The World (May 1st-15th, 2025)

1. **News Report 1 *The Week* (May 9 2025 P8&9)**

1)Text Completion

**Madrid**

Unprecedented blackout: Spain and Portugal were hit by a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (mass) power outage this week that affected tens of millions of people. France’s southern Basque region was also briefly affected. Trains \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (abrupt) stopped, forcing passengers to be rescued by bus, but traffic was snarled everywhere because all the streetlights were out. Restaurants, shops, and supermarkets were suddenly plunged into darkness, \_\_\_\_ most schools and businesses shut down, although hospitals kept \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (function) with generators. Mobile phone service was also affected, leaving many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (strand) people unable to get help. Some stores stayed open for cash transactions only, and long lines formed at the few working ATMs. “It’s like when I was younger, 50 years ago,” said Francisco Garcia, 61, a boat restorer in Lisbon. Authorities in both countries were trying to determine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the cause of the blackout was sabotage, a cyberattack, mechanical failure, or human error.

**Valletta, Malta**

Stop selling citizenship: The EU’s top court this week ordered Malta to end \_\_\_ (it) “golden passport” program, saying it reduced citizenship to a “mere commercial transaction” in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (violate) of EU law. Malta’s investor citizenship scheme offers a Maltese passport—and the EU citizen ship \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ comes with it—for $700,000 after three years of residency or $850,000 after one year. The program, introduced in 2013, quickly became a back door to EU access for money launderers and other criminals, as well as for Russian oligarchs subject \_\_\_ Western sanctions. The ruling could also spell trouble for EU countries that offer “golden visas,” including Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, and Portugal. “European passports are not for sale,” said Daniel Freund, a German lawmaker in the European Parliament. “Criminals, autocrats, and terrorists should not be able to buy a ticket into the EU.”

2)Reading Comprehension

What continued to function during the blackout using generators?

A. Schools and supermarkets. B. Mobile phone services.

C. Hospitals. D. Traffic lights.

According to the EU court, why was Malta’s “golden passport” program criticized?

A. It caused economic inequality in Malta.

B. It turned citizenship into a commercial transaction.

C. It required too long a residency period.

D. It only benefited Russian oligarchs.

3)Translation

登山者被暴风雨困住了。\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

经济中新的不确定性可能给企业带来麻烦。

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1. **Part 2: News Report 2 *The Times*** **(May 8, 2025 P5 )**

1)Text Completion

 William Shiel’s family have been running boat trips to the Farne Islands for more than 100 years. He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (hear) stories of the occasional orca long ago, but never in his 40-year career had he seen one for himself.

 That changed last week, \_\_\_\_\_ a group of eight killer whales made a spectacular — and unusual — appearance \_\_\_\_the Northumberland coast, near Bamburgh Castle. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (happy), a professional photographer was aboard to capture the encounter which lasted more than half an hour.

 \_\_\_\_ video has allowed experts to confirm the orcas are from groups that migrate every year from Iceland to Scotland. Rarely, however, do they travel that far down the eastern coast. The Northumberland sightings have raised hopes that new populations \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (venture) further into British waters — and staying for longer.

 The UK has only two resident orcas. John Coe and Aquarius, as they are known, have been seen regularly around the northwest coast of Scotland for years. Over the decades, their pod dwindled. The females died— their bodies were so full of toxic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (pollute) they were unable to reproduce— leaving John Coe and Aquarius doomed to patrol the British Isles like two lonely bachelors.

 For each newcomer, experts compared their dorsal fin, unique \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (identify) patterns around their eye patch and the pale “saddle patch” on their back with that of the orcas listed in ID catalogues in Shetland and Iceland.

 Of the eight orcas spotted on Friday, it has been confirmed that one is a large male known as “72”, from the “27 pod”. Three others have been identified as “Razor”, “Ossa” and “199”, \_\_\_\_\_\_ are members of the 65 pod — another of the 12 migratory groups that are known \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(travel) from Iceland to the British Isles. The remaining four have yet to be identified.

