



**ST. NICHOLAS COLLEGE  
NAXXAR BOYS' SECONDARY SCHOOL  
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATIONS 2015**

**TRACK  
1**

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**FORM 3**

**ENGLISH  
LISTENING COMPREHENSION**

**TIME: 15 minutes**

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**TEACHER'S PAPER**

*You are going to listen to a newspaper article about the history of printing.*

If you are reading this right now, you are taking part in the wonder of literacy. Because of printed words, people can share information across the world. All this is possible thanks to one man.

Johannes Gutenberg, was born in the German city of Mainz. Historians believe that he spent much of his young adult life working as a goldsmith. Gutenberg borrowed a lot of money in 1439 but could not pay it back. So he decided to share his greatest secret to earn some money. People say that Gutenberg's idea was one of the greatest of all mankind. Gutenberg had managed to create a mechanical printing press with movable type.

Gutenberg's brilliant idea would soon change the world, but he found himself in financial trouble once again and he lost all his money and the shop that he had created.

Before Gutenberg's idea, literature was only handwritten. Gutenberg's printing press allowed literature to be produced on a larger scale. His movable metal type could be arranged once to form a page, and his press could print the page again and again.

The first important text that Gutenberg produced was a copy of the Bible. Written in Latin and having 1272 pages, the Gutenberg Bible has had a big effect on the history of the printed word. Scholars believe that Gutenberg produced between 165 and 185 of these Bibles, which sold out almost immediately. Most copies went to monasteries and universities, though one Bible was sold to one rich man. Copies are known to have sold for 30 florins (a currency of his time), which although was still expensive, it was much cheaper than a handwritten copy. Buying a Gutenberg Bible in the 1450s would have been a good investment if you and your descendants were able to keep it safe. Only twenty-one complete Gutenberg Bibles exist today and the last one was sold in 1987 for 4.9 million dollars, the highest price ever paid for a book at the time.



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Index No: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Underline the correct answer. 4 marks [ ]**

- Johannes Gutenberg was born in  
a. Berlin      b. Vienna      c. Mainz      d. Glasgow
- Gutenberg had managed to create  
a. an electric light bulb      b. the radio      c. a mechanical printing press      d. a library
- Before Gutenberg's idea, literature was only  
a. printed      b. handwritten      c. used at work      d. available for a short time
- The first important text that Gutenberg produced was a copy of  
a. the Bible      b. a comic book      c. a novel      d. a play

**B. Tick (✓) the following statements as True (T) or False (F). 4 marks [ ]**

- Gutenberg created the mechanical printing press with movable type.
- Gutenberg borrowed a lot of money in 1469 but could not pay it back.
- Gutenberg's printing press could print the page again and again.
- Only forty-one complete Gutenberg Bibles exist today.

TRUE	FALSE

**C. Fill in the blanks with ONE word from the text: 2 marks [ ]**

- All this is \_\_\_\_\_ thanks to one man.
- Gutenberg \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of money in 1439.
- The first important text that Gutenberg \_\_\_\_\_ was a copy of the Bible.
- \_\_\_\_\_ a Gutenberg Bible in the 1450s would have been a good investment.