

Four news stories

The aim in this exercise is to summarise these short texts (taken in this case from the BBC news website)

This is because in the compulsory part of the written paper (Part 1) has two texts that need to be summarised (before being discussed). Getting into the rhythm of making short summaries of texts – less than 30 words is an important skill and needs to be practised.

These texts are slightly longer than the 100 word texts in the exam.

Text A

A former executive of South Korea's national airline has been jailed for one year for obstructing aviation safety during a row over nuts.

Heather Cho forced a plane to return to the gate in New York last December and offload a steward because she did not like the way she had been served nuts.

Judge Oh Sung-woo said it was a case where "human dignity" had been "trampled upon".

Ms Cho has apologised and quit Korean Air, which is run by her father.

Her plane was taxiing at New York's JFK Airport on 5 December when witnesses say she became angry after being served macadamia nuts she did not ask for, and which were still in a bag and not in a bowl.

She ordered the plane to return to the gate and offload the chief steward.

Judge Oh said Cho had treated the flight "as if it was her own private plane".

"It is doubtful that the way the nuts were served was so wrong," he said.

The judge said Cho, who is also known as Cho Hyun-ah, had failed to show enough remorse even after she submitted letters to the court apologising for the incident.

Text B

A camera lost six months ago in Australia has been reunited with its owner thanks to a social media manhunt by a stranger who found the device.

Backpacker Chris Hesford, 22, from Jersey, lost his GoPro camera while kayaking in Byron Bay, New South Wales.

Months later Australian Steve Carmody found the camera in a riverbed 60 miles (97km) away and took to social media in a bid to find its owner.

After two weeks and 8,000 shares on Facebook, Mr Hesford was identified. Mr Carmody posted on Facebook saying: "If we can track down this bloke I have 32 GB of precious memories to be returned."

The post went viral and the story was picked up by Australian TV news, which showed photographs from the camera's memory stick of Mr Hesford, who is now working as a lawyer in London.

The images depicted Mr Hesford on his travels around the world, including at top of the Empire State building, visiting the Grand Canyon and posing near the Sydney Opera House.

Friends of Mr Hesford saw the pictures, told him the good news and he got back his long-lost photos, which were still on the broken camera's memory

stick.

He said: "I was just in shock, really.

"It's amazing that Steve made such an incredible effort to find me.

"Steve, I am extremely grateful for your efforts, and if you are ever in London the first pint is on me."

Mr Carmody told ABC Gold Coast radio: "It's very cool, it just goes to show the power of social media."

Text C

A toucan in Costa Rica which lost the upper part of its beak after being attacked by youths looks set to be fitted with a prosthetic replacement. Four Costa Rican companies that have volunteered their help say they possess the skills to create a prosthesis for the injured bird.

They say they will use 3D printing to create the first prosthesis of this kind in the region.

In the US, prosthetic beaks have been created for an eagle and a penguin.

The male toucan, named Grecia after the area where it was found, was taken to an animal rescue centre in January.

Pictures of its mutilated beak caused outrage after they were circulated in Costa Rican newspapers and on social media.

A campaign to provide the bird with a prosthetic beak quickly raised thousands of dollars and a number of local companies offered their help.

Four of them, Elementos 3d, Ewa!corps, Publicidad Web and Grupo Sommerus, said on Tuesday that they were confident they could design a suitable prosthetic for Grecia and fit it.

Toucans use their beaks to eat and also to regulate their body temperature.

Veterinarian Carmen Soto, who looks after Grecia at the Zoo Ave rescue centre, said the toucan was recovering well and had even started eating on its own.

Text D

A SpaceX Falcon rocket has launched from Florida to put the Deep Space Climate Observatory (DSCOVR) in orbit.

The satellite will be used by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to monitor the Sun.

It will provide warnings on hazardous outbursts from our star.

The Sun can hurl vast clouds of charged particles and radiation towards Earth, disrupting a range of critical services from GPS to electricity distribution.

"DSCOVR will serve as our 'tsunami buoy in space', if you will, giving forecasters up to an hour's warning on the arrival of the huge magnetic eruptions from the Sun that occasionally occur called Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)," explained Tom Berger, the director of NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, Colorado.

"CMEs are the cause of the largest geomagnetic storms at Earth, some of which can severely disrupt our technological society, causing loss of communications with aircraft, particularly those flying over the poles; damage

to satellites in orbit; and even damage to power grid equipment on the ground."

DSCOVR, operating from a point in space 1.5 million km nearer to our star, will succeed the capability provided by the Advanced Composition Explorer, or Ace satellite, for the past 17 years.

The satellite's Falcon 9 rocket left the pad at Cape Canaveral at 18:03 local time (23:03 GMT) on Wednesday. It was actually the third attempt at a lift-off. Problems with an Air Force tracking radar and poor weather conditions had previously forced the postponement of the flight.