

## 1 THIS IS US

### Reading and Use of English Part 6 Gapped text

1 D 2 H 3 F 4 B 5 E 6 G 7 A

### Language focus

#### The present

1

1 I'm always finding 2 have to have seen

3 I'm understanding 4 we're hoping

2

1 steps, is/'s being watched, wonder, is/'s going, stands / is/'s standing, focuses / focusing, takes, leaps, twists, messes

2 wait, open, pull, take, wipe, put, remove, check, add, check, are/'re topping, means, is/'s being used

3 go, am/'m shrinking, says, is/'s examining, am/'m getting, yell, am/'m getting, says

3

1 a 2 b 3 b 4 a 5 b 6 a 7 a 8 b

4

1 forgive, warn 2 authorise 3 declare 4 quit

5 guarantee, second 6 acknowledge, refuse

7 challenge, bet

### Vocabulary Feelings and emotions

1

**Suggested answers** (NB Other adverbs may also be possible.)

1 visibly elated

2 absolutely/completely/utterly repulsed / grossed out by

3 absolutely/completely/utterly flabbergasted/ dumbfounded

4 wholly engrossed in (NB The idiom 'glued to' is mainly used with screens, e.g. TVs and phones.)

5 absolutely/completely/utterly petrified

6 absolutely/completely/utterly dumbfounded/ flabbergasted

7 hopelessly/absolutely besotted with

8 literally glued to / wholly engrossed in

9 a bit despondent

10 absolutely/completely/utterly repulsed / grossed out

2

1 down 2 heels 3 in 4 out 5 bits

6 went (goes is possible) 7 rage

**Suggested answer:** The middle paragraph uses present tenses (present simple, continuous and perfect) to make the action feel more dramatic. In the final paragraph, the speaker reverts to past tenses to focus on the reactions, not the action.

### Adjectives and nouns with *self*

1

1 e 2 f 3 b 4 c 5 g 6 a 7 h 8 d

2

+: self-actualisation, self-assurance, self-made, self-reliance, self-respecting, self-sacrificing, self-worth

-: self-deception, self-delusion, self-indulgent

### Reading and Use of English Part 1 Multiple-choice cloze

1 C 2 B 3 A 4 D 5 A 6 A 7 C 8 B

### Listening Part 1 Three-option multiple choice

1 B 2 B 3 A 4 A 5 C 6 B

### Writing Part 2 Article

1

#### Suggested answers

1 Fairly informal, not academic. This article is for a general audience.

2 Your own, plus those of other people of your age

3 The personal experiences should be used to support general points.

2

#### Suggested answers

1 Paragraph 1 (I'm currently undergoing ...);

2 (... who I might be now ...); 3 (the whole paragraph);

4 (I'm a complex individual ...)

2 Paragraph 2 (Some of my former classmates ...)

3 Paragraph 1 (... the lack of constraints can feel utterly overwhelming); 4 (... these are mere labels)

3

1 go to school, study for exams, get into uni, study harder; as police officers, shop assistants, home owners, parents. They suggest that the lists go on for ever. This is a powerful technique but it should be used with care: the examiner may assume you have simply forgotten to include the conjunction.

2 But what happens when you reach the end of that production line? Rhetorical questions like this are useful for involving the reader in the article, i.e. encouraging him/her to think before reading on to find the answer.

3 Who exactly am I? Who do I want to be? What do strangers see ...? A young intellectual ...? This technique is useful for showing the writer has doubts, with no clear-cut answers. However, it shouldn't be overused.

4 mapped out (in minute detail); (reach the end of that) production line. Metaphors are a powerful way of making your arguments feel more vivid and memorable.

5 ... who I might be now if I had made different life choices in my teens. Advanced grammar structures like this always make a good impression in language exams.

**4**

- 1 Like most twenty-somethings, ...
- 2 ... just like everybody else ...
- 3 I often wonder whether ... or whether ...
- 4 This also leads me to contemplate ...
- 5 Such introspection inevitably makes me question ...
- 6 I've come to realise that ...
- 7 ... and that's something I'm only now becoming comfortable with.

**5**

- 1 undergo, crisis    2 oyster    3 clear-cut
- 4 shape, recognition    5 cusp, glittering
- 6 haze, self-doubt    7 eyes    8 avid    9 end, day
- 10 mere, attach    11 nudge, direction

**6**

## Sample answer

### How our languages shape our identities

Like many language learners, when I embarked on my quest to master English, I assumed it would simply be a matter of acquiring a new skill to enable me to communicate in an international environment. Never in a million years did I expect that it would open formerly locked doors deep within my personality, allowing me to become a completely different person – at least when I'm speaking English.

This unexpected bonus of bilingualism has manifested itself in two phases. Firstly, during my early days as a learner, I'm sure I'm far from alone in having experienced the frustration of being unable to express myself clearly. Like many others in my situation, I was petrified of making a fool of myself, so my default setting was to say as little as possible. I had inadvertently assumed the identity of "the shy one", in sharp contrast to my flamboyant personality in my own language.

The second phase in the development of my multiple linguistic identities came after I had broken through my psychological barriers and begun to converse in English with some degree of fluency. I have adopted a considerably more informal personality in English than in my own language, which requires constant attention to issues of respect and deference to more senior interlocutors. In English, I've found myself using the same chatty style with close friends, elderly acquaintances and even complete strangers.

My experiences, and those of countless people in a similar situation, show that our identities, both in terms of how we see ourselves and how others see us, may be shaped by the languages we're speaking. However, I would not go as far as to say that our fundamental personalities are altered by our languages. Rather, when we flip between languages, we reveal sides of our character that already existed deep within ourselves, but which only emerge under the right conditions.

## 2 WANDERLUST

### Reading and Use of English Part 5 Multiple choice

- 1 B    2 C    3 D    4 D    5 A    6 C

## Language focus

### Talking about the past

**1**

- 1 were always losing / always used to lose / would always lose
- 2 was meant to depart / is/was meant to have departed
- 3 was hoping to speak
- 4 used to say / would say
- 5 were (meant/supposed) to be given / to have been given
- 6 was / had been about to crash

**2**

- 1 always/constantly    2 I'd    3 not    4 were
- 5 wouldn't/didn't    6 had/I'd    7 about/going/ready/planning, etc    8 hadn't    9 time    10 I'd    11 have
- 12 had    13 been    14 looking

### Adverbs and adverbial phrases

**1**

Suggested answers (NB Possible but less natural positions are in square brackets)

- 1 Three or four: (Even) After such a near miss, (even) the captain of the ship was (even) visibly shaken [even].
- 2 Five or six: [Every now and then,] Although (every now and then) flying (every now and then) makes me nervous (every now and then), (every now and then) it's the only alternative (every now and then).
- 3 Six or seven: (Really,) I (really) don't (really) understand [really] why the tickets (really) aren't (really) a lot cheaper (, really).
- 4 Two or three: (Far away on the horizon,) I spotted [, far away on the horizon,] a ship (far away on the horizon).
- 5 Three: (Honestly,) I (honestly) believe they were acting (honestly).

