

**English Final Examination 2008 / Written Part**

**05 June 2008**

Cover Sheet

Instructions, Points & Markings

Name:.....

First Name:.....

Your exam consists of the following three parts:

Total time: 120 minutes

A Reading Comprehension

40 points

B Grammar & Structures

44 points

C Writing

44 points

All parts are handed out at the beginning of the exam. Manage your timing well.

You cannot use a dictionary during the exam.

Points part A: ...../ 40

Points part B: ...../ 44

Points part C: ...../ 44

Total: ...../128

**Final Mark:** .....



**Good Luck ☺**

# Traffic jams

Turn left. No right. I mean left

Mar 13th 2008

5 From The Economist print edition  
**Getting from A to B on time is about to become as easy as ABC**

Illustration by David Simonds

10 THERE is nothing more frustrating than turning  
on to a motorway and getting stuck in a traffic  
jam that **stretches into the distance**. Why did  
the radio and the motorway-entry sign offer no  
warning? The satellite-navigation system shows  
15 a *different* route—once you get to the next exit.  
But it leads through the middle of a town and  
could be heavily congested, if only because  
other drivers are taking the same *detour*.  
Perhaps it is wiser to stay on the motorway and  
20 hope for the *best*?



Traffic jams cost billions in lost productivity and wasted fuel. Cameras and road sensors  
aim to give drivers advance warning of problems, but many roads are not covered and the  
information can be **unreliable**. Many digital maps use only signposted speeds to calculate  
25 journey times and take little account of the way traffic flows *change* during the week and at  
different times of the day.

Now help is at hand. As satellite-navigation devices become more widely used, networking  
effects are making them more powerful. This is because vehicles themselves are starting  
30 to *relay* real-time traffic data—and the more that do so, the more **accurate** traffic  
information will become.

The biggest deployment of such a system will take place this summer between New  
Jersey and North Carolina on 4,000km (2,500 miles) of the *congested* Interstate Highway  
35 95 and its *adjacent* roads. The project will collect information on the **flow of vehicles**  
using installed road sensors, cameras and first-hand reports, like those from police  
patrols. To this will be added real-time data relayed from the satellite-navigation systems  
in thousands of vehicles—mostly **lorries**, taxis and delivery trucks—that pound along  
these roads day in, day out. Because their positions will be updated every few minutes,  
40 any hold-ups will *quickly* become apparent.

## Clear run

The information will be *compiled* and processed by INRIX, a company **based** in  
Washington state that was spun out of Microsoft in 2004. The data will be used by the  
45 highway authorities, emergency services, travel-information providers and the suppliers of  
navigation devices and services, like TomTom, Garmin and Clear Channel. As many  
commercial fleets already have the equipment they need to take part (it locates their  
vehicles and helps to plan pick-ups and deliveries), INRIX reckons the service could easily  
spread across much of America's east coast.

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Mobile phones in vehicles can also provide real-time traffic data. The idea is to look anonymously at how connections pass from one mobile-phone mast to the next as vehicles travel along a road. TomTom **has teamed up** with Vodafone to use its mobile network to offer a new premium traffic-information service this year in Britain, Germany and the Netherlands. The system relies on putting a mobile-phone type connection into satellite-navigation devices to receive more extensive traffic updates, so each extra unit that is installed will add to the volume of data. Some users also upload profiles of their journeys. Half-a-billion different speed measurements are now *received* by TomTom every day to help build its database.

Roads themselves change faster than mapmakers can change maps. Again, networking is helping. TomTom lets users who update the maps on their devices share that information with others (once it has been checked). In the nine months that the service has been **running**, the maps of 30 countries have received more than 1m updates. As satellite-navigation systems evolve from being devices that just pointed drivers in the *right* direction, they will find a much *greater* use as driver-information systems, reckons Mark Gretton, TomTom's director of development.

New services using *powerful* databases will help that *come about*. Journey Dynamics, a British company, operates a *sophisticated* computer-modelling system with historic and live traffic data. It also **accounts** for things such as the weather, roadworks and the different vehicles using the information: a Porsche can go up hills a lot faster than a *heavy* lorry can. The idea is to weigh up the likely delays on different routes so that a driver will be able to state with a high degree of confidence the probability of arriving on time, says John Holland, boss of Journey Dynamics. As many drivers already know to their cost, the shortest way is not always the quickest.

[http://www.economist.com/science/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=10843094](http://www.economist.com/science/displaystory.cfm?story_id=10843094)

**ANSWER:**

[JLeddy](#) wrote:

March 14, 2008 14:42

As a piece of the puzzle, technology will continue to allow drivers to better manage their travels. That said, some of the assumptions about travel on I-95 are simply inaccurate.

