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НИЖЕГОРОДСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ
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**ДВАДЦАТЬ ТЕСТОВ
ДЛЯ ЧТЕНИЯ И ПОНИМАНИЯ**

Twenty tests for reading comprehension

**Учебно-методические материалы
для студентов специальностей
«Связи с общественностью» и «Реклама»**

**Нижний Новгород
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ТЕСТЫ ДЛЯ СТУДЕНТОВ ГРУПП «СО»

READING TASK 1:

You are going to read some information about the performances at an arts centre. For questions (1-14) choose from the performances (A-H). Some of the performances may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order.

There is an example at the beginning (0)

Which performance(s) would you recommend for someone who:

- would like to see an unusual show? 0 E
- likes dancing ? 1 -
- likes dramatic love stories ? 2 -
- would like to listen to some songs whose words
have come from famous writers? 3 -
- likes songs from musicals? 4 -
- likes plays that aren't performed entirely
by actors ? 5 - ; 6 -
- likes dramatic action ? 7 - ; 8 -
- likes live groups of singers ? 9 - ; 10 -
- likes Welsh singers and songs ? 11 - ; 12 -
- would appreciate a new interpretation
of a classic story ? 13 -
- would like to see a group of rising stars live ? 14 -

PERFORMANCES

A Let's Face the Music

Ria Jones, the sensational star of *Evita*, *Cats*, and *Les Miserables*, returns home to Wales for two special concerts. Proving that there is more to her than an incredible gift for singing the great show songs, Ria invites you on memorable

journey that goes from musical to classical and from classical to pop. Songs from *Miss Saigon* blend with Disney favourites from *Aladdin* and *Beauty and the Beast* along with some marvelous popular standards for a great evening in the company of a very special vocal talent. Ria Jones will appear with special guests.

B Blood Wedding

The Swansea University players will be performing this play by F. Garcia Lorca, which is based on a true story. On 22nd July, 1928, in the dusty heat of Andalusia, a young bride abandoned her groom to be with her secret lover. The consequences of overflowing passion and revenge are terrible. After the groom searches out her lover, both men die in a duel. Although the ugliness of death is evident, the celebration of passionate life also plays a major role.

C African Voices

Formed in 1988, Britain's premier female *a cappella* group has climbed high on the ladder of success with numerous performances, as well as radio and television appearances, nationally and internationally. *African Voices*' repertoire is extremely varied, with songs reflecting the joys and sorrows, hopes and dreams of all nationalities, ages, and sections of society. Contemporary songs are delivered with a creative understanding of the international African community.

D Song Recital

This comprises music for voice and piano. Judy Coe performs widely as a Soloist in America and is also a vocal coach. The programme includes songs from *Porgy and Bess* with special solo piano arrangements by Katherine Morris. Judy ends the concert with songs whose texts are by Shakespeare, Yeats, Eliot, Oscar Wilde and Emily Dickinson. The concert will be framed by the singing of Welsh and American music by the popular Gylais Male Voice Choir, directed by Meirwyn Thomas.

E Pep Dou

Pep Dou is a unique performer, combining a delightful sense of comic timing with breathtaking skill of manipulating sound, light and soap bubbles. *Bufaplantes* tells the story of an eccentric professor and his admiring but envious assistant. The comic interplay between the two, along with their subtle involvement with the audience, provide much of the fascination of the show. But the real stars are the bubbles. Pep plays with them, tames them, swallows them and makes them dance together. They become multi-coloured, opaque, filled with smoke; they twinkle like stars; they move to the music's rhythms in a universe of dreams.

F Mayte Martin

Mayte Martin is easily the best-known Catalan flamenco singer. Her powerful voice captures the beauty and anguish that lies at the heart of flamenco. She has been very popular since her early twenties, when she won a string of prizes. She has taken part in Barcelona's WOMAD festivals and in the Gipsy Kings' celebrated festival Mosaique Gitane (Gipsy Mosaic) at Nimes. She will be accompanied by her regular troupe of solo guitarist, two dancers and a "clapper".

G The Adventures of Malic

This is a family show about two episodes in the fantastically dangerous life of an imaginary Iberian character called Malic, whose aim in life is to pursue adventure. In this show he visits China and gets into fights with dragons and then travels to Barcelona where he encounters numerous dangerous characters. The show is told using Chinese shadow puppets, beautifully handled, with a live narrator-musician who animates the show in English.

H Carmen

This is a new look at the myth of Carmen, in which she is seen as a goddess who manipulates and plays with her men from the safety of a distant hiding place. This show uses objects, live figures and shadows, all beautifully interchanged.

The soundtrack is a lively combination of Bizet's opera, with street noises and other effects. Skilfully changing moods between the coarse, the funny, the sensitive and the poetic, the show is a masterpiece of modern puppet theatre.

READING TASK 2:

You are going to read an article about places to visit. For questions (2-15) choose from the places (A-E). Some of the places may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order. There is an example at the beginning (1)

Which town would you recommend to someone who:

- would like to attend an international festival ? 1 E
- is interested in the history of warfare ? 2 -
- likes shopping ? 3 - ; 4 -
- enjoys a good view ? 5 - ; 6 -
- wants to buy sporting equipment ? 7 -
- likes to be given information as they tour ? 8 - ; 9 -
- enjoys relaxing river trips ? 10 -
- wants a day out while staying in London ? 11 -
- wants a day out on an island ? 12 -
- enjoys outdoor activities ? 13 -
- would like to visit a town which has not
changed for hundred of years ? 14 -
- is interested in academic institutions ? 15 -

PLACES TO VISIT

A York

The history of York stretches back to Roman times. Few cities look as completely medieval as York as many buildings have remained more or less unchanged for centuries. With its ancient wooden houses and narrow winding streets, the whole city gives off an atmosphere of history. Today, these streets contain a fascinating variety of shops. York has been called “the City of churches” for there are no fewer than 17 pre-Reformation churches within the city walls. The pride of York is the huge and magnificent Minster which towers over the whole city. It is thought to contain the largest area of medieval coloured glass in the world. If you don’t want to join a group tour, there are cassettes – complete with Sony Walkman – which will tell you all about the city.

B Dover

The white cliffs of Dover are familiar to millions of travelers. Dover, the gateway to Britain, is the busiest ferry port in Europe. In times gone by, the town has been host to kings, armies, pilgrims and all kinds of travelers. Ancient monuments and ruins testify to Dover’s long and fascinating history and today the town offers a great deal to interest visitors all the year round. On a fine day, the harbour itself offers excellent walks. Particularly recommended is the Prince of Wales Pier at the end of which you will find a viewing place with a splendid outlook over the entire port, the white cliffs and Dover Castle. With two direct trains each hour from London Victoria Charing Cross, Dover is ideal for a day-trip from the capital.

C Portsmouth

This is a very special year for Portsmouth. The historic military city is celebrating its 800th anniversary and we want you to join the party! Apart from special events such as military displays and parades, there is always something to do in Portsmouth. Visit our historic ships, explore under the sea in our

Underwater World, enjoy the year-round Resort Centre – the possibilities are endless. And once you've had a taste of what the town has to offer, why not hop on the luxury cruise vessel *Solent Enterprise* and enjoy a leisurely day trip to the beautiful Isle of Wight.

D Oxford

Oxford has a timeless beauty which is found at every twist and turn of this ancient university city: in the soft golden stone of the college buildings and the peaceful courtyards and gardens. There is so much to see and do in Oxford. Take the "Guide Friday" open-top bus tour to see 25 of the 35 colleges – it leaves every 15 minutes and one ticket lasts all day. Or explore on foot - guided walking tours start at the information centre. Get a bird's eye panorama of the whole city from the top of St Mary's. Take a journey through time at the unique Oxford Story exhibition in Broad Street. And then there are the shops. Lose yourself in famous Blackwell's bookshop in Broad Street – with the largest display of books for sale in one room anywhere in the world. The Gallery at Gloucester Green has a busy cosmopolitan atmosphere, with speciality shops, pavement cafes and street entertainers. And of course there are many big name shops too.

E Llangollen

For six days every July, Llangollen becomes the cultural centre of the world, attracting choirs, musicians, folk singers and dancers from all continents. Over 40 different countries are represented with colourful national costumes, taking part in daily competitions and performing in evening concerts. But if you are more of the outdoor type, why not try riding the rapids? Experience the excitement of white water rapids on the River Wild. All equipment can be hired. Llangollen is also a centre for outdoor clothing and equipment for climbing, walking, mountain biking and camping. From Llangollen wharf you can embark on a 45-minute horse drawn boat trip along the river or, on certain days, you can

go for a longer journey on the Thomas Telford, which has refreshments on board to add to your enjoyment.

READING TASK 3

You are going to read an article about the Sail Training Association. Choose the most suitable heading from the list **A-I** for each part **(1-7)** of the article. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning **(0)**.

A A trophy for international cooperation.

B Happy to return to dry land.

C A change of destination.

D Arriving in Antwerp.

E International opportunity.

F Close sleeping arrangements.

G Communication difficulties.

H Good to visit new ports.

I An experience to remember.

