

**PART ONE: READING**

**15 points**

**A) Comprehension**

**08 points**

**Read the text carefully then do the activities**

Elon Musk's SpaceX Company has launched a capsule designed to carry people from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The American space agency NASA is likely to approve the system to take normal astronauts into space later this year. According to Musk, this could be the first step towards making space travel possible for commercial customers.

The US has not been able to put humans into space since it stopped producing space shuttles in 2011. In the past, NASA engineers fully designed, owned and operated the vehicles. However, since 2011, it has been paying to use Russian Soyuz vehicles instead and it is now paying Musk's company to produce spacecraft to take people to the International Space Station (ISS).

The agency's head, Jim Bridenstine, stressed on Saturday that using American transport again did not mean an end to cooperation with Russia." he said. "But we also want to make sure we have our own capability to travel to the International Space Station, "

SpaceX's Dragon capsule lifted off on Saturday 02 March at 02:49 EST (07:49 GMT). It took 11 minutes to reach orbit, and it arrived at the ISS on Sunday.

For the California company, this mission is a key moment in its short history. Mr Musk, a technology entrepreneur and engineer, set up the organization in order to take people into space. "It's been 17 years to get to this point, from 2002 to now. To be frank, I'm a little emotionally exhausted because it was super stressful," he told reporters immediately after the launch. Our focus has been on serving NASA's needs but once Dragon is in regular operation, I think we will look for commercial customers." The Dragon is expected to stay at the station until Friday. According to the current plan, it will leave the ISS and splash down at around 13:45 GMT.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-47414390>

1. The text is: a) a web article                      b) a magazine article                      c) a newspaper article
2. Say whether the following statements are true or false. Write T or F next to the letter corresponding to the statement and correct the false ones
  - a. Space exploration will be accessible to regulars
  - b. The US has never used foreign shuttles
  - c. Arriving in orbit requires much time
  - d. Mr. Musk's target is offering assistance only to NASA
3. Reorder the given sentences according to their occurrence in the text
  - a- Profit-making has become a new objective of the space project
  - b- Reusing local transportation does not signify the closure of a mutual aid
  - c- Unique achievement is going to occur in the world of astronomy
4. Answer the following questions according to the text
  - a. What has the space administration certified?
  - b. How has NASA changed since 2011?
  - c. What is Musk's long-term plan?
5. Who or what do the underlined words refer to in the text
  - a. this(\$1)
  - b. in the past (\$2)
  - c. we(\$3)
  - d. this mission (\$5)

