

You are going to read an article about a writer's first job. For questions 1-8, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text. Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

I started as a paperboy when I was 11. You weren't supposed to be allowed a route until you had passed your 12th birthday, but my father, keen to see me making my own way in the world, pulled some strings at the paper and got me one early. The route covered the richest neighbourhood in town, around Greenwood School, a district studded with grand mansions. This sounded like a desirable post, when it was presented to me by the route manager, Mr McTivity, a man of low morals and high body odour, but of course mansions have the longest driveways and widest lawns, so it took many minutes to deliver each paper. And papers weighed a ton back then.

During my route, I would devote a good length of time to asking myself "what if" – what I would do if I could make myself invisible or if I could hypnotise everyone in the world. Then I might move on to consider unanswerable questions. How do migrating birds know which bird to follow? What if the lead bird just wants to be alone? And when you see two ants going in opposite directions then pause to check each other out, what information exactly are they exchanging? And how could we be sure that we all saw the same colours? Maybe what some see as green others see as blue? Who could actually say?

In those days, my hold on the real world was always fragile, so the combination of long walks, fresh air and being alone on my route let me slip easily into my own private thoughts and fantasies. But there was a price to pay for my absent-mindedness. I would suddenly realise that I couldn't remember any of the last 47 properties I had visited. I didn't know if I had left a paper, or instead just walked up to the door, stood for a moment like a mechanical robot and turned round and walked away again.

It is not easy to describe the sense of self-disappointment that comes with reaching the end of your route and finding that there are sixteen undelivered papers in your bag and you don't have

the least idea to whom they should have gone. Mr McTivity would not be amused if he found out. There was only one way I could resolve this. So I spent much of my early years first walking an enormous newspaper route and then revisiting large parts of it – sometimes twice!

As if delivering papers seven days a week weren't enough, you also had to collect the subscription money. So at least three evenings a week I had to turn out again and try to coax some money out of my ungrateful customers who didn't appreciate me turning up. There wasn't a more unpleasant task than this. But in particular, the moment that filled me with dread was collecting from Mrs Vandermeister. Mrs Vandermeister was 70 years old, possibly 80, and never went anywhere without an aluminium walker. She was very small, forgetful, interestingly aromatic and practically deaf. line 55

Getting money from her was a nightmare. If I rang the doorbell at 15-second intervals for an hour and 10 minutes, eventually she would realise someone was at the door. "Now who the heck is that?" she would shout to herself, and begin the long process of getting from her chair to the front door, which was just twenty-five feet away. After about twenty minutes, she would reach the hallway and start coming towards the door, taking her time. When eventually she came to the door, it would take an extra half-hour to convince her that I was not a murderer.

When she finally opened the door, she was always alarmed to find me standing there. "Oh, Billy, you gave me a start!" she'd say. "It's nice of you to pop by." After I reminded her why I was there, there would be another small eternity while she went off, shuffling and wobbling and humming a tune, to find her purse. She would return half an hour later to ask how much again. There would be another detour to toilet or kitchen, and finally the announcement that she didn't have that much cash and I'd have to call again another time. line 76





If a question is in the form of an incomplete sentence, make sure that you read both parts of the sentence very carefully and that the whole sentence agrees with the information in the text.

**1 What do we learn about the writer's father in the first paragraph?**

- A He took steps to make his son become more independent.
- B He wanted his son to think about exploring the world.
- C He showed his son that he didn't need to follow the rules.
- D He arranged for his son to work in the richest area of town.

**2 What did the writer realise about the route he was given?**

- A It would be a pleasant environment to work in.
- B He would have to work for a man he disliked.
- C He would be working in the area near his school.
- D It wasn't as good as he had been told it was.

**3 In the second paragraph, what impression does the writer give of himself as a child?**

- A He was interested in solving difficult puzzles.
- B He was very curious about a lot of things.
- C He talked to himself whenever he was alone.
- D He believed he could do amazing things.

**4 What made the writer's job more difficult than it should have been?**

- A He used to daydream instead of concentrating on the job.
- B He couldn't remember which properties he had to visit.
- C The route was very long and the papers were very heavy.
- D He did not know who the papers should be delivered to.

**5 The writer was often disappointed when he got to the end of his route because he**

- A couldn't find the right addresses to deliver all his papers.
- B realised he had forgotten to deliver a number of papers.
- C had to walk his route again to collect subscription money.
- D would have to tell Mr McTivity about his undelivered papers.

