



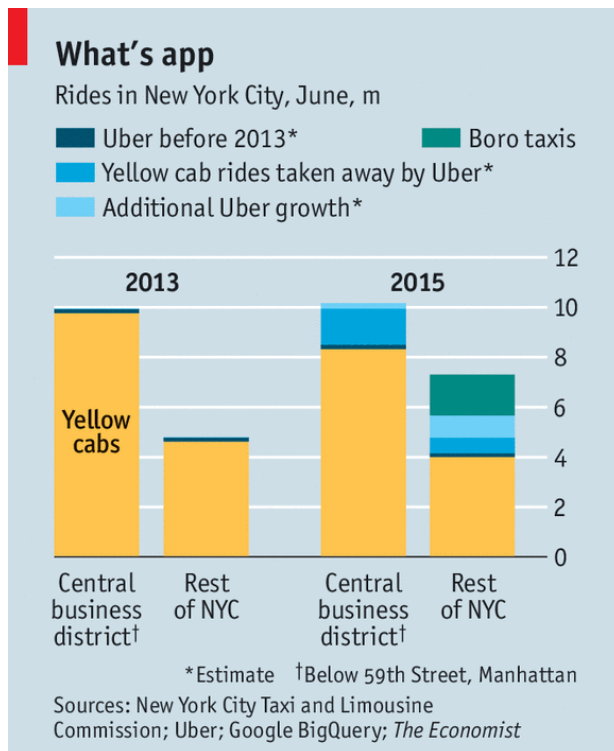
English I
Época Normal
2015-2016
22 January 2016
Time allowed: 2 hours

NOTE: During the exam students may consult a dictionary, which must not contain any handwritten notes. Students are NOT allowed to consult any electronic device or extra notes or materials.

The answers to question B, numbers 6-13 are to be written on the exam paper. All other answers are to be written on a separate sheet.

A. Writing (13.5 points)

Consider the information in the following graph. Write the data commentary to accompany it. Include other relevant information to help explain the topic. (250-300 words)



Boro taxis offer the same service and prices as Yellow cabs – i.e. they can be hailed on the street – but they operate in the boroughs [areas] outside the central business district.

Economist.com

Your text will be marked on content; discourse management and genre; range and appropriacy of vocabulary and structures; and grammatical accuracy.

B. Reading Comprehension (4.55 points)

Read the text, then answer the questions that follow.

Year in a word: Gig economy

Leslie Hook

1. *Noun — The freelance economy, in which workers support themselves with a variety of part-time jobs that do not provide traditional benefits such as healthcare.*

The phrase “gig economy” was coined at the height of the financial crisis in early

5. 2009, when the unemployed made a living by gigging, or working several part-time jobs, wherever **they** could. This year, though, **the word** has been in the news for a different reason, as the rise of so-called unicorn companies such as Uber and Airbnb has meant more and more people have started to work **this way**.
10. In its earliest usage, gig work referred to jazz club musicians in the 1920s. Some features, such as the fact that workers do not get healthcare, pensions or paid holiday, have hardly changed since.
But what is new in today’s gig economy is the way that technology has cast a wider net, drawing in people who would not otherwise be gigging at all. Think of
15. the retired person who occasionally lets out a spare room on Airbnb, or the office worker who picks up an extra passenger on the morning commute by using a ride-hailing app.
This past year has also seen a pushback against the gig economy, as Uber and another ride-hailing company, Lyft, have faced lawsuits from drivers who say
20. **they** should be treated as employees instead of independent contractors.
A class-action lawsuit brought by California drivers against Uber is set to go to jury trial next year. Some tech companies are converting **their** work forces from contractors to full-time employees. Others are adding more perks for gig workers: Lyft offers a retirement savings programme for drivers, while Airbnb
25. provides liability insurance for hosts. The line between gigs and work is getting increasingly blurred.

[Financial Times, 29 December 2015](#)

Reference, substitution and ellipsis

What do the following items (highlighted in the text) refer to? I.e. what is their specific meaning in this particular text? (0.35 points each)

1. they (line 6)
2. the word (line 6)
3. this way (line 8,9)
4. they (line 20)
5. their (line 22)

Name: Number:

B. Reading comprehension (cont.)

Choose **one** answer to each question and write the letter clearly in the box. [e.g. *b*]
(0.35 points each)

- 6. The main purpose of the article is
 - a. to report how more people are working in the gig economy.
 - b. to comment on a recent phenomenon in the economy.
 - c. to explain a recent phenomenon in the economy.
 - d. to argue that the gig economy deprives employees of traditional benefits.

- 7. What distinguishes someone working in the gig economy from a full time employee in 2015?
 - a. The employee receives health care coverage from his/her employer but the gig worker doesn't.
 - b. An employee's job is their sole source of income while the gig worker's jobs are merely an income supplement.
 - c. None of the alternatives is correct.
 - d. Unlike the employee, the gig worker is entitled to paid holidays.

- 8. In what way is the gig economy of the 21st century different from that of the 20th century?
 - a. It includes more people and businesses, not just musicians and music.
 - b. Technology has created opportunities for anyone to make extra money from their existing assets.
 - c. Today's gig economy initially developed during a recession.
 - d. All of the other answers are correct.

- 9. The writer implies that
 - a. the gig economy is evolving.
 - b. All of the other answers are correct.
 - c. the lack of worker benefits in the gig economy is likely to remain.
 - d. Uber operates illegally in the USA.

