

★ SET 28

CLASSWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

- She tried to stop the ringing in her ears. Shaking her head vigorously from side to side, she kept it up despite the dizziness and general feeling of malaise until the headache began. She stopped. The headache always signalled an end to the ringing. It was the lesser of the **two evils** though its intensity was even more unbearable at times. Lying down and closing her eyes would help, but not always.
- She was **aware** of how different she was from the rest of her friends. They were taller than she was, prettier than she was and cleverer than she was. But most of all, they were humans. They were **complete** human beings, from top to toe, inside and out. She looked like anyone on the street but **internally**, she knew her system had changed tremendously since that trip to Mars. No one else knew. After all, she had been a **normal** human for the past twenty years. Sometimes, she herself doubted if any changes were taking place, but she knew they were. She **debated** if she could discuss her condition with anyone.
- According to the ground crew, her spacecraft had lost contact with the station for ten minutes. All that was heard on the radio was static. Major John Arnold had tried changing the radio frequency but he was greeted by nothing but static. Their only option was to wait but some among them felt that all attempts at contact had been exhausted and no more efforts should be made to contact the crew in the spacecraft. After all, chances of failure were immense.
- But Susan knew what happened. The flash of light, then the absence of gravity as her body floated upwards. Around her, the other crew members were also being lifted upwards. Looking down, she saw her spacecraft getting smaller and smaller. She panicked and ironically tried her best to keep her feet on the ground.
- The strangers were about the same size as her. They could not tell the men from the women. When they forced her onto a chair and placed a gadget over her head, she thought her life was about to end. However, she felt nothing and in a flash, the gadget was lifted and Susan and her crew were whisked back to their spacecraft.
- No one knew what had happened during those few seconds. But something must have because the ringing started in their ears as soon as they touched earth. All the scans they did could not detect anything out of the ordinary in their heads.
- The strangers in their black and green outfits pressed the red button again for the eleventh time since the humans left. Little by little, they were transforming. Each exchange was minimal so as not to traumatise the body, but slowly, they were beginning to feel more and more like their human counterparts. They smiled, as they thought of what had to be happening to the four humans now.

All answers must be in complete sentences.

1. What main problem was Susan facing?

She had a ringing in her ears.

2. What were the 'two evils' (line 3) referring to?

They were referring to the ringing in Susan's ears and the headache that followed after the ringing stopped.

3. How did Susan's physical appearance make her different from others?

She was shorter, not as pretty and not as clever as others.

4. When did Susan change?

She changed after her trip to Mars.

5. Was the trip to Mars supposed to be safe? How do you know?

No, it was not. When contact was lost between the spacecraft and the ground crew, some of the ground crew wanted to give up trying to establish contact because they felt that the chances of a failed trip was high.

6. Why would it have been impossible for Susan to keep her feet on the ground?

She was in outer space where there was no gravity.

7. Which sentence tells you that the men and women Susan met looked the same?

They could not tell the men from the women.

8. Why did Susan think she would be harmed by the strangers?

They had forced her onto a chair and placed a gadget over her head.

9. What do you think Susan felt when the strangers pressed the button?

She felt the ringing in her ears.

10. What was the strangers' goal?

It was to become human.

LANGUAGE and GRAMMAR SKILLS

Vocabulary

For each question, choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined words. Write the correct answer in the brackets provided.

Words are from paragraph 2.

1) **aware** (D)

a. informed

b. worried

c. enlightened

d. conscious

2) **complete** (A)

a. absolute

b. positive

c. flawless

d. thorough

3) **internally** (B)

- a. unseen b. **within** c. beyond d. privately

4) **normal** (A)

- a. **regular** b. traditional c. natural d. general

5) **debated** (D)

- a. questioned b. reasoned c. reviewed d. **deliberated**

Verbal Reasoning

1. Read the first two statements and then choose one of the five options below that must be true.

Elena's father is Italian. Her father's parents still live in Italy.'

- (a) Elena's can speak Italian.
(b) Elena goes to Italy at least once a year.
(c) Elena's father no longer lives in Italy.

(d) Elena's has grandparents who live in Italy.

- (e) Rome is the capital of Italy.

2. Look at the first group of three words. The word in the middle has been made from the other two words. Complete the second group of three words in the same way, making a new word in the middle.

Example: PAIN INTO TOOK ALSO SOON ONLY

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) LEFT TALE SACK | KEEL <u>LIKE</u> FILM |
| 2) LONG GOAL FAIL | CALF <u>FACE</u> ACNE |
| 3) GRIP PAGE DEAF | SAID <u>DUST</u> STUN |
| 4) BYTE BEAT CAKE | EACH <u>EPIC</u> WISP |
| 5) URGE BEAR BAIL | IDEA <u>CARD</u> CROP |
| 6) BOARD SOLD CLOSE | LEASE <u>DIRE</u> PRIDE |

Prefix

Can you use the right prefixes? Use 're', 'un' or 'de' with the appropriate words from the boxes.

| | | | | | |
|-------|-------|---------|---------|-----------|-------|
| coil | grade | healthy | past | palatable | range |
| civil | ruse | place | compose | move | cover |

1. The water in the old well was clean but very **unpalatable**.

2. Mum used some mineral turpentine to **remove** the ink stain.
3. To **degrade** is to reduce in rank or importance.
4. The gun will **recoil** violently when it is fired.
5. To **decompose** is to decay.
6. Ring up the glazier and ask him to **replace** the broken window.

Thinking Skills

1. Try as she may to put the memory of the theft out of her mind, Dana could not. The little voice of her conscience spoke to her: ____ (a) ____.
 (a) **even when she didn't ask it to** (c) even though she was innocent
 (b) causing her to commit the crime (d) urging her to steal again
2. A stag drinking at a pool admired his antlers as he saw them reflected back at him. When he saw his legs, however, he lamented how thin and weak they looked. Hearing hunters approaching he began to run but his antlers became tangled in some branches. His legs, which he had scorned were the means of his rescue whereas his much-admired antlers brought about his ruin. So it is with people who are unable to discern: ____ (b) ____.
 (a) their means of escape (c) what is good or bad looking
 (b) **their strengths from their weaknesses** (d) horns from feet
3. Louis Pasteur was ridiculed when he first suggested that bacteria were the cause of many illnesses. 'How could such a small creature affect something the size of a human?' his detractors said. Nevertheless, Pasteur persevered. Pasteur's story reminds us that sometimes it is difficult: ____ (d) ____.
 (a) to cure the sick
 (b) to tell lies
 (c) for small creatures to affect larger ones
 (d) **to tell the truth**

SET 28 - HOMEWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Drug smuggling is one of the crimes that crosses borders and often involves an underground trade among countries. Most people smuggle drugs in the luggage that they carry from one country to another. Many of them will hide the drugs at the base of their luggage hoping that no one discovers them. For those who travel across countries by car, some might hide the drugs in secret compartments which have been specially fitted in the car boot.