**2**

- 1 high, highly    2 short, shortly    3 deeply, deep
- 4 widely, wide    5 finely, fine

### Vocabulary Travel

**1**

Suggested answers (less likely possibilities or weaker collocations in brackets)

- 1 unacceptable/unforeseen, unavoidable, unforeseen
- 2 alternative, circuitous, scenic
- 3 impromptu, flying/fleeting, fleeting
- 4 perilous (arduous), uneventful, arduous (perilous)
- 5 long-haul (arduous), smooth (uneventful), bumpy

**2**

- 1 crowds    2 shock    3 traveller    4 villages
- 5 landmark    6 service

### Word formation Adverbs

- 1 anticlockwise/counter-clockwise    2 considerably
- 3 thereby    4 onward(s)    5 purposefully    6 spaciouly
- 7 regardless    8 knowledgeably    9 wherever

- 10 likewise 11 admiringly 12 confidentially  
13 Doubtless/Undoubtedly 14 supposedly

## Reading and Use of English Part 3 Word formation

- 1 immersive 2 Needless 3 overpriced  
4 unquestionably 5 otherwise 6 novelty  
7 likelihood 8 irresistible

## Listening Part 2 Sentence completion

- 1 decent night's sleep 2 (needless) luxury  
3 communal areas 4 (flashing) neon signs  
5 air-conditioning systems 6 mattress  
7 whale music 8 (underlying) medical condition  
9 life-changing experience

## Writing Part 1 Essay

1

### Suggested answers

- 1 (a) this leads to a pitifully shallow experience of each destination; (b) Wouldn't it be better to spend more time in each location, and even return repeatedly over the years; (c) Life is all about venturing beyond the familiar; (d) history has shown that the world belongs to those of us who are brave enough to leap into the unknown.
- 2 Key points a, c and d are all controversial statements of opinion. Key point b is a recommendation (in the form of a rhetorical question).
- 3 In 'Just a bucketful of shallow experiences', the first two sentences set up an alternative to the writer's own view, i.e. they are the 'this' in key point (a). In 'Beyond the comfort zone', the first sentence (plus the beginning of the final sentence) also set up an alternative to the writer's viewpoint, and the rhetorical question (Who cares ...?) only serves to set up key point (c).
- 4 The phrases 'spend every holiday in the same resort' and 'well-trodden places that we've already explored' echo and contrast with the phrase 'spend more time in each location, and even return repeatedly over the years'.

2

### Suggested answers

- a by simply racing through as many destinations as possible, we barely scratch the surface of each location
- b For a less superficial experience, it is necessary to invest time to get to know each place, its people and culture, and then to come back again and again.
- c ... it might be argued that the exploration of new destinations is the essence of life.
- d it also unleashes the creative spirit of adventure that has been so central throughout the development of civilisation.

3

- 1 is often said 2 to be said 3 might be argued  
4 That said / After all 5 After all / That said 6 while

4

- 1 d 2 f 3 i 4 c 5 g 6 b 7 j 8 e 9 a 10 h

5

### Sample answer

#### The art of planning your trip without overplanning

When we think of travelling, what comes most readily to mind is the wondrous experience of exploring an unfamiliar location, or possibly the arduous and eventful journey to and from our ultimate destination. But one vital aspect of travel often gets overlooked: the planning stage.

There is a lot to be said for meticulous planning in advance. After all, if you're concerned about getting sick, injured, mugged or lost (as indeed you should be), then proper planning can provide you with much-needed peace of mind. For many, sensible planning can transform a potentially terrifying experience into something far more predictable and therefore pleasurable. What's more, the act of planning may be treated as an integral part of the adventure: researching your destination and predicting what might happen are engaging activities in themselves.

That said, the flexibility to make spur-of-the-moment decisions can be refreshingly liberating. As a result, overplanning may undermine much of the healthy spontaneity of travel. Taken to the extreme, a trip that has been planned down to every last detail can feel overwhelmingly constrained. For many, such highly organised experiences are far removed from the adventure of what they see as authentic travel.

The key to successful travel is to find a healthy balance between the two extremes. By all means, you should conduct meticulous research into local history, culture and must-see sights in advance, which will surely enhance your experience of any destination. But it's a good idea to treat your plans more like a wish-list than a to-do list, and be ready to follow your whims and change your plans at a moment's notice.

## 3 AHEAD OF THE CURVE

### Reading and Use of English Part 7 Multiple matching

- 1 B 2 D 3 A 4 C 5 D 6 A 7 C 8 B 9 D 10 A

### Language focus

#### Talking about the future

##### Future forms

1

- 1 I'll be driving 2 won't have seen 3 would be  
4 Will you be needing 5 I'll have been working  
6 you've cleaned

2

- 1 brink 2 about 3 set 4 is 5 unlikely 6 verge  
7 bound 8 due

3

- 1 The researchers were very excited because they believed they were on the brink of a major breakthrough.
- 2 We needed to unplug the heater immediately. It looked like it was about to explode!
- 3 She'd already scored eight goals in her first three matches. At that rate, she was set to smash the club record by the end of the season.

- 4 The science festival was to take place over the second weekend of June.
- 5 I was going to send them an email to ask one more time, but I knew it was unlikely to make them change their minds.
- 6 Terry had had enough of his job. He was on the verge of quitting.
- 7 I wasn't too worried if they didn't accept our offer. There were bound to be lots of similar opportunities in the coming months.
- 8 We had to renew our subscription. It was due to expire at the end of the month.

## Will, shall and would

1

1 h 2 c 3 f 4 g 5 d 6 b 7 a 8 e

2

1 shall (will) 2 would 3 won't 4 would 5 will  
6 Will (Would) 7 shall not (will not) 8 wouldn't

## Vocabulary

### Phrasal verbs and noun collocations

1

1 praise 2 qualifications 3 a report 4 a website  
5 opinion that ... 6 inspiration 7 source of the problem

2

1 hold / are holding out 2 come round  
3 stumbled/came across 4 held back/up  
5 ran/came up 6 ploughed, into

### Prepositional phrases with at, in, on and under

1 at, under, in 2 in, under 3 in, in, at 4 under, in, at  
5 At, on, on 6 under, in, on 7 on, in 8 in, at, on  
9 at, on, under

### Reading and Use of English Part 2 Open cloze

1 After 2 only 3 it 4 an 5 which 6 once/when  
7 up 8 on

### Listening Part 4 Multiple matching

1 E 2 A 3 D 4 G 5 B 6 F 7 C 8 B 9 H 10 E

### Writing Part 2 Review

1

#### Suggested answers

- 1 They are a general audience, i.e. you can't expect them to be experts in or fans of technology. That means you should avoid overly technical language and explain any concepts that they may not be familiar with. This will also impact your recommendation, i.e. would next year's conference be suitable for the target reader.
- 2 to help the target reader decide whether to attend next year's conference  
the positives and negatives of the conference

2

#### Suggested answers

- a 1 (Even if, like me, you're not exactly au fait with cutting-edge technology), 4 (non-techies shouldn't feel too intimidated to attend). Also possibly 3 (occasionally overused technical jargon).
- b 1 (which showcases the latest innovations from leading manufacturers and designers). Also possibly 2 (i.e. the fact that it was a two-day conference).
- c 1 (Here you can play with the hottest gadgets, learn about the challenges and opportunities we're about to face, and even rub shoulders with renowned innovators and futurists), 2 (conversing with an AI-powered robot; exploring photo-realistic fantasy worlds in virtual reality; eating 3D-printed laser-cooked snacks that I'd designed only moments earlier), 3 (supported by spectacular visuals and demonstrations of technology in action).
- d 2 (The highlight for me was unquestionably ...), 3 (was more than made up for by the expert talks)
- e 2 (Perhaps if the conference had lasted four days instead of two, this issue could have been averted), 3 (Surely a few organisational tweaks could have prevented such glitches)
- f 4 (you're certain to have an unforgettable experience). Also possibly 1 (you're bound to find plenty here to blow your mind).

3

1 terrifyingly rapidly; leading; hottest; renowned; au fait; cutting-edge  
2 unquestionably; immensely; Inevitably; awe-inspiring  
3 spectacular/astonishing; Regrettably; big-name  
4 intimidated; mind-boggling; unforgettable

4

we're about to face; you're bound to find; is set to be a must; you're certain to have

5

1 highlight for, unquestionably 2 was more than made up for 3 Be warned, however 4 Inevitably, to put it mildly 5 could have been averted 6 Surely, could have prevented such

6

1 showcase 2 face 3 rub 4 blow 5 wait  
6 overuse 7 buzzing 8 wash

7

#### Sample answer

#### Worst Case Scenario – a terrifying view of our possible futures

I'm one of those people who tends to think the future will be more or less the same as the present. Inevitably, new challenges will come along, requiring innovative solutions, but surely the human race is bound to muddle through somehow. At least, that's what I believed until I started watching 'Worst Case Scenario', a new TV series

which shook me out of my cosy complacency and highlighted the many existential threats we face as a species.

