I. Political Jargon

1. Using several words when one word will do:

Task 1: Simplify the following expressions.

Example: exhibits a tendency → *tends*

1. make inquiry regarding → _____
2. reach a decission → _____
3. render operative → _____
4. a long period of time → _____
5. in an efficient manner → _____
6. resembling in nature → _____
7. avail oneself of → _____
8. causive factor → _____

2. Preference for abstract nouns ending in *–tion*, *-ity*, *-ment*, *-ness*, *-ance*, *-ative*, *-ate*, *-ous*, *-cy*, *-ist*, and the like:

Task 2: Match the following words with their more common synonyms.

1. Utilization	a) division and sharing
2. Nullity	b) determination, firmness
3. Apportionment	c) disapproval
4. Credulousness	d) teeth arrangement
5. Discountenance	e) diplomat
6. Dentition	f) use
7. Pertinacity	g) mean, stingy
8. Exigency	h) nothing

9. Diplomatist i) trustfulness

10. Parsimonious j) need, urgency

3. Excessive use of words with Latin or Greek prefixes:

Task 3: Read horizontally or vertically (not diagonally) to find the meanings of these prefixes in the word-square.

Example: bi as in bicycle

1. multi as in multi-national 2. pre as in pre-war 3. anti as in antisocial

4. pseudo as in pseudo-scientific 5. semi as in semi-circle 6. micro as in microscopic

7. mono as in monologue 8. mis as in misunderstand 9. re as in re-read

10 sub as in submarine

W	L	I	R	W	T	A	S
B	I	A	D	R	O	D	O
I	N	G	R	O	N	E	B
A	G	A	I	N	S	T	E
N	H	I	A	G	M	O	F
M	A	N	Y	L	A	E	O
T	L	A	D	Y	L	S	R
W	F	O	F	A	L	S	E
O	U	N	D	E	R	O	N

Task 4: Use your knowledge of prefixes to write definitions of the underlined words. Which two prefixes do not have Latin or Greek origin?

Although Jim is an ex-soledier, he's only semi-literate. When he tries to write a letter, he misspels half the words and his wife has to rewrite it for him. His wife used to work in a sub-department of the Ministry of Finance where her main job was redirecting mail. Jim's very pro-army but he over-emphesises its good points. His wife, on the other hand, is rather anti-army and she undervalues its positive aspects.

4. The overabundant use of clichés

See http://www.sportscliche.com/politics/

5. The extensive use of noun strings

Guidelines to follow:

1. Break up noun strings with prepositional phrases.

2. If possible, turn some nouns into verbs.

3. Use hyphens to indicate closely related words.

4. Use acronyms when feasible.

5. Eliminate words that are not needed in the noun string.

6. Three nouns in a string is hard to understand; four or more nouns in a string is excessive.

Task 5: Make the following noun strings more understandable:

1. Municipal Solid Waste Classification Methodology

_____

2. Scanner Head Motion Control Arm

_____

3. Underground Mine Worker Safety Protection Procedures

_____

4. Draft laboratory animal rights protection regulations

_____

5. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's automobile seat belt interlock rule

_____

II. Verbal Reasoning Test

The Commission authorises the acquisition of Edison by EDF and AEM

The European Commission has authorised the proposed acquisition of the Italian electricity company Edison by the French company EDF and the Dutch company AEM. Following an examination, the Commission concluded that the transaction would not significantly impede effective competition in the common market. The Commission found that the proposed concentration did not raise any competition problems. However, it will continue to monitor the competitive dynamics of the Italian electricity markets, where prices are among the highest in Europe. Edison is the second-largest electricity producer in Italy. However, its position on the Italian electricity markets is quite small compared to that of the more established operator ENEL, which still controls a large part of the generation capacity and, most of the time, is in a position to set the electricity price on the Italian Power Exchange.

1. What is the current situation on the energy market in Italy?
   A. One electricity producer has a monopoly of electricity sales
   B. Italian prices are the highest in the European Union
   C. Italian electricity producers are too highly concentrated
   D. The price of electricity depends mainly on one producer

2. Which of the following is a consequence of the acquisition of Edison?
   A. Energy prices in Italy will fall
   B. Edison will continue to produce electricity, but under foreign control
   C. ENEL will remain the only Italian electricity producer
   D. ENEL will lose its monopoly on the market to EDF and AEM

Commission action on air safety

The European Aviation Security Agency (EASA) was set up in September 2002 to promote a uniformly high level of safety and environmental protection in the field of civil aviation. The Community has powers in the areas of airworthiness and the environmental compatibility of aircraft products, parts and equipment. The EASA is putting in place a surveillance system to monitor the application of Community legislation, evaluate its impact and make any useful suggestions in this area. The EASA is involved in the certification of certain products for bodies in third countries; the national administrations issue individual certificates and accreditation for most of the bodies on their national territory, on the basis of common rules under the control of the EASA.

3. Which is one of the EASA's basic missions?
   A. Monitoring the application of Community legislation in the field of air safety
   B. Ensuring the application of European air traffic legislation
   C. Coordinating the issuing of pilot licences in civil aviation
   D. Developing new navigation systems compatible with the safety standards

New EU spokesperson for SMEs

The new face of European small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) at the Commission will be the Estonian Maive Rute, appointed spokeswoman on 13 June 2005. She will defend the interests of a sector representing 25 million businesses and 75 million jobs. "Supporting the [...] SMEs, boosting their energy and creativity are the key to achieving more growth and jobs in the EU," Mrs Rute said. The Commission's main concern is: how can we help SMEs to employ more people? Community actions have been launched to promote the sector and simplify its administrative environment. The Entrepreneurship Action Plan and the European Charter for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises contribute to this positive impetus.

4. What does the Commission want to do?
   A. Give financial assistance to the most creative SMEs
   B. Double the number of SMEs so as to develop employment in European countries
   C. Increase the employment rate in SMEs
   D. Promote the development of those SMEs employing the most persons

5. What can we deduce from the text?
   A. On average, SMEs directly or indirectly employ three people
   B. SMEs are growing faster than other sectors
   C. The SME sector accounts for 1/3 of total employment in Europe
   D. SMEs are subject to a high level of tax pressure and administrative constraints

The Commission approves the acquisition of part of Philips' business by TPV

The European Commission has authorised the proposed acquisition by TPV of the activities of the Dutch company Philips Monitors in the sale of flat screens for computer monitors and televisions to original equipment manufacturers. The activities acquired by TPV will be managed by a new company under the exclusive control of TPV. The transaction does not have any harmful effects on competition in the European Economic Area as regards computer monitors for original equipment manufacturers. Although the combined market share of TPV and Philips Monitors is greater than that of their competitors, after the merger the two companies will continue to face strong competition from Samsung, LGE and BenQ in particular. Therefore, it cannot be expected that the new entity would be able to act independently of its customers and competitors, while switching suppliers on the market appears to be feasible within the short term.

6. What is the impact of the proposed acquisition?
   A. TPV will only acquire control of the activities of Philips Monitors in the Netherlands
   B. TPV will now itself sell Philips computer monitors to retail customers
   C. Consumers will be able to benefit from a general fall in prices
   D. TPV will become market leader for flat screens for computer monitors and televisions