The ingenious ways drug smugglers have thought of to transport the drugs have stunned everyone. Recently, some drug traffickers have taken advantage of the plight of poor families. They paid these families for the use of their infants to smuggle drugs. These infants were 'rented' from the families and taken along on a trip with the drug smugglers. Cans of baby formula were used to smuggle the drugs. Instead of the usual powder form, liquid cocaine was injected into the cans. This was discovered when a woman was stopped by a customs inspector while travelling to London. The inspector found liquid cocaine in a few cans of baby formula.

Infants and women have been used to carry out the drug smuggling trade because they are usually the least suspected of all passengers. Not only is the innocence of an infant taken advantage of, many of the drug smugglers do not take good care of the infants under their charge. Infants from as young as three weeks old have been on such 'missions' which can last from two days to two weeks. If some of the babies are especially difficult, they will be left alone in the hotel rooms while the women enjoy themselves in the town.

Drug smuggling also causes great harm to those who consume the drugs. Ecstasy is becoming a popular drug especially among teenagers. It perks them up and increases their energy. However, it also causes them to be dehydrated and in some instances have reacted severely to the alcohol that they drink at the same time. It has caused the death of a number of teenagers but it is still a popular drug among them.

Drug addicts claim that they are brought to another world after they consume the drugs. They feel light-headed and happy and it takes them away from all the stress that they face in society. However, drug addiction is a serious problem. Once it happens, most people cannot stop and many have spent their life savings filling their bodies with drugs. Many are also hesitant about curing themselves because the healing process is a long and difficult one.

To **curb** drug addiction especially among the youth, schools are carrying out many preventive **measures**. The dangers of drug taking have even been **incorporated** in the syllabus. The consequences of drug taking are **expounded** to children as young as ten years old. Besides the side effects of drug taking, the legal **implications** such as being arrested for drug possession are drummed into these children. Once they are aware of the severe punishments, many will be averse to experimenting with drugs.

All answers must be in complete sentences.

1. How might those travelling by plane hide the drugs?

They hide the drugs at the base of their luggage.

2. Why are drugs sometimes hidden in a car boot?

Drug smugglers are travelling across borders by car and the car boot has been specially fitted with secret compartments to hide the drugs.

3. How do poor families benefit from drug smuggling?

They are able to earn money by renting out their infants to drug smugglers.

4. Would customs officers usually check baby formula? Why?

No, they would not. They would probably think that the baby formula was for the baby that the woman who had the baby formula was carrying.

5. Where were drugs first discovered in baby formula?

They were discovered in London.

6. Why is Ecstasy a popular drug?

Those who take it will perk up and their energy level will increase.

7. According to the passage, when might Ecstasy be fatal?

It might be fatal when the person who has taken Ecstasy consumes alcohol at the same time. It causes dehydration.

8. What type of world do drug addicts actually live in every day?

They live in a stressful world that makes them feel worried and unhappy.

9. Why is it difficult to stop consuming drugs?

Drugs are addictive and the process of getting out of a drug addiction is long and difficult.

10. Write the phrase which tells you that messages about the dangers of drugs are mentioned repeatedly.

The phrase is 'drummed into'.

LANGUAGE and GRAMMAR SKILLS

Vocabulary

For each question, choose the word(s) closest in meaning to the underlined words. Write the correct answer in the brackets provided. Words are from paragraph 6.

1) curb (C)

a. tighten

b. regulate

c. **control**

d. remove

2) measures (A)

a. **actions**

b. ideas

c. warnings

d. punishments

3) incorporated (D)

a. instructed

b. intended

c. inverted

d. **included**

- 4) **expounded** (C)
 a. developed b. discussed c. **explained** d. externalise
- 5) **implications** (C)
 a. offers b. ideas c. **effects** d. problem

Verbal Reasoning

Read the first two statements and then choose one of the five options below that must be true.

'My sister is expecting a baby. The baby might be a girl.'

- (a) My sister would rather have a girl.
 (b) My sister has bought pink baby clothes.
 (c) The doctor thinks it's a girl.
 (d) Doctors work in hospitals.
 (e) **My sister might have a boy.**

Complete the following sentences by selecting the most sensible word from each group of words given in the brackets. **Underline the words selected.**

Example The (**children**, books, foxes) carried the (houses, **books**, steps) home from the (greengrocer, **library**, factory).

- (a) I (**hurt**, looked, cheated) my (book, **finger**, window) playing (homework, texting, **netball**).
 (b) Please (make, **buy**, sell) some (**ham**, cake, sweets) and I'll make us a (mass, drink, **sandwich**) for lunch.
 (c) Our (**grandmother**, baby, tree) will be (years, thousands, **seventy**) next (minute, day, **week**).
 (d) Over the (**last**, present, next) few years I have (went, come, **been**) to the cinema (**frequently**, slowly, unusually).
 (e) If you (try, look, **listen**) to lots of (sights, exams, **music**), your parents might (reward, **complain**, smile) about the noise.

Anagrams

Read each sentence, which gives you a clue to the missing word. The missing word is made up of all the letters in the bold word.

1. The **leader** of the gang was a notorious drug **dealer**.

2. **Fir-cones** grow on trees of the species known as **conifers**.
3. The old man claimed his wife and her sister were always **ganging** up on him with their constant **nagging**.
4. With great **elation** the marathon runner declared that his infected **toenail** was better.
5. **Tiredness** overcame the **residents** of the hostel as they were up all night fighting a fire that threatened the building.