**6 What does 'this' refer to in line 55?**

- A collecting money from Mrs Vandermeister
- B having to argue with unhappy customers
- C having to work three evenings a week
- D asking his customers to pay their bills

**7 When the writer rang Mrs Vandermeister's doorbell, she**

- A usually chose to ignore it completely at first.
- B didn't hear it until he had rung several times.
- C immediately got up and went to answer the door.
- D shouted out for her visitor to identify himself.

**8 Mrs Vandermeister used the phrase "you gave me a start!" (line 76) to show that she**

- A was delighted to have someone visiting her.
- B didn't trust the person who was calling on her.
- C was not expecting to see the person at the door.
- D was grateful for being made to get out of her chair.



## PART 2

You are going to read an article about a detective from Belgium who uses his hearing to solve crimes. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A-H** the one which fits each gap (9-15). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

## Fighting Crime by Hearing

*Sacha van Loo cannot see, but he uses his highly developed listening skills to solve crimes.*

Sacha van Loo is not your typical detective. He carries a white cane instead of a gun. Although not entitled to carry a firearm on the job or make arrests, van Loo is like a blind Sherlock Holmes, whose disability allows him to pick up clues that sighted detectives might miss. He is one of six blind police officers working in a ground-breaking unit that analyses taped or video recordings of suspects in criminal investigations.

It all started when Paul van Thielen, a director at the Belgian Federal Police, heard about a blind police officer working in the Netherlands. **9** ☐ Van Thielen was sure that blind people could be better than sighted people at listening to surveillance recordings and interpreting them. He set up the first blind police unit in Belgium, after a law was passed giving police extended powers to secretly record suspects who might be involved in serious crimes, such as child abduction and murder.

Initially, there were some fears about working with blind people. **10** ☐ To deal with these concerns, van Thielen organised sensitivity training for the sighted officers, with blind volunteers. "At first when members of the police heard that blind people were coming to work here, they laughed and told me that we were a police force and not a charity," said van Thielen. "But attitudes changed when the blind officers arrived and showed their determination to work hard and be useful."

Attitudes were not the only things to change. **11** ☐ Lifts with voice-activated buttons were installed and each blind officer was given a special computer with a Braille keyboard and a system that translated pictures on the screen into sound. Van Loo also carries a small global positioning system device with a

voice that directs him to his destination, street by street.

At work, Sacha van Loo's talents have not gone unnoticed. **12** ☐ When the police listen in on a suspect making a phone call, van Loo can identify the number instantly by listening to the tones. By listening to a voice echoing off a wall, he can figure out whether a suspect is speaking from an airport lounge or a crowded restaurant. And from the purr of an engine, he can detect whether a suspect is driving a Peugeot, a Honda or a Mercedes.

Van Loo explains how his hearing has become so well developed. "I have had to train my ear to know where I am. It is a matter of survival to cross the street or get on a train. Some people can get lost in background noise, but as a blind man I divide hearing into different channels. It is these details that can make the difference between solving and not solving a crime." **13** ☐ "Some of the things I have to listen to can be very disturbing," he says. "I have overheard criminals plotting to commit murder, drug dealers making plans to drop off drugs, and even worse."

Despite his handicap, his parents taught him at an early age to be independent. **14** ☐ "My parents accepted my blindness, which also helped me to accept it," he said. Van Loo attended an ordinary high school as well as a special school for the blind, where he learned how to use a cane and to read Russian in Braille.

On top of his well-developed hearing, Van Loo is a trained translator who speaks seven languages, including Russian and Arabic. **15** ☐ While other officers have taken hours to identify the nationality of a suspect by their voice, van Loo just uses the "library of accents in his head" to do the job quickly.



- A** He had heard about Sacha van Loo's super hearing from another police officer.
- B** A lot of money was spent to make life easier for the new blind officers in the police station.
- C** This led him to consider how blind people could use their strong sense of hearing to help fight crime.
- D** In fact, his sense of hearing is so sharp that his power has been compared to those of a superhero.
- E** These skills make him even more invaluable to the police force.
- F** Some officers felt unsure about how to behave around their new workmates and believed they would need extra assistance.
- G** Dealing with his blindness through his life has also given him the strength to deal with the stresses of the job.
- H** Van Loo's father even took him to the movies, and taught him to drive a car by guiding his hands on the steering wheel.

