

PROVA GUIDATA (Testo non letterario)

PART 1 – COMPREHENSION

Read the text below.

Public Phone Boxes Are Going to Disappear

A much-loved but almost obsolete feature is set to vanish from thousands of British streets when BT (British Telecom) presses button B to cancel calls in 20,000 phone boxes – a reference that would have to be explained to an entire digital generation which has never made a call from a public phone.

- 5 Faced with soaring maintenance costs and plummeting usage, BT plans to scrap half of the UK's remaining public telephone boxes, many of which are now never used for their original purpose. The phone boxes were once lifelines to the wider world at a time when many homes had no landline and the very idea of a mobile phone came from the wilder shores of science fiction. Today, many are the sad and smelly last resting places of pigeons and half-eaten chicken takeaways.
- 10 Some 33,000 calls a day are still made from phone boxes, but about a third are only used once a month, and many are never used at all. Of those in more regular use, few earn enough money to cover maintenance costs.

The number of calls has been dropping by 20% a year, while the cost of cleaning, replacing broken glass panels, repairing vandalised receivers and removing graffiti and rubbish has

15 risen steadily to about £6m a year.

“BT is committed to providing a public payphone service, but with usage declining by over 90% in the last decade, we continue to review and remove payphones which are no longer used,” a spokeswoman said.

- 20 “The boxes would only be removed according to Ofcom guidelines,” she said. “If there is no other payphone within 400 metres, the local authority must be notified, and the box would only be removed if there were no objections.”

Many of those that will survive the cull are traditional red cast iron boxes, 2,400 of which are Grade II listed buildings. The most famous design, cherished by collectors when they are decommissioned, is the K6 kiosk, created in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and inspired,

25 bizarrely, by a tomb in Old St Pancras churchyard created by the Georgian architect Sir John Soane in 1816 to mark his wife's grave.

At their peak, there were 92,000 payphones across the UK, and queues in the street were a familiar sight at the busiest ones, where those impatient for their turn rapped indignantly on the glass to rebuke chatty callers.

- 30 BT is encouraging communities to reprieve some of those now condemned by paying £1 to adopt them so that they might join the 4,300 that have found new lives as tiny libraries, art centres, sites for lifesaving defibrillation equipment and local information points.

The cost of using a public phone box was measured out in old copper pennies for decades. Today the minimum charge is 60p, which includes a 40p connection charge, and would be

35 enough to pay for many calls and texts from most mobile phones.

Maev Kennedy, «The Guardian» 15.08.2017

Read the following statements and say whether each one is True (T), False (F) or Not Stated (NS). Circle the correct box.

1 A lot of people don't know what "press button B" means because they are too young.

☒ T

☐ F

☐ NS



La parola chiave è "obsolete" (riga 1), che fa riferimento a qualcosa di antico, ormai in disuso; successivamente si fa riferimento a una generazione digitale che non ha esperienza di telefoni pubblici perché ormai ciascuno usa il proprio cellulare.

2 Public telephone boxes were first introduced because people required them.

☒ T

☐ F

☐ NS



Alle righe 7-8 si dice che molte case non avevano la linea: le cabine vengono pensate come servizio pubblico per connettere le case private con il mondo.

3 Phone boxes are so expensive to maintain because vandals often damage them.

☐ T

☒ F

☐ NS



Attenzione perché talvolta la risposta proposta è corretta ma incompleta, come in questo caso: i danni inflitti dai vandali non sono l'unica causa dell'alto costo del mantenimento delle cabine telefoniche ("while the cost of cleaning, replacing broken glass panels, repairing vandalised receivers and removing graffiti and rubbish has risen steadily to about £6m a year," righe 13-15).

4 The boxes will be removed even if there are objections.

☐ T

☒ F

☐ NS



Attenzione all'uso delle parole. In questo caso la parola chiave nella domanda è "even if", mentre nel testo la parola importante è "only ... if" (riga 21).

