

Leibniz-Universität Hannover

Studienkolleg für ausländische Studienbewerber
Klausurbeispiel C-Kurse Englisch, Untersemester

Name: _____

Exercise One: Read the text “British Library mislays 9,000 books” and deal with the following questions. Do not copy from the text!!!!

British Library mislays 9,000 books



An 1876 illustrated edition of *Alice in Wonderland* is among the missing books.
Photograph: Rischgitz/The Hulton Archive

More than 9,000 books are missing from the British Library, including Renaissance treatises on theology and alchemy, a medieval text on astronomy, first editions of 19th- and 20th-century novels, and a luxury edition of *Mein Kampf* produced in 1939 to celebrate Hitler's 50th birthday.

The library believes almost all have not been stolen but rather mislaid among its 650km of shelves and 150million items – although some have not been seen in well over half a century.

One item, an essay entitled *Of the Lawful and Unlawful Usurie Amongest Christians*, by 16th-century German theologian Wolfgang Musculus, is valued by the library at £20,000, and has not been seen for almost two years. Others are precious only to a specialist market, such as a set of tables of 1930s London cab fares, or the 1925 souvenir history of Portsmouth Football Club.

Although the library has not listed any value for thousands of the books, a quick *Guardian* tot-up of the market price of nine collectible volumes came to well over £3,000 – including £1,300 for a first edition of Oscar Wilde's only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, published in 1891, missing from the library's shelves since 1961. [...]

Jennifer Perkins, the library's head of records, said that books and other items were usually identified as mislaid when a reader requested them - more than 3.5m items are delivered to the reading rooms every year - and the book was not on its correct shelf. Other losses were revealed in rolling audits of the enormous collection.

"There are a number of reasons why collection items may not be at their correct shelf location: they may have been misplaced on the shelves, the shelf mark label may have become detached from the spine and the item is being checked and reshelfed, or the catalogue record may not have been altered to reflect a changed shelf mark," said Perkins. "The library takes the security of its collections very seriously and has a range of measures designed to protect collection items from inadvertent or deliberate harm."

Keith Rathmill, of library security firm SA Secure, said he was surprised the list was not longer - one small library which consulted his firm had lost about a fifth of its collection in four years. "It is a huge collection and no building is secure," he said. "There's theft from all libraries, but the British Library can think itself lucky it isn't in a worse situation - it doesn't attract the dregs of society."

The library's greatest treasures, priceless documents including Magna Carta and the Lindisfarne Gospels, are kept in a special gallery with rigorous conservation and security controls. For the rest of the collection, identified by barcodes and shelf numbers but not by microchips or any technology the library fears might prove ephemeral, a rolling audit gives priority to the most valuable and heavily used items, a spokesman said.

Perhaps significantly, many of the losses are recorded just before or after 1998, the year the library moved from the British Museum to St Pancras.

(The Guardian, 17 March 2009, abridged)

1. Describe what you believe to see in the picture. (4)

2. How do books, according to the British Library, get missing? (4)

3. How does the library track and secure its books? (5)

4. Can you think of reasons why libraries are important? Discuss. (6)

Exercise No. 2. Use the right tense with the following if-clauses.

1.) If I _____ (be) a millionaire I _____ (buy) a large house in Greece.

2.) If it _____ (not rain) tomorrow we _____ (go) on a bicycle tour.

3.) Now we're lost! If you _____ (write down) Mary's directions this _____ (not happen).

4.) Why don't we emigrate? If we _____ (live) in Australia, at least the weather _____ (be) better!

5.) I'm afraid that Smith is a hardened criminal. If we _____ (not punish) him this time, he _____ (only commit) more crimes.

- 6.) Thanks to Dr Jones, I'm still alive! If it _____ (not be) for her, I _____ (be) dead for certain!
- 7.) I'm sorry I can't lend you any money. You know that if I _____ (have) it, I _____ (lend) it to you.
- 8.) Don't be afraid. If you _____ (touch) the dog, it _____ (not bite).
- 9.) In those days, if you _____ (have) a job, you _____ (be) lucky.
- 10.) It's always the same! If I _____ (decide) to leave the office early, my boss _____ (call) me after I've left!
- 11.) What a terrible thing to happen! Just think, if we _____ (not miss) the plane, we _____ (kill) in the crash.
- 12.) If you _____ (keep) driving like that, you _____ (have) an accident.
- 13.) If you _____ a wallet in the street, what would you do with it?
(find)
- 14.) I must hurry. My friend will be annoyed if I _____ on time.
(not/be)
- 15.) I didn't realise that Gary was in hospital. If I _____ he was in hospital, I would have gone to visit him. (know)
- 16.) I'd go out this evening if I had the time, but _____
_____ (For this sentence. use your own idea. (4))