

**Mock-ER12 Text T3**

**English Reading: Grade 12 90 Minutes**



مجلس أبوظبي للتعليم  
Abu Dhabi Education Council  
Education First التعليم أولاً

## **ADEC Examinations**

**2017**

### **➤ Required Text Sheet**

**Read these instructions first:**

1. Complete the box above
2. Write in blue or black pen
3. The paper consists of four sections
4. Attempt every question and read each one carefully
5. A non-attempt scores zero (0)

## Text 1: Explore Al Saadiyat Island

### ABU DHABI

#### EXPLORE AL SAADIYAT ISLAND

Just seven minutes from downtown Abu Dhabi and 20 minutes from Abu Dhabi International Airport, Al Saadiyat Island is surrounded by natural beauty, cultural and architectural landmarks. The main districts on the island are the Cultural District, the Beach District and the Marina District.

Al Saadiyat Island will house the world's largest cultural landmarks. These will include the Zayed National Museum, Louvre Abu Dhabi and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, all designed by Pritzker Prize winners (The Pritzker Prize is an international prize in architecture that honors talented living architects). Today, visitors can explore beautiful sites such as Manarat Al Saadiyat, the UAE Pavilion, and Al Saadiyat Beach.

#### Manarat Al Saadiyat



Manarat Al Saadiyat is an art and cultural center that showcases projects and hosts art exhibitions with collections from around the world.

Visitors, tourists, artists and students can discover famous collections from international and local artists.

It is now open to the public as follows:  
10:00 am - 7:00 pm Sunday – Thursday  
02:00 pm - 9:00 pm Friday

#### The UAE Pavilion



Moved piece by piece from Shanghai, the UAE Pavilion is emerging as a new landmark exhibition and events venue.

The striking dune-shaped structure was designed by Foster + Partners, a famous London-based architectural company.

#### Saadiyat Beach



The nine-kilometer Saadiyat Beach plays host to several Hawksbill turtle nests. The Hawksbill is listed as critically endangered. Its population has declined by more than 80% worldwide over the last three generations due to habitat destruction and poaching. Since 2010, some 650 eggs have hatched successfully on Al Saadiyat Beach.



For more information: [www.saadiyat.ae](http://www.saadiyat.ae)

**Text 2:** ‘Namira Salim; Space Explorer’

**Namira Salim; Space Explorer**

Namira Salim is proud to have taken the trip of her lifetime, where only some could dream of going. The 36-year-old Pakistani, who lives in Dubai, recounts her wonderful experience of having traveled to space. Since childhood, it was her most cherished dream; “I made a resolution to touch the heights of the skies and the depths of the ocean,” she said. Namira had previously explored the Northern and Southern Poles, and skydived from Mount Everest.



Namira decided to go aboard Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic journey into space. Branson, a British aerospace entrepreneur, is the manager of Virgin Galactic, a company that arranges suborbital flights for tourists into space.

When Namira started to discover the most exotic angle of the Earth, she had forgotten a promise that she had made to her relatives as a child; she would enlarge her perspective beyond the Earth's atmosphere. “I had often told them about my dream of being an astronaut three decades ago, when private space travel was not even known. As soon as my space flight was announced, my relatives contacted me to congratulate me. They also reminded me that my childhood dreams would come true.” Namira was determined to be the first Pakistani and the first female UAE resident to travel to space. Her determination to be a female pioneer in space travel led her to pursue an intensive space training program, which began in October of 2007.

Namira completed her first training session in the STS-400 at the Nastar Center in the U.S.A (The STS-400 is a high performance human centrifuge used to train participants for the difficulties of space flight). “I had a two-day training. It consisted of an imitation of a space flight, aimed at testing my ability to adapt to motion sickness and the forces of gravity”, she declared. In fact, Namira experienced a complete imitation of the flight, from the start to re-entry into the earth’s atmosphere. She experienced sickness while landing, which vanished minutes later. “I was so excited that I had completed the training successfully in a couple of days”, she added.