2)Reading Comprehension

1. What caused the female orcas in John Coe and Aquarius's pod to lose their ability to reproduce?

A. Aging and natural decline B. Toxic pollutants in their bodies

C. Lack of food sources D. Increased human interference.

2. Why do the recent Northumberland orca sightings raise hopes about new populations in British waters?

A. The orcas stayed longer and were photographed professionally.

B. The identified orcas belong to migratory groups from Iceland.

C. The UK’s resident orcas are finally reproducing again.

D. The sightings prove toxins in the water have decreased.

3)Translation

俱乐部会员人数已从70减少到20。\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

这桩婚姻从一开始就注定要破裂。

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1. **Part 3: News Report 3 *BBC Science Focus*（May, 2025 P22)**
2. Reading Comprehension

According to the National Coffee Association, the average American drinks just over three cups of coffee a day. It’s often seen as a healthy habit, and for good reason: coffee is linked to a reduced risk of diabetes and certain types of cancer. But coffee also contains natural compounds that can raise cholesterol, and depending on how it’s prepared, your daily pick-me-up could be giving you more of them than you want.

 In a study, published in the journal Nutrition, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases, a team of Swedish researchers took a closer look at workplace coffee machines and found that many produce coffee with relatively high levels of these cholesterol-elevating substances.

 Unfiltered or boiled coffee is known to contain two cholesterol-raising compounds, cafestol and kahweol, which belong to a group of naturally occurring fats called diterpenes. These have been associated with higher levels of LDL (or ‘bad’) cholesterol and an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. They’ve also been shown to slightly reduce HDL (‘good’) cholesterol. Filtered coffee, by contrast, tends to contain far lower levels of these substances.

 “But at work, we get a lot of coffee from machines and no one has really tested these before,” study author Dr David Iggman told BBC Science Focus. To investigate, the team measured the levels of cafestol and kahweol found in coffee from 14 machines across a range of workplaces. They compared these brews to drip coffee, percolator, French press, espresso and boiled coffee.

 “From our data, we can say that liquid-model machines are definitely the better option,” Iggman said. These machines, which combine a liquid coffee concentrate with hot water, produce coffee with very low levels of diterpenes, at a similar level to paper-filtered coffee. Meanwhile, machines that used ground or whole beans passed through a metal filter contained higher levels of cholesterol-raising compounds.

1. Which two compounds in coffee are linked to raising cholesterol levels?

A. Caffeine and cafestol

B. Cafestol and kahweol

C. Kahweol and diterpenes

D. HDL and LDL

2. Why did the Swedish researchers focus on workplace coffee machines?

A. Because they are more expensive than home machines.

B. Because they are rarely tested despite frequent use.

C. Because they produce better-tasting coffee.

D. Because they are required by health regulations.

3. Which of the following is the best title for the text?

A. The Benefits of Drinking Three Cups of Coffee Daily

B. How Coffee Machines Affect Workplace Efficiency

C. Coffee Preparation Methods and Their Impact on Cholesterol

D. A Guide to Choosing the Perfect Coffee Machine

2)Translation

他发现清新的空气是一种完美的提神剂。

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所有饮用水必须经过过滤。

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1. **Part 4: News Report 3 The Times（May 9, 2025 P3)**
2. Reading Comprehension

**Oxfordshire (￡1.8million)**

Orchard House is a spacious family home on the edge of the Cotswolds with a Georgian façade, high ceilings and beautifully maintained gardens with a grapevine-wrapped pergola, a prolific asparagus bed and a good-sized potting shed. On the ground floor there is a generous 500 sq ft living room, kitchen, dining room, office, bathroom and separate WC. Up the curved wooden staircase are four bedrooms and two bathrooms.

EPC D (potential B) — on a scale of A (best) to G (worst)

Upside Off-street parking.

Downside Despite the name, there’s no orchard.

