



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

**TRACK  
3**

**FORM 3**

**ENGLISH  
LISTENING COMPREHENSION**

**TIME: 15 minutes**

**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 relay information across both time and space. Ideas are encoded in writing and transmitted to readers across thousands of miles and years. Because of this development, the words of people distant to us can influence events, impart knowledge, and change the world. Much of the credit for the development of this phenomenon can be attributed to one man. Johannes Gutenberg, was born in the German city of Mainz. Though most of Gutenberg's early life is a mystery, historians believe that he spent much of his young adult life working as a goldsmith. Having a mind for fortune and success, Gutenberg borrowed money from investors in 1439 but later found himself in great financial trouble.

So, in order to satisfy his investors, Gutenberg decided to share his greatest secret with them. This secret would forever change the world, all of history, and even the process of keeping history. It's been argued that Gutenberg's idea was one of the greatest of all mankind. Gutenberg had created the 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 was sued by one of his investors, who accused him of mismanaging money meant for the production of books. The courts ruled against Gutenberg and he lost control of the shop that he had created. He was effectively bankrupt.

Before the spread of Gutenberg's idea, literature was primarily handwritten. Gutenberg's printing press allowed literature to be produced on a mass 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 major text that Gutenberg produced was a 42 line copy of the Bible. Written in Latin and containing 1272 pages, the Gutenberg Bible has had an immeasurable effect on the history of the printed word. Scholars estimate 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 a wealthy private individual. Copies are known to have sold for 30 florins (about three years of wages for a clerk at the time), which may seem expensive but was nonetheless much cheaper than a hand produced copy. Purchasing a Gutenberg Bible in the 1450s would have been a good investment if you and your descendants were able to maintain it. Only twenty-one complete Gutenberg Bibles exist today and the last one traded hands in 1987 for 4.9 million dollars, the highest price ever paid for a book at the time.



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FORM 3      ENGLISH LISTENING COMPREHENSION      TIME: 15 minutes

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

A. Tick (✓) the following statements as True (T) or False (F).      3 marks [ ]

- a. Ideas are decoded in writing and transmitted to readers across thousands of miles and years.
- b. Johannes Gutenberg, was born in the German city of Mainz.
- c. Gutenberg created the mechanical printing press with movable type.
- d. Gutenberg was sued by some of his investors.
- e. Before the spread of Gutenberg's idea, literature was unpopular.
- f. Only thirty-one complete Gutenberg Bibles exist today.

T	F

B. Fill in the missing information.      5 marks [ ]

a.		Gutenberg borrowed money from investors.
b.		The number of Bibles sold to wealthy, private individuals.
c.	1272	
d.		Bible copies' price in florins.
e.	21	

C. Underline the correct answer.      2 marks [ ]

- a. Gutenberg's printing press allowed literature:
  - i. to become expensive.      ii. to be produced on a mass scale.      iii. to be distributed in hand produced copies.
- b. Gutenberg decided to share his greatest secret with his investors:
  - i. to become famous.      ii. in 1430.      iii. because he was bankrupt.