THE SAIL TRAINING ASSOCIATION

0 E

The Sail Training Association is a British charity organization which gives young people a chance to sail on a large ship while making friends from other countries. It recently gave thirty-nine youngsters from eight European countries the opportunity to sail the “Sir Winston Churchill” on the final leg of the Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race to Antwerp.

1 -

Although this particular voyage wasn’t successful in terms of reaching its destination – Antwerp – it was a success in uniting people by giving them the

experience of sailing a ship at sea for five days. The Cutty Sark race is not exactly a race. The trophy is awarded to the ship and crew that contribute most to international understanding and friendship.

2 -

The “Sir Winston Churchill” had problems because of high winds and a very rough sea. The captain had to turn the ship away from the destination after two days’ sailing, because the young novice sailors were getting increasingly seasick.

3 -

This did not disappoint the captain. Before the voyage began, he stressed the importance of teamwork. When it became clear they couldn’t reach Antwerp, he made it known that he enjoyed showing the “trainees” new ports of call. Most know Antwerp, he said, but few have been to Norway.

4 -

As for the trainees, after they survived the first two days of bad weather and seasickness, they enjoyed the work they had to do and the friends they made. They had to raise sails by hand, clean the ship, and helped with the cooking. This, and the sleeping arrangements – all 39 slept in a space only eight by fifteen metres – was perfect for becoming close through cooperation and patience.

5 -

A problem everyone knew they would face was the language. Everyone had to speak some English to participate. One of the most frequent phrases heard was the request to speak slowly, as instructions were shouted over the sound of the sea. By working together – and being seasick together – only brought the participants closer together.

6 -

Each of the young people had their own impressions of their experience. One said it was like eating, drinking and sleeping on a fairground ride. Another saw

the beauty of the stars and the moon forming a path for the boat at night. They all agreed they had no regrets and were pleased to have done things they never thought they'd do.

7 -

Some of the participants heard about the voyage from friends or relatives who had already done it. One young man wrote to the British Embassy in Brussels asking how he could learn English and sail at the same time. Whatever their reasons were for leaving dry land for the unpredictable sea, they were all glad to return as they woke the small Norwegian port town with their singing and cheering.

READING TASK 4:

You are going to read an article about a volcanic eruption. For questions (1-5) choose the best answer, A, B, C or D.

NATURE'S FURY

Mount St Helens, the volcano in Clark County, Washington State, erupted on Monday morning. The disaster has caused at least ten deaths as well as massive destruction in that region of the state.

The mountain was hit by two earthquakes just before half past eight. Then, at eight thirty-two, the top of the mountain was blown off by an explosion that was heard two hundred miles away. Huge blocks of ice and rock fell onto the surrounding area and the mountain was left 1,300 feet shorter. Then the tremendous heat inside was released.

Hot ash and gas came out of the mountain, causing a lightning storm as it rose into the air. White ash, along with steam and thick mud, continue to pour from the giant crater left by the explosion.

At each stage of this dramatic eruption people have been killed. The explosion caused the first casualties; several people were injured or died due to the force and heat of it. Then the hot ash started fires which have burned vast areas of forest, causing more deaths. Fortunately, fire-fighters have managed to put most of them out. The volcanic cloud was so large and dark that it was said to have turned day into night, forcing airports to close temporarily. One more life was lost as a pilot flew his aeroplane into the cloud and hit electricity cables. Mud from the volcano is running down the mountainside and filling rivers, causing flooding. People living nearby have been forced to leave their homes as the water continues to rise.

Rescue workers have picked up casualties and survivors by helicopter, and are moving them away from the dangerous areas. More victims are expected to be found during the next few days. One witness said that it had been like the end of the world. "I really thought we were going to die," Jerry Irvine said. "I've never been so terrified in my life."

Scientists say that the top of the mountain had been "growing" by five feet per day for several weeks before the explosion. They say that ash and mud could continue to pour out of St.Helens for up to fifteen years. Meanwhile, the people of Clark County are learning to cope with nature's fury.

1 When the volcano erupted, the top of the mountain

- A** grew taller.
- B** landed two hundred miles away.
- C** turned into mud.
- D** was broken into pieces.

2 The first people to die were killed by

- A** forest fires.
- B** the explosion.
- C** the thick mud.
- D** the lightning storm.

3 The volcanic cloud

A made everything very dark.

B damaged many aeroplanes.

C wasn't very big.

D damaged the forest.

4 People had to leave their homes as

A their houses were burnt.

B the mountain fell on their homes.

C they had no electricity.

D there was flooding in the area.

5 Before the eruption

A scientists had been making the mountain bigger.

B the people of Clark County had learnt how to cope with a volcano.

C the mountain had been getting taller.

D ash and mud had been pouring out of St. Helens for fifteen years.

READING TASK 5

You are going to read an article about a different approach to building. Eight paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose from the paragraphs (**A-I**) the one which fits each gap (**1-7**). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (**0**).

GOING UNDERGROUND

The idea of living underground is not the sort of thing that would appeal to most people these days. But it could be the answer to many of today's overpopulation problems.

0 -----

Houses underground are less noisy, less expensive to heat and far less destructive to our fragile environment. All that marks the position of an underground house is a door in the grass. You'd hardly know it was there.

1 -----

“Some people think we're mad,” says Rodney Jones, “but we wanted something more original than a three bedroom box. We liked the idea that the building would not disturb the countryside or the wildlife, and that our fuel bills will be low.”

It is certainly true that bills are lower in underground dwellings: a study carried out by Bath University found that underground houses saved 75% of the heating costs of an equivalent dwelling above ground. It raises an interesting question: with statistics like that, why don't people live underground?

2 -----

Christianity in particular has always equated the subterranean with evil. Even in today's society, the word “underground” is applied to the criminal and socially unacceptable.

3 -----

This can lead to other problems. A study of people working in an underground factory in Minnesota showed that they experienced higher levels of anxiety, depression and hostility compared to those in above-ground settings. What can be done about this? The Japanese have some solutions in mind for their planned “Geotropolis” project.

4 -----

Giant caverns will be excavated in the mud-stone rock 50 metres below the surface and linked by high speed railways to create a supercity 100 kilometres across.

5 -----

In addition, scientists at Japan’s Shimuzu Corporation have developed “space creation systems” for the city, that mix light, sounds, breezes and aromas from the outside world.

6 -----

Places where windows are unnecessary, like cinemas, supermarkets and warehouses could all be submerged. It would save space, and make cities far more attractive.

7 -----

Regulations will also have to be imposed, forcing developers to consider long-term environmental impact, rather than short-term financial gain. But as the population expands, there may soon be nowhere else to go but down!

A The Geotropolis project obviously involves extremely high technology. But on a less advanced level, there are hundreds of buildings in our society today that do not need to be above ground.

B Geotropolis will be an underground extension to Tokyo. Work on it is due to start within the next ten years.

C With land prices rising and the planet becoming more crowded, underground accommodation could provide the perfect solution. It has advantages over living above ground too.

D The idea of living underground is old fashioned and unpopular. Underground houses are permanently damp and cold, and there is no way of lighting them.

E Such houses are still rare, but they are becoming more popular. In the Devon countryside in Britain, Rodney Jones and his partner, artist Shennon Ridd, are converting a subterranean water tank into dream home.

F To combat the problems of depression associated with living underground, rotating prisms in skylights will follow above Geotropolis and reflect light down a huge shaft onto underground gardens, giving people the illusion that they are above ground.

G If underground building is going to catch on, it will require a change in culture. Architects, notorious show-offs, will have to learn to hide their buildings instead of parading!

H There are practical reasons as well. People are used to having reference points in everyday life, such as the sun, ground, sky and horizon. In an underground space, the lack of these things can make people feel dizzy and disorientated.

I The reasons for this can be put down to traditional associations. For centuries, underground structures like catacombs and dungeons have been places of enslavement, incarceration and burial.

READING TASK 6:

You are going to read a magazine article about Audrey Hepburn. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **(A-H)** the one which fits each gap **(1-6)**. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning **(0)**.

AUDREY HEPBURN

Dream of your ideal wardrobe. Think ballet pumps, little dresses and narrow black trousers. Dream further of black polo necks, simple raincoats, full skirts gathered at the waist... and suddenly you're thinking of Audrey Hepburn. From the moment she burst onto the screen, her elf-like face and ballerina-thin figure became the envy of a new generation of women, fed up with the curvaceous blonds who went before her.

Audrey not only looked like a girl's girl, she dressed like one. Her natural fashion sense and passion for clothes turned her into the last word of chic.**(0 - C)** Designers nowadays, are plundering Hepburn's movies for inspiration, reviving everything from black trousers worn with shiny loafers, to superbly tailored suits with boxy jackets and calf-length skirts. In the original 1954 film, *Sabrina*,

Hepburn was dressed for the role (and for the rest of her life) by the French designer Hubert de Givenchy, who made the most of her tiny size 8 figure with clinging black evening dresses. Audrey looked so breathtakingly beautiful that she became an A-list star.(1 -) In the film she played a princess who, fed up with the royal protocol, runs away with a commoner (Gregory Peck) to dance on canal boats and skip through the back streets of Rome in frilly skirts. The film was a godsend to Hollywood costume designer Edith Head, who won an Oscar for her efforts. (2 -)

Head used flat shoes, gathered cotton skirts and plain blouses with the sleeves rolled up to try and make Audrey look dowdy. However, if Head was trying to make Audrey plain, she failed. After *Roman Holiday* women rushed out to buy full skirts, tailored blouses and wide belts.

