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NOTE :
20

Le sujet comporte 4 pages

NOTE :
30

THE TEXT

1. In the heart of Southend-on-Sea, a tree, affectionately named 'Chester,' has become the focus of a community fight against urban development. Chester plays a crucial role as a natural air filter, a fact campaigners have emphasised as a vital reason to protect him. Far more than a natural landmark, Chester is a symbol of resilience and an enduring connection to Southend's ecological and historical heritage. Now, his **survival hangs in the balance**, at the centre of a battle between residents, the local authority, and a property developer.
2. The controversy began in January 2024, when residents learned of plans by a developer to construct a 14-storey luxury apartment block. The proposed development would require Chester to be cut down. This galvanised the Southend community. And within days, residents began mobilising, thus launching a national campaign. Meanwhile, Southend Council continued to insist removal of the tree was necessary in the interests of public safety. Councillor Kevin Buck said: "the trunk is adjacent to the road, so it presents a hazard to large vehicles like buses and lorries. The tree roots will reach as far as the width of the canopy of the tree."
3. Katy Threvelton, a campaigner who grew up in Southend, said: "Losing the 150-year-old tree would erase part of the city's identity. It's a reminder of how vital these trees are – not just for nature, but for us as people." For many, Chester is more than a tree; he is a personal and communal symbol of resilience. Ray Skinner, a resident, said: "There's so little greenery left in Southend. Chester is the last remaining tree that survived the storm of 1987. If he can survive that, I believe he can survive this council decision and developer's will."
4. Despite the passionate campaign, setbacks have mounted. On 31 October, the Planning Inspectorate approved the development plans, effectively **sealing Chester's fate**. For campaigners, the decision was a blow – but it has not ended their fight. Dialogue with Southend Council and the developer continues. Katy Threvelton said: "Chester's story is a wake-up call. When we lose trees like him, we're not just losing nature; we're losing history, identity, and a connection to our environment. Southend deserves better, and so does Chester."

Forestry Journal (Adapted)

December 2024

Section : N° d'inscription : Série :

Nom et Prénom :

Date et lieu de naissance :

Signatures des surveillants

.....

.....

ANGLAIS (Sections : Économie et gestion, Mathématiques, Sciences expérimentales et Sciences de l'informatique _Session de contrôle 2026)

I. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (12 marks)

1- Tick ☒ the most appropriate title to the text. (1 mark)

- ☐ a. A Tree-planting Campaign
- ☐ b. A Safety-threatening Tree
- ☐ c. A Tree Worth Fighting For

2- Identify the **THREE** parties that are for the removal of the tree. Tick ☒ in the table below. (3 marks)

---	a- Property developer	d- Southend Council	---
---	b- Campaigners	e- Ray Skinner	---
---	c- Katy Threveton	f- Planning Inspectorate	---

3- For each of the following statements, pick out **ONE** detail from the text showing that it is false. (3 marks)

a-Chester's unique value stems from its natural properties only. (parag.1)

b-The controversy over the tree remained local. (parag. 2)

c-The tree failed to resist natural disasters. (parag. 3)

4- What / who do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2 marks)

a- This (parag.2) refers to

b- their (parag.4) refers to

5- Tick the most appropriate option. (2 marks)

A. "his **survival hangs in the balance**" (parag.1) means nearly the same as:

The tree's survival is ☐ a. uncertain ☐ b. inevitable ☐ c. impossible

B. "**sealing Chester's fate**" (parag. 4) means nearly the same as:

It's been decided that the tree will be ☐ a. saved ☐ b. removed ☐ c. replanted

6- In your opinion, why is Chester (the tree) personified and referred to as "he" in the text? (1 mark)

The tree is personified and referred to as "he" in the text because

Ne rien écrire ici

II. WRITING (12 marks)

1. Use the notes in the table below to write a four-line paragraph about *The International Mother Language Day*. (4 marks)

Foundation	1999 / UNESCO
Celebration	annually / February 21
Aims	-promote / preservation / all native languages / the world -raise awareness / cultural diversity / multilingualism

2. You have noticed a rise in violence among teenagers at school. Write a 12-line **article** for your school magazine to suggest at least **3 ways** to address the issue. (8 marks)

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III. LANGUAGE (6 marks)

1. Fill in the blanks with six words from the box below. (3 marks)

confined – how – revolutionise – off – ethics – ethnic – valuable – to

Tech firm Realbotix unveiled Melody, a life-sized robot, at the 2025 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. Her advanced features could also make her a ① _____ tool in education, healthcare, and entertainment. This high-tech humanoid promises to ② _____ human connection. Whether you're looking for a cyber companion, travel buddy, or just someone to chat with, Melody might be the closest thing ③ _____ bridging the gap between science fiction and reality. Robots are no longer ④ _____ to the pages of science fiction, they're becoming integral to ⑤ _____ we live, work and connect. From AI-powered assistants like Alexa to robotic surgeons and self-driving cars, these machines are transforming industries, boosting efficiency and reshaping human interaction. But, as robots become more capable and lifelike, they are sparking debates about ⑥ _____, privacy and employment.

2. Circle the right option. (3 marks)

Employee satisfaction is a crucial factor in organizational success and overall workplace morale. When employees feel valued, they are more likely to be motivated and committed to **(achieve / achieving / achievement)** the company's goals. This positive environment not only enhances individual performance but also **(fosters / ventures / hinders)** a culture of loyalty. Prioritizing employee satisfaction leads to a more efficient workplace, **(drive / driven / driving)** long-term success for the organization. Employee training solutions play a key role in enhancing job satisfaction by equipping employees **(on / in / with)** the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. When organizations invest in upskilling their workforce through structured training programs, employees feel valued and supported, ultimately **(contributing / attributing / distributing)** to a positive work environment and long-term retention. **(More / Many / Much)** of employees' job satisfaction is measured by how well they are taken care of.