Thinking Skills

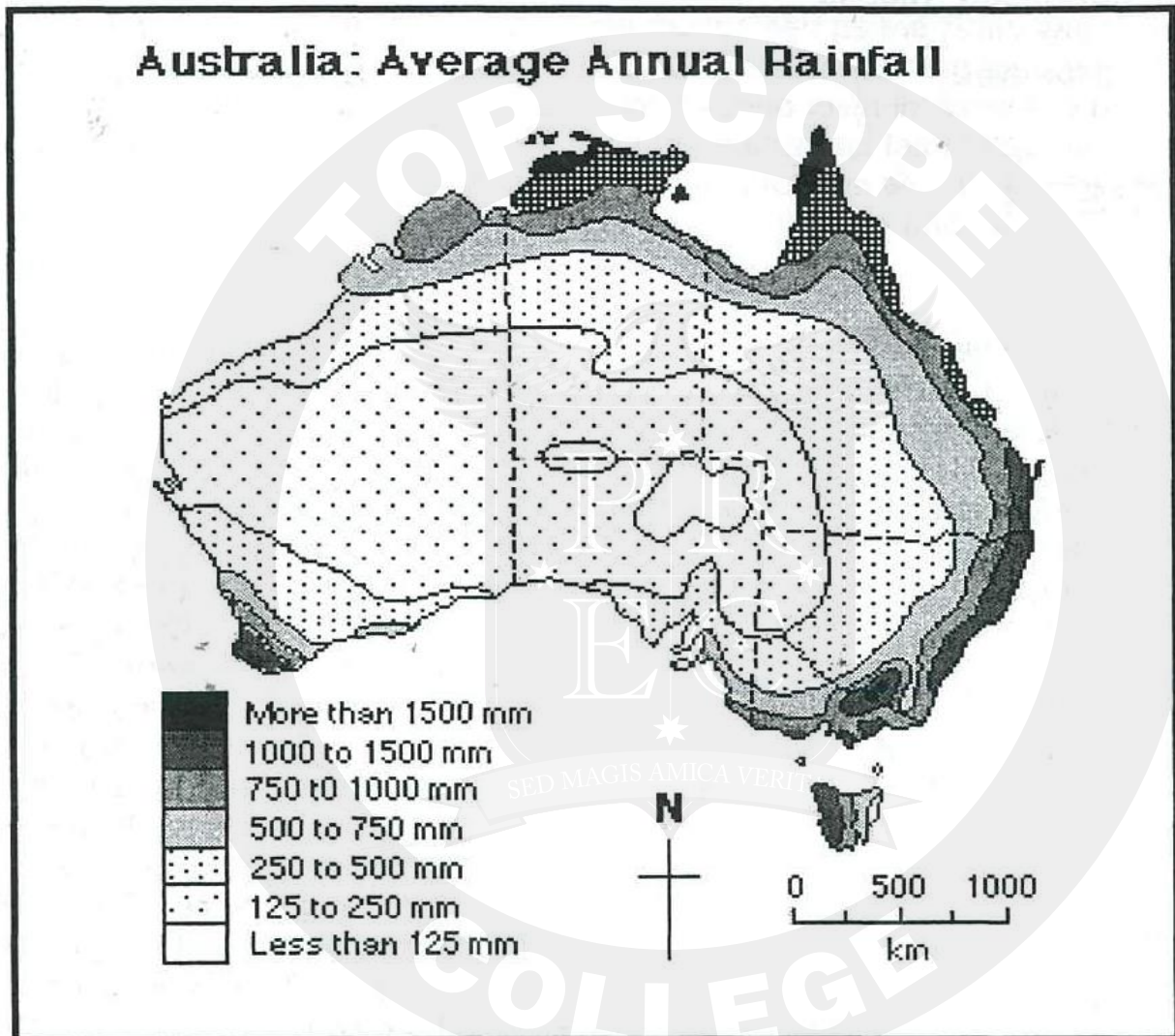
1. Sometimes strange lights or objects are seen in the sky with no known cause. These are often referred to as unidentified flying objects. They are more often referred to as UFOs, their: ____ (c) ____.
 (a) explanation (b) identity **(c) abbreviation** (d) cause
2. Ask yourself, 'Do I know more now than when I was five years old? Do I expect to know more when I am twenty than I know now? Will I be wiser at fifty than when I am twenty?' Answer these questions honestly and you will understand why: ____ (b) ____.
 (a) you must work hard at school (c) you get old in stages
(b) it is wise to listen to your elders (d) it's a sin to tell a lie
3. In England young people aged between 16 and 21 who had broken the law persistently were sent to camps or houses in the country called borstals. The aim of this was to teach them skills that: ____ (b) ____.
 (a) would make them intelligent (c) would turn them to crime
(b) would help them become better citizens (d) would prepare them for university