Each episode focuses on a different threat, from an asteroid strike to nuclear war, from the next pandemic to global heating, and uses cutting-edge research from renowned experts to calmly examine the likelihood of various scenarios, ranging from 'mild difficulty' to 'the end of the world'. As the show's name suggests, particular attention is paid to the worst-case scenario in each episode, with scarily realistic simulations showing what it might be like to experience such events.

Alarmingly, several episodes predict that the worst-case scenario, including environmental Armageddon and the takeover of AI-powered robots, is the most likely outcome, at least unless we can somehow fundamentally change our behaviour as a species in record time. As a non-specialist myself, I'm not in a position to challenge those predictions, although I do wonder whether the range of opinions has been selected in order to maximise publicity for the show, rather than to ascertain the objective truth. It would also have been preferable for the show to devote more time to practical solutions that might avert catastrophe, although presumably this would have been less exciting to watch than the disaster-movie-style simulations.

'Worst Case Scenario' is essential viewing for anybody who is even remotely concerned for the future of our civilisation and our planet. It certainly doesn't make for comfortable viewing, but I'd argue that it's exactly the wake-up call we all need.

## 4 MEETING IN THE MIDDLE

### Reading and Use of English Part 6 Gapped text

1 D 2 A 3 H 4 C 5 F 6 B 7 E

#### Language focus

##### Modals

1

1 need/may/might I remind 2 could/might/should have told 3 May you have 4 should have taken 5 couldn't remember 6 had to have been nominated / had to be nominated 7 needn't/shouldn't have prepared 8 can/could always come

2

1 can 2 Need/Must 3 must 4 should/must /ought to 5 Must 6 must 7 shouldn't/oughtn't/needn't 8 ought 9 should 10 must 11 may/might

##### Noun phrases and nominal clauses

1

1 injustice, strength, trust, wood  
2 machinery, news, physics, research  
3 crossroads, offspring, species, trout  
4 belongings, outskirts, premises, surroundings  
5 audience, crew, enemy, public

2

- 1 The unexpected arrival of so many visitors caused considerable disruption to our plans.
- 2 Both parties' unwillingness to compromise led to a total breakdown in negotiations.
- 3 Our disappointing performance was the result of your utter failure to fulfil your obligations.
- 4 Kim's suitability for this position results from her tolerance of ambiguity.

#### Vocabulary

##### Partitive expressions with uncountable noun

1 fits 2 hint 3 stroke 4 glimmer 5 round  
6 bouts 7 scrap 8 grain 9 breath 10 fit  
11 schools 12 pang

##### Closed compounds

1 watershed, forefront 2 turnover 3 proofread, scapegoat 4 comeback 5 shortcomings, counterpoint  
6 wavelength 7 stalemate, willpower 8 backlash, keepsake

#### Reading and Use of English Part 1 Multiple-choice cloze

1 C 2 A 3 B 4 B 5 D 6 A 7 D 8 B

#### Listening Part 3 Four-option multiple choice

1 A 2 D 3 B 4 B 5 C

#### Writing Part 2 Formal letter

1

##### Suggested answers

- 1 (i) some background to the course; (ii) the type of information that you are hoping to collect; (iii) how the interview may be beneficial for the interviewee.
  - 2 (i) The course is for young people and is (partly) about negotiation skills. Your friend is perhaps one of the course leaders. You will need to invent more details e.g. about the course content, the participants, the type of course (e.g. online), your friend's role and why they have asked you for help.  
(ii) You're hoping to collect information about the negotiation skills they use. You will need to invent more specific questions that the interviewee should think about in advance (although the letter should not preempt the interview itself, so you shouldn't ask your questions directly).  
(iii) You will need to invent this completely.
  - 3 In your introduction, you should mention why you are writing and specifically why you have chosen to write to this particular interviewee. In your final paragraph, you should include a call to action: what you would like the interviewee to do next.
- 2
- a 3 (to help you plan your responses; authentic stories from real people)
  - b 2 (the module currently under development focuses on negotiations), 3 (The case studies may come from ...)



- c 5 (please contact me at your earliest convenience)
- d 1 (your company is highly respected and I believe your testimony would be inspirational), 2 (prominent business leaders such as yourself), 4 (your reputation as a respected business leader)
- e 2 (video interviews), 3 (What we are particularly looking for is ...)
- f 1 (for disadvantaged young people ... fulfil their potential), 2 (young people from deprived backgrounds ... to succeed in the world of work), 4 (making a vital difference to the lives of countless young people ...)
- g 4 (While we cannot offer financial compensation for your input ...)

3

- 1 deprived 2 prominent 3 trainees 4 techniques  
5 case studies 6 invaluable, vital

4

paragraph 4

5

- 1 on behalf of  
2 because  
3 to be interviewed; more detailed guidance  
4 at your earliest convenience; may arrange  
5 Should you have any; hesitate to contact

6

- 1 g 2 c 3 a 4 j 5 e 6 b 7 d 8 h 9 f 10 i

7

## Sample answer

Dear Mr. Jones

I am writing on behalf of a local charity, Common Ground, which seeks to reduce tensions between different elements of society. The charity would like to hold a fund-raising event later this year, and is very keen for the event to take place in East Park. I am therefore writing to ask whether the park would be available for this event, and to enquire how to go about renting it.

Common Ground provides skilled mediators to defuse conflicts within neighbourhoods, often involving antisocial behaviour. While the mediators work on a voluntary basis, the charity covers their transport costs and other essential expenses such as the rental of office spaces and web hosting. Fund-raising events are therefore vital for the continued survival of the charity. This year, the charity would like to host a family picnic, treasure hunt and sports day to raise funds, and the ideal location for such an event would be East Park.

Your website specifies the commercial rates for renting the park, but I would like to enquire whether any discount is available for charities. Needless to say, Common Ground wants the majority of the money they raise to go towards their charitable goals, so any flexibility you could offer with the pricing will be greatly appreciated.

I strongly believe that this event can be of great benefit to the local community. It will provide an enjoyable day out

for local residents without causing excessive disruption or noise. Additionally, the service provided by the charity is invaluable for our town, both in terms of resolving disputes and building harmonious communities. I am therefore convinced that this is exactly the kind of event that the local council should be seen to be supporting.

I will be happy to discuss the details with you in person at your earliest convenience. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

## 5 NEWS TRAVELS FAST

### Reading and Use of English Part 6 Gapped text

- 1 G 2 C 3 E 4 A 5 F 6 H 7 D

### Language focus

#### Cohesion

- 1 ... mine was the one they chose.  
2 ... blaming the others ...  
3 ... than the ones (or: those) in ours.  
4 ... or even pulled the story completely?  
5 ... should read the others' work ...  
6 The ones that I prefer deal with ... / I prefer those that deal with ...

#### Demonstratives

1

- 1 a 2 b 3 b 4 a 5 a 6 b 7 b

2

- 1 those 2 those 3 That 4 this 5 It/That 6 that  
7 that 8 that/it 9 those 10 this 11 those 12 That  
13 that 14 those 15 it 16 that 17 that

### Vocabulary

#### Neutral and sensationalist language

- 1 clash 2 leaked/divulged 3 axe 4 vow/pledge  
5 divulges 6 laud 7 spark/provoke 8 condemn/slam  
9 dispute 10 tout/laud 11 provokes/sparks  
12 slam/condemn 13 pledges 14 quashed

#### Binomials

- 1 f 2 l 3 h 4 d 5 j 6 b 7 i 8 e 9 k  
10 a 11 c 12 g

### Reading and Use of English Part 1 Multiple-choice cloze

- 1 B 2 A 3 D 4 C 5 B 6 A 7 C 8 D

### Part 2 Open cloze

- 1 hope 2 into 3 yourself 4 have 5 it 6 on  
7 being 8 with

### Listening Part 4 Multiple matching

- 1 H 2 F 3 D 4 A 5 G 6 D 7 F 8 A 9 G 10 C

## Writing Part 2 Article

1

### Suggested answers

- 1 (i) describe an example; (ii) the consequences for the people involved; (iii) draw conclusions about the potential benefits and drawbacks of rumours.
- 2 The reference to benefits and drawbacks suggests a superficial similarity to a for-and-against essay. However, whereas a for-and-against essay would be expected to cover both sides roughly equally, the writer of this article can choose to cover the benefits **or** the drawbacks **or** both. Also, this section is only one part of the article, so it should be much shorter than a for-and-against essay. Finally, an article is usually less formal and impersonal than an essay, so there is more flexibility in terms of organisation of ideas.