Contact savills.com

**Greater Manchester(￡1.795million)**

It’s not often that a fully moated 16th-century house appears on the market, but Gidlow Hall is just that. The property, just over two miles from Wigan, has 4,727 sq ft of living space and 7.41 acres of land. It is accessed via a no through lane with a tree-lined sweeping drive, so there is a high degree of privacy. There are three reception rooms, five bedrooms and three bathrooms, including a main bedroom with en suite bathroom and a terrace. There is also a barrel-vaulted cellar and a detached double garage.

EPC C (current and potential)

Upside Further land available.

Downside The bridge can’t be drawn up.

Contact jackson-stops.co.uk

**West Sussex(￡1.795million)**

With stunning views of the South Downs National Park, Rhiw has no shortage of country charm. It is grade II listed and has exposed timber beams, brickwork and open fireplaces, as well as a conservatory which opens out into the garden. There are three more reception rooms downstairs, plus a large kitchen, shower room and bedroom. Upstairs are three more bedrooms, one with an en suite bathroom. The village of Amberley is close to Storrington and Pulborough.

EPC N/A

Upside Underfloor heating via ground source heat pump.

Downside The balcony is accessed via the bathroom.

Contact hamptons.co.uk

**Or ... a ready-made holiday business in Pembrokeshire(￡1.8million)**

Clydey Cottages is an award-winning holiday cottage complex, and it’s available to purchase turnkey. The 15.8-acre site, in the heart of Pembrokeshire, includes ten holiday units, a heated indoor swimming pool, sauna, games room, spa treatment room and hot tubs. There are woodland walks, and the farm offers animal feeding and egg collecting, plus beaches a short drive away.

EPC E (potential C)

Upside Future bookings in place.

Downside Cottages could be spruced up.

Contact fineandcountry.co.uk

1.Why might Gidlow Hall in Greater Manchester appeal to buyers seeking privacy?

A. It has a modern security system.

B. It is located near a busy town center.

C. It is accessed via a secluded tree-lined drive.

D. It includes a detached double garage.

2.What do all four properties have in common?

A. They all include a detached garage.

B. They are all located in rural areas.

C. They provide direct contact information.

D. They have an EPC rating of B or higher.

3. What is the primary purpose of the text?

A. To compare the prices of properties in different regions.

B. To advertise unique homes and a holiday business for sale.

C. To explain the importance of EPC ratings in real estate.

D. To criticize the drawbacks of rural properties.

2)Translation

所有房间都装饰整齐，并设有浴室。

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这个综合体育场还有六个网球场。

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1. **BBC News 05/13/2025**

1)Text Completion

Hamas says it’ll release an Israeli-American hostage, Edan Alexander, as part of efforts to reach a ceasefire deal in Gaza and allow \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ aid into the territory. The announcement comes a few days before President Trump is due to visit the Middle East.

President Zelensky of Ukraine has responded to Vladimir Putin’s suggestion of talks in Istanbul, saying he was ready to meet the Russian president there \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. President Putin unexpectedly suggested Russian-Ukrainian talks should take place in the Turkish city this Thursday, but Mr Putin didn’t say that he himself would attend.

China and the US both say that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has been made at trade talks in Geneva, aimed at averting a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ trade war. A joint statement with further details is expected on Monday.

Red Cross officials in Nigeria say 23 people have been killed in the central state of Benue in the latest \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ flare-up. Violent clashes have been taking place since April between nomadic Fulani cattle herders and mainly Christian farmers.

President Trump says he’ll sign an executive order on Monday aimed at sharply reducing the cost for millions of Americans of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ drugs. Mr Trump said Americans should pay the same as the lowest prices \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in other countries.

People in the Philippines are voting in mid-term elections for 12 Senate seats and nearly 20,000 other political \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The contest is coloured by a bitter feud between President Marcos and his Vice President Sara Duterte.

And the White House is in discussions with the Royal Family of Qatar to receive a \_\_\_\_\_\_ jumbo jet during President Trump’s coming visit to the country for intended use as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Air Force One.

2)Translation

及时防止了一场灾难。

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两个艺术家之间有夙怨。

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