

NCTJ SHORTHAND EXAMINATION PASSAGE AT 80 WPM

Town has plenty of youth facilities

There has been some talk recently that teenagers in this town have little to do. I have read such complaints ($\frac{1}{4}$) in the local paper and I have received letters from parents who are claiming the same thing. As mayor, I ($\frac{1}{2}$) am disappointed that so many feel this way as I know that the town council has made great efforts to ($\frac{3}{4}$) help the young people. We have helped with the funding of a new youth club and have spent thousands of (**1**) pounds on a skate park. We are also trying to find the cash to buy new nets for the tennis ($\frac{1}{4}$) courts. May I remind those people who are complaining that there are few towns with such facilities. My son is ($\frac{1}{2}$) a teenager and he makes good use of all these things and is grateful for them. It is not always ($\frac{3}{4}$) possible to grant every single wish but we do listen to them all and do our best where we can. (**2**)

INTERVAL OF 30 SECONDS

Last year we held a youth conference. I was disappointed at the turnout. We only had half of the numbers ($\frac{1}{4}$) we expected. This was a chance for young people to tell us what they wanted in the town and what ($\frac{1}{2}$) was wrong with the present facilities. We responded to the main suggestions, such as the youth club and the skate ($\frac{3}{4}$) park, and we are glad that we have done so. We felt that we were really listening to young people (**1**) and helping them. But those who are now moaning are saying that we got it wrong. But I ask them, ($\frac{1}{4}$) where were you when we needed your ideas? Most of these people did not attend the conference or write to ($\frac{1}{2}$) the town hall with their views as I had suggested. Also, some of the requests for facilities are not practical. ($\frac{3}{4}$) For instance, we have nowhere to site a football pitch and we have no money to build an ice rink. (**2**)

TRANSCRIPTION TIME ALLOWED: 35 MINUTES