

Skills Test Unit 5 Test A

Name: _____

Everyday English

1 Circle the incorrect response.

- 1 I'm really, really sorry.
a I regret to inform you. **b** It really doesn't matter. **c** Don't worry about it.
- 2 I'm sorry. I didn't mean to do that.
a Don't let it happen again. **b** You've really let me down. **c** It was very inconsiderate of me.
- 3 Please accept our apologies.
a Never mind. **b** Let's say no more about it. **c** That's quite all right.
- 4 I didn't expect that from you.
a I'm very sorry. **b** Please forgive me. **c** Don't worry about it.
- 5 I feel very bad about what I did.
a Never mind. **b** I didn't mean to. **c** That's OK.

Mark: ____ / 5

Listening

2 🎧 **Listen to Robin and Susie discuss cyber-bullying on a radio news programme. Circle the three topics they talk about.**

- A The sorts of cyber-bullying that exist.
- B How cyber-bullying has affected schools and colleges.
- C What parents are doing to prevent cyber-bullying.
- D The consequences cyber-bullies have to deal with.
- E The effects cyber-bullying has on its victims.

3 🎧 **Listen again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?**

- 1 According to Robin, cyber-bullying happens to about a third of teenagers every day. ____
- 2 Susie mentions putting an embarrassing photograph on a social networking site as an example of cyber-bullying. ____
- 3 Susie describes illegally accessing another person's online account as a more serious example of cyber-bullying. ____
- 4 Susie says that, fortunately, it is easy to remove negative comments from internet accounts. ____
- 5 Robin says that cyber-bullies usually fail to understand how serious their offence is. ____
- 6 Susie suggests that you may have problems getting into university if you're a cyber-bully. ____
- 7 Robin says that the message for cyber-bullies is that they won't avoid the consequences of their offence. ____

Mark: ____ / 10

Reading

Making vandals pay

In South Australia, the local government is reviewing the laws governing graffiti and is trying to come up with ideas about how to punish young vandals more effectively. Currently, people under eighteen don't have to pay costs for any damage they cause and courts are very reluctant to send them to prison for what is considered a minor offence. Consequently, many young offenders escape punishment and go on to commit further crimes. The government has to find a solution, but isn't sure what that might be.

The police force in the area has suggested making offenders pay compensation. The idea is that if a young person spray-paints a wall, he or she will be responsible for the cleaning bill, and will have to pay it sooner or later. This plan gets round the problem that many young vandals aren't earning any money. They won't have to pay the compensation immediately. However, if they get a job or start claiming benefits, the government will subtract money from their income to cover the costs of cleaning up the walls they've vandalized.

While a majority of people in the community welcome the idea, there are some experts who aren't sure that it is either fair or practical. A legal advisor to the government is worried that it would be impossible to start subtracting money from people's wages unless the tax authority was involved, and this could prove costly and complicated. If the amount of money owed by the vandal was less than it cost to take the money out of his or her pay packet, then what would be the point of forcing the offender to pay for the crime?

A spokesperson for youth support groups has also criticized the plan. She argues that a majority of young people who cover walls with graffiti won't be put off by being told to pay for their crime. In her opinion, young offenders commit these crimes because they are bored or angry with society, or because they are part of gangs, so they simply don't think of the consequences. As a result, she believes that introducing a payback scheme won't reduce the number of crimes. In contrast, she proposes a scheme in which vandals have to clean up their graffiti themselves and meet members of the public who have been affected by their vandalism. She argues that if we educate young people to understand the consequences of their actions, they will stop committing crimes.

The last word goes to one of the leading politicians in South Australia's government. He admits that the amount of graffiti is unlikely to go down if the government forces criminals to pay compensation. However, he points out that the cost to the tax payer of cleaning up graffiti is huge, and that forcing criminals to foot the bill has to be a good thing.

4 Read the text. Circle the correct answers.

- 1 The local government in South Australia wants to
 - a find new ways to make vandals responsible for their crimes.
 - b make vandals pay costs in court when they damage property.
 - c punish vandals by sending them to prison.
 - d make vandalism a serious, not a minor, offence.
- 2 The local police force is suggesting that vandals will
 - a eventually pay for the damage they cause.
 - b lose all of their income if they commit an offence.
 - c have to clean up all the graffiti they put on walls.
 - d have to get a job until they've paid for their crime.
- 3 The police force's suggestion is
 - a similar to the idea of the government's legal advisor.
 - b probably not going to be accepted.
 - c impractical and unfair in most people's opinion.
 - d popular with most people in the local area.
- 4 The spokesperson for youth support groups says that the best way to stop vandalism is to
 - a adopt the police force's plan.
 - b make vandals do the cleaning up.
 - c stop people from joining gangs.
 - d make vandals pay for the damage.
- 5 According to the leading politician, the police's plan is a good idea because it will
 - a save money for the government.
 - b reduce vandalism in the area.
 - c mean that they'll clean up more graffiti.
 - d be popular with vandals.

Mark: ____ / 10

Writing

- 5 Read the newspaper story. Then write a letter to the newspaper expressing your views on the proposed scheme.

HOODIE BAN

The local shopping centre plans to introduce a ban on wearing hoodies and baseball caps. Young people wearing these clothes won't be able to go inside the centre. The shopping centre manager has made this decision because CCTV cameras can't see people's faces when they're wearing hoodies-or baseball caps.

Write your letter. Use the plan to help you.

Paragraph 1: Say why you are writing and express your opinion.

Paragraph 2: Explain the reason for your opinion and show you understand the problem and its cause.

Paragraph 3: Present the first suggestion and result.

Paragraph 4: Make another suggestion and give a possible result.

Paragraph 5: Add a final point. Conclude by summarizing your opinion and sign off appropriately.

Mark: ____ / 15

TOTAL MARKS: ____ / 40

Challenge!

6 Read the text. Circle the correct answers.

Unusual laws

If we didn't have laws, there ¹**is** / **will be** / **would be** chaos. Everybody agrees on the ²**necessary** / **necessity** / **needs** of a legal system. However, governments ³**pass** / **have passed** / **passed** so many laws over the years that it isn't surprising that some of them are really crazy. While we ⁴**have surfed** / **had surfed** / **were surfing** the internet, we found a few really strange and funny American laws, and we've decided to share them. Here they are!

- 1 In Utah, you ⁵**mustn't** / **don't have to** / **ought not to** walk down the street carrying a violin in a paper bag. It's illegal!
- 2 If you ⁶**make** / **will make** / **would make** funny or ugly faces at a dog in Oklahoma, you'll be in trouble with the police for breaking the law!
- 3 In Kentucky, you ⁷**don't have to** / **can't** / **might not** put ice cream in your back pocket. It's not allowed! I've no idea why the law insists ⁸**on** / **for** / **at** stopping people from doing that!