By the time Head and Hepburn were ready to begin work on *Sabrina* Hepburn realised she was a star and wanted a bigger say about what she wore. She decided that she wanted the 26 year-old Givenchy to work with her in the film.

(3 -) The bare-shouldered evening dress he designed for Hepburn became one of the most famous dresses ever worn by Audrey, and was copied around the world.

Despite the success of *Sabrina* and the fact that Audrey became a life-long friend and follower, Givenchy did not work on an Audrey Hepburn film again until she starred in what is probably the best fashion film ever made, the 1957 musical *Funny Face*. (4 -) For this film Givenchy designed Audrey's fashionable wardrobe while Head dressed her in the bookshop clothes. The wardrobe took months to design and make. Audrey loved to try things on. (5 -) After the success of *Funny Face* the names Hepburn and Givenchy were cast in stone. (6 -)

Hepburn's fashion sense was effortless and elegant. It will remain forever timeless. Although she died in 1993 at the age of 63, her style lives on.

- A** In 1954 the young Audrey Hepburn starred in her first big film, *Roman Holiday*.
- B** In *Funny Face* Audrey was cast in a Cinderella role.
- C** Today her style is as much in tune with the times as it was then.
- D** Other notable outfits designed by Givenchy for the film included a perfectly fitted black suit with a tiny hat and a magnificently embroidered evening dress.
- E** While Head found it easy to make Audrey look like a princess, she found it much more difficult to make her look ordinary.
- F** At fittings, she put on the whole outfit, from underwear to hat and dance, walk and sit until she was sure the clothes worked perfectly.
- G** Givenchy's clothes were revolutionary for the era, simple yet feminine and beautifully tailored.
- H** The pair worked together again on *Breakfast at Tiffany's* in 1961, turning Audrey's character Holly Golightly into a decadent creature in figure-hugging silk dresses dripping with jewels.

READING TASK 7

You are going to read a magazine article about pet therapy. Choose the most suitable heading from the list **A – I** for each part (**1 – 7**) of the article. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (**0**)

- A** Pets improve the health of their owners.
- B** The difference a dog made.
- C** A pioneering new method of treatment.

- D** Pets linked to longer lifespan.
- E** A new view of the world.
- G** Healing physical and mental scars.
- H** Prison relations improved by animals.
- I** Animals ease tension.

ANIMAL MAGIC

(0 E) A kind of treatment designed to stimulate people who are withdrawn or uncommunicative has recently been given a new name: pet therapy. It has given difficult children, lonely old people and even anti-social prisoners a completely new outlook on life.

(1 -) Even though pet therapy is only now being widely used, it is not a new idea. In the eighteenth century an English doctor, William Tuke, filled the grounds of a hospital for mentally disturbed people with chickens, rabbits and goats. At a time when people were usually punished for strange behaviour rather than helped, this was a radical new approach to treating the mentally disturbed. Tuke's idea was that patients could learn self-control by caring for creatures weaker than themselves.

(2 -) This is an idea which has persisted. In New York, horses, cows, cats and dogs were recruited to heal soldiers who had been wounded during World War II. These animals comforted the traumatized and helped the battle-scarred to avoid becoming obsessed with their injuries.

(3 -) During the 1970's, scientific interest was rekindled by a study that had originally set out to examine the connection between social conditions and heart disease. Quite by chance, researchers discovered that the survival rate of people who owned a pet was significantly greater than those who didn't. At first, they treated these findings with suspicion, but the more research that was done, the more conclusive the proof became. People with pets really were living longer.

(4 -) It was discovered that stroking a cat or dog lowers a human being's blood pressure and reduces anxiety. Just having an animal around you can lower your heart rate. Cats and dogs aren't the only pets that can help you to relax either. A dental school in America has discovered that gazing at fish in a tank helps patients relax before undergoing dental treatment.

(5 -) The current trend towards using pets in therapy sessions is based on the work of an American psychologist, Dr Boris Levinson. He was treating a child who was very withdrawn and refused to talk. One day, Dr Levinson took his dog Jingles, to the therapy session and, to his surprise, the child began stroking and cuddling the dog. Through more contact with Jingles, the child became increasingly open and approachable and Levinson was able to complete the psychotherapy successfully.

(6 -) But what aspect of the animal-human relationship is the cause of such benefits? Does the companionship of animals fulfill certain basic human needs that are still not fully understood, but which are nevertheless vital to our sense of well-being? One recent study revealed that there were significantly fewer minor illnesses such as colds, backaches and stomach problems among adults after they have acquired a pet. "It is difficult to know if they became healthier as a result of acquiring their pet, but they certainly perceived themselves to be so," the researcher said.

(7 -) There is no real explanation however, for why animals can change people in various ways. Elizabeth Ormerod, who is spearheading a campaign to introduce pets into a Scottish prison, has watched the effect of animals on prisoners. "Animals help to dispel tension," she says. The Scottish prisons that have some involvement with animals report fewer disturbances as well as better relationships between staff and prisoners. "Caring for a pet encourages

compassion and reverence for life,” says Ormerod. “You could call it humane education.”

READING TASK 8:

You are going to read some information about different attractions at a funfair. For questions **1-14**, choose from the attractions **A-H**. Some of the attractions may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order. There is an example at the beginning **(0)**

Which attraction or attractions:

- had the most visitors last year? 0 A
- will mix you up? 1 -
- is only for people over fourteen years old? 2 -
- has recently arrived in Europe? 3 -
- provides fun for children only? 4 -
- tests your sense of direction? 5 -
- has a special offer on Saturdays? 6 -
- last for thirty minutes? 7 - ; 8 -
- are traditionally found at funfairs? 9 - ; 10 -
- will frighten you? 11 - ; 12 -
- take groups of four people? 13 - ; 14 -

FUNFAIR ATTRACTIONS

Whoppie Whizzer -----A

This thrilling ride, which is guaranteed to have you holding onto your seats in fear, attracted more visitors than any other single attraction last year. The ride starts with a few gentle spins that gradually increase in speed, so that after thirty seconds you’re whizzing round at 15 miles per hour! Suitable for anyone over

14 years of age, this ride is open throughout the season. It's one you certainly don't want to miss, so make sure you have a go early on in the day to avoid disappointment.

Spooksville -----B

This is a haunted house with a difference – come and visit if you dare! As you walk around this ghostly palace, our resident spooks will literally reach out and grab you! A hired team of professional actors perform stunts to try and scare you senseless, and be warned – they will! Still, you have to judge for yourselves, so bring all the family along at your own risk!

Alfddin's Magic Maze -----C

Our Magic Maze is Europe's biggest, as you will realize as soon as you try to find your way out! The walls of our corridors are either transparent or covered with mirrors so that when you start walking through, it can be pretty confusing – we're still waiting for someone to beat the record exit time of twenty-two minutes. If you think you can do it, come along and try! Afterwards, why not relax with a drink and something to eat in Aladdin's Restaurant where a variety of refreshments are available. As the genie would say, "Your wish is our command!"

Pirate Ship -----D

This huge pirate ship has been specially designed just for kids – it's made of inflatable plastic so they can't hurt themselves! During our thirty-minute sessions they can climb through the portholes and up the mast, swing off the sails and jump up and down on its bouncy deck in perfect safety. Around the ship is the Slippery Scales swimming pool which they can splash around in – its new wave-machine will make them believe they're really at sea! Teams of qualified attendants supervise their activities so parents can relax and enjoy themselves too!

Aquaspeed -----E

Our magnificent water park provides entertainment with a difference because you have to compete in teams! Groups of four negotiate a mile-long stretch of water and there are various tasks to complete during the thirty-minute trip. The successful team will need brain power as well as physical strength because the tasks don't just rely on muscle. More importantly, the losers end up being showered with ice-cold water! If you do come first, you receive free tickets for our prize draw so this is the ultimate attraction for those of you who think you've got what it takes!

Megawheel -----F

Traditionally, no funfair is complete without a big wheel and our Megawheel will take you higher than you've ever dreamed! You not only have a wonderful view over the city and out across the sea but you can also see the whole of the game park too, so you look out for your family and friends – with a pair of binoculars which you can hire before you get on! The elderly and the very young alike will enjoy this attraction, as well the romantic among you – the view is spectacular on a starry night with a gentle breeze blowing on your face.

Dodgems-----G

For those of you who still feel that traditional is best, our “dodgem” cars are a must. They are built to ensure your utmost safety so you can bang and crash to your heart's content – and for half-price on Saturday 6-7 pm when we have our happy hour! You can ride on your own or in a group of up to four people – the choice is yours! You'll find the dodgems right in the centre of the park, so there's no excuse for missing them.