2

### Suggested answers

- 1 'briefly describe an example of a rumour that spread quickly'
- 2 'the consequences of that rumour for the people involved'
- 3 'use the example to draw conclusions about the potential benefits and/or drawbacks of rumours'
- 4 This paragraph revisits all three points and ties them together so the story (and the article) ends with a sense of completion.

3

- 1 having    2 What    3 upon her return
- 4 Only later did it become clear    5 due not least to
- 6 we might have caused    7 should (something) be allowed
- 8 I happened to bump into    9 to have left

4

- 1 During my time    2 came to a head
- 3 Accordingly    4 opened my eyes to

5

- 1 friendship    2 hands    3 rumours    4 rife    5 hunch
- 6 grave    7 back    8 line    9 gossip    10 rumours

6

### Sample answer

#### When the news came closer to home

For most people, the news is something we consume passively. It describes events that are happening to people we've never met, often in faraway places. But occasionally news stories come a lot closer to home.

This happened to me when I was working in a factory near a river. After weeks of intense rain, the river was close to bursting its banks. Speculation was rife that the whole area, including the factory where I worked, would be flooded. At first, it felt exciting to see so many news reporters descend on our town, not least because the prospect of flooding

still felt remote. However, as the waters rose, the novelty of being the centre of attention quickly wore off.

One substantial benefit of all this media interest was that we had a constant stream of advice from experts in both meteorology and flood defences, so we were well informed about what might happen next and how to prepare for it, which we took full advantage of.

Unfortunately, however, the need to fill the 24/7 news cycle meant that much of the so-called expert advice was no more than rumour and speculation. To make matters worse, when the waters eventually subsided and flooding was narrowly averted, there was a palpable sense of disappointment in the media that the dramatic story of a devastating flood had failed to unfold as planned.

Overall, this experience taught me the value of journalism as a source of vital information for people caught up in a news story. It also opened my eyes to the challenges of reporting 24/7, including the need to ensure that all 'facts' are accurate and useful. Since those dramatic events, I have learnt to watch the news with fresh eyes and have a deeper understanding of what it must be like for the people involved.

## 6 HIGHS AND LOWS

### Reading and Use of English Part 7 Multiple matching

1 B    2 F    3 A    4 C    5 E    6 A    7 D    8 F    9 D    10 C

### Language focus

#### Conditional clauses

1

#### Suggested answers

- 1 you didn't need the money, would you quit your job
- 2 (the) condition that you send us an hourly update, you may work from home
- 3 if we worked / were to work all night, we're still going to / we'd still (be going to) miss this deadline
- 4 for the bank lending us the money / for our loan from the bank, we'd never had started the business
- 5 of whether the damage was your fault, you're still responsible for paying for it
- 6 the event of / that there were another recession, we'd struggle to pay our debts

2

- 1 whether    2 weren't/wasn't    3 provided/providing
- 4 case    5 were    6 it's    7 long    8 much
- 9 any    10 for

3

- 1 If I can    2 if in (any) doubt    3 I would if I were you
- 4 if necessary    5 I would if I could, but I don't know how (to)/If I could, I would, but I don't know how (to)
- 6 If delivered to the wrong address

## Vocabulary

### Rise and fall

1

- 1 swell 2 spiral 3 plummet, plunge (also possibly: slump)  
4 hike, up 5 accelerate 6 recede 7 slump  
8 skyrocket, soar 9 surge 10 magnify  
11 escalate 12 dwindle, wane 13 diminish

2

### Suggested answers

- 1 receding/diminishing 2 slumped 3 magnified  
4 plummeted/plunged 5 diminish

### Expressions and phrases with pay

- 1 respects 2 service 3 way 4 compliment  
5 dividends 6 tribute, forward 7 nose 8 price

## Reading and Use of English

### Part 4 Key word transformation

- 1 if only I had / I'd kept if I had / I'd only kept  
2 seems to have a chip on his/her/their  
3 a lot to be said for not having  
4 I draw the line at is  
5 for a/our stroke of luck  
6 retrospect/hindsight, if I hadn't been so slow

### Part 3 Word formation

- 1 relatively 2 acquisition 3 repaid 4 Ironically  
5 unsettling 6 effortless 7 extortionate  
8 disgruntled

### Listening Part 1 Three-option multiple choice

- 1 B 2 B 3 B 4 A 5 C 6 A

### Writing Part 1 Essay

1

### Suggested answers

- 1 Advantages: Constant interruptions, distractions and meetings in the office make it hard to get any meaningful work done; workers are more productive and satisfied; companies can recruit globally.  
Disadvantages: The lack of supervision means that not much of the working day is spent on productive work; decision-making is a logistical nightmare.
- 2 Advantages: No need to waste time and money commuting to work; no need for companies to pay for office space; etc  
Disadvantages: Lack of social contact / feeling of isolation; lack of support from colleagues; some people may not have a suitable place at home from which to work; etc  
Although the task says to 'include your own ideas in your answers', the priority should be to focus on the advantages and disadvantages mentioned in the two texts.

2

### Suggested answer

The claim that remote workers 'are more productive and satisfied' seems to contrast directly with the claim that they spend their time doing other things than working. These two points might go together well in a single paragraph.

The suggestion that decision-making is more efficient in face-to-face meetings contrasts with 'the never-ending stream of pointless meetings'. These points might also go together well in a single paragraph.

3

### Suggested answers

Constant interruptions, distractions and meetings make it hard to get any meaningful work done: *without the temptation to chat around the water cooler or the distraction of other people's noisy phone calls to contend with; most meetings tend to be neither quick nor efficient, and merely serve to keep employees away from their actual work*

Workers are more productive and satisfied: *There's even an argument that remote employees work more efficiently; their job satisfaction skyrockets, motivating them to work more efficiently*

Companies can recruit globally: *remote working allows employees to live wherever they choose* (whole paragraph)

The lack of supervision means that much of the working day is spent on unproductive work: *without a manager looking over their shoulder, remote employees will grow lazy; waste just as much time on coffee breaks, small talk and surreptitious scrolling through social media*

Decision-making is a logistical nightmare: *face-to-face decision-making is often smoother, without the need to compose lengthy emails and wait for replies to trickle in. A quick meeting can resolve issues extremely efficiently*

4

### Suggested answer

Each of them is just one or two sentences to establish the topic and sum up the arguments. This has been done to keep within the word limit, in order to cover all the key points properly. However, it is vital to include a clear introduction and conclusion, even if they are short.

5

- 1 common concern 2 may, overlooked  
3 even, argument 4 problem  
5 only, also 6 outweigh the drawbacks

6

- 1 turned upside-down 2 looking over, shoulder  
3 surreptitious 4 chat around, water cooler  
5 contend with 6 entrusted 7 trickle in 8 merely  
9 employee retention



7

## Sample answer

### How to make the minimum wage work better

If there is one topic sure to arouse people's passions, it is the minimum wage. While there are valid arguments on both sides, I believe there is a sensible compromise to be reached.

On the surface, a high minimum wage seems reasonable. After all, shouldn't workers be paid fairly for their work, to be able to afford to feed their families and pay their rent? Paying workers well is also good for business: it is indisputable that underpaid employees will be demotivated and unproductive.

To counter this argument, opponents claim that a minimum wage simply causes a spike in inflation, as employers hike up their prices to compensate for their spiralling wage costs. Other employers, unable to meet the increased cost of labour, may simply refrain from taking on employees they would otherwise have recruited. Rather than being underpaid, people end up with no work at all, which is surely worse.

However, it is far from clear that all employers are faced with such stark choices. Many are perfectly capable of paying their workers more, but choose not to in order to maximise their profits. Were they prepared to accept a cut to their own income, business owners could pay their workers well without raising prices.

