

CLAVE COMPRENSIÓN DE LECTURA

TASK 1

SACRÉ BLEU! PARISIAN CULTURAL ELITE SHOCKED BY PLANS TO MODERNISE HISTORIC MANSION

Anger at Qatar owner's refurbishment of £70m Hôtel Lambert that was once owned by Voltaire's mistress.

A French court will rule this week on the fate of one of Paris's most illustrious stately homes, whose planned modernization on behalf of its new Arab owners has caused uproar among the city's cultural elite.

1) The Hôtel Lambert, which faces onto the River Seine at the eastern tip of the Île Saint-Louis, has been described as the most beautiful building in the most beautiful city in the world. The 17th century mansion was built by the man who designed Versailles, and its residents have included Voltaire, Chopin and the late aesthete Alexis von Rosenberg.

However, Hôtel Lambert's acquisition in 2007 by the brother of the Emir of Qatar **2) caused much irritation among many neighbours,** and now his proposed refurbishment has led to a court case, letters to the government and a bitter row over the aesthetics of architectural preservation in France.

Behind the affair lies a deeper political controversy, with enemies of the project accusing **3) President Nicolas Sarkozy's government of succumbing to the Gulf Arab interests,** and themselves then accused of supporting xenophobic cultural chauvinism.

The building – which includes a courtyard, garden and the renowned semi-circular Galerie d'Hercule – was in disrepair when it was sold by Baron Guy de Rothschild for around £70 million.

4) Renovation designs were approved by the French culture ministry in June, but by then the protest campaign had moved into top gear.

Denouncing what it calls "this imminent disaster", the association Paris Historique collected more than 8000 signatures for a petition, and two weeks ago its lawyers were in court **5) in order to try and stop the project from going ahead.** The court will deliver its decision on Wednesday.

"There is still time to dispel this atmosphere of blind servility that has led the project managers to respond uncritically to demands for the most stereotypical form of conventional luxury," the association said in a letter to the newly-appointed culture minister Frédéric Mitterand. Although the original designs have been considerably altered over recent months, they still include plans to destroy a staircase, install three lifts and create an underground car park beneath the courtyard.

Among the signatories are several well-known residents of Île Saint-Louis, **6) which is a Unesco-protected heritage site** and contains some of the most expensive and sought-after properties in the French capital.

The singer and song-writer Georges Moustaki said: "The Hôtel is the jewel of the island. We absolutely must preserve it."

Composer Henri Dutilleux, who has lived on the island for more than 50 years, warned that the proposed renovation would "alter the mansion's exceptional architectural singularity."

However, the most glittering name on the list of opponents is that of the legendary French film actress Michèle Morgan, who made her name with Jean Gabin in the pre-war classic *Le Quai des Brumes* and who herself lived for 20 years in Hôtel Lambert when it was split up into apartments.

"They (the Qataris) are used to big, open spaces. **7) But when they buy a Hôtel on the Île Saint-Louis, they forget that now they are in Paris. What snobbery – this idea of buying a place here!** They should have built something outside of Paris – they could have had all the space they wanted," Morgan told *Prestigium* magazine.

The Qataris' architect, Alain-Charles Perrot, who has a distinguished track record restoring Paris monuments, argues that the changes will not affect the mansion's essential structure.

"The emir is passionate about art and **8) asked me to restore the mansion as faithfully as possible,**" he said. Perrot said he wants to restore the Hôtel as close as possible to its original 17th century state, removing many more recent additions.

But this approach has itself raised objections from many in the arts establishment who say historic buildings

9) should also reflect the aesthetic input of succeeding generations.

Hôtel Lambert was built for a rich banker in the 1640s by Louis Le Vau, who went on to construct much of the palace of Versailles for the Sun King, Louis XIV.

The mansion's interior was decorated by Charles Le Brun who also worked on Versailles.

10) In the 1700s it was owned by the Marquise de Châtelet, who was Voltaire's mistress, and later the mansion was acquired by a wealthy Polish family – the Czartoryskis – who were the centre of a dynamic political and cultural scene.

Chopin composed there and the Hôtel Lambert facade features in histories of 18th century Poland.

The Rothschilds bought the mansion in 1975, gladly renewing the lease of Alexis von Rosenberg (aka Baron de Redé) whose costume balls had put the Hôtel firmly back on the social map.