Rock'n'Roll Rideaway -----H

America's longest, bumpiest, craziest roller-coaster has finally reached Europe and will open at our park this June. Two miles of mountainous track take you on a stomach-spinning ride with near-vertical rises and falls. Along its fastest stretch the train reaches speeds of up to 60 miles per hour. We also ensure the enjoyment of your ride by providing specially-designed seats which are as

comfortable as your favourite armchair at home! However, it's not an afternoon snooze you'll be having on our "Rock 'n' Roll Rideaway". Come and experience the best rollercoaster Europe can offer!

READING TASK 9:

You are going to read an extract from the article about global television. For questions **1-7** choose the answers (**A, B, C** or **D**) which you think fits best according to the text.

A global television channel which will appeal to the entire world population is possible, according to research from a German institute. The author of the research, Dr Helmut Jung, chief executive officer of the Molln-based Sample Institut, says that in order to make it work, the tastes of people in various countries need to be taken into consideration.

While a possible global television channel is an ideal, in practice people in different countries have different programme preference. In the former USSR, eighty-seven per cent of the people who took part in the research wanted to see more full-length films, compared with a global average of sixty per cent. In the Middle East, eighty-one per cent of people wanted more home-produced news, as did seventy-nine per cent in Asia. Only about half the respondents from Western Europe, North America and Japan felt they needed more domestically produced news.

In places where programming is left to television controllers rather than political or religious officials, television audiences are generally happy. Jung identified regions where many people were unhappy with programming schedules, including central Europe, the former USSR and Latin America, as having state-

run television, whereas regions such as Western Europe and North America, which have independent programming, got a clean bill of health.

Despite his confidence that global television will eventually arrive, Jung thinks there is a more realistic alternative for the near future, namely “Multicultural Regional TV” or MRTV. Speaking recently in New York, Jung said, “I’m convinced that the concept of global television is basically promising and that the process of globalization will continue and will first of all happen in the area of media and telecommunications. But I’m also convinced that the idea of global television will be restricted to a limited number of channels and to specific types of programmes. The options for the next twenty or thirty years will be more in the area of regional television.”

Jung also said that global television’s time had not yet come. It would have to omit certain programmes due to unpopularity in certain regions which other people might want to see. Viewers still prefer home-produced news, and cultural differences remain. For example, Asian audiences look for education, while Latin Americans and Europeans generally reject violent programmes.

Jung’s research has been supported by surveys in Europe which found that pan-European channels such as Eurosport were tempting more people to watch television. The presence of international channels, for example, increased the average number of hours of television watched by wealthier people in Austria, Germany and Switzerland by fifteen per cent and in southern Europe by three per cent.

It remains to be seen what implications the globalization of television will have. It is certain to strengthen the position of English as the top language for media in the world, and may undermine the status of the languages of more economically disadvantaged cultures. But despite increasing internationalism, national differences remain.

(1) Jung feels that global television could be possible if

- A everybody's opinion is taken into account.
- B only popular programmes are considered.
- C various studies were carried out.
- D each country is considered individually

(2) According to research, people in the former USSR

- A don't watch the news because they weren't interested in current affairs.
- B were happy with their programme schedules.
- C preferred to watch a film than to play a sport.
- D thought that the number of films shown on their national television stations was inadequate.

(3) Some Japanese views felt that

- A their news programmes were not good enough.
- B they don't have enough news programmes.
- C they didn't have enough Japanese news programmes.
- D they wanted news programmes like western European ones.

(4) According to Jung's survey, TV viewers across the world were happy

- A when schedules were completely unregulated.
- B when TV controllers wrote the programmes.
- C when TV controllers decided on schedules.
- D when most programmes had a political or religious content.

(5) How does Jung feel about global TV?

- A He is positive about it.
- B He is negative about it.
- C He thinks it could work in certain areas.
- D He has mixed feelings about it.

(6) What is Jung's prediction about the future?

- A Everyone will watch the same TV programmes.
- B Global TV is impossible because of differing tastes.

C MRTV is more likely to succeed in the long run.

D MRTV is the most probable short-term development.

(7) The advent of global TV could mean that minority languages

A will become economically disadvantaged.

B will become more internationally accepted.

C will be overwhelmed by English.

D will highlight national differences.

READING TASK 10:

You are going to read a magazine article about terrorism. Choose from the list **A-H** the sentence which best summarises each part **(1-6)** of the article. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning **(0)**

A People focus their attention on unlikely targets.

B Terrorists can afford to make weapons capable of large-scale devastation.

C If we let ourselves be frightened then the terrorists have won.

D Terrorism is becoming more menacing than ever before.

E There has been an increase in the number of terrorists willing to give up their lives for their cause.

F Experts are confident that they have minimized the risks.

G Anti-terrorist arrangements must remain top-secret.

H Chemicals can spread rapidly through modern structures.

“SUPER – TERRORISM”

(0 D)

Terrorism has always been a serious issue, but the days when it involved small-scale bombing and assassinations could be over. The future of terrorism is far more alarming.

(1 -)

Fears of serious terrorism are wrongly centred. People always panic about the possibility of terrorists getting hold of nuclear weapons, but in fact the technology is very difficult to access. Another worry people often have concerns the possibility of our water supplies being poisoned. This is also implausible, as anti-bacterial filter systems in reservoirs have been carefully designed to make poisons ineffective. The real threats are cheaper, more direct, and far more effective. The advancement of technology perfectly suits the purposes of terrorism: why bother trying to create your own nuclear weapons, for example, when you can blow up a nuclear power station instead? After all, it has been conveniently put there for you by the government.

(2 -)

One major factor that has made terrorism so much more effective has been the alarming rise in “suicide terrorism” cases, such as the Hamas bombings in Israel, opening up endless possibilities for terrorists. One scenario has them hijacking a passenger jet and crashing it into a nuclear power plant – a prospect so alarming that the designers of one nuclear plant in America actually crashed a light aircraft into their reactor to see how well it could withstand the impact. The damage was minimal, but nobody has ever tried the experiment in a Boeing 737 travelling at 600 mph! It is certainly a terrifying possibility because, while a fission reactor cannot explode like a bomb, it can experience what is known as “meltdown”. This is when the highly radioactive core melts under intense heat and burns through the ground and into the water table below, causing widespread nuclear contamination.

(3 -)

Biological warfare is another frightening prospect, especially as biological weapons are cheap to make, and therefore attractive to terrorist organizations. The effects are potentially devastating. One detailed American study looked at the test case of a small boat spraying anthrax spores into a light south-easterly

breeze from the southern tip of Manhattan island. Anthrax is an airborne disease which is almost always fatal to humans. The report states “If only half the target personnel are exposed: if only half the cases result in death, more than 600,000 deaths would occur.” The terrorists could also be long gone by the time the anthrax symptoms were identified in the victims.

(4 -)

Chemical weapons are also cheap, and easy to get hold of. Once again technology has potentially aided the terrorists: air conditioning systems could provide the perfect way of distributing dangerous gas extremely quickly through a building. A mock chemical attack by the security services on the air conditioning systems of the White House and Capitol Hill in the late 1970’s proved alarmingly successful. Had it been real, the President and the entire congress would have been killed. Gas has already been used in a terrorist attack. In 1995 religious fanatics released deadly sarin gas in the Tokyo subway. Twelve people died and more than 5,500 were injured, suffering temporary or even permanent blindness.

(5 -)

How can incidents like this be avoided? “We have carried out intensive work over the last few years to install surveillance equipment in our stations,” said a London Underground spokesman. “We also carefully train staff to recognize unusual smells and to evacuate stations speedily.” Likewise, nuclear specialists say that power stations are extremely well protected against terrorists, containing emergency systems which immediately shut down power at the sign of trouble.

(6 -)

Terrorism works by acting directly on the public through intimidation. What makes it so interesting to us is the fact that, unlike many political activities, we are directly affected by it. Unfortunately, there is very little we can do about it

except place our faith in the government, and hope that the measures taken to prevent terrorism are successful. But if we allow ourselves to be intimidated by it, then it has already worked.

READING TASK 11:

You are going to read an article about the family who moved to an island. For questions **1-7**, choose the answer (**A, B, C** or **D**) which you think fits best according to the text.

Many people long to escape from the hustle and bustle of modern life. But few people would actually give up a warm comfortable home to move to a remote island in the middle of the North Sea. The Sirrs family, however, decided to do exactly that. Unhappy with their busy lifestyles they sold their 400 year-old cottage in Yorkshire to move the tiny Scottish island of Graemsay.

Incredibly, for less than the price of a modest semi-detached house, it was possible to buy half of the island. Attracted initially by the low price, Rob and Jill contracted the agent concerned and discovered that “the estate” advertised actually comprised a post office, six houses and a private sandy beach – all for 60,000 pounds.

Interested, the young couple and their three children decided to go and have a look. Knowing that the island would look its best in summer, they chose to view the property in December. They didn't want to be under any illusions. Despite a seasonal chill, the weather was clear and the sea calm. The island looked more beautiful than they could ever have imagined. While they left their children playing on the beach, the Sirrs looked around and realized that the deal was even more astonishing than they had first thought. The six-bedroom house came with a farm and 300 acres of land.

Once on the island the Sirrs tried to imagine what life could be like to them. They were anxious to meet their neighbours as soon as possible. However, they had no need to worry. On that first trip they met up to half of the sixty or so island inhabitants and were given a warm welcome! The couple were thrilled that the people of Graemsay were so friendly. Many of them urged the couple to complete the transaction as soon as possible. Within two weeks of their visit, the Sirrs' bid of 55,000 pounds was accepted.