Good luck on finding a single taxi travelling between states. By far, most GPS devices in the United States today are found in personal cars.

GPS tracking provides only a fraction of the coverage that can be provided by triangulated cell phone signals. Cell phones need only be on to transmit signals to cell towers, and they do it by the millions, sending accurate real-time location beacons. A Georgia-based

company called AirSage uses cell phone signals to provide traffic data that is **currently** distributed for free by state Departments of Transportation in Georgia and Wisconsin.

The use of cell phone signals to track traffic is a much more exciting technological development because of its cost-effectiveness. Cell phone-based networks cost only a fraction of those relying on fibre-optic cable, cameras and sensors.

**Glossary**

18	detour	Umweg
30	relay	Weiterleiten
34	congested	verstopft
35	adjacent	angrenzend
43	compiled	zusammengestellt
69	come about	zustande kommen
70	sophisticated	ausgeklügelt

**Part A Reading Comprehension (40 points)**

**A1: Are the following statements true or false? (20 points)**

Cross(☒) the statement as true (T) or false (F): if it's false, correct it! Example:

- |     |   | T                        | F                        |
|-----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0.  | The author likes to be in traffic jams.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|     | <i>No, he thinks it is very frustrating.</i>  |                          |                          |
| 1.  | Traffic flow is hardly used to calculate the time of a journey.                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2.  | It doesn't help if data is relayed in real-time.                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3.  | INRIX belongs to Microsoft.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.  | Comercial vehicles are all taking part in the project.                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.  | The signal of mobile phones is used to measure speed.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6.  | The calculated speed depends on what vehicle you have.                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7.  | Many drivers think the shortest way is also the quickest.                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8.  | The erticle isn't against the use of technology for lesser traffic congestion.        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9.  | JLeddy agrees that the use of taxis is a good idea.                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. | JLeddy thinks that Cell phones are only more exciting than GPS for exact positioning. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

points:...../20

**A2: Vocabulary (9 points)**

Explain the meaning (not just one word synonym) of the **bold printed** expressions or phrases in your own words. Do not use these words in your explanations.

1. Line: 12 . . . stretches into the distance

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Line: 24 . . . unreliable

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Line: 30 . . . accurate

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Line: 35 . . . flow of vehicles

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Line: 38 . . . lorries

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Line: 43 . . . based

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Line: 53 . . . (has) teamed up

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Line: 64 . . . (has been) running

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Line: 71 . . . accounts for

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Line: 90 . . . currently

\_\_\_\_\_

points:...../10

**A3 Antonyms (10 points)**

10 words in the text are *italics*; give an antonym (maximum two words) for each one of them which could be used in the text.

0. Line 7: . . . **easy** . . . difficult

1. Line 11: . . . *on* . . . \_\_\_\_\_

2. Line 15: . . . *a different* . . . \_\_\_\_\_

3. Line 20: . . . *best* . . . \_\_\_\_\_

4. Line 25: . . . *change* . . . \_\_\_\_\_

5. Line 40: . . . *quickly* . . . \_\_\_\_\_

6. Line 58: . . . *received* . . . \_\_\_\_\_

7. Line 65: . . . *right* . . . \_\_\_\_\_

8. Line 66: . . . *greater* . . . \_\_\_\_\_

9. Line 69: . . . *powerful* . . . \_\_\_\_\_

10. Line 73: . . . *heavy* . . . \_\_\_\_\_

points:...../10

## Part B Grammar (44 points)

### B1 : Active / passive (7 points)

Rewrite the following sentences into the active or passive form. The sentences are from the text.

1. Many digital maps use only signposted speeds to calculate journey times.

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2. The information will be compiled and processed by INRIX.

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3. Vehicles themselves are starting to relay real-time traffic data.

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4. The data will be used by the highway authorities.

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5. Mobile phones in vehicles can also provide real-time traffic data.

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6. Half-a-billion different speed measurements are now received by TomTom every day to help build its database.

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7. New services using powerful databases will help that come about.

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points:...../7

## B2 Past simple - Past continuous - Past perfect (17 points)

Complete the following conversation using the verbs supplied.

Jean has called to see her boyfriend Gary.

GARY: Jean, I'm surprised to see you.

JEAN: Well, I think you owe me an explanation.

GARY: Me? What about you?(1)...I **saw**. (I / see) you in the café last night. (2)... **We had arranged**...(we / arrange) to meet at the cinema, if you remember.