★ SET 29

CLASSWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

RAINFALL IN AUSTRALIA

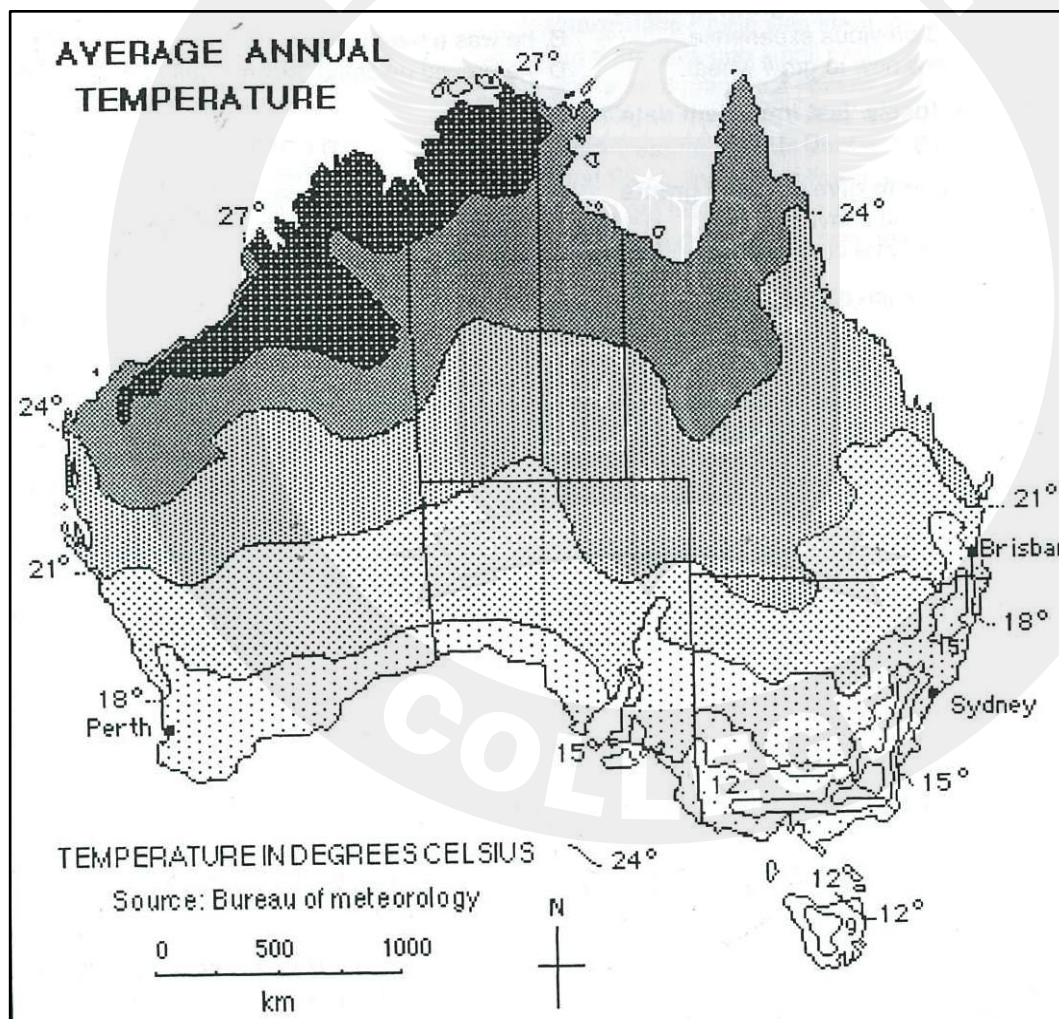


Use the map to answer the following questions:

- The areas of Australia which receive the heaviest rainfall are located mainly in the (A)
 - north
 - south
 - east
 - west
- In northern Australia, rainfall totals decrease as you travel from (C)
 - south to north
 - west to east
 - north to south
 - east to west
- Central Australia is best described as (D)
 - very wet
 - wet
 - dry
 - very dry

4. The driest State appears to be (B)
- a. Western Australian b. **South Australia** c. Tasmania d. Victoria
5. Areas of heaviest rainfall receive in excess of (A)
- a. **1500mm** b. 1000mm c. 750mm d. 500mm
6. These areas of heaviest rainfall are located (B)
- a. inland b. **near the coast**
c. in southern Western Australia d. in northern Tasmania

TEMPERATURE



1. The hottest average temperature are found in (B)
- a. northern Australia c. central Australia
b. **north-western Australia** d. eastern Australia
2. The average temperature generally (C)
- a. decreases from south to north c. **decreases from north to south**
b. increases from north to south d. decrease from east to west

3. The average annual temperature at Perth is between (D)
 a. 6 °C - 9°C b. 9 °C - 12 °C c. 12 °C - 15 °C d. 15 °C - 18 °C
4. The temperature which Brisbane experiences is (D)
 a. similar to that of Perth
 b. warmer than that of Sydney but not that of Perth
 c. colder than Perth
 d. **warmer than both Sydney and Perth**

LANGUAGE and GRAMMAR SKILLS

Vocabulary

Match the terms in the boxes with the correct definitions below.

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Geography | Meteorology | topography | Physiography | Cartography |
|-----------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|

1. A branch of science concerned with the study of weather patterns. **Meteorology**
2. The arrangement of natural and artificial features of an area. **topography**
3. Another term for physical geography. **Physiography**
4. The study of physical features of the earth and atmosphere and of human activity as it affects the distribution of populations and resources. **Geography**
5. The study and practice of making maps. **Cartography**

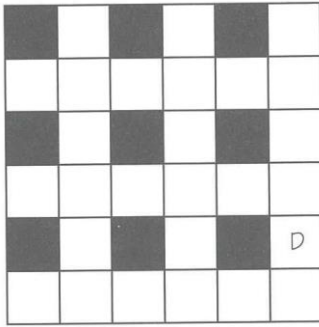
Verbal Reasoning

1. Read the first two statements and then choose one of the five options below that must be true.

'Many people have cars. Some buy expensive cars.'

- (a) People prefer cheaper cars.
- (b) Some people have expensive cars.**
- (c) Old cars usually cost less.
- (d) Sports cars are always expensive.
- (e) Expensive cars use a lot of petrol.

2. Fill in the crosswords so that all the given words are included. You have been given one letter as a clue. **Answer:**



| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | R | | S | | B |
| B | A | R | T | E | R |
| | R | | A | | E |
| T | E | M | P | L | E |
| | S | | L | | D |
| S | T | R | E | S | S |

temple, stress, staple, breeds, rarest, barter

3. Give the missing numbers in the following sequences.

Example: 2 4 6 8 10 12

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1) 40 | 80 | 35 | 88 | <u>30</u> | <u>96</u> |
| 2) 3 | 3 | 6 | 18 | <u>72</u> | 360 |
| 3) 14 | 16 | 19 | <u>23</u> | 28 | <u>34</u> |
| 4) <u>31</u> | 23 | 16 | 10 | <u>5</u> | 1 |
| 5) <u>73</u> | 58 | 45 | 34 | 25 | <u>18</u> |

Proverbs

Read the proverbs. See if you can match them with their meanings. You need only write the correct letter in each space.

1. Cut your coat according to your cloth. K
2. A drowning man will clutch at a straw. I
3. A miss is as good as a mile. J
4. Don't change horses in midstream. L
5. Many hands make light work. P
6. A barking dog never bites. G

Meanings

- A. An active person does not age.
- B. A person who is away is soon forgotten.
- C. It is more convincing to do something than to talk about it.
- D. Flattery won't get you anywhere.
- E. Business comes before the family's needs.
- F. You cannot achieve important goals quickly.
- G. A person who makes a lot of noise is harmless.
- H. Behave like the people you are with
- I. A person in trouble will try anything.
- J. A near miss is the same result as a wide miss.
- K. Live within your means.
- L. Don't alter things when you are half-way finished.
- M. Only brave men deserve fair ladies.
- N. Influences in childhood will affect the adult.
- O. If you eavesdrop, you might hear unpleasant words about yourself.
- P. Lots of helpers make it easy to get a job done.

