**MODERN APPRENTICESHIP**

**GROUP ASSESSMENT TASKS**

**Example Instructions**

This is a very generic group exercise which could be a useful selection test for a number of roles to test team working, communication skills, as well as skills in persuasion, diplomacy and tact.

Information for candidates:

* You have 60 minutes from now to complete this task.
* You and the rest of the group have found yourselves in a perilous situation as described below.
* There is a long list of items that can be used to aid your survival, but you can only take a small
* number of these items with you (the number will be specified).
* Your task is to decide, as a group, which items you will take.
* One member of the group should write the list of chosen items on the flip chart provided by the end of the allocated time.

NB. There will be a number of people in the room who will assess your performance. Please ignore these people as they will not be involved in the exercise in any way.

GROUP TASK: **SURVIVAL**

On your way back from a holiday in South America, your shuttle flight to the airport is forced to make an emergency landing in a small clearing in the Brazilian rainforest. You and your fellow passengers have only sustained minor injuries but the plane has broken into pieces and the communication equipment has been destroyed in the impact.

Before the plane crashed the pilot had reported a problem with one of the engines, so there is a good chance that the authorities will start looking for you when you fail to arrive at your destination.

However, the rainforest is very dense and it will take days to reach the edge of it on foot.

You cannot remain where you are as there is a danger that the aeroplane fuel will catch fire. On searching through the wreckage and the remains of your suitcases you find the following items:

 A guide to South American plant species

 3 elastic luggage straps

 6 frozen airline meals

 4 blankets from the plane

 A pack of 24 anti-malaria tablets

 A 3 metre square piece of opaque plastic sheeting

 Tourist map of Brazil

 2 large bottles of factor 12 sunscreen

 Mobile phone with GPS, fully charged

 1 litre bottle of the local alcoholic spirit

 3 boxes of chocolate chip cookies

 4 current paperback novels

 First aid box

 Compass

 Flare gun with one fire

 A Swiss Army knife

 A book of matches from the hotel

You are unable to carry more than 7 items from this list (items containing more than one object still

count as one item).

**Group Task - Lost!**

You are all the crew of a sinking ship. A fire on board has destroyed the radio and from the rate the water is rising inside the ship you estimate that it will sink in between two hours and two and a half hours. You did not tell the authorities of your destination.

It will take about 45 minutes to launch the only boat and it will take 15 minutes for each person to be lowered into the boat and they can only go one at a time. They can't jump as the water is shark infested.

The nearest land is an uninhabited tropical island 30 km distant.

Your task is to decide as a group which passengers will enter the boat. Everyone onboard has agreed to abide by your decision. Items held by individuals must stay with the owner; they cannot be transferred to other people.

PASSENGER/CREW LIST

 Captain: age 57. Married three times; five children aged between 5 and 27. His youngest child has Down's syndrome. Drinks and smokes heavily. Plays the accordion. Carries a bottle of rum.

 Ship's engineer: married; accompanied by his pregnant wife. His heroism in fighting the fire has given his fellow-passengers time to launch the lifeboat but he has sustained severe burns. Carries a shaving mirror.

 Radio operator: ex-Israeli Navy. A fitness fanatic and champion kick boxer. He escaped the fire which destroyed his radio as he was on deck trying to impress the food scientist with a display of his kickboxing skills at the time. Carries a length of rope.

 Cook: a former Special Forces officer reduced to working as a cook after being court-martialled following an unfortunate incident involving a torpedo and a presidential yacht. Carries a knife.

 Anglican priest: a Philosophy graduate who taught English as a foreign language in South America for several years before returning to her home town to look after her disabled mother (now aged 85) with whom she still lives. Trained as a counsellor and was ordained in 1990. Carries a first aid kit.

 Diving instructor: After 20 years as a stockbroker in London, he has just moved to Tahiti to set up his own diving school. Divorced, with a son at boarding school in Wales. Goes grouse-shooting in Yorkshire every August. Carries a signed copy of the final Harry Potter novel.

 Indian ship's carpenter: Married with four children aged between six months and seven years old. Was convicted of violent affray following a demonstration in Mumbai ten years ago. Writes poetry and has had two poems published in Indian literary magazines. Has a magnifying glass.

 French Botany student: Lived in the Brazilian rainforest for eighteen months while carrying out Ph.D. research into plants that can be used in anti-cancer drugs: these are now undergoing testing by a major multinational pharmaceutical company. Voted for Le Pen in the last election. Has a rifle.

 Retired soldier. Recently registered a civil partnership with his long-term partner, a 45-year old political journalist. Together, they have campaigned for improved healthcare for soldiers wounded in Iraq. Carries a compass.

 Food scientist. A vegetarian whose research centres on developing plant-based, low-cholesterol alternatives to meat. She has been involved in a number of demonstrations against the use of animals in medical research. Carries a box of Mars bars.

 Nurse. Came to Scotland eight years ago as a teenage refugee from Sudan who spoke no English on arrival. Gained 6 GCSEs and has recently qualified as a nurse. Carries a box of matches.

 Ship's engineer's wife: Aged 35 and about to begin maternity leave from her work as a medical sales representative. Due to give birth to their first child in 4 months time. For some reason known only to herself she happens to be carrying a fishing line and hook.

 Bank manager: Lives in a village in Sussex : Guide leader, parish councillor and president of the local allotment society in spare time. Has £50,000 in used £10 notes carried in a small suitcase. Recruitment and selection toolkit