JEAN: So why (3)... **didn't you come** ... (you / not / come) into the café if you saw me?

GARY: (4).....(I / be) too angry. And cold.

(5) ..... (I / wait) outside the cinema for three-quarters of an hour.

JEAN: But why? (6) ..... (you / not / get) my note?

GARY: What note?

JEAN: The note (7) .....(I / leave) here yesterday afternoon.

When (8)..... (I go) past the cinema yesterday lunchtime

(9)..... (I / notice) that (10).....(they / change) the

film. So (11)..... (I / put) a note under your door to tell you.

GARY: (12) ... ..... (I / not / find) any note.

JEAN: It must be here. Let me look. Yes. Oh dear. I'm afraid (13).....

..... (it / slip) under the mat.

GARY: Oh. I'm sorry I was angry. It's just that, well, while

(14)..... (I / wait), I was worried about

(15)..... (what / happen) to you. And then,

(16)..... (I / see) you in the café.

(17)..... (you / laugh) with your friends and

(18)..... (I / realise) that

(19)..... (you sit) there quite comfortably with them all evening.

(20) .....(I just / lose) my temper.

JEAN: Never mind. Let's forget it. Where shall we go now?

points:...../17

**B3 Prepositions (10 points)**

Fill in the correct preposition (in/for/by etc.).

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Helen is studying law.... <b>at</b> ... university.                   | 12. What are you doing ..... the moment?<br>Are you working?                     |
| 2. Is there anything .....television this evening?                       | 13. I don't know any of the people ..... this photograph.                        |
| 3. We arrived.....the hotel after midnight.                              | 14. The train was very slow. It stopped ..... every station.                     |
| 4. 'Where's Mike?' 'He's.....holiday.'                                   | 15. I like this room. I like the pictures ..... the walls.                       |
| 5. Tom hasn't got up yet. He's still .....bed.                           | 16. 'Did you buy that picture?' 'No, it was given to me ..... a friend of mine.' |
| 6. Linda is away. She's been away ..... Monday.                          | 17. I'm going away ..... a few days. I'll be back ..... Thursday.                |
| 7. The next meeting is ..... 15 April.                                   | 18. Silvia has gone ..... Italy. She's in Milan at the moment.                   |
| 8. I usually go to work.....car.   | 19. Ann left school ..... fifteen and got a job ..... a shop.                    |
| 9. There's too much sugar .....my coffee.                                |  |
| 10. Kevin lived in London ..... six months. He didn't like it very much. |  |
| 11. Were there a lot of people ..... the party?                          |  |

points:...../10

**B3 Tenses (10 points)**

Fill in the verb in the suitable tense

The British government \_\_\_\_\_ (release) over 1,000 pages of secret files on UFO sightings to the public. It is the first time records on flying saucers and other unexplained objects \_\_\_\_\_ (make) available. Britain's National Archives \_\_\_\_\_(put) the documents online following requests from members of the public. Britain's freedom of information laws meant the documented reports \_\_\_\_\_ (can no longer keep) a secret. Officials said that the names of many individuals who \_\_\_\_\_ (claim) they saw UFOs \_\_\_\_\_ (black out) to respect their privacy. They also \_\_\_\_\_ (say) that information that \_\_\_\_\_ (to be) vital to protect national security would not be released. There is a lot of data from the 1970s and '80s, when the Cold War \_\_\_\_\_(to be) at its height. In these two decades, Russian fighter planes \_\_\_\_\_(often mistake) for alien spacecraft. The reports do not say what people mistook little green men for.



## Part C Writing (44 points)

Write an essay on one of the following topics. Write between 120-140 words.

1. Discuss the pros and cons of the technology mentioned in the text.
2. What other ways can you find for traffic managing?
3. What do you think of the idea of using mobile phone signals for a more accurate and cheaper option (as stated in the answer mail)?

### Evaluation Criteria:

	Points	
<b>Contents:</b>		
length (at least 120 words)	6	_____
understanding (own text, to the point)	6	_____
quality, substance	6	_____
<b>Structure:</b>		
divided into paragraphs, logical sequence	2	_____
<b>Style:</b>		
conciseness, adequacy	4	_____
<b>Vocabulary:</b>		
accuracy	4	_____
range	4	_____
<b>Sentence Patterns:</b>		
complexity, variety, word order	2	_____
<b>Grammar:</b>		
<b>grammar</b> mistakes	5	_____
<b>spelling</b> mistakes	5	_____

\_\_\_\_\_/44points