Thinking Skills

1. Because table tennis is played indoors it is not: ____ (c) _____.
 (a) very popular (c) **affected by weather conditions**
 (b) played at night (d) difficult to play well
2. If we look at ourselves critically, we soon realize: ____ (c) _____.
 (a) that we are perfect (c) **that we can all improve**
 (b) how much better we are than others (d) where to go
3. Tarts differ from pies because: ____ (c) _____.
 (a) pies are never sweet like tarts (c) **they do not have a covering of**
 (b) bakers make them **pastry**
 (d) they are much tastier

SET 29 - HOMEWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

**DOWN WITH SMOKING
UP WITH YOUR HEALTH**

STOP smoking and reap the following benefits:

- IN 8 HOURS** you rid your body of excess carbon monoxide
- IN 84 DAYS** your lungs become able to clean themselves once again
- IN 90 DAYS** your lung function improves by 30%
- IN 1 YEAR** your risk of heart disease decreases by 50%
- IN 1 YEAR** you will save at least \$3,800

KEEP smoking and reap the following benefits:

- SHORTEN YOUR LIFE** by 5½ minutes with every cigarette you smoke
- INCREASE YOUR RISK OF CANCER** (Cancer of the mouth, throat and lungs)
- INHALE THOUSANDS OF POISONS** like: *Arsenic *Butane Hydrogen Cyanide *Methane *Cadmium *Formaldehyde *Tar *Ammonia *Acetone
- REEK OF CIGARETTE SMOKE** (Your clothes, your hair, your body ...)
- BE UNATTRACTIVE** to members of the opposite sex who are non-smokers

Photographer: Angelica Yap Volunteer Model: Robby Miguel Goh

1. Explain the irony in the sub-heading “KEEP smoking and reap the following benefits”

The writer meant the opposite: “Keep smoking and reap the following disadvantages.”

2. With reference to the information in the poster, what evidence is there to show that Sandra’s opinion is justifiable?



Sandra

I think it would be suicidal to keep smoking.

A smoker’s life would be shortened by minutes with every cigarette he/she smokes, or when a person smokes, he inhales thousands of poisons, or smoking increases one’s risk of cancer.

3. Why is the skull and crossbones a suitable symbol for the “benefits” of continuing to smoke?

It represents / It is associated with death/ poison/ harmful things.

4. With reference to the heading, explain how “IN 1 YEAR you will save at least \$3,800” fits into the list of benefits presented in the left-hand column.

It is evidence that one’s financial health will improve if one stops smoking.

5. State one negative effect that smoking has on a person’s lungs.

It causes the lungs to be unable to clean themselves. Or It decreases / impairs lung function. Or It decreases/ impairs lung function.

LANGUAGE and GRAMMAR SKILLS

Vocabulary

For each question, choose the word closest in meaning to the bolded words. Write the correct answer in the brackets provided.

1. reap (b)
a. profit b. **derive** c. rear d. cut
2. excess (c)
a. spare b. refuse c. **surplus** d. enough
3. carbon (a)
a. **graphite** b. air c. oxygen d. coal
4. monoxide (d)
a. minimized b. air c. coal d. **poisonous gas**

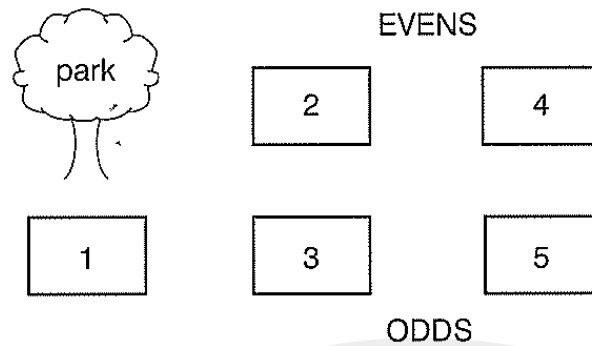
Verbal Reasoning

1. Read the first two statements and then choose one of the five options below that must be true.

‘Year 6 pupils went on a trip to France. Most mornings they went to the bakery.’

- (a) France is famous for nice bread.
- (b) The children bought bread at the bakery.
- (c) The children spoke French in the bakery.
- (d) Bread is eaten with jam for breakfast.
- (e) Sometimes the children went to the bakery.**

2. On the street below live five families. The Li family live in a house with an even number. The Wilmots are on the same side of the street as the Journeauxs but are not next door to them. The Singhs live across the street from the Hicks and next door to the Wilmots. The Journeauxs house looks onto the park.



Write the name of the family that lives in each of the following houses.

House 1 Journeauxs

House 2 Hicks

House 3 Singh

House 4 Li

House 5 Wilmot

3. If the code for INCUBATE is @ £ \$ + % - × 0, what are the codes for the following words?

BITE %@X0

ACT -\$X

CABIN \$-%@£

Conjunctions

Coordinating conjunctions join two closely related ideas.

For example: I am going to town and will do some shopping.

Subordinating conjunctions join a main statement to one that is less important.

For example, When it rains my mother gives me a lift to school.

I always feel afraid if the wind howls at night.

Notice that subordinating conjunctions may be placed at the beginning or in the middle of a sentence.

| | | | | |
|------|-----|----------|-----|------|
| then | and | although | and | when |
|------|-----|----------|-----|------|