The move has brought new challenges to the family. Rob and Jill have started a sheep farm and renovated the cottages to rent out as holiday homes. They insist that the only thing they miss about their previous life is going to the cinema. If anything, moving to the remote island has brought the family closer together.

Before they moved, the Sirrs thought long and hard about bringing their children up in such a remote place. But the children are young enough to adjust and seem happier in the new environment.

They are content with their own company and make their own entertainment. Although they are the only pupils at the local school, they receive lots of attention and are able to take advantage of the school's modern facilities.

Since the move, the family have been visited by many friends who are envious of their beautiful surroundings. The family consider themselves lucky. For very little cost, they have all the benefits of a beautiful place to live. They also hope that by improving their property they can, in future, give something back to the island.

(1) Why did the Sirrs family move to the island?

- A They had always wanted to live on an island.
- B It was a chance to escape.
- C They hated Yorkshire.

D Their children were unhappy at school.

(2) They decided to visit the property in December because

A it was the only time of the year they could travel.

B the weather was unusually good.

C they wanted to spend Christmas in Scotland.

D they wanted to see what the place was like at the worst time of the year.

(3) When they first visited the island, the Sirrs

A were a little shy and felt isolated.

B could not imagine what their neighbours would be like.

C wanted to get to know the island people.

D were anxious about meeting the island people.

(4) Which best describes the Sirrs' feelings before the move?

A excited but apprehensive

B nervous and worried

C happy and calm

D sad and resigned

(5) What does "them" (line 26) refer to?

A The Sirrs

B Their children

C Their next door neighbours

D The people of the island

(6) Their neighbours

A told them to buy the property before someone else got it.

B urged them to bid a higher price.

C told them that 55,000 pounds were acceptable.

D urged them to complete the sale of their house in Yorkshire.

(7) One advantage mentioned of being the only students is

A peace and quiet.

B little financial cost.

C greater use of school resources.

D fewer discipline problems.

READING TASK 11:

You are going to read a magazine article about theme parks. For questions 1-10, choose from the theme parks (A-E). The theme parks may be chosen more than once. There is an example at the beginning (0).

A Universal Studios

B Sentoza

C Legoland

D Alton Towers

E The Magic Kingdom

Which theme park:

- opened 3 decades ago (0 A)
- do visitors have to purchase food in if they want to eat? (1 -)
- has gigantic monsters as one of the main attractions? (2 -)
- has exotic flowers on display? (3 -)
- has smaller versions of historic monuments? (4 -)
- can be reached by several modes of transport? (5 -)
- has a breathtaking evening show? (6 -)
- can you have fun in even if it rains? (7 -)
- is good for young and old people? (8 -)
- has one attraction which is ideal for hungry visitors? (9 -)
- do visitors pay per ride in? (10 -)

GREAT THEMES

By popular request, David Wickers reviews some of the world's most impressive theme parks in this week's slot for holiday destinations.

Universal Studios, America's fourth largest theme park, has enthralled 35,000 people a day since it opened 30 years ago. Its latest attraction, Jurassic Park, is a miracle of modern engineering with monsters as tall as five-storey buildings which come so close that you feel convinced they're going to step on you. You can also enjoy a boat cruise through a tropical forest, which ends with a 25-metre high-speed plunge into a dark lagoon. Other attractions include Jaws, E.T. and Duck to the Future. Tickets cost \$34 for adults and \$26 for children under twelve.

The Sentosa theme park in Singapore stands on its own island, accessible by boat, cable car or a 700-metre causeway. One of its most spectacular attractions is Volcanoland, which takes you on a simulated journey to the centre of the earth with half-hourly eruptions and earthquakes. Sentoza's huge aquarium is the largest in Asia, and the gardens, with their 300 varieties of orchid, are a pleasure to wander through. All the rides and attractions are individually priced, ranging from \$2 to \$4 for adults in addition to the \$6 entrance price. Children pay half price.

Legoland is situated near the town of Billund in Denmark, where *Lego* and *Duplo* pieces have been made for 64 years. There are two main areas in Legoland. One is Miniland with its miniature models depicting Amsterdam, Copenhagen harbour and an English village, as well as the Taj Mahal, constructed of Lego blocks. The second area contains rides including a sky railway, a mini driving school and an exciting boat ride called Pirateland, all of

which are great for kids and, fortunately, are not made of Lego! Admission is about 11 pounds for adults and 10 pounds for children.

Alton Towers in the Midlands is Britain's most popular theme park. The rides, including the Energizer, Thunderloop and Nemesis will make you scream with excitement and are as good as anything Disneyland can offer. There are 125 attractions, one third of them indoors, permitting fun in all weather. Alton Towers unique attraction is the Chocolate Factory; it never runs out of sweets and fizzy drinks. A day pass is 17 pounds for adults and 13 pounds for children aged 4 to 13.

Walt Disney's **Magic Kingdom** in Florida is suitable for all ages. It is made up of seven "lands", each with a different theme and has rides ranging from the petrifying Space Mountain (screams are guaranteed) to the more sedate Jungle Cruise and Haunted Mansion. It's also a delight to see Mickey Mouse and his friends signing autographs, posing for photographers and even joining visitors for breakfast! The best attractions at the Magic Kingdom are definitely the daily Mickey Mania parade and the evening fireworks show which are not to be missed. There is also a vast choice of snack bars and restaurants as it is Disney's policy not to allow visitors to bring their own food. The admission price is excellent value for money at \$40.81 for adults and \$32.86 for children aged 3 to 9.

READING TASK 12:

You are going to read a magazine article about London. For questions **1-7**, choose the answer (**A, B, C, or D**) which you think fits best according to the text.

THE SPIRIT OF LONDON

London often gives the impression of being more comfortable with its past than its present. From the world-famous landmarks of St Paul's Cathedral, Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London to the traditional and well-loved

double-decker buses, the theatres and the many grand hotels, England's capital offers visitors journey through centuries of history. This journey is even better now that the building works, which covered many historic sites, have been taken down. Newly cleaned and restored buildings are revealed, and the city looks as if it has been revitalized.

The city has also rediscovered its river. The area between the South Bank Arts Centre, which includes the National Theatre, and Tower Bridge, has been brought back to life and the city has found a new heart along the forgotten riverside. As you walk eastwards along the river from Westminster, you will discover that old warehouses have been transformed into galleries, shops and clubs.

Across the river from London Bridge is "The City of London", the financial district of the capital. The City has its own historic delights such as the 15th century Guildhall and churches designed by Sir Christophor Wren. The best way to explore the City is on foot. For instance, you can "walk through the ages", starting from Fournier Street and ending at the modern Lloyd's building on Lime Street. Remember, however, that in London you are never far away from the past; the old-fashioned red telephone boxes are becoming popular again and many London pubs – where a visitor might ask for a pint of bitter – have been restored to their original Victorian beauty.

But the capital is not a historical theme park. It is a lively and exciting metropolis which is well-known for its popular culture, music, clubs, street fashions, and visual arts. Today, many of its wide variety of restaurants claim to be as good as in any other European capitals. For example, Marco Pierre White's highly recommended restaurant at the Hyde Park Hotel is a perfect example of new English cuisine - unusual, sophisticated and extremely expensive. When it comes to shopping, Covent Garden and King's Road in

Chelsea offer a mixture of reasonably priced chainstore clothing and unique boutiques selling everything from gear to skateboards. Shoppers with full wallets and more sophisticated tastes should head for Knightsbridge, where Harrods and Harvey Nichols compete to be the most exclusive department store in London.

Much of London's energy and originality is now centred in Soho, the city's liveliest and most bohemian area, squeezed in between the department stores of Oxford Street and the bookshops of Charing Cross Road. Soho, once considered one of the dirtiest and most dangerous parts of London, was cleaned up in the early 1980's. Today, with its gurgling cappuccino machines and pavement cafes, it has become a meeting place for all kinds of people from all over the world, whatever the hour of day or night.

So, even if you are new to the city, you don't have to try hard in order to experience the real London. Despite its heavy traffic and shaking underground railway, it is still one of the world's greatest and most cosmopolitan cities.

1 According to the first paragraph, what is the most outstanding characteristic of London?

- A the number of hotels
- B the number of historic sites
- C the number of landmarks
- D the number of theatres

2 What has recently happened alongside the river?

- A The area has been redeveloped.
- B A new bridge has been built.
- C New warehouses have been built.
- D Old warehouses have been torn down.

3 The City of London

- A was built by Sir Christophor wren.
- B is mainly made up of churches.
- C is a museum of architecture.
- D contains different styles of architecture.

4 The new English cuisine is

- A well represented by White's restaurant.
- B only available at the Hyde Park Hotel.
- C available in all London restaurants.
- D not worth the price the diner is expected to pay.

5 What does the writer think of London's shopping facilities?

- A They are too expensive for most people.
- B They provide for a variety of tastes.
- C They are all quite reasonably priced.
- D They don't have enough customers.

