

TEST 4

READING

PART 1

You are going to read an article about the "Superbug". Choose from the list (A-H) the sentence that best summarises each part (1-6) of the article. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- A Insects have caused serious damage to the crops and have made farming difficult.
- B The insect multiplies amazingly quickly.
- C Wasps reproduce twice as fast as sweet potato whiteflies.
- D The farmers are advised to cover their crops as a means of protection.
- E America's fruit and vegetable market was not so rich this year.
- F The farmers may be forced to use chemicals which have not been proved safe.
- G Farmers cannot destroy the insect easily, which may cause food shortages.
- H Sweet potato whiteflies cannot survive in wet climates.

Invasion of the Superbug

The mass attack of sweet potato whiteflies has destroyed billions of dollars worth of crops.

0 E 3

By mid-November, fields which line the California - Mexico border are usually full of ripe fruit and vegetables. Instead, 95% of this year's crop has been lost or left to rot. America's melon, lettuce, citrus fruit and carrot harvests have all suffered hugely.

California farmers have been fighting other types of sweet potato whiteflies for years. But the superbug reproduces twice as fast as its relatives and consumes five times as much food from its victims. It came originally from the Middle East and reached America in the late eighties, probably hidden away in a cargo shipment.

1

The disaster has been attributed to a tiny insect known to scientists as the "sweet potato whitefly" but to farmers as the "Superbug". Millions of these hungry insects have spread throughout California, settling on the undersides of leaves and sucking plants dry, weakening or killing them in the process. Farmers first noticed the flies in July, and by September there were swarms of them looking like white clouds. Farm workers had trouble inhaling and eventually had to wear masks. As a result, California's \$18 billion agricultural industry has been greatly alarmed by the pest.

4

Other parts of America, like Florida, are a little too cool and rainy for the superbug's taste. But when the fly arrived in Southern California, probably in a fruit basket, it was suited to the dry weather and summer temperatures.

2

Unfortunately, the new superbug has no effective native predators in California and pesticides are largely useless against it. If the "attack" continues unchecked, many farmers could be put out of business for months. That could cause higher prices at the checkout. Already this year, the price of melons has doubled and many believe that the cost of lettuce at the supermarket could triple in price. In some areas, these foods may be in short supply.

5

Since all pesticides approved for use in California have been ineffective against the bug, the best advice agriculture officials can give is for farmers to cover devastated fields, denying the pests their food sources. In addition, roadways and ditches are being cleared of the weeds that encourage the whitefly. Farmers are also considering a "host-free" period in which they will do no planting at all.

6

One possible long-term solution is a tiny wasp that lives in the California desert. It lays eggs on the whitefly, and when they hatch, the baby wasps eat the flies. In the next six months scientists will leave for the Middle East to look for a parasite from the fly's homeland that could combat it. Many farmers may have to resort to chemicals which are not yet approved in California before it is too late.

PART 2

You are going to read an extract from a book. For questions 7-13, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

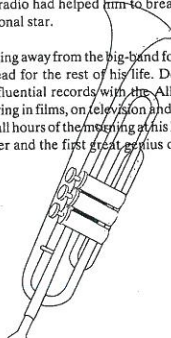
Born on 4 August, 1901 into a world of poverty and inequality, Louis Armstrong was to become one of the most famous musicians of all time. Growing up in one of the poorest areas of New Orleans, he was forced to start work at the age of eleven in order to help his mother make ends meet. It was from the money he made selling coal and newspapers that he bought his first cornet. His interest in music was born.

Louis' musical career took off a few years later as a result of his friendship with Joe Oliver, a man 15 years his senior and one of the first musicians to take jazz to different parts of the US. While Oliver went off on his travels, Louis often stood in for the older man and his reputation quickly spread. Then, when the infamous music halls of New Orleans closed down and most musicians found themselves out of work, Oliver was one of the first to establish himself in Chicago. It was not long before he asked Louis to join him.

While in Chicago, Louis met and married Lil Harding, Oliver's ambitious and talented pianist. Shortly after their marriage, Lil convinced her husband that it was time to emerge from Oliver's shadow, and Louis set off for New York where he joined Fletcher Henderson's famous Big Band. The partnership, however, was short-lived and Louis soon returned to Chicago, where his wife was urging him to join her.

Back in Chicago, Louis made a series of records with his wife on piano. As a result the "Hot Five" were born, with a sound that was to turn the world of jazz upside down. Rather than the traditional "front line" of trumpet, clarinet and trombone playing together all the time, Louis created space for each instrument to play extended solos. The next few years were enjoyable and lucrative for Louis. By 1929 the radio had helped him to break through to an even wider audience and he soon became a national star.

In the late 1940's Louis began moving away from the big-band format and in 1947 he formed the All Stars - the band he was to lead for the rest of his life. Despite his increasing health problems, Louis made numerous influential records with the All Stars and he and his band remained in popular demand, appearing in films, on television and on stage. But on 6 July 1971 Armstrong died in his sleep in the small hours of the morning at his home in Corona, New York. The world had lost a great entertainer and the first great genius of jazz.



7 Why did Louis go out to work when he was still very young?

- A He had been expelled from school.
- B His family was very poor.
- C He wanted to save up for music lessons.
- D He was interested in the newspaper business.

8 When did Louis first acquire a reputation for his musical talent?

- A When he was helping Joe Oliver out in New Orleans.
- B While he was touring the US with Joe Oliver.
- C When he moved to Chicago.
- D When the music halls of New Orleans closed down.

9 Why did Louis move to Chicago?

- A Musicians were better paid there.
- B His wife was urging him to join her there.
- C There was no work in New Orleans.
- D Jazz music was no longer popular in New Orleans.

10 Why did Louis decide to separate from Joe Oliver?

- A The two of them no longer got on.
- B Joe Oliver wanted to move to New York.
- C He was persuaded to move on.
- D He wanted to tour America.

11 How did the sound of "Hot Five" differ from traditional jazz music?

- A In "Hot Five" all the instruments were played at the same time.
- B In "Hot Five" the instruments sometimes played individually.
- C "Hot Five" included a wider range of instruments than in the past.
- D The sound of "Hot Five" was dominated by the trumpet.

12 What helped Louis Armstrong to become known nationwide?

- A His records were on sale in every city in the US.
- B He spent most of his time touring the country.
- C His music got excellent reviews in the national press.
- D The coming of radio meant that more people heard his music.

13 What will Louis Armstrong be remembered for?

- A His television appearances.
- B His entertaining comedies.
- C His involvement in Big Band music.
- D His extraordinary musical talent.