

Writing

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Task

Below is a piece of news from a newspaper:

Astronomers searching for alien life spot signs of intelligence beyond the solar system

Parkes Observatory's Murriyang radio telescope has detected "promising" radio signals that seem to be extraterrestrial. The strange signals appeared to come from Proxima Centauri, the Sun's nearest neighbouring star.

Proxima Centauri is a mere 4.24 light years away, and is orbited by two planets. One of them is Earth-like and thought to be in the "habitable zone" where liquid water exists.

Scientists involved in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (Seti) have processed the signals and found them to be a "technosignature", evidence of alien technology.

The news has inspired the editors of a student magazine to run a writing competition. Readers are invited to send in short science-fiction stories **based on the piece of news** given above.

You decide to take part in the competition and write your own science-fiction story with the following quotation as an epigraph:

"The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom." (Isaac Asimov)

Your **science-fiction** story must be related to the epigraph, it must have a title, a clear storyline, a risky situation and direct speech.

Write 250–300 words (the words in the epigraph are not counted).