6 Before the 1980's, Soho was

- A neat and tidy.
- B popular among foreigners.
- C very crowded.
- D unsafe and unclean.

7 What does "it" in line 46 refer to?

- A Soho
- B London
- C Oxford Street
- D shopping in London

READING TASK 13:

You are going to read a magazine article about earthquakes. Six paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose from the paragraphs **A – G** the one

which fits each gap **(1 – 5)**. There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning **(0)**

Earthquake in L.A.

At 4.31 in the morning on January 17, 1994, the full impact of a massive earthquake measuring 6.7 on the Richter scale hit the community of Northridge in Los Angeles. It was an unwelcome wake-up call for everyone in the city.

One resident, Rosemary Sato, was shaken awake in her bed to the sound of tremors violently rocking her house. When she got up she found that the quake had blown open her front door and thrown her furniture around like toys.

(0 E)

However, the damage wasn't restricted to Northridge. Across the city the quake killed sixty people, destroyed or severely damaged more than 3,000 homes, and brought down ten highway bridges. Many people were trapped under debris. The cost of the damage was estimated to be \$20 billion. The cause of this quake was movement in the San Andreas fault system. The fault is the crack between two giant pieces of the Earth's crust. One of these pieces, most of which is situated under the Pacific Ocean, is moving at an average of about four centimeters every year.

(1 -)

The good news is that the Californian authorities are taking these predictions seriously. Engineers are working to strengthen the steel frames of buildings and other structures such as bridges. Hopefully, this will lead to less structural damage during the next quake.

(2 -)

During a quake it is important to stay calm, as panic leads to rash actions which may result in injury or even death.

(3 -)

Levon Jernazian, a clinical psychologist, helps people to deal with the effects of this trauma. For weeks after the Northridge quake, one of his patients, Ani Shakhverdyan, aged eight, would still cling to her parents, was terrified of the dark and would not even go to the bathroom alone/

(4 -)

Other survivors of quakes deal with their fears in a different way. They tell themselves that it won't happen again.

(5 -)

Little does she realize that in California, with the chances of another severe quake at 90 per cent in the next thirty years, she is very likely to experience at least one more.

A In one session, ani was asked to draw a picture of her fears. She drew a big rat. Then Levon Jernazian told her to cut the picture of the rat into pieces, burn it, and then jump on the remains. Ani did what he suggested and the fears became less intense.

B Unfortunately, this movement isn't slow and continuous, but occurs in bursts, which results in earthquakes. And to make matters worse, scientists not only expect more earthquakes in the near future, but also more powerful ones.

C People are advised to stay where they are, if possible, to take shelter under a bed or table. However, for many it is difficult to get rid of the terror of experiencing an earthquake. After the Northridge quake, thousands of Californians even left the state, and many of those who stayed have experienced what is known as "earthquake trauma".

D One woman's reaction was, "I'm not scared anymore. Also, it's similar to being in a plane crash. What are your chances of being in another?"

E Another resident of the community, who lived in a three-storey apartment block, recalls the top two floors of the building crashing down onto his first-

floor apartment. “A wall fell on me,” he said, “I couldn’t move my head. I was trapped for five hours with injuries to my lungs, ribs and collar bone.”

F Amazingly enough, nobody noticed it apart from scientists who were studying the seismic activity. However, one man did report that his dog had started to howl at the time the quake was said to have started.

G The residents of California are also preparing themselves for the next big one. They are buying emergency supplies, nailing down their belongings and making plans for what they should do in the event of another quake.

READING TASK 14:

You are going to read some information about some festivals. For questions **1 – 15**, choose from festivals (**A – E**). Some of the festivals may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order. There is an example at the beginning (**0**)

Which festival(s)

- marks the death of a particular person? (**0 E**)
- gives people a large variety to choose from? (**1 -**)
- are meant to remind people of something? (**2 -**) (**3 -**)
- is based on a religious belief? (**4 -**)
- takes place in autumn? (**5 -**)
- involve a competition? (**6 -**) (**7 -**) (**8 -**)
- makes unusual use of a food? (**9 -**)
- now takes place in a building? (**10 -**)
- marks the beginning of a season? (**11 -**)
- marks the beginning of a religious period? (**12 -**)

- probably dates back longer than
it was previously thought? (13 -)
- involve dressing up in special costumes? (14 -) (15 -)

THE FESTIVE YEAR

A The Rio Carnival in Brazil

This festival is by far the largest in the world. Hundreds of thousands of visitors come every year for the celebrations before the start of Lent, (a fasting period of forty days before Easter). The carnival takes place in the Sambadrome, a huge new stadium. There, samba schools compete with each other for the best costumes and dancing. They spend a lot of time and money on carnival preparations, making fantastic costumes, masks, decorations, mobile floats and teaching the samba. In the past, the carnival procession was held in the streets of Rio, where beautifully clothed people threw streamers and confetti and danced for four days. Nowadays, the world's biggest street party has become a pleasure only for those who can afford the entrance fee.

B Oktoberfest

Foreign beer-lovers might think that the Germans are unimaginative when it comes to beer because, good as it is, it all seems to taste very similar. There are, however, many regional and seasonal differences, particularly in Bavaria and Munich. Oktoberfest, the world's largest beer festival, actually begins in September and, to mark the occasion, each of Munich's many breweries makes a special beer. Because of this, an astonishing variety of different types and strengths of beer are available at this festival.

C The Fallas Festival

The most spectacular of Spain's thousands of festivals must be Valencia's Fallas Fiesta, a two-day event celebrating the end of winter. The Fallas Fiesta and street party start at noon on St. Joseph's Day, with a deafening explosion of

fireworks. Then there are contests for the best paella – a traditional Valencian rice dish. People gather in the streets to admire the costumes of the men dressed up as the Moors who occupied the city until the 13th century. In the months before the fiesta, craftsmen create around 370 papier mache sculptures, the fallas, which are detailed caricatures of local people. At midnight, when the fallas are burnt, the burst of flames and fireworks symbolically forces out the winter.

D The Tibetan Butter Lamp Festival

Buddhists believe that nothing is permanent, and on the 9th of March they celebrate this belief. Long before the festival begins, monks make their preparations by mixing brightly-coloured dyes into huge quantities of iced butter. It takes them several months to carve the frozen butter into highly decorated statues, some of them as much as 8 metres high. On the day of the festival itself, the sculptures – supported by wooden frames – are carried through the streets and greeted with cheers from the excited crowds. Afterwards, the figures are thrown into a river by the monks who made them to demonstrate the idea that not even the most beautiful things last forever.

E The Dragon Boat Festival

In China, towards the end of June, people celebrate a holiday known as the Dragon Boat Festival. The festival is held to honour the memory of Qu Xuan, a politician and poet who, in the year 278 B.C., is said to have committed suicide by jumping into a river. It is said that local people threw rice dumplings into the water to save Xuan's soul from the evil spirits in the river. Nowadays, boat races are held every year to remind people of the search for the body of the dead poet. Spectators eat rice cakes and crews row large dragon-shaped boats. Some researchers, however, say that dragon boats existed long before the death of Qu Xuan, and the modern festival is a combination of several old traditions.

READING TASKS 15:

You are going to read a magazine article about burglar-friendly houses. Choose from the list **A – I** the sentence which best summarises each part (**1 – 7**) of the article. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (**0**)

- A** Houses which are very private are less safe.
- B** Make your possessions easy to identify.
- C** The first time you have your house broken into probably won't be the last.
- D** Burglars look at our houses differently to the way we do.
- E** Draw attention to your home to make it burglar-proof.
- F** Burglars are attracted by signs of absence.
- G** Large homes suggest large bank accounts.
- H** Lock up and turn the lights on.
- I** Don't let the outside show what's inside.

Do you Live in a Burglar-Friendly House

0 C It's the last thing you want to hear when you've just been burgled, but the awful truth is that if you've been burgled once, you'll probably be burgled again. In fact, it's likely to happen another four or five times. Why? Because some of us have "burglar-friendly" houses.

1 - Burglars think that the bigger the house, the richer the owners. "You can't do much about the size of your house," says Professor Pease of Huddersfield University, "but if it's large, you need to be more careful than if it's small."

2 - You probably take a good look at your house – not as you normally do, but as a burglar would. If you were a burglar, which home would you choose to rob, - house with a shiny new car parked outside or one with a rusty vehicle? Anything which signals nice possessions and money will certainly catch the burglar's eye.

3 - People may complain about their noisy neighbours, but there's no better way of stopping burglars than having watchful neighbours around. If a house is far away from others, or hidden from the road, it is more attractive to burglars, who think they can get in and out without being noticed. So a burglar alarm is a good idea. And remember, you may get privacy from a tall hedge or a high wall – but so does a burglar.

4 - Ian Stephen, who works with the Scottish prison service, believes that you're more at risk if your house looks nice. "Window-boxes, nice curtains and beautifully painted walls all tell the burglar that you're proud of your home and care about your possessions and are more likely to have nice things in your house," he says. He advises people to try to make their homes look as plain as possible and not to draw attention to any new things they have bought by leaving the empty boxes next to the dustbin.