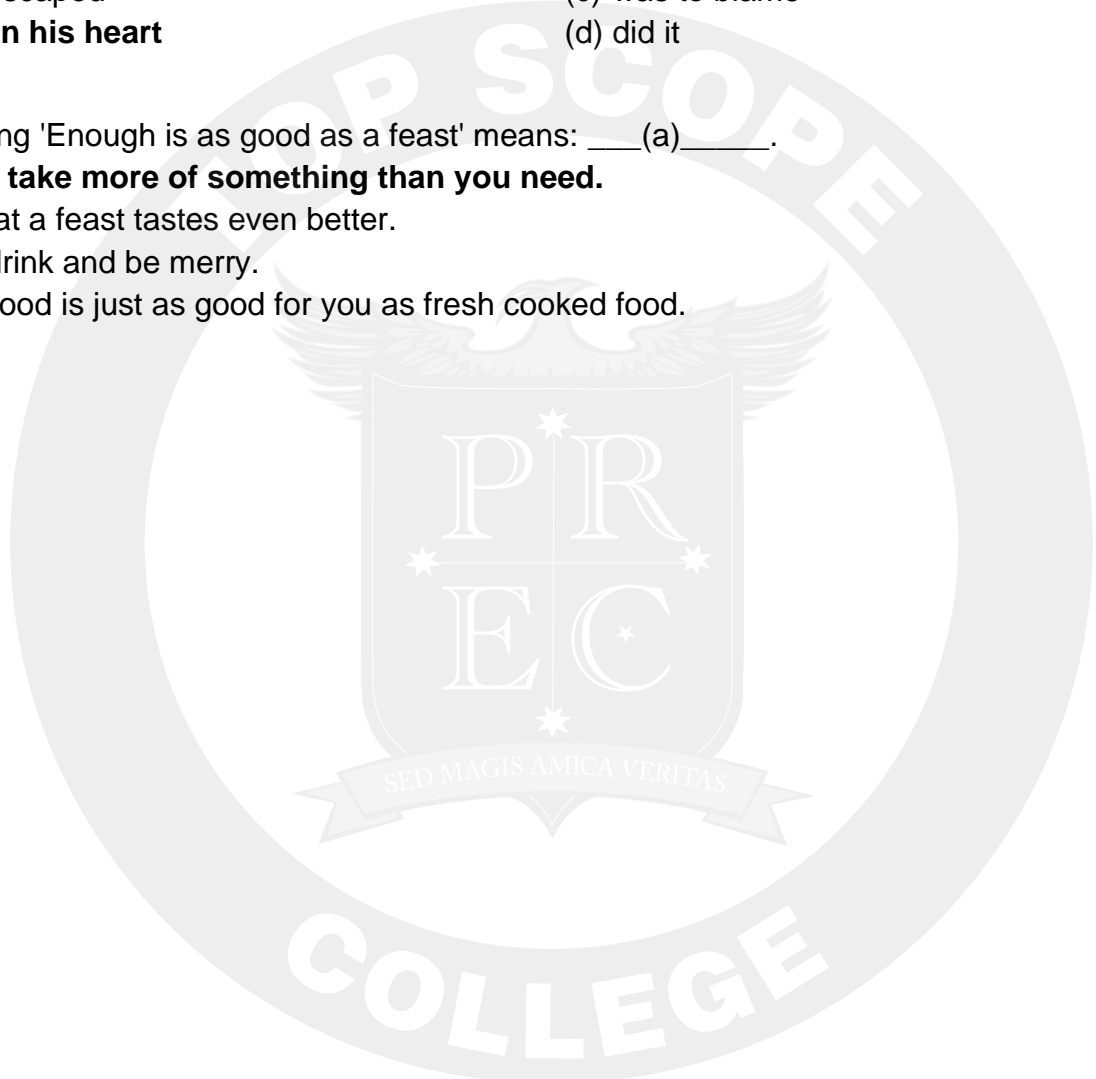
I was anxious to give up the search and return to the television set. Suddenly I heard her make a sharp exclamation . Thinking that she must have found the brooch, I turned towards her and I saw that she was looking up at one of the trees. For a moment I wondered whether my eyes were playing tricks. Although there was no breeze, one side of the large cypress tree was swaying violently. Then I soon realised what was happening when a possum sprang with great agility from the moving branch.

Thinking Skills

1. At last Alice could leave her jumper in the wardrobe. It was: ____ (b) ____.
(a) very cold **(b) summer** (c) over (d) winter

2. Try as he may to lay the blame for his cruel actions on someone else, Ruben could not. Sitting there alone in the dark he came to the awful realization that the villain: ____ (b) ____.
(a) had escaped (c) was to blame
(b) was in his heart (d) did it

3. The saying 'Enough is as good as a feast' means: ____ (a) ____.
(a) don't take more of something than you need.
(b) food at a feast tastes even better.
(c) eat, drink and be merry.
(d) junk food is just as good for you as fresh cooked food.



★ SET 30

CLASSWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Everywhere she turned, there was the image of death. One painting showed a dead woman lying in a coffin at her funeral, another showed a sick child lying on a hospital bed. The paintings brought a sense of depression to the place.

The thought of death repulsed her. She had never experienced anyone close to her dying, unless she counted her third grandaunt on her mother's side. But she was not close to her, hardly even saw her when she was alive. Yet, death was the topic for the week's class assignment. How was she supposed to comment on the paintings?

She knew that death was something every religion talked about. Her mother often told her about going to heaven after dying. She shuddered at the thought. Not that she did not want to go to heaven, but the process of getting there was unimaginable. The pain and the suffering of old age, the gradual loss of control over one's healthy body and the change in the physical appearance. And what about heaven? Everything she heard and read just might not be true. Was it really such a wonderful place? She could not imagine anything more wonderful than being alive on earth. She could not imagine how the soul could be separated from the body. It sounded ridiculous to her. Sometimes she preferred the beliefs of other religions especially those which advocated a reincarnation. She could become a frog, she mused, but she might just become human again and be able to lead a secular life.

Turning her attention to the paintings, she scribbled some notes about them. Much as she hated it, one painting did catch her eye. It showed a lady in white staring down at a group of mourners. The painting revealed a sense of peacefulness among the people. The lady in white had a serene look on her face and even the mourners, though clearly upset, looked calm. The looks on their faces hinted that death might not be as daunting as she had always thought.

That afternoon, as she sat typing in front of her computers, she pondered about what she had seen at the museum. She realised that pictures with the very young upset her the most. At least, it seemed inevitable when the pictures were filled with wrinkled faces. She blinked back tears when she remembered an image of an infant lying calmly but lifelessly in a small white coffin.

As she completed her assignment, she wondered what death would be like again. Just hours ago, she had been greatly averse to it but now, she knew that it was inevitable. She decided to do more research on life after death as preached by the different religions. The assignment was not as arduous as she had expected, but had sparked a new interest in her instead.

All answers must be in complete sentences.

1. Why was the place depressing?

The paintings showed images related to death.

2. Why was it hard for the girl to complete the class assignment?

The class assignment was about death but the girl was repulsed by death and she had not experienced anyone close to her dying.

3. Which phrase tells us that the girl was afraid of death?

The phrase is 'shuddered at the thought'.

4. Why was the girl unwilling to go to heaven?

She did not think that heaven could be better than earth.

5. Which word in the paragraph 3 is opposite in meaning to 'religion'?

The word is 'secular'.

6. Who does 'their' (line 20) refer to?

It refers to the lady in white and the mourners.

7. What evidence is there to show that the girl paid attention to the paintings?

She had scribbled notes about them and she paid particular attention to one of them.

8. Which type of the pictures affected the girl the most?

Pictures which showed images of the young and death affected her the most.

