

Entrée en seconde section internationale 2016 – 2017

Answer all the questions with **COMPLETE SENTENCES**

One day, nine cruel evictions. How supersized inequality looks in the US

Aditya Chakraborty , 8 March 2016, theguardian.com

If you want to learn something about what's driving America's elections, try what I did last week and spend a day watching people being evicted from their homes.

5 In Milwaukee¹ an eviction looks like this: two sheriff's deputies – gun in one holster, Taser in the other – rap on the front door. The tenant, usually behind on the rent, is served with an orange notice and granted a few minutes to get themselves ready. They also have to choose: will their belongings go
5 into storage, or get tossed on to the kerb²?

Picking the first means your goods are stowed by Eagle³ for a monthly fee, a fee that the now-homeless tenants often can't afford. Go for kerbside, on the other hand, and everything you own is
10 stuffed into cardboard boxes and chucked on the sidewalk for the neighbors to see. You can come back and get it, provided passersby and the weather haven't got to it first.

During my day of evictions, each family chose to take their chances kerbside. The mother of the family being chucked out gathered what she could, while avoiding the eyes of everyone else.

15 From all this, let me draw just two observations that will shape how I see this year's elections. The first is socio-economic: nearly a decade on from the start of the subprime meltdown, big swaths of America are still deep in housing crisis.

20 The second big thing that struck me on the eviction trail was a visual pattern. The two deputies were white. The moving company was owned by three brothers, also white. The landlords, coming along to change the locks, were invariably white. But the neighborhoods we were stopping in were overwhelmingly black. And the crew tossing out their stuff were nearly all black or Latino. Milwaukee is regularly ranked among the most segregated cities in the US in terms of race and poverty, more than Atlanta, Chicago or Detroit.

25 Leave elections aside and what this combination of a housing crisis and deep inequality does is trash lives and hopes. The person I'll remember from my eviction day is a young black man, who couldn't have been more than 21. He did temp jobs, and hoped to be paid tomorrow so that he could hire a U-haul truck and collect what was left on the kerb. On hearing I was a journalist, he exclaimed: "Oh! You write poetry?" "Well", I said, "I don't think my editor would call it that." But he was already off. "I write poems. People are always surprised when I tell them that." Look, he was telling me: I am more
30 than this. As we drove away, I saw him and his mother walk away from their belongings, trying to work out where they were going to sleep that night.

On the morning I left Milwaukee, the snow was piled up on the sidewalks. It was the kind of gusting cold that chases you indoors after a few minutes. The men at Eagle had more evictions lined up for the day. Minus 8°C outside, and eight households to be turfed on to the street.

QUESTIONS

1. In your own words, explain what an eviction is. (1 point)
2. What are the two options offered to tenants when they are evicted and why are they equally unsatisfactory?(3 points)
3. Why does the mother mentioned on line 12 '*avoid the eyes of everyone else*'?(2 points)
4. Why do you think the sheriff's deputies carry a gun and a Taser when they come for evictions?(2 points)
5. Why does the 21-year-old want the journalist to know that he writes poems? (2 points)

PERSONAL EXPRESSION

6. Discuss the journalist's point of view on the evictions he has seen. (maximum 20 lines) (10 points)

1. Milwaukee – a big town in Wisconsin 2. Kerb – the edge of the path at the side of the road 3. Eagle Moving : a removal firm that offers storage units

Entrée en seconde internationale 2017-2018 (1,5h)

Answer all the questions with COMPLETE SENTENCES and USE YOUR OWN WORDS. You have 90 MINUTES.

A long, hard trip to school

Elizabeth Eckford's first day of high school was not ordinary. Though the day took place fifty years ago, she remembers every detail. Students screamed at her as she tried to enter Central High School, in Little Rock, Arkansas. Angry people pushed her down the stairs and spat on her. "people were threatening to kill me," Eckford said. "The police had to protect us. They saved our lives."

Why all this fury? It was because of Eckford's skin color. She was one of the first nine black students to enrol at Central High. On September 4, 1957, they were stopped at the door of the school by Arkansas Governor, Orval Faubus, who did not want black and white students to attend the same public schools. But the "Little Rock Nine" finally attended classes three weeks later, on September 25, 1957, thanks to President Eisenhower who sent 1,000 armed soldiers to accompany them into the school.

Though the US Supreme Court had declared in 1954 that school segregation was illegal, many people still opposed the racial integration of schools. Actually, it took until 1972 for Little Rock's public schools to become fully integrated – four years after the Supreme Court had declared all forms of segregation unconstitutional, making it illegal not only in schools but also in businesses, the American military, other civil services and the government.