5 The term "listed buildings" (line 23) refers to objects or structures that are of cultural or historic importance which are included on a special register.

☒ T

☐ F

☐ NS



La risposta non è data esplicitamente nel testo, devi ricorrere al dizionario per comprendere esattamente cosa significa "listed buildings". Le righe 22-26 ti fanno comunque capire che la "lista" riguarda oggetti tradizionali e di design.

Answer the questions below. Use complete sentences and your own words.

6 If there used to be 92,000 phone boxes in the UK, why were there often queues outside them?



In questo caso la risposta deve essere dedotta dalla lettura dell'intero brano: vi erano molte cabine telefoniche perché vi era una grande richiesta di poter telefonare. La parola chiave è "chatty" (riga 29), le persone spesso parlavano troppo a lungo.

Because not many people had a phone at home so they often had long conversations in phone boxes, which meant a queue formed.

7 How are some phone boxes being saved? Explain in your own words.

La risposta si trova alle righe 30-31, le parole chiave sono “reprieve”, graziare, e “adopt”, adottare, che sottolineano il legame affettivo tra le persone e le cabine telefoniche: le cabine sono quasi personificate.

BT is asking people to pay money to “adopt” a phone box, so that instead of destroying them, they are turned into mini libraries, art centres, sites for lifesaving defibrillation equipment or local information points.

8 Is making a call from a phone box more or less expensive than calling from a mobile phone? Explain why/why not.

In questo caso la risposta si trova alle righe 33-34, ma ti viene fornito solo il dato relativo al costo della chiamata da un telefono pubblico, è necessario fare riferimento alle tue conoscenze extra-testuali per confrontare i costi con le tariffe dei cellulari.

Making a call from a phone box is much more expensive than calling from a mobile because it costs a minimum of 60p, which is enough to make many calls from a mobile (lines 34-35). If you want to call from a phone box you first have to find one that is working. Then you will spend a minimum of 60p, including a 40p charge when the person answers. You will have to keep putting coins into the phone when your money runs out.

Nowadays you can have a mobile telephone subscription thanks to which you can get special promotions and have the possibility to talk on the phone for a long time spending little money.

PART 2 – WRITTEN PRODUCTION

You can talk with someone for years everyday and still, it won't mean as much as what you can have when you sit in front of someone, not saying a word, yet you feel that person with your heart, you feel like you have known the person forever... connections are made with the heart, not the tongue.

C. Joy Bell C.

Write a 300-word essay on the advantages and disadvantages of using mobile phones.

Leggi la citazione e la consegna con la massima attenzione. Individua i nuclei centrali della citazione: si parla di comunicazione e di come può avvenire, di persona o a distanza, attraverso le parole o attraverso il “sentire” in senso più generale, non solo facendo riferimento all’aspetto verbale. La tecnologia favorisce o complica la comunicazione? Delinea i punti essenziali e organizza il tuo tema in paragrafi.

Over the last decade, we have seen an increase in the use of technology: in particular, communication technology. Nowadays, everyone, both young and old, possesses a mobile phone. You can call anyone anywhere in the world and access various services using special applications. You can take photos (including the so-called ‘selfies’) and write texts and send them to whomever you want.

First of all, we can't deny that a mobile phone is very useful in the case of an emergency. Depending on the circumstances, you can quickly call for an ambulance or contact the police. In addition, people who live alone, such as the elderly, or people who work abroad can easily keep in touch with their friends and relatives using texts and video calls. Thanks to mobile phones, you can be part of a group and you can inform a number of people about a particular event with a single text message.

On the other hand, the fact of being constantly available can also have negative consequences. You are likely to be disturbed at any time, which can sometimes be very annoying. You may be tempted to check your mobile continuously because you are afraid of missing some important piece of news. This also means that you are not completely focused on what is going on around you at that moment. It is sometimes possible to see people sitting at the same table at a restaurant without exchanging a single word because they are too busy looking at their mobiles. This shows a sad lack of personal communication.