

NCTJ SHORTHAND EXAMINATION PASSAGE AT 110 WPM

Council accused of wasting money on modern art

Has the council taken leave of its senses? Is it so flush with money that it can spend more than eighty thousand pounds on pieces of, so ($\frac{1}{4}$) called, modern art that a monkey could do better? In my opinion it was wrong to spend so much money on trying to entertain visitors now that the ($\frac{1}{2}$) town has a one-way ring road. The ring road itself cost about twenty million pounds and I think we shall live to regret it. Now, instead ($\frac{3}{4}$) of driving a few hundred metres to reach a turning, you may have to go all the way round the ring road first. I can imagine that at (1) night it will be a paradise for boy racers. They are not likely to be bothered by the forty miles per hour speed limit, but we shall ($\frac{1}{4}$) see. Let us give it time to settle down and for motorists to get used to it. They will certainly need to use their mirrors more, because in ($\frac{1}{2}$) places they will have to cross four lanes of traffic. Ours is a small town, but the ring road will make it seem more like New York. ($\frac{3}{4}$) However, I have not come here today to talk about the ring road. It is the collection of strange pieces of modern art beside it that concerns me. (2)

INTERVAL OF THIRTY SECONDS

Even if they were the best pieces of modern art in the world I would still be worried. Anything that makes a driver take his eyes off ($\frac{1}{4}$) the road is dangerous. Take the, so-called, piece of modern art near the rail station. Every bit of this lovely house, which has been empty for the ($\frac{1}{2}$) last three years, was covered with paper. It rained soon after the two artists had finished, so the paper just became a soggy mess. Then, when it ($\frac{3}{4}$) dried out, graffiti artists had a field day. I think the idea to paper over the building was to recall the town's history as a paper-making centre. (1)

INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN SECONDS

The ring road artists also planted a small forest of old road signs near the High Street. The signs were no longer needed now that the road ($\frac{1}{4}$) is one-way. Although they were cut down to a metre high, they still confuse drivers. Also, some white circles have been painted on the road. I am ($\frac{1}{2}$) told they are supposed to be a flock of seagulls. I have come to this conclusion. ***It is ridiculous that members of the council have wasted our ($\frac{3}{4}$) money on these, so-called, pieces of modern art and I think they should be taken to task.*** Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you all agree with me. (1)

TRANSCRIPTION TIME ALLOWED FIFTY-FIVE MINUTES