On balance, I find the arguments in favour of a minimum wage more persuasive than the counterarguments. However, to reduce the risk of damaging the economy, the minimum wage must be kept reasonably low. I am convinced that the vast majority of scrupulous employers can find a way to run their businesses successfully without exploiting their lowest-paid workers.

## 7 WORKING IT OUT

### Reading and Use of English Part 6 Gapped text

1 C 2 H 3 F 4 A 5 G 6 E 7 B

### Language focus

#### Modal verbs of possibility, probability and deduction

1

1 c 2 a 3 d 4 b

2

1 must 2 well 3 couldn't/can't/mustn't 4 it 5 as  
6 got 7 have

3

Solution: Although the coast road has many twists and turns, these cancel each other out and we can simplify the journey as a perfect circle. Because people in the UK drive on the left, Amy (who was cycling clockwise) travelled around the outside of that circle. Bob's 'circle' was smaller, because he was (on average) 10 metres further from the coast at all times.

Surprisingly, the radius of Amy's and Bob's circles is irrelevant. If Bob's circle has a radius of  $r$ , its circumference is  $2\pi r$ . If Amy's circle has a radius of  $r + 10$ , its circumference is  $2\pi(r + 10) = 2\pi r + 20\pi$ . The difference between the two

circumferences is therefore  $20\pi$ . In other words, Amy travels about 63 metres further, regardless of whether they cycle around a small racetrack or a whole country.

### Adjectives and fixed expressions

1

1 major reason, very end 2 very day, very spot  
3 major issue, very idea 4 major component, very nature  
5 very existence, very core

2

1 e 2 c 3 g 4 h 5 a 6 j 7 d 8 i 9 b 10 f

### Vocabulary

#### Phrasal verbs of deduction and investigation

1 nosing, stumbled 2 mulling, hit 3 caught, tracked  
4 root 5 sounded, keeping 6 staking, sized

#### Verbs of confusion and deceit

##### Suggested answers

1 cons, dupes, hoodwinks, hustles (NB 'scams' is very rare but may also be possible.)  
2 bluff (NB 'hustle' may also be possible in this structure.)  
3 perplexes, stumps (NB 'baffles' and 'confounds' may also be possible.)  
4 double-crosses (NB 'hoodwinks' may also be possible.)  
5 blackmails  
6 baffles, confounds, perplexes (NB 'stumps' may also be possible.)  
7 delude  
8 cons, hoodwinks, scams, swindles  
9 confound

### Word formation Adjectives

1 decipherable, perceivable, regrettable, tolerable  
2 compliant, hesitant, repentant, tolerant  
3 abhorrent, fraudulent, prevalent, reminiscent  
4 convincing, discernible, perceptible, reversible  
5 blameless, fearless, relentless, thoughtless  
6 infectious, miraculous, mischievous, rebellious  
7 fearsome, irksome, quarrelsome, troublesome

### Reading and Use of English

#### Part 4 Key word transformation

1 must have been him that/who  
2 always rubbing them up the wrong  
3 was on the brink of giving up  
4 may/might as well get  
5 time have I/I have wondered what became of  
6 as I might to bluff my way

#### Part 2 Open cloze

1 being 2 into / as 3 terms 4 beyond 5 going  
6 away 7 were 8 on

## Listening Part 3 Four-option multiple choice

1 a 2 d 3 c 4 d 5 b

## Writing Part 2 Review

1

### Suggested answers

Must include: present the mystery; explain how the show attempts to solve it; a recommendation of who the show might appeal to

Mustn't include: information that would spoil it for future viewers

2

**Suggested answer:** The most obvious genres would be 1 and 4. 2 might be possible if the drama is based on a real-life event. 5 might be possible if the show is mainly about a particular mystery surrounding the person. 3 is unlikely but possible (e.g. Why did a particular animal go extinct?)

3

### Suggested answers

1 present the mystery: paragraph 1 and parts of paragraph 2

explain how the show attempts to solve it: 'using a combination of in-depth historical research and long-distance drones to scour the world's oceans for anything that might fit the bill'

a recommendation of who the show might appeal to: 'If ... you love learning about nature and history'

2 The writer uses the phrase 'Without wishing to give away the documentary's secrets' to reveal that the tale is true, although that information is unlikely to spoil the surprise for viewers. Later, the writer refers to 'a gargantuan sea creature', 'this creature', 'the animal', etc The writer also gives an intriguing clue ('a far more familiar ocean-dweller').

3 a whale

4

1 incessant 2 fragrant 3 enticing 4 gargantuan  
5 astounding 6 magnificent

5

1 Imagine 2 Suddenly 3 Incredibly  
4 wishing, confirm 5 According 6 sets out

6

1 b 2 e 3 d 4 a 5 f 6 c

7

### Sample answer

#### King's Castle Mystery Tour

Imagine being transported back in time to the Middle Ages. What would it feel like to live in a world with no artificial light or any other luxuries that we take for granted in our modern world? This thought experiment is the premise behind the mystery tour at King's Castle, which is both educational and frightening in equal measure.

The tour takes place after dusk, long after the regular tourists have departed. For the first hour, we explored the gloomy castle by candlelight, learning about mediaeval life by interacting with its inhabitants, played by costumed actors of varying ability. For those prepared to suspend disbelief and go with the flow, this was a highly engaging way to learn about the castle and its history.

Just as we were all beginning to feel comfortable with the idea of our genteel mystery tour, the candles were suddenly extinguished, leaving us in utter darkness. (We'd had to surrender our phones beforehand.) Without wishing to give away the secrets of the tour, I can say that the next two hours were among the most terrifying and intense of my life. Despite never losing sight of the fact that it was just a role-playing game, we nevertheless ran the full gamut of real-life emotions.

The mystery tour was an unforgettable experience, but it certainly wasn't for the faint-hearted. One elderly couple found the tour too upsetting and had to leave midway. The tour also isn't suitable for families with young children, and has a strict 14-and-over policy in place. Inevitably, the castle is not at all wheelchair friendly, although an excellent virtual mystery tour is also available for those with limited mobility. Overall, if you fancy being scared out of your wits, and don't mind suffering a few bumps to your head, the King's Castle Mystery Tour is well worth the price of admission.

## 8 HUMAN IMPACT

### Reading and Use of English Part 5 Multiple choice

1 C 2 C 3 A 4 B 5 D 6 A

### Language focus

#### Comparatives

1

1 the more species ... 2 not that much slower ...  
3 Now more than ever ... 4 as though it had been ...  
5 as warm a summer ... 6 as to expect ...  
7 is like burning down ... 8 isn't quite as bad ...  
9 every bit as harmful ...

2

1 marked 2 slightest 3 vast 4 tantamount  
5 distinct 6 faintest 7 striking

#### Expressing contrasts

1

1 a, c 2 b, c 3 a, b 4 a, b, c

2

1 though/as I was 2 as fit as I used to  
3 was more informative / was informative rather  
4 glass bottles can be easily recycled / recycled easily, plastic ones  
5 same, it's 6 like as bad as we (had) thought it would be  
7 the climate emergency is the most pressing (one) by a long

## Vocabulary

### Environment collocations

1

- 1 hazardous 2 disposal 3 humanitarian  
4 offshore 5 erosion 6 shrinking 7 sustainable

2

- 1 organic, household, industrial 2 natural, woodland,  
marine 3 coastal, wind, soil 4 environmental/  
ecological, climate, ecological/environmental

## Reading and Use of English

### Part 3 Word formation

- 1 treacherous 2 notoriety 3 collectible  
4 ubiquitous 5 whereabouts 6 periodically  
7 inaccessible 8 indestructibility

### Part 4 Key word transformation

- 1 are (still) far from (being) out of the  
2 may/might/could well have got/gotten the wrong end of  
3 will have been building  
4 perplexing a mystery as Judy had ever come  
5 paying lip service to sustainable  
6 out (to be) nothing like as arduous as

## Listening

### Part 2 Sentence completion

1

- 1 carbon sink 2 (additional) funds 3 primate species  
4 renewable energy 5 (illegal) poaching  
6 (endangered) (forest) elephants 7 (conservation) data  
8 number and location/location and number  
9 local communities

### Part 4 Multiple matching

- 1 C 2 E 3 B 4 H 5 F 6 G 7 A 8 D 9 B 10 C

## Writing Part 1 Essay

1

### Suggested answers

- burning fossil fuels is killing our planet; Climate engineering ... involves planet-wide technological solutions, like removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and managing solar radiation by reflecting some sunlight back to space ...
- Climate engineering ... is our best hope of survival. Human nature won't change; governments [can't] get round to coordinating their actions
- ... capturing carbon dioxide and storing it as solid carbon, or installing huge space mirrors to reflect sunlight away from our planet ...
- The climate crisis requires urgent action (and technical innovation).
- any huge technical project is bound to have unintended and unpredictable consequences; climate engineering may discourage people and governments from adopting

preventative measures, such as cutting consumption or switching to renewable energy sources.