0. The French cultural establishment criticizes the fact that...
- a. a building belonging to French cultural heritage has been sold to foreigners.
 - b. a historic building will be modernized and changes to its structure undergone.
 - c. the Arabs will not invest in the maintenance and the upkeep of French cultural heritage buildings.
1. The Hôtel Lambert...
- a. faces east.
 - b. overlooks the Île Saint-Louis.
 - c. provides views of the River Seine.
2. The inhabitants of the Île Saint-Louis...
- a. applauded the purchase of the Hôtel by the Qataris.
 - b. did not mind selling the Hôtel to the Qataris as long as it did not have to undergo any changes.
 - c. were furious the Hôtel had been bought by the Qataris.
3. The cultural establishment blames President Sarkozy for...
- a. allowing a historic building to be modified.
 - b. being xenophobic and chauvinistic.
 - c. giving in to the Arabs.
4. The protest campaign started...
- a. after the renovation approval by the Ministry of Culture.
 - b. before the renovation approval by the Ministry of culture.
 - c. when the Minister of Culture approved the renovation plans.
5. The association Paris Historique will go to court...
- a. before the renovations start.
 - b. to appeal against the decision to sell the building to foreigners.
 - c. to stop the renovations currently being carried out.
6. The Île Saint-Louis is considered...
- a. as being one of the least exclusive neighbourhood of Paris.
 - b. is just one of many cultural sites impossible to protect and preserve despite the United Nations.
 - c. to be of outstanding cultural importance by the United Nations regarding its preservation.
7. Michèle Morgan thought the Qataris...
- a. should not divide the Hôtel into any more apartments.
 - b. were very open-minded people and would take up residence on the outskirts.
 - c. were being arrogant about their desire to live in such a secluded place.
8. Alain-Charles Perrot claims that the emir only wishes to...
- a. restore the building and at the same time make it more modern.
 - b. restore the building to its original state.
 - c. restore the building without doing away with the modern features of the building.
9. Art critics differ since they think that a building...
- a. changes through the ages.
 - b. should express the intentions of its architects.
 - c. should reflect the passage of time through the addition of features.
10. The Hôtel Lambert...
- a. has always been a social, cultural and political centre.
 - b. has changed hands several times since its construction.
 - c. used to belong to Polish expatriates until Baron de Rothschild acquired it.

TASK 2

0	BEYOND	
	ACTIVITIES	
2	REACHING	
3	DEBT	
4	ONLY	
5	SHOWED	

6	MASKING	
7	RESEARCH	
8	INCREDIBLY	
9	RISE	
10	EASE	

CLAVE COMPRESIÓN ORAL

TASK 1 - THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

0. The speaker has been living in the north for _____.	A QUARTER OF A CENTURY
1. The interviewer asks if the legend regarding extremely _____ still exists.	UNHEALTHY FOOD
2. On the food front, the author describes fish & chips as one of the _____ of the north.	(GREAT) GLORIES
3. Although the interviewer grew up in London, his father is from Yorkshire, so he is _____.	HALF-NORTHERN(ER)
4. A lot of the books written about the north recently have focused on the _____ of the north.	(CONSTANT) STRUGGLES
5. The author the north needs more good writers to paint up the good and _____ side of the north.	PROSPEROUS
6. One characteristic of people from the north that southerners should adopt is being _____ more chilled-out.	LESS STRESSED
7. If you divide London up into localities the people are friendly, which is not most people's _____ when they are passing through London.	EXPERIENCE (OF LONDON)
8. Recent memoirs which have been written about the north are cheerful and don't _____ the difficulties and problems they had.	DENY
9. Lots of southern students come up north to study because they perceive the universities in the north _____.	AS / ARE FUN
10. Immigrants in the north include Irish, Jews and _____.	EASTERN EUROPEANS