Fifty years later, Little Rock welcomed back the Little Rock Nine, who defied threats and physical intimidation, in their brave quest to study at the all-white-school, changing the face of civil rights in America. Elizabeth Eckford was at the ceremony. "We looked back at what happened in 1957, looked at where we are today and talked about what we need to continue to do", she says. "I'm very grateful for the changes that the civil rights movement brought but there is still a lot of work to be done."

Andrea Delbanco, TFK World Report, 2007

Questions:

1. Describe in your own words Elizabeth Eckford's feelings on her first day of high school. (Answer in about 100 words)
2. What was the position of American institutions at that time? (Answer in about 100 words)
3. What are the journalist's feelings about what happened to Elizabeth Eckford? Justify your answer by quoting the text. (Answer in about 120 words)
4. Using your knowledge of more recent events in American history, comment on Elizabeth's words spoken in 2007 "I'm very grateful for the changes that the civil rights movement brought but there is still a lot of work to be done". (Answer in about 150 words)

Answer all the questions with COMPLETE SENTENCES and USE YOUR OWN WORDS. You have 90 MINUTES.

In Charlottesville a young woman was killed while protesting against white supremacists who, alongside groups of neo-Nazis, neo-Confederates and the Ku Klux Klan, chose a statue of Confederate general Robert E Lee as the rallying point for their gathering.

Despite the anger and the violence, little of this is really about statues. They're the focus, not the issue, which is probably why Donald Trump was so keen to talk about them rather than his refusal to denounce neo-Nazis. This, ultimately, is a battle of ideas. It is a new chapter in the so-called "history wars" – political struggles in which versions of the past that have long gone largely uncontested are exposed and challenged.

As statues, along with the names of streets, schools and other institutions, have been one of the ways in which certain versions of the past have been given literal solidity and the hint of official recognition, they have become physical targets in a conflict that is otherwise about what is less tangible – ideas and history. The great untruth around which everything pivots is the idea that the defenders of these statues are the defenders of history and truth; while those who want to see them toppled or contextualized are those who would destroy national histories and bring down great men. Here and in the US, the back stories of the statues, and the shadowy organizations and individuals who paid for them, are being revealed. As are details of the murderous careers of the men memorialized in marble and bronze. The very aspects of history that these monuments were intended to conceal are now freely circulating.

A bigger cat is out of the bag in the US, as millions are learning that many Confederate statues, around which the neo-Confederates and white supremacists are rallying, are not 19th-century monuments, but cheap, mass-produced, cookie-cutter (1) memorials erected in the 20th century. Many date not from the 1860s but the 1960s and are therefore younger than some of the white supremacists determined to defend them.

The implication in much recent reporting has been that, by becoming totems around which those white supremacists are rallying, these statues are being co-opted and misused. The truth is that they are performing the function for which they were erected. Paid for and erected by southern lobby groups, rather than local people, they were intended to reinforce white supremacy and shore up (2) a romanticized and profoundly distorted version of the civil war and its causes. As the genesis stories behind these statues become more widely known, the myth that this is about history and heritage is beginning to collapse. These statues have a history all right, but one that has precious little to do with the civil war and everything to do with racism. By defending them that history is being splashed across front pages.

What those who are fighting the history wars from behind these monuments have in their favor is that most of us, for understandable reasons, have an almost instinctual opposition to the removal of statues; we flinch (3) at the idea of antiques of any sort being toppled or removed. The stones of the past have become almost fetishized (4) – we are roused to anger when developers win permission to demolish Victorian buildings and moved to sorrow when fire or flood claims a slice of the past. History, after all, is a process, not a position, and it is not best written in bronze and marble. It is complex, plastic and ever-changing; all things that heroic statues are not.

(1) cookie-cutter = lacking individuality, all looking the same

(2) shore up = maintain, support

(3) flinch = find something unpleasant, painful

(4) fetishize = give excessive support to

QUESTIONS

1. Are the people who are protesting over the statues in favor of the Confederate cause or against? (1 line)
2. In your own words explain what the journalist means by "history wars". (3 lines maximum)
3. Why are some people opposed to certain American street and school names? (3 lines maximum)
4. What does the journalist mean by saying the statues "are performing the function for which they were erected" (lines 22 - 23)? (4 lines maximum)
5. Give two reasons why the journalist believes that Confederate statues should not be considered glorious reminders of the past. (4 lines maximum)

PERSONAL EXPRESSION Do you think total freedom of speech is a good thing or should there be limits to opinions one can express in public? (20 lines maximum)

Entrée en seconde section internationale 2018-2019

Black history is American history, all year round – adapted from www.teachplus.org, February 22, 2012, by Daniel Jocz

Answer all the questions with COMPLETE SENTENCES and USE YOUR OWN WORDS. You have 90 MINUTES.

