



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

**TRACK  
2**

**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 share information across 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. 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 and unpopular with people. 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 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 enormous 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 a wealthy private individual. Copies are known to have sold for 30 florins (a currency of his time), which may seem expensive but was still much cheaper than a hand produced copy. Buying 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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TRACK  
3

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. Because of printed words, people can share information across the world.
- b. Johannes Gutenberg, was born in the German city of Mainz.
- c. Gutenberg created the mechanical printing press with movable type.
- d. Gutenberg borrowed a lot of money in 1419.
- e. Before the spread of Gutenberg's idea, literature was popular.
- f. Only thirty-one complete Gutenberg Bibles exist today.

TRUE	FALSE

B. Fill in the missing information with the correct figure.      5 marks [ ]

a.		Gutenberg borrowed money from investors.
b.		The number of Bibles sold to wealthy, private individuals.
c.		The number of pages in the Gutenberg Bible.
d.		Bible copies' price in florins.
e.		The number of complete Gutenberg Bibles that exist today.

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

1. People can share \_\_\_\_\_ across the world.
2. Gutenberg \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of money in 1439.
3. The first major text that Gutenberg \_\_\_\_\_ was a copy of the Bible.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ a Gutenberg Bible in the 1450s would have been a good investment.