9. How did the girl feel when she thought about the dead infant?

She was very sad.

10. Did the girl become more interested in the topic on life after death? How do you know?

Yes, she did. She wanted to do more research on what the different religions preached about life after death even though it was not part of her assignment.

LANGUAGE and GRAMMAR SKILLS

Vocabulary

For each question, choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined words. Write the correct answer in the brackets provided. Words are from paragraph 6.

1) **averse** (B)

a. afraid b. **detest** c. critical d. reluctant

2) **inevitable** (D)

a. imminent b. impending c. inflexible d. **inescapable**

3) **preached** (A)

a. **taught** b. learnt c. given d. shown

4) **arduous** (C)

a. complicated b. rigorous c. **laborious** d. burdensome

5) sparked (B)

a. excited

b. kindled

c. provoked

d. alerted

Verbal Reasoning

1. If the code for INCUBATE is @ £ \$ + % - × 0, what do these codes stand for?

× + % 0 TUBE

% 0 - × BEAT

× + £ 0 TUNE

2. Which one letter can be added to the front of all the words to make new words?

Example: care cat crate call

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| a) ___ell | ___hap | ___harm | ___heat | ___heck | c |
| b) ___ilt | ___ill | ___ike | ___oarse | ___uddle | h |
| c) ___ose | ___uff | ___rove | ___roud | ___ick | p |
| d) ___haw | ___est | ___ale | ___aper | ___aut | t |
| e) ___ell | ___arm | ___ard | ___ield | ___outh | y |

Usage

Choose the correct words to use in each sentence.

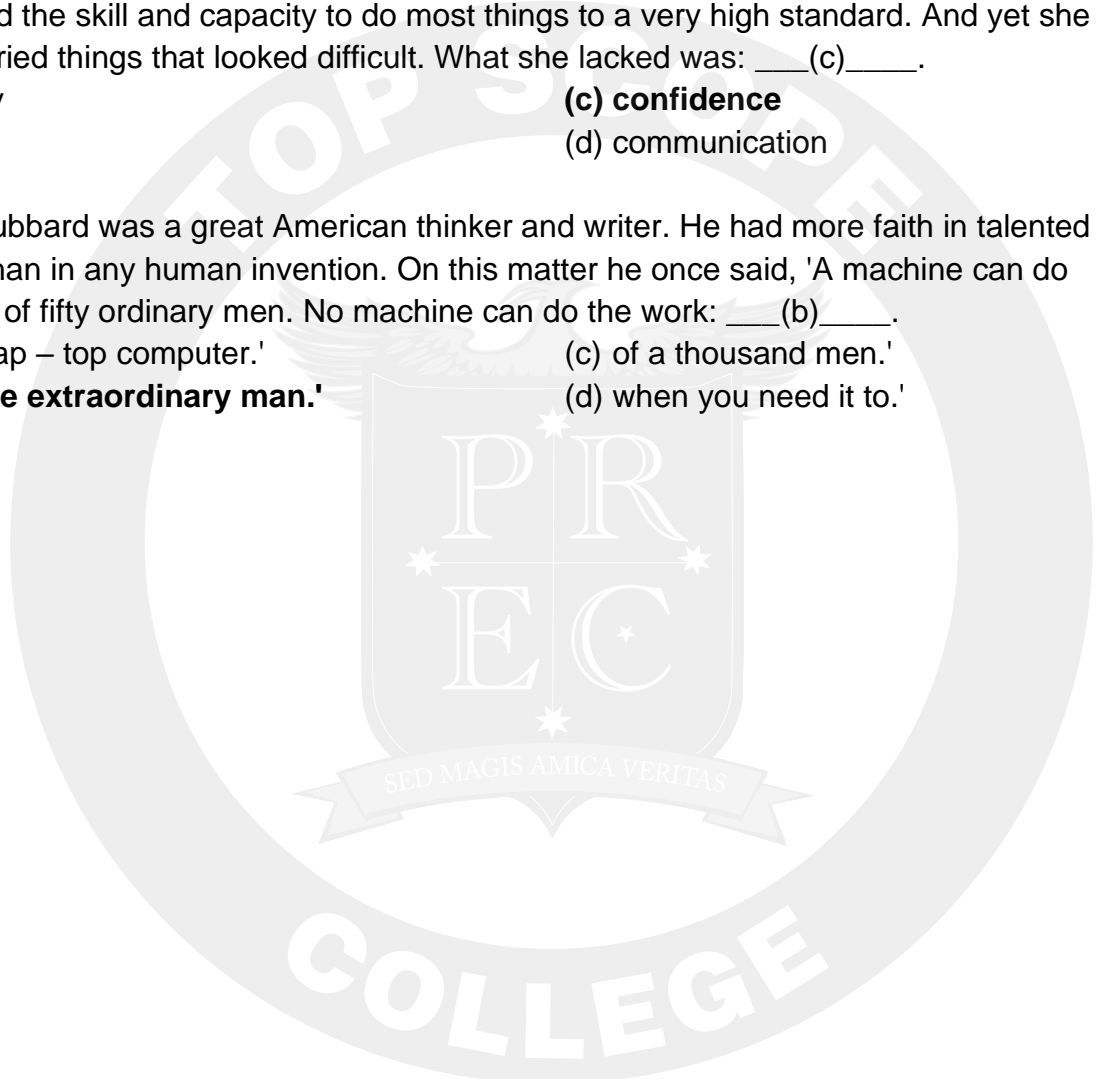
- My father always wished he (was, were) _____ a prince so he could (lend, loan) _____ everyone in the family money.
- Here (are, is) _____ a list of children to (who, whom) _____ money is owing.
- Do you know (if, whether) _____ it is raining? He will not work (except, unless) _____ it is fine.
- Do you think I should (bring, take) _____ my (extra; extremely) _____ large hat to the picnic?
- Steak and liver (was, were) _____ the favourite foods eaten by the winner of the Kelpie Class Grand Champion who (was, were) _____ owned by Mrs Smith.
- Politics (is, are) _____ a tough career and I will (let, leave) _____ you decide if you want to become a politician.
- He lives closer to the (blond, blonde) _____ carpenter than (them, they) _____.

Thinking Skills

1. Fair-weather friends are easy to find. They are the kind who are there in the good times but aren't around when you need them. True friendship involves: ____ (d) ____.
 (a) always agreeing with and supporting your friend.
 (b) saying 'yes' to avoid hurting a friend's feelings.
 (c) pleasing your friend at all times.
(d) supporting your friend during difficult times.