TASK 2 - DARWIN

0. When did Darwin begin his voyage on the Beagle?	IN 1831
1. What did Darwin pretend to do during his journey?	TO EXPLORE/ OBSERVE AND / STUDY / THE NATURAL WORLD. (TWO OF THE THREE)
2. What were both his notebooks and mind full of when he returned from England?	FANTASTIC IMAGES
3. What did he collect, apart from samples and drawings of plants and animals?	FOSSILS
4. What, unknown to Darwin, would his years on the Beagle be the start of?	(A LIFETIME OF) HARD WORK AND CONTROVERSY
5. What idea gradually became clear to him?	ALL LIVING THINGS ARE RELATED.
6. What did Darwin's brother urge him to do?	TO PUBLISH HIS / YOUR IDEAS
7. What was his father's job?	A PHYSICIAN / A DOCTOR
8. According to the naturalists of the time, how was each individual species usually created?	MIRACULOUSLY / BY GOD / BY DIVINE INTERVENTION / GOD CREATED THEM
9. What was Darwin's new way of thinking a mark of?	HIS GENIUS
10. What did Darwin have to overcome before he presented his ideas to the world?	HIS (OWN) DOUBTS.

SCRIPT

TASK 1 - THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

Author≈ Well John now I've been here now for a quarter of a century and absolutely loved it and more to the point my wife Penny who was born in the City of London Hospital, so she's a Cockney, she will also tell you she has found it fantastic and we brought up our two boys here very successfully and I was triggered to write this book because I still find after all this time I go down to London and get this thing about I'm only like Michelle in "Âlo Âlo" I shall say this, I shall use this phrase only once, I still find people talk about "grim up north" to the extent that some colleagues and elsewhere in other companies and so forth people are actually reluctant to move here and I thought it is not like that and so that's what I wanted to do with this book.

Interviewer≈ What about the north of legend, dark satanic mills, flat caps, cobbled streets, brass bands extremely unhealthy food, does that exist?

Author≈ Well that's our problem, we have this extraordinary image and a marvellous image in a sense, which many of us cherish, the mills, the brass bands, the flat caps and so forth it was a glorious time and a heroic time but that has gone now, it's heritage, it's for places like the Beamish Industrial Museum and the history books where we can enjoy it but not allow ourselves us to believe that it's still like that and we're somehow stuck in a time bubble. On the food front we do retain fish& chips and that's one of the great glories of the north especially in my part of the north, Yorkshire, where they cook them in beef dripping which makes them taste even more delicious even the scraps which you ask for and get free with your fish & chips are absolutely lovely in fact in my opinion the best part.

Interviewer ≈ I should say although I grew up in London, my dad is a Yorkshire man, so I am half-northern but what about as you put it in the book, the grumpiness factor?

Author ≈ This is a subtext to the book, part of the Northern image has become being dour and laconic and more to the point in a sense rather chippy with the north-south divider which has existed really ever since the Romans. It's only in more modern times that the north has always come to be seen as the inferior part, the one lagging behind and I think some Northerners have got into a sort of victim mode about this, a lot of books written in the last 50 years really have focused on the constant struggles of the north and fortunately they've been written by extremely good writers and we need I think more good writers to come forward, I mean Helen Cross, who did "My Summer of Love", is an example to paint up the good and the prosperous side of the north, the fact there is a middle-class here would you believe and that all these great industries which had their dramatic side in terms of industrial disputes were also triumphs of enterprise innovation and imagination and those qualities are very much part of the north and one of the pleasures of living here.

Interviewer ≈ What are the values of the north that Southerners would do well to adopt?

Author ≈ I think the main one just in practical terms is being less stressed and more chilled out, I think that's something everybody coming to the north discovers. It may just be the fact that there are fewer of us than in the great wend and in the metropolis which is so busy, so vast and so crowded and full of people who haven't got the time of day for you, although when I lived in London actually, I always thought of myself living as in Chiswick rather than London and if you divide London up into localities they're very friendly but of course that's not a lot of people's experience of London when they're passing through, whereas in the North I think people do get a smile and a welcome that's slightly going back to the traditional north you know, the very friendly north but I think it's true, and going with that this kind of sense of a new optimism, a renaissance is very strong in the north, the cities have been transformed, the misery memoirs have been transformed I mean, we've had two recently Peter Key and Paul O' Grady, Lewis Savage their memoirs and northern upbringings are resolutely cheerful, they don't deny the difficulties and problems they had at the very straits and circumstances in which they grew up but they're full of good cheer and I think that's a lesson we can teach and finally a welcome to newcomers, lots of Southern students come up here, they come up here interestingly because they perceive universities like Newcastle, Leeds and Manchester as fun, which you know in my day when I was their age certainly wasn't reckoned to be the case and that adds to the liveliness of the place and immigration here although persistently seen in recent years as a problem with a capital "P", has in the long term always been a benefit to the north from the Irish through the Jews through the Eastern Europeans after the Second World War, incalculable benefits have been brought to the region and that will happen, is happening, has happened with the Commonwealth and the New Commonwealth immigration which is thoroughly to be welcomed which I think for all the problems that we're facing, for all the BNP in some parts of our region and the rest of it in the longer term we'll look back and say thank goodness they came and thank goodness we welcomed them.