- 10. What is the status of a Lyft driver?
 - a. An employee of Lyft.
 - b. An independent contractor.
 - c. A part time worker.
 - d. None of the other answers is correct.

- 11. What are the implications for the tech companies who are converting their gig work force into full time employees?
 - a. The tech companies will have to pay more into pension schemes.
 - b. The tech companies' fixed costs will probably rise.
 - c. Staff turnover may well decline.
 - d. All of the other answers are correct.

- 12. Who is not participating in the gig economy of the 21st century?
 - a. Someone who lets out a room in their house with Airbnb.
 - b. A taxi driver.
 - c. Someone who requests and uses the services of Uber.
 - d. A freelance jazz musician.

13. Which sentence best summarises the article?
- a. Modern technology has enabled and encouraged more people to take part in an economy that provides them with few or no traditional benefits, the gig economy, but the workers in the gig economy now contest their status.
 - b. Although many people have chosen to work in the gig economy, some challenge their working status in the companies that they work for.
 - c. New technologies have choked off new businesses that have reinterpreted the relation between employer and employee, which has given rise to a new kind of economy – the gig economy.
 - d. The 2008 financial crisis gave rise to a new economy, the gig economy, which has grown steadily due to the use of new technologies, but whose characteristics are being challenged by some of its workers.



C. Vocabulary (1.95 points)

Complete each sentence with an expression similar in meaning to the explanation in brackets. The first letter of the keyword is given to help you. You might need to add a preposition and you will need to conjugate verbs. (0.39 points each)

1. In recent years it [North Korea] has paid the price for international sanctions, deteriorating economic ties with the south's hardline government and mismanagement of its **c..... e.....** by the military. (system where the government, rather than the free market, determines what goods should be produced, how much should be produced and the price at which the goods will be offered for sale)
2. VW's group **m..... s.....** fell to 24.5% from 26.8% a year earlier as its main Volkswagen brand's share tumbled to 12.2% from 13.5%.. (the percentage that a company has of the total sales for a particular product or service)
3. It [the website of borrowmydoggy.com] is simple to use and you get the feeling the people behind it are far from hare-brained; the dogs are covered by third-party insurance, an emergency vet line is available for **b.....** and owners alike, there's a blog packed with helpful advice and you can even leave feedback, although only positive reviews are shared with the rest of the "pack". (people who obtain goods from a business or individual for a specified period of time upon condition of promising to return the goods)
4. Shell is set to confront the risk that climate change may pose to its future, after backing a resolution from activist **s.....** . (people who hold stock in a company)
5. Convenience store owners, many of which have recently taken over local post office services, said the demands by the state enterprise that they pay large commissions from their other commercial activities to the Post Office were a **r..... p.....** that could drive many to close the sub-post offices in their shops.. (abuse of dominant market position by private or public sector producers in preventing or restricting entry of new suppliers, or otherwise restraining fair and open competition.

Answers

A. Writing (13.5 points)

A good answer will note salient information in the graph. It will describe and comment on/explain how the market share held by the Yellow cabs, Uber and Boro taxis has changed between 2013 and 2015. It will interpret trends and rework the data from raw figures into percentages or other forms. Content includes but is not restricted to:

- The graph shows the number of rides operated by taxi services and Uber in June 2013 and June 2015 in New York.
- The number of rides in the central business district of New York **remained quite constant** at around 10 million, but there was **a significant increase** in the number of rides given in the rest of New York city. The latter totaled about 7.5 million in 2015, **up from approximately** 4.5 million in 2013. Prior to 2013 Yellow cabs had little competition in New York, both in the central business district and in the surrounding boroughs. The number of rides provided by Uber was minimal.
- Although Yellow cabs remain **a key player** in providing taxi services, their **market share** since 2013 has changed with the entry of Uber and Boro taxis.
- In the central business district Uber has **gained market share**, indicating that they are direct competitors of Yellow cabs. Between 2013 and 2015 the number of rides provided by Yellow cabs **declined by** almost 2 million, such that Uber services now **account for** about one fifth of market.
- In the rest of New York, Uber similarly took away about one fifth of number of rides provided by Yellow cabs between 2013 and 2015. Notwithstanding, the total number of rides increased, which indicates a growing market. In 2015, Yellow cab services **made up** just over half the total number of rides taken outside the central business district while Uber and Boro taxis each **accounted for** slightly under a quarter of the total rides. The high proportion of rides by taxi services rather than Uber **suggests** that people in New York still prefer to use a metered taxi rather than the price system used by Uber. Unlike Uber, Boro taxis and Yellow cabs can be hailed on the street; however, metered taxi companies have introduced smart phone apps similar to those of Uber in order to remain competitive.

The answer will use appropriate structures and vocabulary to describe the trends in the graph. The paragraph will be well structured and information flow will be clear, with few grammatical errors.

B. Reading Comprehension (0.35 points each)

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|-------|--|
| 6. C | 1. they = the unemployed workers in 2009 who worked part time jobs to make |
| 7. A | a living (reference) |
| 8. D | 2. the word = the gig economy (reference) |
| 9. A | 3. this way = by working freelance in several jobs (reference) |
| 10. B | 4. they = drivers of Lyft and Uber (reference) |
| 11. D | 5. their = the tech companies' (reference) |
| 12. B | |
| 13. D | |

C. Vocabulary (0.39 points each)

1. command economy or central economy;
2. market share;
3. borrowers;
4. shareholders or stockholders;
5. restrictive practice