**2nd  ENGLISH WRITTEN TEST TERM II FORM 4LSCA**

**Surname** …………………………………… **Name** ………………………… **Date** ………..

**The Rise of Fake News**

In December 2016 Edgar M. Welch drove six hours from his home to Washington DC, where he opened fire in a pizzeria with an assault rifle. He had previously read an online news story about the restaurant being the headquarters of a group of child abusers run by Hillary Clinton. He decided to investigate for himself; fortunately, no one was hurt.

The story about Hillary Clinton is one of the most famous examples of the growing phenomenon dubbed ‘fake news’. The conspiracy theory about the pizzeria began to appear on websites and social networks in late October, before the US election. This was quickly denounced by publications such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. However, many people thought that these papers were themselves lying for political ends and instead of disappearing, the fake story snowballed. Tweets from ‘Representative Steven Smith of the 15th District of Georgia’ claimed that the mainstream media were telling falsehoods. Even though both this name and district were invented, the message was re-tweeted many times. A YouTube refutation of the *New York Times* article got 250,000 hits.

Fake news stories can be hard to control for several reasons. Many people mistrust established news sources and others just don’t read them, so the debunking of a fake story by a serious newspaper or TV channel has limited effect. In addition, the internet is very hard to police. When users are caught misusing one media platform, they simply go to another one or start up a website themselves.

There are also various reasons why people create fake news. Some have political motives, to belittle or incriminate their opponents. Other websites, like The Onion, deliberately publish fake news as satire – humorous comment on society and current affairs. Another group is in it for the profit: many people clicking on entertaining fake news stories can bring in a lot of advertising revenue. One man running fake news sites from Los Angeles said he was making up to US$ 30,000 a month in this way. There are also those, like the small-town teenagers in Macedonia who wrote fake news stories about Donald Trump, who seem to be motivated partly by money and partly by boredom.

So, what can we do to stop fake news spreading? First, make sure that the websites you read are legitimate, for example by looking carefully at the domain name and the About Us section. Check the sources of any quotes or figures given in the story. Remember that amazing stories about famous people will be covered by the mainstream media if they are true. Only share stories you know are true and let your friends know, tactfully, when they unknowingly share fake news. Together we can turn around the post-truth world!

**ACTIVITY 1**: CHOOSE THE BEST HEADING FOR EACH PARAGRAPH. CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING **MATCHING**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| How we can try and control fake news | An example of a fake news story | How a fake news story can grow |
| Why fake news is hard to stop | Motives for creating fake news | The financial rewards of fake news |

**Paragraph 1**

**Paragraph 2**

**Paragraph 3**

**Paragraph 4**

**Paragraph 5**

**Not used**

**ACTIVITY 2**: **READ THE QUESTIONS AND CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER.**

**1.Why did Edgar Welch go to the pizzeria?**

1. He was trying to commit robbery.
2. He hated all supporters of Hillary Clinton.
3. He was working as a private investigator and investigating a crime.
4. He had become concerned after reading an untrue news story.

**2. Why did many people not believe 'The Washington Post' and 'The New York Times' when they denounced the pizzeria story?**

1. They checked the facts and found that the articles were incorrect.
2. They did not trust anybody.
3. They thought the newspapers had a political agenda.
4. They thought the newspapers had not researched the story carefully enough.

**3. Who is Steven Smith?**

1. a local politician from Georgia
2. a journalist on 'The New York Times'
3. a member of the US House of Representatives
4. a fictitious person, created to attack the media

**4. Which reason for the difficulty of controlling fake news stories is not given in the article?**

1. Many people don’t read the mainstream media.
2. Online media platforms don't check stories before publishing them.
3. People are sceptical of the mainstream media.
4. Fake news posters can easily switch to other websites and platforms if caught.

**5. Which reason for the difficulty of controlling fake news stories is not given in the article?**

1. Many people don’t read the mainstream media.
2. Online media platforms don't check stories before publishing them.
3. People are sceptical of the mainstream media.
4. Fake news posters can easily switch to other websites and platforms if caught.

**6. Which type of motivation for the creation of fake news is not given?**a.It’s a way of making money from people who pay to read the stories.b. It’s a way of commenting on current affairs.c.It’s a way of attacking your political opponents.d. It’s a form of entertainment.

**ACTIVITY 3**: **FILL THE GAPS WITH THE CORRECT WORD OR PHRASE FROM THE BOX.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| claimed | conspiracy theories | fake | truth |
| falsehood | denounces | liar | false |

1. I know you are lying to me. Just tell me the ………..

2. Let’s play a game. I tell you a fact and you have to tell me whether it is true or ………..

3. After John F Kennedy’s assassination, there were lots of ……….. about who killed him and why

4. Many people prefer to wear ……….. fur instead of clothes made for real animal fur

5. This newspaper article is of great importance. It ……….. human rights abuses all over the world.

6. She accused him of telling a ………..

7. I swear that’s the truth! Are you saying I’m a………..?

8. The website ……….. that the government has been lying to us, but it didn’t present much real evidence.

**LISTENING COMPREHENSION**

**LISTENING PART 1**. You will hear people talking in different situations. For questions, **1 - 7**, choose the best answer (**A, B or C**). There is an example at the beginning.

**0** You hear a woman talking about learning French. The woman says that learning French.

A. has helped her in her job - **B. has given her a different perspective on life**. - C. has improved her writing ability

**1.** You hear two students talking about the new lecturer. Why doesn’t the girl like the lecturer?

A. She finds him rude.

B. She finds him hard to understand.

C. She finds him boring.

**2.** You hear a news report on a new education policy. Why have some schools rejected the policy?

A. For practical reasons.

B. For moral reasons.

C. For legal reasons.

**3.** You hear a student talking to her teacher about a recent assignment. The teacher says that Mary needs to work on

A. her style

B. her structure

C. her conclusion

**4.** You hear part of a lecture on a novelist. What aspect of the novelist work is praised by the lecturer?

A. His political ideas.

B. His stories

C. His characterisation

**5.** You hear two students discussing new university building.The students agree that the building should

A. be cleaned.

B. be more modern.

C. be closer to the students ’residence

**6.** You hear an interview with an author. What does the author think is the similarity between old and modern schools?

A. The quality of the food.

B. The interaction of male and female pupils.

C. The form of discipline.

**7.** You hear a teacher introducing new students to a school. Which part of the school is not currently available?

A. The swimming pool.

B. The library.

C. The IT room.

**LISTENING PART 2**. You will hear people talking about their visit to various art galleries in London. For questions **1 – 5**, choose from the list (**A – H**) what each speaker thought about the gallery they visited. Use the letters only once . There are two extra letters, which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

**A**. some of the artworks were hard to understand **Example** 0. ⇨**C**

**B.** the gallery had had better exhibitions in the past **Speaker 1** 1. ⇨

**C**. the exhibition was too expensive

**D**. the sculptures were more interesting than the paintings **Speaker 2** 2. ⇨

**E**. the exhibition was overrated **Speaker 3** 3. ⇨

**F**. The guide was excellent **Speaker 4** 4. ⇨

**G**. the exhibition was inappropriate for children

**H**. there was not enough variety **Speaker 5** 5. ⇨