



Option A

PIRATES FACE A NEW FOE: A PRIVATE NAVY

1 Times are tough and getting worse for Somali pirates, as their targets take countermeasures. The number of attacks off the Horn of Africa tumbled from 236 in 2011 to no more than 72 in 2012, according to the International Maritime Bureau, a body that monitors crime at sea. Now a private naval effort is adding to their woes. A  
5 company called *Typhon* will use a 10,000 tonne "mother ship" to accompany convoys of merchant vessels. With 60 mostly armed, mostly British ex-soldiers on board, it will deploy speedboats and unmanned drones to watch and intercept hostile boats. Anthony Sharp, *Typhon's* boss, says customers will find that more efficient than putting armed guards on every ship. It will also spare them keeping guns on board. *Typhon* plans  
10 to have three large ships by the year end, with at least one based in the Gulf of Guinea, a hotspot for pirate attacks last year, and ten by 2016. Its backers include Simon Murray, a former foreign legionnaire who is now chairman of Glencore. The new outfit will be a big potential customer for *Typhon*. But Mr Sharp downplays comparisons with Britain's East India Company, which ran a private empire  
15 with its own navy. His is "actually quite a boring business," he claims. Not for the pirates.

QUESTIONS

[1] FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS, ANSWER QUESTIONS A, B, C  
(3 POINTS AS A WHOLE).

A. Answer the following question using your own words (10 to 20 words) (1 point).

Which is the purpose of using a 10,000 tonne "mother ship"?

B. Are the following statements *true* or *false*? Indicate the line(s) in the text supporting your choice (1.5 points as a whole: 0.5 points each).

B1. The number of attacks off the Horn of Africa has increased.

B2. Putting armed guards on every ship is more efficient.

B3. *Typhon* plans to increase the number of large ships in a three years time.

C. Choose *a*, *b* or *c* in the question below. Only one choice is correct  
(0.5 points as a whole).

Somali pirates are the owners of ...

- a) mother ships
- b) merchant vessels
- c) hostile boats

[2] COMPLETE TASKS a, b, c, d ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN  
(2 POINTS AS A WHOLE: 0.5 EACH).

- a) **Write a question for which the underlined words are the answer:**  
Its backers include Simon Murray
- b) **Transform into reported speech:** 'The Gulf of Guinea is a hotspot for pirate attacks.' **Begin with:** They stated that ...
- c) **Transform into the passive:** *Typhon* will use a 10,000 tonne mother ship.
- d) **Complete:** A new private naval effort would not be necessary if ...

[3] VOCABULARY (1 POINT AS A WHOLE: 0.2 EACH).

- Find one word in the text for each of the following meanings:
  - a) an area of potential violence or political unrest
  - b) people who give financial or other support
- Find synonyms in the text for each of the words below:
  - c) dropped
  - d) unfriendly
  - e) president

[4] WRITE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING TOPIC USING BETWEEN 100-120 WORDS  
(4 POINTS).

A film you have ever seen about pirates.



**Option B**

**HOW FRIENDSHIP MAKES YOU MORE SUCCESSFUL**

1 Back in college, my dorm-mate and I invented a ritual we called “Power Wednesdays.” Every week, we headed to the campus fitness center for a workout, and then to the library for four hours. We would stride back to our dorm with a huge feeling of accomplishment. But that uplifting cocktail of virtuousness, productivity and sore muscles — rewarding as it was — wasn’t what kept us repeating Power Wednesdays. Our real motivation was each other’s company.

I’ve been immersed in the study of friendship for the past several years, and among the many things I’ve learned, one idea stands out: If you truly want to change some aspect of your life, developing friendships with people who aspire to the same goals as you do — like I did with my dorm-mate 15 years ago — can lead to more successful endeavors than embarking on solitary efforts.

15 Shortly after we make a decision to change our behavior, we often sense a softening of what at first felt like ironclad conviction. We punish ourselves for our inability to summon motivation and return to the poor habits we’re trying to break to comfort us. What a disheartening cycle. But research shows that having friends with the same goal can interrupt that cycle.

**QUESTIONS**

[1] FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS, ANSWER QUESTIONS A, B, C (3 POINTS AS A WHOLE).

A. Answer the following question using your own words. (10 to 20 words) (1 point).

What is important to do when you make a decision to change your behavior?

B. Are the following statements *true* or *false*? Indicate the line(s) in the text supporting your choice (1.5 points as a whole: 0.5 each).

B1. Going to the fitness center was a rewarding activity.

B2. The author has been immersed in the study of friendship for 15 years.

B3. To be able to change our behaviour we have to keep our old habits.

C. Choose *a*, *b* or *c* in the question below. Only one choice is correct (0.5 points as a whole).

Power Wednesdays is...

- a) a ritual.
- b) an algorithm.
- c) a reward.

[2] COMPLETE TASKS a, b, c, d ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN (2 POINTS AS A WHOLE: 0.5 EACH).

- a) **Complete:** If you met your friends at an all-you-can-eat brunch every Sunday ...
- b) **Put into the passive:** We should replace bad behaviors with healthier ones.
- c) **Transform into reported speech:** ‘There’s a lot of research suggesting that it’s best to tackle negative behaviors obliquely.’ **Begin with:** He noted that ...
- d) **Write a question for which the underlined words are the answer:** Back in college, my dorm-mate and I invented a ritual.

[3] VOCABULARY (1 POINT AS A WHOLE: 0.2 EACH).

- Find one word in the text for each of the following meanings:
  - a) a session of physical exercise
  - b) the act of carrying out or achieving
- Find synonyms in the text for each of the words below:
  - c) went
  - d) engaging
  - e) investigation

[4] WRITE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING TOPIC USING BETWEEN 100-120 WORDS (4 POINTS).

Why is friendship important, do you feel that you could live without friends?