2

### Suggested answers

- Paragraph 1: Introduction (presenting the climate crisis)  
Paragraph 2: Problems with the current strategy  
Paragraph 3: Climate engineering as a possible solution to those problems  
Paragraph 4: Problems with climate engineering  
Paragraph 5: Conclusion and recommendation
- Paragraph 2: "most people are unwilling to accept a lower standard of living now, even if the consequences for the future are catastrophic"; "waiting ... for governments to get round to coordinating their actions"  
Paragraph 3: "Climate engineering ... is our best hope of survival."  
Paragraph 4: "any huge technical project is bound to have unintended and unpredictable consequences"; "climate engineering may discourage people and governments from adopting preventative measures, such as cutting consumption or switching to renewable energy sources"
- 11 (climate engineering, such as carbon dioxide removal and solar radiation management)

3

- 1 question 2 Given 3 former 4 unless  
5 ineffective 6 potential 7 even 8 Regrettably  
9 risk 10 obviously 11 knock-on 12 viable  
13 drawback 14 lack

4

- 1 is upon us 2 work in tandem with  
3 fall under the umbrella of 4 to our hearts' content

5

### Sample answer

#### Will nature ever bounce back?

As the impact of humans on our fragile planet become ever more apparent, the question is whether nature could ever recover from our destructiveness if we were to somehow change our ways and prioritise conservation over consumption.

At first glance, nature seems strikingly robust. After all, it takes only a few years for weeds, insects and rats to colonise abandoned human settlements. Over a few centuries, once-mighty castles and palaces revert to mossy hills. On a longer timescale, the hardiest species have survived the most cataclysmic periods in our planet's history, from extreme heat and cold to meteor impacts and volcanic eruptions. This remarkable ability to bounce back gives us hope that the natural world might thrive long after humans have disappeared.

However, not all species are equally resilient. Many of those that we care about most, from large mammals to fragrant flowers, are under the greatest threat from human impact. To be sure, if a few of each species survive, there is still a chance of recovery, but once a species has gone extinct, it is lost forever.

The problem is exacerbated by the interconnectedness of ecosystems. To give a well-known example, the tiny sea creatures that build colourful coral reefs are highly susceptible to rising sea temperatures. Were they to die out, the entire reef ecosystem would collapse, with knock-on effects throughout the oceans.

Nature is remarkably resilient, but only up to a point. If we push ecosystems to breaking point and beyond, only a handful of species will survive. We must do all we can now to preserve those ecosystems before it is too late.

## 9 BY DESIGN

### Reading and Use of English Part 7 Multiple matching

1 B 2 A 3 E 4 B 5 A 6 A 7 C 8 E 9 B 10 D

### Language focus

#### Expressing concession, contrast, purpose and reason

- 1  
1 now that you've 2 neither are they  
3 Since the architect (Or: so we hired her)  
4 whoever it may be 5 in that they

- 2  
1 so, not to 2 however, it/that may  
3 as for 4 does he intend

#### Passive and causative structures

- 1  
1 SAME: The version with 'have' is slightly more formal.  
2 DIFFERENT: In the first version, the listener needs to clean up the paint, but in the second version, the listener could do it himself/herself, or get somebody else to do it.  
3 SAME: Both sentences suggest the person couldn't criticise the company because of and after being paid.  
4 DIFFERENT: The version with 'have' is likely to be interpreted as an experience, whereas the version with 'get' can only be interpreted as a causative.

- 2  
1 having been caught 2 to have been painted and signed  
3 having been cancelled 4 have/get the goods sent

### Vocabulary

#### Prepositional phrases *with out of, by and in*

- 1  
1 infancy 2 question 3 whatever, necessary  
4 touch 5 means 6 ordinary

- 2  
1 by invitation only 2 in essence 3 in surprisingly good taste 4 out of place 5 in my mind's eye  
6 By any standard

### Describing art and architecture

- 1  
1 swanky 2 renowned, garish 3 minimalistic  
4 whimsical 5 imposing 6 unassuming
- 2  
1 c (Also possibly: a, e) 2 d 3 a (Also possibly: d)  
4 e 5 b

### Reading and Use of English

#### Part 1 Multiple-choice cloze

1 C 2 B 3 A 4 D 5 B 6 C 7 C 8 A

#### Part 2 Open cloze

- 1 at 2 mention 3 upon/on/after 4 having  
5 without 6 longer 7 havoc 8 accounts

#### Listening Part 2 Sentence completion

- 1 mind's eye 2 aesthetically/esthetically pleasing  
3 severely constrained 4 muscle memory  
5 abstract interpretation 6 (powerfully) evocative language  
7 shading 8 acrylics / acrylic paints  
9 perceive the world differently

#### Writing Part 2 Review

- 1  
**Suggested answers**  
1 The target audience is members of the local council, so the style should be fairly formal and serious.  
2 a review of the changes from an aesthetic perspective; a review from a practical perspective; whether the makeover offered good value for money  
3 Yes – reviews almost always end with a recommendation. In this case, you should recommend whether similar makeovers should be conducted in future.

- 2  
**Suggested answers**  
1 a review of the changes from an aesthetic perspective: Paragraph 2 (In terms of aesthetics, ...)  
a review from a practical perspective: Paragraph 3 (As for whether the library serves its purpose ...)  
whether the makeover offered good value for money: Paragraph 4 (the astronomical sums swallowed up by this project ...; ... this was money well spent)  
2 Paragraphs 1 and 5 are very positive about the makeover; paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 contain a mix of positive and negative, although paragraph 3 is more negative than the others.

- 3  
1 Having been neglected for decades  
2 Now that its makeover is complete,  
3 dominated as it is by ... (= because it is dominated by ...)  
4 Stunning as the vast bookshelves look (= Although the vast bookshelves look stunning)

- 5 It would surely have been better to ...  
6 the astronomical sums ... would have been better spent on ...  
7 Were money no object, I would not hesitate to ...

4

- 1 In terms 2 As for 3 although, understandably  
4 nuanced 5 as, inevitably 6 albeit

5

- 1 it was in urgent need of 2 worked wonders  
3 nooks and crannies 4 snuggle up 5 in all its former glory  
6 astronomical sums swallowed up by  
7 money well spent 8 budgetary constraints  
9 stark choice

6

## Sample answer

### The Green Forest Sculpture Trail: a great day out

Should you find yourself in the vicinity of Green Forest this summer, then the recently opened Sculpture Trail is well worth a visit, whether you are an art buff or simply a fan of strolling through stunning countryside.

The trail itself winds its way in a five-kilometre circle through the ancient Green Forest, one of the country's best-kept secrets. On a hot day, the towering trees provide welcome shade from the blazing sunshine, while the rustle of leaves and charming birdsong create a sense of being far from the stresses of modern life. With craggy paths, narrow bridges over streams and several steep inclines, the trail is satisfyingly challenging, although visitors with limited mobility or accompanied by small children might struggle to get around.

The sculptures themselves are a diverse mix of the thought-provoking, the whimsical and the simply beautiful. Effort has clearly made to incorporate the sculptures into their surroundings, for example by intertwining sculpted elements with the tree roots and branches. My one minor gripe is that I would have appreciated more information about the more abstract pieces and the artists who had created them, so as to better understand what (if anything) they were intended to represent.