2. Alicia had the skill and capacity to do most things to a very high standard. And yet she seldom tried things that looked difficult. What she lacked was: ____ (c) ____.
 (a) ability **(c) confidence**
 (b) talent **(d) communication**

3. Elbert Hubbard was a great American thinker and writer. He had more faith in talented people than in any human invention. On this matter he once said, 'A machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men. No machine can do the work: ____ (b) ____.
 (a) of a lap – top computer.' **(c) of a thousand men.'**
(b) of one extraordinary man.' **(d) when you need it to.'**



SET 30 HOMEWORK

COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

"What were you doing in my room?" my brother asked me suspiciously as his eyes **swept** briefly across his room. I knew he was searching for his mobile phone, handheld game and MP3 player. I shook my head, already feeling my body **shaking** in fright at the sight of my **burly** brother standing before me. When he realised that everything looked **intact**, he began to breathe easily again and I thought I would be **off the hook** but I was not. He stood at his room door with hands akimbo and glared at me. Was he going to continue **tormenting** me?

"I put your T-shirts in your wardrobe for you," I whispered. On hearing that, he rushed to his wardrobe and pulled open the glass doors. The whole wardrobe shook. He eyed his newly pressed T-shirts on the second shelf and then the rest of his wardrobe. When he was satisfied, he turned and ordered me to leave his room.

I scurried out and ran to my room - my sanctuary. As I sat on my bed trying to catch my breath, I could not help wishing that my mother would have the courage to stand up to my brother. Once she did, I would be able to do the same.

My brother was the only son in the family and, according to tradition, he would be the head of the household once he turned eighteen if there was no other older male member around. Once my father died, he began showing his true colours. He was no longer the affable boy whom I could spend hours talking to late into the night. Instead, he mostly ignored me and when I wanted to chat with him, he would snap at me and tell me that he was busy. Then, a month after that, he started to order my mother and me around. She was someone who believed in abiding by established rules. She gave in to his demands all the time.

Just then, I heard a loud crash coming from the kitchen. Could my brother be throwing a tantrum again? Lately, he had been very short tempered and often withdrew to his room once he returned home from school. "What do you mean I can't have more money this month? You're just holding all that money Father left behind until I complete school. That money is actually mine. Don't forget that I'm the only surviving male in this family. You are to obey me at all times." It was at that moment that I heard a **short sharp crack**. I knew what it was immediately, and I held my breath and pressed my ear to my door. There was a howl and then the front door opened and slammed shut so hard the entire house shook. I counted to ten and then opened my door. A smile spread across my face when I saw my mother standing in the kitchen and the thin wooden stick on the floor. She noticed me and returned the smile. Our faces lit up like they never had since my father's death. I ran to my mother and embraced her. I was proud of her. She had finally done it. Perhaps the situation was not hopeless after all.

All answers must be in complete sentences.

1. What do you think the writer's brother thought she had done in the room?

He thought she had taken his mobile phone, his handheld game or his MP3 player from his room.

2. What was the brother's mood like when he first entered his room?

He was tensed and angry.

3. The writer thought she would be 'off the hook'(line 5). Explain what this means.

The writer would not be further questioned by her brother and she would be allowed to leave his room.

4. Why did the writer enter her brother's room?

She wanted to place his newly ironed T-shirt into his wardrobe for him.

5. Why do you think the writer considered her room a sanctuary?

Her brother did not go into her room so when she was in her room, she would be safe there and she would not be scolded by him.

6. Who was the writer depending on to improve her life? How do you know?

The writer was depending on her mother. Once her mother stood up to her brother, she would also be able to do the same and would then not be scolded so harshly by him.

7. From paragraph 4, write three words which show that the brother was no longer affable.

The words are 'ignored', 'snap' and 'order'.

8. Why did the writer's brother lose his temper?

He wanted money but his mother did not want to give him the money that he felt actually belonged to him.

9. What do you think caused the 'short sharp crack' (line 26)?

It was the sound that was made when the writer's mother hit the writer's brother with the wooden stick.

10. Which sentence tells you the writer's mother was not a person to defy tradition?

She was someone who believed in abiding by established rules.

LANGUAGE and GRAMMAR SKILLS

Vocabulary

For each question, choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined words. Write the correct answer in the brackets provided. Words are from paragraph 1.

1) swept (C)

a. analysed b. probed c. scanned d. examined

2) shaking (A)

a. quivering b. throbbing c. vibrating d. wobbling

3) **burly** (C)

- a. stocky b. sturdy c. **brawny** d. tough

4) **intact** (A)

- a. **untouched** b. unbroken c. unhurt d. unharmed

5) **tormenting** (D)

- a. irritating b. annoying c. pestering d. **provoking**

Verbal Reasoning

If A = 2, B = 4, C = 5, D = 6, E = 8, F = 9, find the sum of the following words by adding the letters together.

BEAD = 20

FADE = 25

FEED = 31

CEDE = 27

DEAF = 25

Correct word

Words can be similar in meaning or just confused. Only one of the pair in each of these sentences is correct.

- During the game he stood (besides, **beside**) _____ me all the time.
- My sister is four years (**older**, elder) _____ than I am.
- Mount Everest is the (tallest, **highest**) _____ mountain in the world.
- My aunt is (**awaiting**, waiting) _____ the arrival of the express from Melbourne.
- A (feminine, **female**) _____ pig is called a sow.
- The detective was able to (deduct, **deduce**) _____ that the murderer wore gloves.

Thinking Skills

- The letters on the top row of a typewriter or word processor are q w e r t y u i o p. These letters can be used in the ten-letter word: ____ (c) ____.
(a) trumpeting (b) population (c) **typewriter** (d) equatorial
- Sometimes people make major adjustments in their lives in such things as diet or giving up unhealthy practices like smoking. The important thing is to continue with the positive adjustments that have been made and make them a part of their everyday lives. In the end we are the product of: ____ (c) ____.

- (a) the big changes we make, even if only briefly
- (b) doing the right thing
- (c) our habits**
- (d) healthy choices

3. Groucho Marx was a famous comedian who didn't think there was much of educational merit on television. He once said, 'I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set I go to the other room: ____ (d) ____.

- (a) and watch it there.'
- (b) and record the program.'
- (c) to watch another channel.'
- (d) and read a book.'**

