

## Skydiver Baumgartner lands safely on Earth after supersonic record

- (1) Standing at the edge of space above the deserts of New Mexico, Felix Baumgartner paused slightly. It was a small step away from the capsule, but a 38-kilometers drop back down to earth. "Our guardian angel will take care of you," said mission control, and the man, known as Fearless Felix, jumped. Ten heart-stopping minutes later the Austrian landed back on Earth, after reaching speeds of up to 1.166 km per hour, and breaking three world records, including becoming the world's first supersonic skydiver by breaking the sound barrier at Mach 1.24. He was wearing a specially designed survival suit that kept his body intact against the hugely varying pressures that marked his drop back to earth. Without it, his blood would have boiled and his lungs might have exploded.
- (2) Baumgartner later told a press conference: "When I was standing there on top of the world, you become so humble, you don't think about breaking records." He admitted all he could think about was getting back alive, but added: "Sometimes you have to go up really high to see how small you are." Baumgartner was carried up into crystal clear skies by a gigantic balloon that measured 30 million square cubic feet and whose skin was one-tenth the thickness of a sandwich bag. At the bottom of the balloon was a capsule, in which Baumgartner sat in his suit. As he reached the desired height, Baumgartner went through a checklist of 40 items with his mentor Joe Kittinger, the previous holder of the highest altitude manned balloon flight. They decided to go ahead, watched by a record 8 million people as the jump was streamed live on YouTube.
- (3) The two-and-a-half hour journey upwards, during which the curvature of the earth became visible and the skies gradually turned black, was matched with a rather more rapid descent. Three cameras attached to Baumgartner's suit recorded his freefall of just over four minutes – which failed to break the existing freefall record for duration – and then the parachute opening. The stunt, which was seven years in the planning and sponsored by Red Bull drinks, beat two of Kittinger's records: the retired US air force colonel previously held the high altitude and speed records for parachuting. Kittinger jumped from a balloon 30 km above the planet in 1960.
- (4) Earlier, Mike Todd [the life support engineer who dressed Baumgartner in his suit] had told the press conference: "The world needs a hero right now, and they got one in Felix Baumgartner." To further laughter at the press conference, Kittinger said: "I would like to give a special salute to all the folk who said that he [Baumgartner] was going to come apart when he went supersonic." This will be the last jump, Baumgartner said. He has promised to settle down and enjoy his post-jump years with his girlfriend, Nicole Oetl, flying helicopters on rescue missions in the US and Austria.

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**Dominic Rushe**

(Adapted from) The Guardian, Monday 15 October 2012

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Teacher: Bassem Soussia	End Of Term Test n°1 2012 / 2013	Name: .....
Classes: 4 <sup>th</sup> Year Tech 1+2		Number: .....
		Mark: /30 /20

### Reading Comprehension: (12 pts)

**1- Focus on Paragraph 1 and complete the table: (2 pts)**

Name	Altitude from earth	Speed reached	Duration of the jump
Felix Baumgartner	About 38 Km	.....	.....

**2- For each of the following statements, find ONE DETAIL showing that it is FALSE: ( 3 pts)**

a) *Felix's most concern was breaking records.*

.....

b) *Only few people watched Felix's jump from space.*

.....

c) *Felix was the first man to jump from space.*

.....

**3- Answer the following questions: (2 pts)**

a) *What would happen to Felix if he hadn't worn his special suit?*

.....

b) *How long have Felix and his crew been preparing for the jump?*

.....

**4- What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2 pts)**

a. *"It" in paragraph 1 refers to .....*

b. *"Whose" in paragraph 2 refers to .....*

**5- Tick (✓) the alternative that best explains the underlined expression/ words: (2 pts)**

a/ When I was standing there on top of the world, you become so humble: [Parag 2]

☐ Showing a modest or low estimate of one's importance

☐ Showing interest in something important

☐ Being able to fly

b/ He has promised to settle down and enjoy his post-jump years: [Parag 4]

☐ To sit down and admire the view

☐ To explore the world

☐ To make one's permanent home somewhere

**6- If you were given the opportunity to jump from space like Felix Baumgartner, would you accept? Why? Why not?: (1 pt)**

.....  
.....

Reading :

/12

**Writing: (12 PTS)**

- 1- Use the following notes to write a short biography of *Princess Diana Spencer*: (4 pts)**

*Birth: 1961/ Marriage: Prince Charles, 1981 / Children: William and Harry / Death: 1997, Paris, accident / interest of press and public / work with charities.*

- 2- You would like to take a Three-year course in ICT (information Communication Technology) abroad. Write a letter to *Thameside Polytechnic* to enquire about admission fee, the overall cost of the course, when the course starts, the possibility of getting a scholarship and any other detail you would like to know. (8 pts)**

The Registrar,  
Thameside Polytechnic,  
London SW2

P.O Box 341  
1003 Tunis  
Tunisia

December 6, 2012

Dear Sir/madam,

[illegible]

.....

Writing :

/12

### III- Language: (6 pts)

#### 1- Fill in the blanks with 6 words from the following box: (3 pts)

The Edinburgh Festival is hugely popular with tourists. It is.....an umbrella term for a group of independently organized festivals, which together bring you a spectacular variety of events to choose from. The Edinburgh International Book Festival ..... talks, reading as well as discussions, musical events and numerous children's activities. Tickets need to be.....well in advance as..... isn't easy to find in Edinburgh during the festival. Edinburgh is a compact city with good public transport, so you can still stay a few miles out and make the.....of the festival, .....time of the day or night you choose to experience it.

Whatever	Variety	Offers	Accommodation	booked	Most	actually
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#### 2- Put the words between brackets in the right tense or form: (3 pts)

On 12 April 1961 Yuri Gagarin **(become)**.....the first man into space. Almost fifty years later space has become the new ultimate tourism destination. Back in 2001 the first official space**(tourism)**....., billionaire Dennis Tito, went one week to the International Space Station (ISS) after he paid 20 million dollars to the Russian Space Agency. Nowadays entrepreneur Richard Branson is likely to start commercial **(fly)**..... into space as from 2011 with his company Virgin Galactic for the **(luck)**.....few who can afford 200,000 dollar per ticket (Virgin Galactic, 2010). According to Cater (2009) a growing audience of academic literature recognizes that the phenomenon of space tourism is no longer 'out of this world' and is worthy of future study. In her blog entry Van Gemert (2009) however states that she is skeptic about the concept of space tourism for the 'ordinary' space tourist due to the high price level. Furthermore she questions the feasibility of the concept due to a lag of technology level in **(related)**..... to the possible market opportunities. The short history of the space tourism industry is beset with delays and setbacks and many deadlines have not been met. In this blog entry I would like to counter her statements by using the article of Cater (2009) regarding the current developments of space tourism and focus on the benefits this **(developed)**..... already has to our society.

Language :

/06