It's that time of year again. Schools across the United States have dusted off their posters of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks in celebration of Black History Month, and soon they'll be coming down. This year, even Heineken jumped on the bandwagon. They released an advertisement in February that stated, "Come and Celebrate Black History Month with Heineken." I doubt this is what historian Carter G. Woodson had in mind when he began Black History Week in 1926, in an effort to properly place the teaching of African-American history into the study of American history.

We have an unfortunate tendency in this country to exclude the stories of various groups in our year-round teaching of the nation's history. The experience of African Americans, women, immigrants, workers, the poor, and gay and lesbian individuals *is* American history. We should not need special months or laws signed by elected officials to commit ourselves to teaching an American history that is inclusive of all Americans. The American experience has been influenced by class, gender, race, sexual orientation, geography, and religion. To not teach this history year-round is to do a disservice to our nation's rich, complicated past.

It is also imperative that we move beyond the hero worship that is characteristic of these monthly celebrations. Certainly, the stories of King and Parks are remarkable and deserving of attention and celebration. But my unit on the Montgomery Bus Boycott does not begin with the arrest of Rosa Parks. When students walk into my class, they are given two arrest reports, one of Parks and the other of Claudette Colvin. In analyzing these primary sources, students discover that nine months prior to Parks' arrest, Colvin, a fifteen-year-old African American, refused to give up her seat in the same bus system. As history teachers, we should remember to be inclusive of young people too, and celebrate the important risks they've taken throughout our nation's history.

Education should be not only inclusive but also empowering. I would imagine that nearly every student knows that Martin Luther King had a dream, but it is imperative that we teach year-round about the tremendous contributions and sacrifices made by countless young, old, black, and white individuals in an effort to make that dream a reality. In moving beyond superficial hero worship, we will instill in students a sense of empowerment and foster in them the critical thinking skills that will allow them to have a more authentic view of American history.

Questions: write all your answers with complete sentences and using your own words only.

1. How long has Black History Week existed in the USA? (no more than 15 words)
2. Who were Rosa Parks and Claudette Colvin? Why does the writer compare these two women? (about 125 words)
3. According to the writer, what is wrong with the way the history of specific groups is taught in American schools today? (about 150 words)

Personal expression

4. Using examples of your choice, how do you think the teaching about minorities could be improved in the USA? (about 150 words)

New York City Police Department unveils new drone system – CNN article by Darran Simon dated 12/10/2018

Answer all the questions with **COMPLETE SENTENCES** and **USE YOUR OWN WORDS**. You have **90 MINUTES**.

The nation's largest police force has unveiled a fleet of drones that will be used in hostage situations and search and rescue operations, but, the New York branch of the ACLU (1) claims, the drones might be used to invade privacy. The New York City Police Department said Tuesday the drones in its unmanned aircraft system program will be deployed in incidents involving hazardous spills and used to document crime scenes and collisions. They will also monitor pedestrians and traffic at large events, including Times Square on New Year's Eve, as well as search-and-rescue operations, as hostage situations and for accessing hard-to-reach crime scenes, a department spokeswoman told the NY Post. The *unmanned aerial vehicles* will help the NYPD gather key information as situations unfold before officers arrive, lessening the danger to them, the agency said.

The New York Civil Liberties Union said the department's drone policy isn't restrictive enough to protect the privacy of New York residents. A NYPD commander said the agency is aware of the concerns about the drone program. "Let me be clear, NYPD drones will not be used for warrantless (2) surveillances," **Chief of Department Terence Monahan** told reporters. "NYPD drones will be used to save lives and enhance our response in emergency situations."

"As the largest municipal police department in the United States, the NYPD must always be willing to leverage (3) the benefits of new and always-improving technology," **NYPD Commissioner James P. O'Neill** said in a news release. "Our new Unmanned Aircraft System program is part of this evolution — it enables our highly trained cops to be even more responsive to the people we serve, and to carry out the NYPD's critical work in ways that are more effective, efficient, and safe for everyone." O'Neill noted.

State lawmakers around the country are weighing benefits of the technology, the economic impact and privacy concerns, among other issues, as they debate how and if the unmanned aircraft systems will be regulated, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Forty-one states have enacted laws concerning the unmanned aerial vehicles, including how law enforcement and the public may use them, among other issues, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Three additional states have adopted resolutions.

