

NCTJ SHORTHAND EXAMINATION PASSAGE AT 120 WPM

Garbage army keeps city centre clean

I have to tell you that there are certain times when you cannot see the High Street or the pavements at the side of it. They are covered with drink ($\frac{1}{4}$) cans, chip paper and broken glass amongst other things. At about five in the morning a team of slow-moving men come in with their green machines to sweep up ($\frac{1}{2}$) all the debris of the night before. The law breakers who lined the streets with litter have by then arrived home and crept into their beds. At seven am the ($\frac{3}{4}$) second wave of the garbage army join in with their brushes and litter pickers. By the time people arrive for work at nine am the litter has been cleared away (**1**) until five o'clock the next morning. This goes on for most of the year and is one of the problems of a city which has fifty thousand students, many nightclubs ($\frac{1}{4}$) and plenty of fast food outlets. There was a time when the city's garbage army did not work on Saturdays, but now there is so much paper packaging that a ($\frac{1}{2}$) team of eighteen litter pickers has to work every day except Christmas Day to keep the city centre clean. I am very pleased to say that the efforts of the ($\frac{3}{4}$) garbage army are paying off because the city centre has now been placed well above the national average for cleanliness but it is a constant battle that is getting tougher. (**2**)

INTERVAL OF THIRTY SECONDS

The battle is not only tougher for the cleaners but also for the litter louts. Litter dropping will now be met with an on-the-spot fine of fifty pounds ($\frac{1}{4}$) when the litter lout is seen by an accredited official, some of whom are in plain clothes. If the fine is not paid, court action will be taken and fines ($\frac{1}{2}$) of up to three hundred pounds will be levied. Of course, students are not the only culprits and recently a man received a fine of one hundred and fifty pounds ($\frac{3}{4}$) with fifty pound costs when his case was taken to court. He had been spotted dumping carpet offcuts on to a pile of rubbish on a lane near his home. (**1**)

INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN SECONDS

Two other people did not attend court and were fined in their absence. One of them dropped a wrapper from his cigarette packet when he was spotted by a warden. ($\frac{1}{4}$) A woman discarded a piece of paper used to wipe her mouth after eating fish and chips. Both of them were given a fifty pound fine but because they did ($\frac{1}{2}$) not pay, they then received one hundred pound fines with fifty pound costs. I would like to make this point. ***I have no sympathy with these litter louts and dropping ($\frac{3}{4}$) litter is no longer an option. In fact, I think the fines should be even higher than they currently are.*** That is all I have to say on the matter. (**1**)

TRANSCRIPTION TIME ALLOWED SIXTY-FIVE MINUTES