

INDEPENDENT TRAVELLER

# AN OFFER SHE COULDN'T REFUSE

*“At the age of 37, she realised she'd never drive through Paris, in a sports car, with the warm wind in her hair.”*

*from: 'The Ballad of Lucy Jordan'*

I may yet end up like the woman in the song *The Ballad of Lucy Jordan* but at least, at the age of 22, I can claim to have ridden through Paris, on a quad bike, on a biting cold day in March.

I am studying French at Warwick University, and spending this academic year at the Sorbonne. But I happened to be at home for the weekend in London when Simon Calder's column asked for a participant for some undisclosed (but 'legal and decent') activity in Paris. Three days and a Eurostar trip later, I found myself clambering on to the back of a large yellow quad bike in a central Paris car park. We set off on a whirlwind tour of the city's highlights with a seemingly fearless photographer hanging out of the car in front of us, taking pictures of us in all our quad-biking glory for Simon's column.

The afternoon was certainly not for those who wish to maintain an air of Parisian chic, 21 despite the helmet, the rather attractive Paris Quad Visit anorak and the paralysing cold, I did feel a bit like a film star, being photographed zooming around the Louvre, perched on the surprisingly comfortable back seat of a chauffeur-driven quad bike, while Parisians and tourists alike gaped.

It was a bit of a bumpy ride at first, but soon it became quite exciting,



speeding around Paris at what felt a lot faster than our top speed of 50km/h. The quad was also effective for squeezing up the small pedestrianised roads that one normally wouldn't be able to – let alone be allowed to – navigate in a vehicle. We found that no one questioned the quad, although we might have been lucky as most of the police were off at the Sorbonne dealing with rioting students.

All in all, it was a fantastic way to explore Paris and weave in and out of those *petites rues* in record time. It would be worth braving the hills of Montmartre to discover what the quad really can do, but with all the posing we didn't have time. I'll have to try it again – but the next time, I insist on some warm wind in my hair. And I'll drive.

**ALESSIA HORWICH**

- 1p **19** How does the writer start the article in paragraph 1 (lines 1-5)?  
**A** She denies a statement.  
**B** She expresses a wish.  
**C** She makes a comparison.  
**D** She shows irritation.
- 1p **20** “some undisclosed (but ‘legal and decent’) activity in Paris”. (lines 12-13)  
→ Wat hield die activiteit voor de schrijfster in?  
*Beschrijf de activiteit in ongeveer 10 woorden.*
- 1p **21** Kies bij 21 in regel 25 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.  
**A** and  
**B** but  
**C** for  
**D** so
- 1p **22** Uit welk woord in de regels 23 tot en met 33 weet de lezer hoe de mensen in Parijs reageerden bij het zien van Alessia (en haar ploeg)?  
*Schrijf dit woord over.*
- 1p **23** Welk deel van een zin in de regels 34 tot en met 47 maakt duidelijk wat waarschijnlijk de reden was dat de ploeg ongestoord kon werken?  
*Schrijf de eerste twee en de laatste twee woorden van dit deel van de zin over.*
- 1p **24** In welk deel van de zin uit de regels 48-57 beschrijft Alessia op een beeldende manier hoe ze door de straatjes van Parijs reden?  
*Schrijf dit deel van de zin over.*

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#### Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.