In a statement, New York Civil Liberties Union Associate Legal Director Christopher Dunn said, "The NYPD's drone policy places no meaningful restrictions on police deployment of drones in New York City and opens the door to the police department building a permanent archive of drone footage of political activity and intimate private behavior visible only from the sky." The NYPD said the unmanned aerial vehicles are prohibited from being used for routine patrol or traffic enforcement. The department spokeswoman also noted the machines will not be used as weapons, nor will they be equipped with any.

"Police cameras in the skies of New York City offer a new frontier for both public safety and abuses of power. When the NYPD provided us with an early look at a draft policy that would govern the department's deployment of drones, the NYCLU expressed serious concerns. The NYPD did make some changes, but we continue to believe the NYPD's drone program poses a serious threat to New Yorkers' privacy," Dunn said in the statement.

- (1) ACLU = American Civil Liberties Union
(2) warrantless = unjustified
(3) to leverage = to use to maximum advantage

QUESTIONS

1. Describe briefly and in your own words what a drone is. (1 line)
2. How could drones help in an urgent situation prior to the arrival of the emergency services? (3 lines maximum)
3. What has been the legal reaction of many American states to the use of drones by police departments and why? (3 lines maximum)
4. What principal arguments is the New York Civil Liberties Union advancing against the use of drones? (4 lines maximum)
5. How has the New York Police Department responded to these arguments? (4 lines maximum)

PERSONAL EXPRESSION

In your opinion should public authorities have the right to use new technology to intervene in our personal lives? (20 lines maximum) **10 POINTS**

OIB RECRUITMENT TEST- 2020-2021
CITIZEN JOURNALISM: A PHENOMENON THAT IS HERE TO STAY

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN ENGLISH, WITH COMPLETE SENTENCES AND IN YOUR OWN WORDS. RESPECT THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF LINES INDICATED. YOU HAVE 90 MINUTES.

Citizen journalists are now a common presence in the event of disasters, natural and man-made, but they represent a remarkably new phenomenon.

5 "It's a broad, expansive term," says Stuart Allan (1). The term "citizen journalism" "includes someone who happens to be in the right place at the wrong time with their smartphone in their pocket and has the presence of mind to bear witness to something unfolding before them".

Ordinary people have until now been marginalized in mainstream news, or brought in to provide side comments, not to dictate issues, but this is changing. "It's a normalized part of the news cycle now. We expect eye witness footage during any terrorist attack or disaster. That is a dramatic shift from 10 to 15 years ago," says

10 Einar Thorsen, associate director of the Centre for the Study of Journalism, Culture & Community. "It has an important role in plugging a gap where mainstream journalists have either fallen short or failed to do their duty for whatever reasons," he adds. Some journalists might bristle (2) at the accusation but take the example of Trafigura dumping toxic waste in Côte d'Ivoire. "The company went after journalists ferociously," says Thorsen, "but people on social media did some digging and then Wikileaks published some reports. You

15 had citizen journalists holding corporate power to account." Citizen journalists also allow for first-hand accounts of events, at a time of budget cutbacks in newsrooms. In some cases, cuts at local newspapers mean citizen journalists are the only ones covering town council meetings, providing news that would otherwise go unreported.

20 "A lot of what we encounter (online) isn't trustworthy and does have to be treated carefully and independently verified," Allan says. "In a funny kind of way, it is allowing professional journalists to make the case for professionalism in journalism." Subscriptions to the *New York Times* and other papers have actually gone up since the fake news controversy took off.

Some see citizen journalism as part of the problem, not the solution. "It is wrecking (3) the business model that sustained newspapers through most of the 20th century," says Professor Philip Meyer. "Eventually, the marketplace might find a way to reward the trustworthy citizen journalists. Or the bad might drive out the good. The future belongs to whoever figures out a socially useful way to monetize the influence," says Mayer. "The market is still sorting out ways to put a price on quality, but first it needs a way to identify it." He sees

25 citizen journalism as having performed poorly in the controversies over the Trump administration, while two legacy newspapers, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, are performing well. Professional journalists are certainly crucial players, perhaps now more than ever, but their role is shifting in response to citizen journalism. Allan believes it is a phenomenon that is here to stay. "We are increasingly seeing that it is the job of journalists to pull together and curate different types of materials and then explain what is going on, offer interpretation, offer context, offer analysis. That, increasingly, is what counts as good journalism, rather than the more traditional definition of journalists saying, 'I am the eyes of the public; I am the one there bearing witness'".

