

Thursday. Read the text and answer the following questions.

- 1) Who wrote the article and what is their job title?
- 2) How long has it been since a rocket has launched from USA?
- 3) Name the pilots?
- 4) What does it mean by offering a 'taxi' service?
- 5) What is the name of the Space X craft?
- 6) What time did it launch in the UK?
- 7) From what launch site did it take off?
- 8) How long did it take to reach orbit?

Thursday. Text to refer to for answering questions.

SpaceX launch: Nasa astronauts begin historic mission on private spaceship

By Jonathan Amos BBC Science Correspondent

The private rocket company SpaceX has sent two Nasa astronauts into orbit.

It's the first time since the retirement of the shuttles nine years ago that an American crew has made the journey from US territory. Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken are not only trialling a new capsule system, they are also initiating a new business model for Nasa. The agency will no longer own the vehicles it uses but merely purchase the "taxi" service offered by SpaceX.

Hurley's and Behnken's Dragon ship left Earth atop its Falcon-9 rocket precisely on time - at 15:22 EDT (19:22 GMT / 20:22 BST). The Falcon soared off the spaceport's famous 39A pad to head northeast out over the Atlantic. After two-and-a-half minutes, the lower-stage of the vehicle had separated to return to a drone ship at sea. And after a further six minutes, the crew were safely inserted into orbit.