A floating palace sailed from Southampton in 1898 on her first voyage. She was declared unsinkable, and was the biggest and most magnificent ship ever built. Rich passengers enjoyed her luxury as they travelled to America. But the ship never reached her destination. It crashed into an iceberg and it sank with a heavy loss of lives. Most of the people drowned.

That ship existed only in paper, in the imagination of a novelist called Robertson. The name he gave to his fictional ship was Titan. But the fiction soon turned into terrifying fact. Fourteen years later a real luxury ship set out for America. The ship was the RMS Titanic. She was full of rich and important people. Contrary to popular belief, this ship had not been described as “unsinkable” at the time of its making, but only after events came to a tragic conclusion. On her first voyage she collided with an iceberg, sank, and many lives were lost by drowning, as in the novel. It was the night of April 10, 1912. The similarly between fiction and reality was more than just the name. They were roughly the same size, had the same speed and the same capacity of about 3,000 people. But the strange coincidences do not end there. Both sank in exactly the same point of the North Atlantic.

While the Titanic was sinking, a passenger made a drawing of it. She painted the ship breaking in half. However, this fact was never mentioned until the famous film Titanic, directed by Cameron, proved that to be true. The Titanic went down in two hours forty minutes, taking 1,513 people with her.

I * COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)
   ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.
   1. Did Robertson find inspiration in the sinking of the Titanic to write his novel? Explain.
   2. Was the Titanic announced as incapable of sinking before its first journey? Explain.
   3. Was Cameron the first one to suggest that the Titanic had divided in two parts? Explain.
   ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.
   4. The Titanic was much larger than the Titan.
   5. The Titanic had made some voyages to America before she sank.

II * USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; questions 6-9, 0.25 points each; 10-13, 0.5 points each)
   6. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE SYNONYM FOR “horrible” (adjective).
   7. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: “To die by being underwater for too long and unable to breathe.”
   8. WHICH WORD IS NOT AN ADJECTIVE? fast / quick / rapid / speed
   9. GIVE AN ADJECTIVE WITH THE SAME ROOT AS “imagination” (noun).
   10. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO DIRECT SPEECH: “She said she was going to live in a nice boat the following year.”
   11. JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING AN APPROPRIATE LINKER (DO NOT USE AND, BUT, OR BECAUSE). MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY: She went to New York by boat. She didn’t get seasick.
   12. JOIN THE SENTENCES USING A RELATIVE. MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY: Last month, I read a novel entitled Futility. I enjoyed the novel a lot.
   13. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING (CONDITIONAL) SENTENCE: If I travelled by boat, ............

III * PRODUCTION (3 points)
   14. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED AND FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT: Travelling is always a wonderful experience. Discuss.