Anthony King, adapted from Euroscientist.com, July 2017

(1) Stuart Allan, an expert in the field of journalism

(2) to bristle = to react defensively

(3) to wreck = to destroy or severely damage

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

1) What is a citizen journalist? **(2 lines)**

2) Sum up what the advantages of citizen journalism are. **(4 lines)**

3) Explain in your own words whether the example of Trafigura supports or condemns citizen journalism. **(3 lines)**

4) Explain what Professor Philip Meyer's position is on citizen journalism. **(4 lines)**

5) Explain how the rise of citizen journalism has reshaped the profession of professional journalists. **(3 lines)**

PERSONAL EXPRESSION

6) In your opinion, is social media a threat (a menace) to professional journalism today? **(20 lines)**

OIB RECRUITMENT TEST 2020 – 2021
ALEXA AND OTHER SMART SPEAKERS

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN **ENGLISH, WITH COMPLETE SENTENCES AND IN YOUR OWN WORDS. RESPECT THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF LINES INDICATED. YOU HAVE 90 MINUTES.**

Joe Walsh set up four Amazon Echo Dot voice-controlled speakers in December. By May, he had pulled the plugs on all four and stuffed them in a drawer. “I don’t see any way these devices won’t be a privacy nightmare with the current lack of consumer protections,” said Walsh, a 31-year-old San Francisco resident. “In many respects, our Constitution hasn’t adapted to the realities of a digital life. We need a digital bill of rights.”

5 Walsh’s actions reflect growing concerns over the implications of having voice-enabled speakers — which are always listening in one way or another — in homes. The issue came to a fore last month in Portland, Ore., when an Echo recorded a couple’s conversation and emailed the audio to an acquaintance in Seattle. That incident should make every consumer reconsider using a smart speaker, said Pam Dixon, executive director of the World Privacy Forum, a nonprofit based in San Diego focused on technology issues. Legal experts say internet-connected smart speakers are the latest example of how
10 technology and devices endear themselves to consumers before they realize the downsides. “If you are in your home, you get a lot of privacy rights,” said Dixon. “Are we giving those away if we are using a device that is transmitting data without our express knowledge, even if we are just using Alexa to ask what the weather is?”

15 Although the Constitution does not explicitly spell out a right to privacy, consumers have a reasonable expectation of privacy inside their home thanks to laws based on the Fourth Amendment’s outlawing of unlawful search and seizure, as well as federal and state electronic recording and wiretap statutes. But legal experts say there might be gray areas (1) in the law when it comes to emerging technologies, such as video game consoles with cameras that can recognize faces or smart speakers that record voices.

20 “Is there a reasonable expectation of privacy when there are devices that are built on hearing you and recording what it hears?” said Fordham Law School Professor N. Cameron Russell, executive director of the university’s Center on Law and Information Policy. “Privacy is top of mind now, but it hasn’t always been top of mind,” he said. “These devices seeped (2) into everyone’s lives without a level of cost-benefit analysis that we should have had.”

25 “If you install a private corporation’s microphone-enabled device in your house, you should count on the fact that third parties may well access the information these devices detect,” Catherine Crump, co-director of the Berkeley Center for Law & Technology, said. “These companies wish to sell you things,” she said. “They do not wish you well. At the least, you can count on the fact that law enforcement agencies will be seeking court orders to access the data these devices generate in some cases. Do you really want the privacy of your home to depend on a corporation’s terms of service?”

30 Joe Walsh had wanted to test what it was like to have a voice-controlled home. But after the “novelty wore off,” Walsh said he realized the Echos were saving sensitive information. “Seems strange if all you want to do is have an intercom at home, right?”. He unplugged the last of his Dots a week before the Portland incident, which cemented his view that the devices “didn’t seem to be completely thought out.” He said, “When I talk to my friends about it, I try to get them concerned about it, but they are, ‘Well, you know, the cat’s out of the bag right now,’” he said. “I know for sure that not many people understand what they’re giving up.

Benny Evangelista, San Francisco Chronicle (adapted), June 11, 2018

(1) gray areas = unclear aspects
(2) seeped = entered slowly

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Will Joe Walsh continue to use his voice-controlled speakers or not? Justify by quoting the text. **(1 line)**
2. What is the position of the law regarding privacy and connected devices? **(4 lines maximum)**
3. Explain what the journalist means on line 27 by, “*Do you really want the privacy of your home to depend on a corporation’s terms of service.*” **(3 lines maximum)**
4. Give two possible undesirable consequences of having a voice-controlled speaker in one’s home. Explain why these are undesirable. **(4 lines maximum)**
5. Choose the best explanation below for Joe Walsh’s comment on line 30/31 that voice-controlled devices “*didn’t seem to be completely thought out.*”
 - He believes voice-controlled devices should all be thrown away and never used again.
 - He believes more reflection is required on the way voice-controlled devices are used.

PERSONAL EXPRESSION

Does modern technology always make life easier? **(20 lines maximum)**