5 - People often leave a light on when they go out. "But be sensible," advises Ian Stephen. "Don't leave a light on in the hall as it never makes the burglars believe that you're in. Have you ever heard of a family enjoying an evening at home in the hall? Leave it on in the living room." An open window is also an open invitation to burglars. If you sometimes forget to shut and lock doors and windows, stick a note on inside of the front door to remind you. And make sure any ladders are put away and not left outside where burglars can use them.

6 - By leaving newspapers and letters sticking out of the letter-box, or full milk bottles on the doorstep, you are giving burglars the green light to break into your home. Similarly, if you're away from the house at regular times – out at work or doing the shopping – then your home is also in danger of being burgled. Ask a neighbour to keep an eye on your house at these times.

7 - It's a good idea to take photos of your valuable possessions. By doing that, if you're burgled, you'll be able to identify stolen property, which could lead to the thief being put behind bars. It is also possible to label valuable items such as TVs with your postcode. If they are stolen, this will make them easier to find.

One more good idea is to ask for a crime prevention officer to visit your home and identify weak points in its security

READING TASK 16:

You are going to read some statements about crime prevention. For questions **1 – 15** choose from the statements **A – E**. Some of the statements may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order. There is an example at the beginning **(0)**.

Which statement or statements:

- suggests installing an alarm ? **(0 A)**
- place responsibility on the government? **(1 -) (2 -) (3 -)**
- blames unemployment? **(4 -)**
- suggests harsher punishments? **(5 -)**
- say that people are responsible for solving the problems? **(6 -) (7 -) (8 -)**
- suggest teaching children about crime? **(9 -) (10 -)**
- blames television? **(11 -)**
- stresses preventing crimes? **(12 -)**
- suggests that citizens should be better organized? **(13 -)**
- disapproves of personal weapons? **(14 -)**
- says a bigger police force is needed? **(15 -)**

CRIME

Statement A

Although I am a police officer, I certainly don't believe that crime control is entirely the responsibility of the police force. I am convinced that prevention is

the key to success and that all of us must work together to prevent crime. Not giving criminals the opportunity is the first step. Make your homes burglar-proof by always locking up, installing an alarm system and putting identification numbers on your valuable items. Make sure your garden and drive are lit up at night, and report any suspicious behaviour immediately. The more unattractive you make your home to burglars, the less likely it is that a crime will take place. The police are here to help you, but you have to help us as well.

Statement B

As a parent, I believe that young people are the key to crime prevention. Television and films make crime look exciting and romantic, and even modern music glamorizes crime. Of course, we can't control everything our children watch or listen to – it would just make them more rebellious if we tried to. The only way to fight these influences is through education. We must teach young people – both at school and at home – what the realities of a life of crime are, and how becoming involved in crime can ruin a young person's life. We must also show them by our own behaviour that crime is wrong. A parent who cheats on his or her taxes, for example, cannot expect a child to see criminal activity as something to be avoided.

Statement C

I know that a lot of the young people in our area are becoming involved in crime, and that a lot of people blame television, the influence of parents and so on. But if you look at the statistics, you will find that most of these young criminals are school-leavers who cannot find jobs. These are young people who are more than willing to lead decent, productive lives given the opportunity. But it is exactly this opportunity which is lacking. If the leaders of our country would spend more money on developing Job-training and Job-placement programmes for our young people, I believe that crime would decrease dramatically. Of course, education plays a role as well, but I do believe that if

young people had a proper occupation they would not be attracted to a life of crime.

Statement D

Since it's pretty evident that the government is not going to put more money into crime prevention, it seems obvious that inhabitants are going to have to do something themselves. Improving the organization of the Neighbourhood Watch programme would be a good place to start. Cars have been broken into right in front of houses where people were supposed to be on duty. This obviously shouldn't be happening. What we need is proper training so that we can police our own neighbourhood. Not that I'm suggesting we arm ourselves – more guns lead to more violence in my view – but we do need to be more aware and have a systematic approach to crime prevention if we want to reduce the crime rate.

Statement E

People keep saying that crime is our responsibility – that if we protect our houses and teach our children properly we can solve the problem. But what about the criminals who are already out there? There obviously aren't enough police to prevent all the crimes that are going on – and of course we'd be better off if there were more of them – but why are so many known criminals out there committing crimes in the first place? If they were kept locked up longer and given longer prison sentences in the first place, this city would be a much safer place to live. I don't support the return of the death penalty, but I do believe that criminals should be punished severely and not just set free to continue committing crimes. Of course I realize that prisons are full of prisoners who are obviously not ready or willing to obey the law because more crime will be expensive for the taxpayer too.

READING TASK 17:

You are going to read some information about different campsites. For questions **1-14**, choose from the list of campsites (**A-E**). Some of the campsites may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order. There is an example at the beginning (**0**)

Which site or sites would you recommend for someone who:

- likes mountainous scenes? (0 A)
- need childcare facilities? (1 -) (2 -)
- needs a good rest? (3 -) (4 -)
- doesn't mind paying a lot of money
for a good meal? (5 -)
- might want to play video games? (6 -)
- likes helping out? (7 -)
- enjoys riding? (8 -) (9 -)
- doesn't mind leaving their animals at home? (10 -)
- wants to go camping in winter? (11 -) (12 -)
- wants to take electrical appliances with them? (13 -)
- doesn't want to take a sleeping bag with them? (14 -)

GO CAMPING

A The Snowdon Site

Nestling at the foot of the highest mountain in Wales is one of the most picturesque campsites in the world. You can pitch a tent or your caravan as this site caters for both. The charges for staying here are very reasonable. There is a shop which sells just about everything you might need and a good restaurant on site, but be warned – the prices are very high, so make sure you take essential items with you. There's a good play area for children, although it's not

supervised. The site offers pony treks in the mountains on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. For an extra charge, you have the opportunity to go on a day excursion and see the spectacular scenery of North Wales. All modern amenities are available, the cost of which is included in the ground charge. The Snowdon campsite is open from April to September and is very popular so you'll definitely need to make a reservation if you want to stay there.

B The Shimmering Sands Site

The shimmering Sands camping site is situated literally two minutes' walk from the golden beach of Paignton on England's south coast. It's a traditional family campsite and an ideal place to take the children, but it often attracts young people as well. Spend the whole day at the beach (provided the British weather doesn't let you down), or at the amusement arcade which is open until midnight. Pubs, clubs and discos take care of the evenings, so there's always something to do. Camping facilities include a well-supervised play area for young children, electricity and a modern shower block. This site is for tents only. Shimmering Sands is open all year round but you must make reservations for July and August.

C The Windermere Site

Set in the middle of the Lake District, the Windermere campsite is the ideal place to relax and enjoy the peace and quiet that the area is famous for. The site has strict rules about noise levels. The scenery makes it the perfect place to go for long walks. The site is not, however, the place for people who need lots of facilities. The amenities of Windermere campsite are very basic, which probably explains why this site is fairly inexpensive. Tents and caravans are both welcome. The site is closed from October to March. Reservations aren't necessary.

D Kiddies Camping Ground

This novel campsite is perfect for both children and their parents. The kids have a great time while their parents stay at home and have a break. Kiddies Camping

Ground is situated near the New Forest, and the variety of activities for the youngsters is hard to beat. Games, sports of all kinds, walks in the forest and pony rides are just some of the activities laid on. The children are all carefully supervised by experienced adults. Tents, bedding, and meals are all included in the charge, which is quite high, but for a week or two of peace at home it's worth it! Kiddies Camping Ground is only open from June to August.

E The Sanctuary Camp

This is a camping ground with a difference. It's called the Sanctuary, because that's exactly what it is; a sanctuary for sick and injured animals. The founders of the sanctuary came up with the idea when they started to get so many animals that they needed extra help and money to feed and house them all. The Sanctuary consists of the house and farmyard and three large fields. The owners have built some amenities in the largest field and opened it as a campsite. The other two fields are reserved for the animals. If you like animals and don't mind hard work, then this is the holiday for you. Days are spent helping cats, dogs, horses, donkeys, cows, pigs – in fact, just about every animal you can't think of – recover from their illnesses or injuries. The money charged for the holiday goes towards the sanctuary fund. The site is open all year round, but reservations must be made. And by the way, no pets are allowed!

READING TASK 18:

You are going to read some information about different museums in Wales. For questions **1-15**, choose from museums **(A-E)**. Some of the museums may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order. There is an example at the beginning **(0)**

Which place or places:

- sells things? **(O B)**

- do you have to pay to enter? (1 -) (2 -)
- caters for children? (3 -)
- is located near water? (4 -)
- has an exhibition that will be finishing very soon? (5 -)
- covers the longest period of history? (6 -)
- came into existence more than ten years ago? (7 -)
- can you see machinery working at? (8 -) (9 -)
- is cheaper if you arrange to go with other people? (10 -)
- includes a train ride? (11 -)
- has a display of military life in the past? (12 -)
- has displays for short periods of time? (13 -)
- has had work specifically done for it? (14 -)
- contains works depicting local scenes? (15 -)

MUSEUMS IN WALES

A Graham Sutherland Gallery

This gallery was created over a decade ago as a direct result of Sutherland's wish to present a group of his Pembrokeshire works to the region as a token of his recognition of the inspiration he had received. Sutherland, one of the most famous twentieth-century British artists, strongly believed that work done in a certain area is best seen in that area. The gallery houses a large collection of the artist's work, including pictures especially painted for it, nearly 1000 drawings and prints, and works of applied art. The programme of exhibitions includes contemporary paintings and sculpture, crafts, photography and children's work. There are also events, visits and lectures. The gallery can only be accessed by motorway, five miles east of Haverford West and twenty-five miles west of Carmarthen. Follow the signs from the A40 south to Rhos. Further information

on talks, admission fees, and other facilities can be obtained by calling the gallery.