TASK2 - CHARLES DARWIN

Narrator ≈ Who was Charles Darwin?

John Banister-Marx ≈ Charles Darwin was an English naturalist who was fascinated with nature.

Narrator ≈ But not an ordinary naturalist with an ordinary fascination with nature.

Charles Darwin ≈ Hello, what are you doing here? Why such beauty where no one can see.

Narrator ≈ In 1831 Charles Darwin was only 22 when he began a five year voyage aboard the British ship H.M.S. Beagle to explore, observe and study the natural world. The Beagle sailed throughout South America and to remote places like The Galapagos Islands off Ecuador. Darwin later wrote that he felt like a blind man being given sight. He returned to England with his mind and notebooks full of fantastic images.

Charles Darwin ≈ What a brilliant red!

Narrator ≈ Nothing seemed too insignificant for his scrutiny.

Prabha Papali≈ He kept detailed records of what he saw during his voyage on the Beagle. He collected fossils, he kept detailed recordings of plants and animals, he drew them, he observed them.

Narrator≈ Little did Darwin realize that his years on The Beagle would begin a lifetime of hard work and controversy.

James Moore≈ The greatest scientists of Darwin's day referred to the appearance of species originally as the mystery of mysteries. Now Darwin was an ambitious young man and he decided to tackle this greatest mystery in the biology of his day.

Narrator≈ Darwin took on the task of unraveling this mystery methodically with patience and care. Gradually one simple and elegant idea became more and more clear to him that all living things are related. It was a conclusion that to Darwin could not be escaped. But he also knew he was in dangerous waters. He rarely shared his thoughts with others but his brother was an exception.

Charles Darwin≈ The similarity of structure indicates one thing and one thing only – an ancient common ancestor real flesh and blood parents.

Darwin's brother≈ Why didn't you say so then? You must publish your ideas. If only to establish your priority. What's holding you back?

James Moore≈ You have to understand that Darwin was a respectable man, his father was a well-known physician he came from a well-known family. He went to Cambridge University to train for the Church of England and he knew eminent scientists of his day.

Narrator≈ In Darwin's time the prevailing explanation for the great diversity of life was a literal interpretation of the Earth's creation as described in Genesis the First Book of the Bible

James Moore≈ Established naturalists believed that God created each individual species of animals and plants usually miraculously at the beginning and that these species had stayed fixed.

Charles Darwin≈ We allow the planets and the sun to be governed by natural laws but the smallest insect we wish to be created by a special act of God. Surely the creation of life has to be explained in the same way as geology using natural ordinary everyday causes

SPEAKER: Well in theory yes but in practice there can be no question about the prime cause, divine will.

Charles Darwin≈ Shouldn't men of science be free to investigate each and every means by which new species come into being.

SPEAKER: If by that you mean wild accusations about man's ancestry the answer is no.

James Moore≈ He was doing something highly unorthodox in his day not unorthodox because it went against the church per se but because it went against all of natural history in Great Britain. He knew he stood to jeopardize the whole united establishment of science, politics and the Church. He knew he could get into very very bad trouble and ruin his career.

Narrator ≈ And yet Darwin also knew the evidence he gathered and the tests he conducted supported the revolutionary idea that living things are related and have changed over millions and millions of years. This new way of thinking was a mark of his genius. It took Darwin 23 years of work to overcome his own doubts to finally present his ideas to the world. His revolutionary book "The Origin of Species" introduced a scientific theory to explain how evolution occurs. He called his mechanism of change *Natural Selection*.

Prabha Papali≈ Darwin had the courage to go against what was believed in those days and it changed the world in a great and profound way.