Inevitably, the forest location makes the trail hard to reach by public transport. Given that the vast majority of visitors came by car, it was disappointing that the trail was not more clearly signposted, and that the car park was nothing more than a muddy field. Entrance to the trail was far from cheap, although family discounts are available. That said, constructing and maintaining the trail must be costly, so we did not begrudge the owners their right to recover those costs from visitors.

Overall, our whole family thoroughly enjoyed their memorable day at the sculpture trail, and would certainly go again next time we are in the area.

## 10 ADAPTATION

### Reading and Use of English Part 5 Multiple choice

- 1 A 2 C 3 D 4 A 5 B 6 D

### Language focus

#### Inversion

1

- 1 Scarcely, when 2 than 3 account 4 May  
5 Were, for 6 Never, nor 7 as 8 Should

2

- 1 Had the language not been so complex, the translation would have been much quicker.  
2 Not until the novel has been thoroughly proofread will it be considered for publication.  
3 So real were the characters that I felt as if I knew them personally.  
4 Were I to give you a clue, would it make things easier?  
5 At the edge of a dark forest nestled a little wooden hut.  
8 Never again will I waste my money on such poorly written fiction. (Or: Never will I ... again.)

### Creating emphasis and cleft sentences

1

#### Suggested answers

- 1 thing is/was (that) nobody clapped at the end of the play.  
2 she was talking about I have no idea.  
3 single rapper has ever won the poetry award.  
4 the play will please the critics is anyone's guess.  
5 problem with machine translation is that it doesn't understand human nature. / problem is that machine translation ...

2

- 1 It was me/I that/who wrote a poetry collection to reflect on my troubled childhood.  
It was a poetry collection that I wrote to reflect on my troubled childhood.  
It was to reflect on my troubled childhood that I wrote a poetry collection.  
2 It was because the interpreter was sick that Robert was asked to provide simultaneous translation.  
It was Robert that/who was asked to provide simultaneous translation because the interpreter was sick.  
It was simultaneous translation that Robert was asked to provide because the interpreter was sick.

### Vocabulary

#### Book and film expressions

1

- 1 long-awaited 2 spine-tingling 3 hard-hitting  
4 star-studded 5 far-fetched 6 heart-wrenching  
7 spellbinding



2

- 1 tear-jerker 2 box office hit 3 cult classic  
4 critically acclaimed 5 page-turner

## Similes

1

- 1 as dull as ditchwater / dishwater (NB The version with ditchwater is the original (from the 1700s), but in modern English, the version with dishwater is more common.)  
2 as tough as old boots 3 as sly as a fox  
4 as mad as a box of frogs 5 as clear as mud

2

- 1 like cat and dog 2 like a hawk 3 like a sore thumb  
4 like a log 5 like a house on fire

## Reading and Use of English

### Part 1 Multiple choice cloze

- 1 A 2 D 3 B 4 A 5 B 6 D 7 C 8 A

### Part 3 Word formation

- 1 obsessively 2 Flawlessness 3 unobtrusive  
4 conveyance 5 ambiguity 6 overcompensation  
7 unintentionally 8 sparingly

## Listening

### Part 4 Multiple matching

- 1 F 2 B 3 A 4 H 5 E 6 E 7 H 8 A 9 C 10 F

### Part 2 Sentence completion

- 1 ancient heartland 2 (many) speakers of Cornish / Cornish speakers 3 vicious onslaught  
4 (sparsely populated) western fringes  
5 literary figures 6 (concerted) efforts  
7 monolingual speakers of Welsh/monolingual Welsh speakers 8 (relentless) persecution 9 (critically) endangered

## Writing Part 1 Essay

1

### Suggested answers

- 1 Reading books (or joining a book club) is enough, without the need to study literature (which is a 'waste of time'); literature isn't practical and relevant to the hard-nosed world of work.  
2 Literature teaches us empathy and allows us to benefit from the experiences of characters in books; intense training is necessary in order to extract the deepest lessons from masterful writing.  
3 'I enjoy reading a good book and can even say I benefit from such experiences by broadening my view of the world'; 'share your analyses and insights with others'  
4 'far better than an MBA ever could'; 'a degree in literature is considerably more than 'talking about books''

2

### Suggested answers

- 1 Literature is(n't) practical and relevant to the hard-nosed world of work; Literature teaches us empathy and allows us to benefit from the experiences of characters in books; Reading books (or joining a book club) is enough, without the need to study literature (which is a 'waste of time'); Intense training is necessary in order to extract the deepest lessons from masterful writing.  
2 Through my own recent reading, I have learnt ... providing me with insights that have enhanced my professional skills no end; ... I feel better prepared to deal with whatever life might throw at me; It is surely no coincidence that literature graduates are among the most intelligent people around; etc

3

- 1 more geared towards transferable career skills  
2 having lived through myriad crises with such characters  
3 more profound; far more intensely; most fundamental

4

- 1 With this in mind; reflecting on the fact  
2 many such benefits 3 surely no coincidence  
4 more rational 5 Far from it

5

- 1 d 2 f 3 b 4 h 5 g 6 a 7 e 8 c

6

### Sample answer

#### To watch or not to watch?

Nowadays, it seems every successful novel is turned into a film, while each popular film ends up as a book. For those of us who love both genres, the perennial question remains: which should I enjoy first, the book or the film?

The answer depends on your attitude to reading. Some readers adore immersing themselves in a complex narrative in order to challenge their brains. They enjoy conjuring up images in their mind's eye, which works best when the book contains powerfully descriptive prose.

The action may even be a distraction from the worlds they are building in their imaginations, so watching the film first, with its emphasis on simple plotlines over rich description, would feel like an act of vandalism.

Others treat reading as a break from the stresses of life, so needs to be as effortless as possible. One effective way of removing the strain of reading is to be familiar with the plot and characters already, having watched the film. This enables the reader to trigger memories from the film while reading, with the added benefit of delving more deeply into the characters' background and motivations. For those without the gift of a powerful imagination, wrestling with a descriptive novel can be an arduous process, which can only be relieved by prior viewing.

We are all different in the way our brains work and in what gives us pleasure. It should come as no surprise that we

feel passionate about the question from diametrically opposite viewpoints. The solution is simple: choose whichever option works best for you.

## 11 TALK OF THE TOWN

### Reading and Use of English Part 7 Multiple matching

1 C 2 D 3 D 4 B 5 C 6 C 7 A 8 D 9 B 10 D

#### Language focus

##### Reporting structures 1

1

1 a, c 2 a, b 3 d 4 a, e 5 a 6 a (+ subjunctive), d  
7 e 8 b 9 a 10 a

2

1 were warned not to go 2 about/over not receiving  
3 to have witnessed 4 is anticipated to take  
5 with the developers not to 6 be knocked down

##### Reporting structures 2

1

1 droned/went 2 was/'m, went/goes 3 sounding  
4 blathering/going/droning 5 declare 6 acknowledge

2

1 c 2 e 3 b 4 d 5 a

#### Vocabulary

##### City dwelling

1 affordable housing 2 welfare system  
3 commuter belt 4 derelict buildings  
5 congestion charging/charges

##### Phrasal verbs for problems and dealing with problems

1 resign, to 2 saddled, with 3 ruled out  
4 flooded with 5 ran up against 6 revert back to

### Reading and Use of English Part 1 Multiple-choice cloze

1 B 2 D 3 B 4 A 5 C 6 C 7 D 8 B

#### Listening

##### Part 1 Three-option multiple choice

1 A 2 C 3 B 4 B 5 A 6 B

##### Part 3 Four-option multiple choice

1 D 2 B 3 B 4 A 5 D

#### Writing Part 2 Report

1

##### Suggested answers

1 Members of the local council already know about the range of traffic-calming schemes, but they won't know which particular scheme the writer is focusing on.

2 Five (what the scheme involved; what problem it was intended to solve; the impact of the scheme during construction; the impact after completion; suggestions for how to implement such schemes in the future)

3 Paragraph 1: Introduction: What the scheme involved; what problem it was intended to solve

Paragraph 2: Impact during construction

Paragraph 3: Impact after completion

Paragraph 4: Suggestions for future schemes

2

##### Suggested answers

1 Ten (As part of the council's wide-ranging efforts to manage traffic). There is no need to say more about this, as the target reader will already know about the project.