B Museum of the Welsh Woollen Industry

Located at Dre Fach Felindre, one of the most important wool producing areas in Wales, the museum serves two functions. It illustrates the history of the industry and acts as a shop window for the present Welsh wool industry through its craft workshops. Contemporary products can be purchased at the museum. The museum mounts working historical exhibits and offers visitors regular demonstrations of the spinning, weaving and dyeing processes that turn fleece into fabric. Visitors are able to watch the machinery in action. They are also able to follow factory trails around the town to discover how the industry developed and how vital it was to the community

C National Museum and Gallery

This museum is sure to have something to spark your interest. It is unique among British museums and galleries in the range of art and science displays. The Art Galleries provide magnificent settings for works by some of the world's most famous artists, including the Impressionists in the outstanding Davies Collection. The "Evolution of Wales" exhibition takes you on a spectacular 4600 million year journey, tracing the development of Wales and the world from the very beginning of time. There are displays of Bronze Age, gold, early Christian monuments, Celtic treasures, silver, coins and medals, ceramics, fossils and minerals. And if that's not enough there area always exciting temporary exhibitions.

D Roman Legionary Museum

The fortress at Isca was one of the three principal military bases in Roman Britain. The town still bears the marks of its illustrious Roman past, and the remains of the theatre can be explored. The museum illustrates both the history of Roman Caerleon and the daily life of its garrison. The second Augustan Legion displays show all aspects of a soldier's life – including his arms, his

religious beliefs and even his death. Also on display are early Roman finds from the base at Usk. To enjoy this magnificent exhibition you'll need to hurry because it all comes to a close in under a fortnight. Group bookings are discounted provided prior notice is given.

E Welsh Industrial and Maritime Museum

This museum is located right in the heart of Cardiff's famous docklands and it illustrates the story of Wales' industrial and maritime past. The purpose-built galleries contain working examples of the machines which drove the coal-mines and iron-works of Wales. Equally important are the open air displays on the four-acre site. Visitors can take a mini – railway tour around a range of exhibits relating to industrial Wales, including examples of the ships, trains and other vehicles that brought raw materials to the Docks or transported them to markets overseas. Special activities are available for our younger visitors in the holiday periods. The museum, which stands on the waterfront, will satisfy everybody's desire to learn more about industry and transport.

READING TASK 19:

You are going to read some information about different types of music. For questions **1-15** choose from the types of music (**A-E**). Some of the types of music may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order. There is an example at the beginning (**0**).

What kind of music:

- encourages audience participation? (0 -)
- became popular on the radio? (1 -)
- has a European background? (2 -)
- became popular most recently? (3 -)
- now concentrates on songs about city life? (4 -)
- spread through urban American centres? (5 -)

- did not originate in America? (6 -) (7 -)
- influenced English groups? (8 -)
- was developed by whites living in the country? (9 -)
- “re-invented” old melodies? (10 -)
- reminded people of their past? (11 -)
- demands the most concentration? (12 -)
- has brought musical instruments to the West and taken western instruments back? (13 -)
- changed after the Second World War? (14 -)
- has a rhythm which dominates the music? (15 -)

THE WORLD OF MUSIC

A African Music

The origin of all popular music can be traced to Africa. African music is less limited than traditional European music. It encourages the audience to take part and the musicians take on an important social and ceremonial role. These approaches were brought to the West by African slaves who also brought along musical instruments such as banjo and oboe. But there has been a turnaround in the modern era. African pop musicians have taken western instruments like the guitar and trumpet and adapted them to their own culture. They have also become very popular in the West in recent years.

B Bebop/ Hop

This was an advanced and experimental form of music developed by jazz musicians in America in the 1940's and 1950's. A whole variety of experienced and talented musicians influenced this type of music, and led jazz in a new direction. Technically, the rhythm became more important than the actual music, and the musicians used chord structures to invent new ways of playing old tunes. This kind of music was a move away from popular entertainment towards a

more complex and demanding style. Joyful yet intense, the music was a statement of black pride during that era.

C Country Music

This was originally the music of rural white people in the southeastern part of America. Based on European folk, this was America's frontier music which mixed blues with local trends. Country music became popular through records and by being played on the radio in the 1920's. Travelling musicians took on board a variety of influences such as the "cowboy music" of the American Southwest. This early country music was often nostalgic, and was accompanied by the banjo, guitar or fiddle. More recently country music has started to focus on the realities and hardships of urban life.

D Reggae

Reggae was influenced by African music and was preceded by rock steady and ska. Reggae expresses the Rastafarian belief in a peaceful struggle for cultural and political identity. It became popular among rock audiences when Bob Marley released his "Catch a Fire" record in 1973. Jamaican producers have shaped the music and its different styles since then. In Britain, punk rockers liked the rebellious style of reggae, while some English bands such as Misty in Roots and Aswad copied Jamaican music and developed a large following.

E Jazz

Jazz was created in the late 19th century along with blues and gospel by the descendants of black American slaves. From New Orleans it spread to Chicago, Kansas City and New York, which were the major centres of the "jazz age". In the 1930's the swing era of the big band made jazz the leading popular music. After World War II, the music changed again and branched out into "cool" jazz. During the 1950's and 1960's musicians experimented a great deal and created completely new sounds. Since the 1960's jazz has gone in several different directions, each showing what a varied and flexible form of music jazz is.

READING TASK 20:

You are going to read an extract from an article about the painter Cezanne. For questions 1-7 choose the answer (A,B,C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

There are few visitors to the countryside around Aix-en-Provence who do not see its dramatic forms through the eyes of its most famous inhabitants, Paul Cezanne. Day after day for the last 20 years of his life the artist set up his easel to paint Mont Sainte-Victoire and the surrounding countryside.

Sadly, Cezanne's efforts frequently left him dissatisfied as he felt he was not achieving the high artistic goals which he had set himself. Nor was his dedication appreciated by the townspeople of Aix, where Cezanne had been born in 1839. The painter was very much disliked, and lived alone and isolated – a classic case of the misunderstood, awkward and unconventional artistic genius.

He had retired to Aix partly because he had not done well in the artistic world of Paris. His work took much longer to gain acceptance than that of the impressionists – an influence for which Cezanne bitterly resented his former artistic colleagues.

Cezanne had first gone to Paris in 1861. He met Camille Pissaro at the Academie Suisse, and the violent subjects of his early work gave way to the subjects and style of Impressionism. But he soon felt the need to go beyond this, to “make of Impressionism something solid and lasting, like the art of the museums”. He wanted to add intellect to the sensations that lay behind the work of artists like Monet.

Like the Impressionists, Cezanne was part of a movement away from the museums as a source of artistic inspiration and towards the direct observation of

nature/ “One must make a vision for oneself,” he wrote. “One must see nature as no one has seen it before.”

Cezanne’s efforts lasted a lifetime. “I must carry on – I simply must paint from nature,” he wrote in 1906. By the time, his work was beginning to be recognized. He had had his first successful exhibition in 1895, and was beginning to attract a few young followers. Despite this, his death certificate identifies him as a man of private means and not as an artist.

His works were not shown in the town museum until some years after his death. Aix is now embarrassed by this late acceptance of its artistic son, and today one can get a map which leads one to Cezanne’s favourite places for painting. Although much has changed, you can still see landscapes which are very much the same as those seen in the paintings. You can also visit Cezanne’s studio where objects made famous in Cezanne’s still lifes are on display

1 Cezanne was dissatisfied with his work because

- A it was not popular.
- B it was disliked by the people of Aix.
- C it did not satisfy his own ambitions.
- D it did not make him much money.

2 The people of Aix

- A accepted the artist.
- B thought he was a genius.
- C behaved awkwardly towards him.
- D thought he was odd.

3 Cezanne resented the Impressionists because

- A they treated him unfairly.
- B they did not accept him.
- C their work was more popular than his.

D they did not understand his work.

4 Cezanne was not satisfied with Impressionism because

A it dealt only with feelings, not intelligence.

B it was too solid.

C it was too much like the work in museums

D it did not inspire him.

5 What did Cezanne have in common with the Impressionists?

A He worked in museums.

B He painted from nature.

C He was observant.

D He saw nature as they did.

6 What does “this” (line 38) refer to?

A his first successful exhibition

B his painting from nature

C his increasing success

D his private means

7 The people of Aix

A wish Cezanne had never lived there.

B are embarrassed by their acceptance of him.

C have restored the landscapes Cezanne painted.

D regret their previous attitude to Cezanne.

Лилианна Павловна Загорная

**ДВАДЦАТЬ ТЕСТОВ
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Twenty tests for reading comprehension

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для студентов специальностей
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