Namira boarded the Virgin Galactic space tourism flight with passengers in July 2008; “It was a suborbital flight: we broke the Earth's orbit at a height of around 4580 miles, floated in zero Gravity for a few minutes and then returned to Earth,” Namira said, “This trip gave us a 360-degree view of the stars from the ceiling, floor and windows a thousand miles in every direction, and it lasted for a few hours.” She added that she unfastened her seat belt, which allowed her to hover around the cabin and take wonderful pictures.

Namira later joked, that in 1961 Alan Shepard, an American pioneer in space, “made the same flight from Earth to orbit and back in a mere 16 minutes...but that must have been a bumpy ride”.”

-Adapted from an article in The National newspaper

### **Text 3:** 'Roller Coasters'

## **Roller Coasters**

Ask anyone what the fastest, most thrilling ride is at any theme park and the answer will always be the same: the roller coaster. Theme parks have been offering these star attractions for longer than you might think.



**1600s** – The earliest beginnings of the roller coaster date back to Russian winter sled rides. Steep ice hills were built for people to ride down. These rides were not well-known outside Russia.

**1700s** – Visitors to Russia first noticed the sled rides as they became more popular in the city of St Petersburg. New rides, that used wheeled carts, were developed so that people could enjoy the sled experience year-round.

**1804** – The first ride of this type outside Russia was constructed in Paris, France and named 'The Russian Mountains'.

**1846** – The first looping roller coaster was constructed in Paris. Copies of the ride were built in locations all over the world until 1901. These rides were a straight track between two towers, with a loop in the centre. They were quite unpopular because of the intense forces experienced by the riders.



*A simple design from the 1840s*

**1885** – Early roller coasters relied only on gravity, with passengers boarding the carriages at the track's highest point. In 1885, the first roller coaster with a chain lift was built. The carriages were boarded at the lowest point of the track, and then a chain underneath pulled the train to the top of the first hill where gravity took over. This innovation allowed for rides to start and finish in the same place, something that we take for granted today.

**1959** – The first roller coaster built entirely out of steel opened to the public at Disneyland in the USA. Up until this point, roller coasters were mainly built of wood. Steel structures allowed designers to build more twists and turns and to eventually reintroduce loops.



**1996** – Roller coaster designers introduced launch systems that accelerate the coasters' trains to a very high speed in a very short time, right from the start of the ride. These 'launched coasters' are the fastest of all roller coasters, and the fastest of them all today is at Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi: the Formula Rossa.

**Text 4:** 'Is there a Future for Flying Cars?'

**Is there a Future for Flying Cars?**

Two experts give their point of view on the future of flying cars.

**Manal (Director of the Roads and Transportation Department)**

Using flying cars for everyday travel is a modern day invention that will help solve some of the transportation problems in our cities. There will be fewer vehicles on the road, which means less traffic congestion; and less congested roads means that we will be reducing our carbon footprint.

In addition to reducing our carbon footprint, the use of flying cars will mean that funds that we would normally use for building roads could be used for future transport development. We can now focus our time and energy on providing the public with other sustainable alternatives to ground transportation.

Additionally, the use of flying cars falls in line with the UAE's 2030 vision to be an innovative society that maximizes its resources. By 2030, the government aims to make 25% of all ground transportation driverless.

Flying cars are a great initiative and I am happy to support this project.



**Abdullah (President of the Aviation Authority)**

This is an exciting time for the UAE. Many of us never thought that flying cars would be possible in our lifetime. The announcement that the UAE will be launching the first flying car by the summer of 2017, is remarkable.

A flying car is an aircraft without a human pilot on board - similar to a drone. It looks like a helicopter and can transport individuals quickly and safely to their destinations.

There are many advantages to using flying cars as a means of transportation. Flying cars will reduce the number of roads and bridges that would have to be built, thus saving a modern city, such as Dubai, a substantial amount of money.

Also, the development of flying cars will significantly reduce the number of accidents on the road, thus making the development of flying cars a priority for any modern society. Additionally, flying cars will remove the stress of everyday driving.

Being able to transport many individuals at one time in a flying car, is a ground-breaking idea. Having a world-class transport system, that is innovative and efficient, is a priority for the UAE. The use of driverless transportation will aid the future growth of the economy.