2 Part of the first sentence: several key arteries through the Riverside district have been narrowed to a single one-way lane, with green spaces and open-air cafes replacing parking spaces.

3 The second and third sentences in paragraph 1

4 Very negative

5 Mostly extremely positive, but with one negative argument

6 Two (the total closure of streets to traffic during construction; enhanced coordination between districts)

3

1 arteries, lane, streets 2 clogged, jammed

3 scant 4 commuters, pedestrians, all involved, residents, children, locals 5 urge, recommend

4

1 with green spaces and open-air cafes replacing parking spaces

2 without transferring traffic problems elsewhere

3 With roads remaining open to traffic throughout

4 with the addition of huge construction vehicles attempting to navigate the jammed streets

5 with noise pollution having all but disappeared

6 with cafes springing up on every corner

7 with the search for scant parking spaces now more frantic than ever These constructions replace full clauses with participle clauses or verbless clauses. They all start with 'with' or 'without'.

5

1 Formerly, would 2 attempted, without

3 consequence 4 intended, which 5 transformation

6 longer 7 noticeably 8 generation 9 exacerbation

6

##### Sample answer

##### From run-down warehouse to exclusive shopping centre

In the Greyton area of our city, locals had long been frustrated by the presence of an abandoned warehouse, which had stood derelict since the 1980s. With broken

windows and heavily graffitied exteriors, the building was undoubtedly an eyesore, not to mention a severe danger for children who might be tempted to explore its interiors. Thankfully, after a long campaign, the local council was finally persuaded to redevelop the building by converting it into an exclusive shopping centre.

The results have been stunning. The drab exterior has been given a makeover to retain its architectural appeal while adding modern touches to bring the whole building into the 21st century. For the business owners who have moved into the building, the impact has been profound, as wealthy shoppers have flocked from all around to spend heavily in the new mall. Restaurateurs have also found a ready market for the high-end dishes they serve.

However, the impact on the local community has been more nuanced. Some locals have found well-paid work in the shopping centre, while nearby local stores have benefitted from the influx of well-to-do visitors. But given the exorbitant prices of goods and meals in the shopping centre, most residents feel excluded from taking advantage of the new development. While we are delighted that the run-down warehouse has metamorphosed into something aesthetically more pleasing, it would have been preferable had it been transformed into something that locals could use on a day-to-day basis. Alarming, some locals are also expressing concerns that rising prices could force them out of the area where their family has lived for generations.

In future, I would urge the council to take local needs into greater consideration when granting permission for major works such as this. Redevelopment projects must benefit the local population above all else, or else they risk destroying the very communities they are intended to serve.

## 12 ON THE RIGHT TRACK

### Reading and Use of English Part 5 Multiple choice

1 C 2 B 3 C 4 D 5 A 6 B

### Language focus

#### Participle clauses

1

#### Suggested answers

- 1 Relaxing / While relaxing at the spa 2 posted  
3 There being / With there being no exercise bikes available  
4 consisting only of fruit and raw vegetables  
5 racing past us 6 Not having drunk any water for hours

2

- 1 Considered 2 Eaten 3 Being 4 delivered  
5 Having said / Saying 6 leading 7 Having had  
8 coated 9 outweighing

### Verb patterns

1

- 1 I resisted 2 would hate 3 vowed

- 4 have no recollection 5 aware

2

- 1 D (In a, we left them in order to eat dinner; in b, we left them while they were eating dinner.)  
2 S (Version b has a possessive, which makes it more formal, but the meaning is the same.)  
3 D (In a, Mike did the shopping; in b, Pedro did it for Mike.)  
4 D (In a, I told you earlier and now regret it; in b, I regret now that I have to tell you.)  
5 S (Sentence a feels more official and formal due to the use of the article + *of*.)  
6 S (The structure 'there's no + -ing' is an idiom that means something is impossible or forbidden.)

### Vocabulary

#### Health and fitness

1

- 1 Alternative 2 Chronic 3 core 4 staple 5 nervous

2

- 1 makeup 2 diet 3 perspective 4 circulation  
5 intervention 6 strength

#### Multi-word verbs

1

- 1 mounting up 2 get to 3 going without  
4 catch, with 5 get through 6 keep at

2

- 1 b 2 d 3 f 4 a 5 e 6 c

### Reading and Use of English

#### Part 3 Word formation

- 1 unbearably 2 predating 3 therapeutic / therapeutical  
4 detrimental 5 unspoken 6 inaugurated  
7 irrefutable / unrefuted 8 unwittingly

#### Part 4 Key word transformation

- 1 to be like talking to a brick wall  
2 illness not having been diagnosed  
3 for Noemi to recognise when to throw in  
4 to find (out) it had been / was  
5 it not for antibiotics being used  
6 is rumoured/said to have been hoodwinking

### Listening Part 1 Three-option multiple choice

- 1 A 2 C 3 A 4 C 5 B 6 C

#### Part 3 Multiple choice

- 1 C 2 A 3 B 4 D 5 D

## Writing Part 2 Informal letter

**1**

### Suggested answers

- 1** how mental health used to be perceived in your country; recent changes in these perceptions; common causes of stress and anxiety in your country
- 2 a** This isn't necessary.
- b** This isn't necessary. But if you feel comfortable sharing (or inventing) simple anecdotes, this could make your writing more interesting.
- c** This isn't necessary. It might make a nice conclusion, but you should devote most of your letter to addressing the key points.
- d** This isn't necessary. It might make a nice conclusion, but you should devote most of your letter to addressing the key points.
- e** This is useful as long as it is brief. Your writing needs to be clearly a letter, not an essay or article, but you should show this as efficiently as possible.
- f** This would be useful, as it demonstrates an interest in your friend's life, but it should be brief.
- g** (Students' own answers)

**2**

b, e, f (one question only)

Also possibly d, strongly implied by phrases such as "Thankfully ..." and "but at least ...".

**3**

- 1** we were in touch   **2** have a read of it  
**3** bottle up / put a brave face on   **4** Needless to say  
**5** swept under the carpet   **6** the pendulum has swung almost to the opposite extreme   **7** wear (something unpleasant) as a badge of honour   **8** throw up  
**9** a bed of roses

**4**

Paragraph 2: My parents' generation were expected to bottle up ...; It was considered weak to admit ...; such attitudes must have caused ...

Paragraph 3: as if suffering in silence were something to be proud of

Paragraph 4: all of which cause real anguish ...

**5**

- 1** hear, hasn't   **2** treating   **3** Anyway, rambling  
**4** Do, expand, pleasure   **5** shall   **6** catch-up  
**7** idea, unheard   **8** Needless   **9** Thankfully, come  
**10** not, far

**6**

### Sample answer

Hi Oliver

Thanks so much for your letter. It was lovely to hear from you after all this time, and I'm deeply impressed that you're studying for your doctorate. Good for you! I'll do my best to answer your questions.

The healthcare system here is a tangled mess, with the private and public sectors overlapping all over the place. Because the public healthcare system is overstretched, it's taken for granted that the only option for certain treatments is to go private. Unfortunately, private companies' pursuit of profit means they tend to prolong treatment eternally: once you've had one dental consultation, for example, you'll find yourself signed up for dozens more over the years. I often wonder whether they're interested in curing people's ailments, or simply squeezing as much money out of us as possible.

The preponderance of private companies allows the public sector to farm out non-core healthcare practices to profit-driven organisations. One benefit is that they can streamline their work so as to do their few remaining tasks extremely well. The fact that so many people go private also means there's less strain on the public sector, so those who can't afford private cover don't have to wait as long as they otherwise would. But to be honest, I'm clutching at straws here to come up with significant benefits.

Of course, there's no magic wand to solve every problem. I don't think we'll ever go back to a fully state-funded healthcare system, but to my mind the focus on profits distorts things too much. I guess the answer is more oversight from impartial public-sector professionals: by all means allow private companies to operate, but somebody needs to ensure they're not simply ripping off their patients.

Anyway, I hope my rambling ideas are of some use for your research. Do let me know if I can help in any other way.

All the best

Marco