of the people who are against electric cars
- (b) present the argument of the people who are in favour of electric cars
- (c) weigh up the pros and cons of the arguments of both sides
- (d) give background information and describe the author's viewpoint on pollution

28. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a reason for choosing Hong Kong as a good place to start using electric cars?

- (a) Hong Kong is well-known around the world
- (b) there is not much room for roads in Hong Kong
- (c) Hong Kong has a relevant manufacturing base
- (d) Hong Kong has relevant technology

29. In the US reforms supporting the manufacture of electric cars are being led by:

- (a) the Federal (central) government
- (b) some state governments
- (c) popular demand
- (d) manufactures

30. Which of the following references is described with precise statistics:

- (a) the reference to the number of internal combustion engines in the world
- (b) the reference to the price of air pollution in the US
- (c) the reference to the rate of increase of pollution related respiratory problems in Hong Kong
- (d) the reference to the amount of toxic pollutants that people breathe every day in Hong Kong

31. The 'Big 3' car manufacturers do NOT argue in favour of:

- (a) modifying current fossil fuel technology
- (b) modifying current electric car technology
- (c) getting more time in order to develop electric car technology
- (d) encouraging consumers to accept the present generation of electric cars

32. According to the text:

- a) Electric cars would definitely be the only solution to reduce pollution
- b) There are other environmentally friendly options worthwhile taking a look at
- c) Electric cars are zero emission producers
- d) Lead-acid batteries in electric cars are most efficient and they pollute the least

33. The tone of the last three sentences in the text is:

- (a) desperate and disappointed
- (b) indifferent
- (c) optimistic but concerned
- (d) relaxed and positive

34. In paragraph 4, 'undaunted' refers to:

- (a) unemployed
- (b) sceptic
- (c) persistent
- (d) insane

35. In paragraph 5, 'proponents' is closest in meaning to:

- (a) prophets
- (b) protectors
- (c) supporters
- (d) opponents

36. In paragraph 5, 'claim' could be replaced by which of the following?

- (a) demand
- (b) say
- (c) clarify
- (d) argue

37. In line paragraph 5 'it' refers to:

- (a) the two per cent scheme
- (b) pollution
- (c) emissions
- (d) energy

38. Which of the following alternatives means the same as 'Despite' in paragraph 6?

- (a) at the same time
- (b) whereas
- (c) regardless of
- (d) although

39. What is the best definition for 'not to mention' as used in paragraph 6?

- (a) considering
- (b) regardless of
- (c) as well as
- (d) notwithstanding

40. Which one of the following definitions means the same as 'hailed as' in paragraph 12?

- (a) characterised as
- (b) welcomed as
- (c) described as
- (d) called

III STRUCTURE. Choose the best alternative.

41. _____ of my friends owns a car yet.

- a) Anyone b) None c) Nobody

42. My grandfather is relatively young. He is only in _____ fifties.

- a) - b) his c) the

43. I feel _____ ridiculous in these pants.

- a) myself b) - c) me

44. It would be easier to read, if it _____ so dark in the room.

- a) wasn't b) isn't c) wouldn't be

45. The news he told me _____ good.

- a) were b) are c) was

46. The house _____ last week.

- a) is painted b) has painted c) was painted

47. How many _____ in your class?

- a) students are there b) there are students c) students there are?

48. If you are not afraid of making mistakes, you are more willing to _____ new challenges

- a) expect b) accept c) except

49. I'm not sure what the exact number is. Can you call me tomorrow, I _____ it.

- a) have looked after b) will look into c) will look at

50. There is more to life _____ eating and sleeping.

- a) between b) besides c) instead of

51. The Korhonens built their sauna _____.

- a) themselves b) himself c) themself

52. Pompeii, _____ ruins are impressive, was destroyed in 79 AD.

- a) who's b) of which c) whose

53. The jury _____ not yet _____ its verdict.

- a) is - reached b) has - reached c) will - reach

54. Do you mind me opening the window?

- a) Yes, please b) Never mind c) No, go ahead

55. What ____ to him? I didn't see him after the movie.
a) did happen b) happened c) had happened
56. He cannot only sing ____ play the guitar.
a) but also b) yet c) neither
57. This book isn't mine. Is it ____ ?
a) your b) yours c) your's
58. We were awfully disappointed that the concert ____.
a) called off b) was called off c) turned out
59. I wish I could afford ____ a new stereo system.
a) buying b) to buy c) buy
60. Nothing ____ you say can make me change my mind.
a) which b) that c) what
61. The European Song Contest ____ every year.
a) is held b) was held c) are held
62. While I ____ breakfast, my passport and wallet were stolen from my hotel room.
a) had b) was having c) had had
63. We ____ drive fast. We have plenty of time.
a) can't b) mustn't c) need not
64. Ann hasn't come yet. Then again, she said she ____ late.
a) is b) has been c) would be
65. Something ____ to save the rainforests before it's too late!
a) needs done b) needs to do c) needs to be done
66. If we learn ____ other people's mistakes, we don't have to repeat them all.
a) from b) after c) out of
67. They will win the championship, if they ____ Ajax tomorrow.
a) will beat b) did beat c) beat
68. Modesty is typical ____ Finns.
a) of b) for c) about

69. I look forward to _____ from you.

- a) hear b) hearing c) have heard

70. Your skiing equipment _____ brand new.

- a) look b) looks c) are looking

IV VOCABULARY

71. When starting school, a child should be able to take care of his personal needs and _____

- a) thinks b) belongings c) ownership

72. Giving youngsters some responsibilities helps them to become responsible _____.

- a) toddlers b) peoples c) adults

73. His father was severely _____ in a car crash last week.

- a) accident b) improved c) injured

74. Before you start cooking you should make sure that all the ingredients are _____.

- a) availability b) at hand c) handsome

75. You should also remember that your actions have _____.

- a) affects b) circumstances c) consequences

76. Your clothes should not be too tight but not too _____ either.

- a) loose b) lose c) loosen

77. Before travelling to a foreign country, you need to exchange _____.

- a) expenses b) current c) currency

78. You also need to get a new passport, if the old one has _____.

- a) expanded b) expired c) issued

79. It might also be a good idea to get _____ against the most common diseases.

- a) vaccinated b) insured c) addicted

80. The man had hijacked the bus and kept the passengers as _____.

- a) hostesses b) hostages c) guards