### Tip

When you have chosen a particular sentence, check that it fits grammatically and follows the structure of the text. Pay special attention to verb tenses.

## PART 3

You are going to read a page from a holiday brochure with descriptions of four unusual hotels. For questions 16-30, choose from the hotels (A-D). The hotels may be chosen more than once. Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.



The information in the questions is not always simply a paraphrase of the text. It can be a general idea, for which there is a specific example in the text.

## Which hotel

is built as a temporary structure?

16

is in a building once used for another purpose?

17

employs people from the area to keep it in good condition?

18

is decorated by well-known artists?

19

offers guests the chance to take part in team activities?

20

has been built in a protected area?

21

uses an unusual building material from a natural source?

22

uses electricity from a natural source?

23

has a different theme for each room?

24

has an item which is stored for re-use?

25

caters for people who don't have much money?

26

uses an unusual method to take guests to their rooms?

27

has outdoor facilities for guests?

28

is for people who enjoy a particular hobby?

29

has an indoor garden space?

30



# Unusual Places to Stay

A

## Ice Hotel – Sweden

Imagine a hotel that is completely rebuilt every year, with a new design, new suites and a brand new reception. In March huge blocks of crystal-clear ice are extracted from the nearby frozen River Torne to provide materials to create the Ice Hotel in Jukkasjarvi, Sweden. The ice is then stored in a giant freezer ready for use in November when the weather is cold enough for the construction of the outer walls to begin. By December the ice has been carved into windows, doors, pillars, items of furniture and elegant statues. Even the beds in the hotel are made of packed snow and ice. Finally, celebrated sculptors from Sweden and elsewhere are personally invited to complete the interiors with beautiful art works which are designed to catch and reflect the light in dramatic ways. Obviously, the results of all the effort put into creating the hotel are not permanent, as the entire hotel begins to melt when the weather gets warmer. In fact, the only piece that is preserved is the huge, cut-ice chandelier, which is kept in a freezer for the next version of this amazing hotel.

B

## The Old Jail – Australia

There is one major difference between The Old Jail Hotel in Mount Gambier, South Australia and a real prison – you can let yourself out of this one! This hotel is ideal for the budget traveller who does not want to pay over the odds but still wants to have a completely unique experience. The Old Jail, originally a state prison, was closed in 1995 after about 120 years of use. Since then it has been listed as an historic building and so protected from most modern alterations, except – fortunately – for the locks. Also, the entrance area has been restored to the way it was in 1866. Guests should expect accommodation to be very basic, and the layout is similar to how it was when it operated as an actual prison. But if you are feeling cooped up inside, there are plenty of outdoor walled garden spaces. Guests can also participate in games such as indoor cricket, football, darts and pool.

C

## Library Hotel – New York

This ten-floor hotel is the last word in accommodation for the dedicated bookworm – a place where guests can relax and read to their heart's content. It is the first hotel of its kind to organise floors and art work, as well as the books, according to the Dewey Decimal System – the way in which libraries used to categorise books. You can choose to stay on floors relating to Science, Technology, Arts, Philosophy and several other subjects. Each of the sixty rooms contains a different collection of books and art exploring an individual topic. For instance, you could ask for the Language floor and stay in the English room! Other spaces available for the guests to enjoy are the Writer's Den, an elegant mahogany-panelled room, and the Poetry Garden, a floral green-house. They are ideal places to relax and enjoy the city skyline. This place is a lovely, quiet retreat from the hustle and bustle of the busy city.

D

## Green Magic Tree House – India

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to sleep in the treetops? As its name suggests, the Green Magic Tree House in Kerala, India, is constructed amongst the tops of giant trees in a lush tropical nature reserve. On your way to this very special accommodation, you have the option of walking with a guide through the jungle or driving through coffee and spice plantations. The first sight of the tree houses is breathtaking. There are two giant trees with wooden cottages made entirely from eco-friendly materials. Local craftsmen have been employed to create and maintain this delightful hideaway. A large cane basket takes you up to the cottages using a pulley system. Once on top you have a bird's eye view of acres of greenery. In the quiet of the night you can listen to the cries of the forest animals and experience the thrill of being on the top of the world. Although the tree houses are comfortably furnished and have running water for showers, there is no TV or radio and solar energy is used for lighting.



## PAPER 2 - WRITING

### PART 1

You **must** answer this question. Write your answer in **120-150** words in an appropriate style.

- 1 Your English-speaking friend Aaron visited you for a short holiday a few weeks ago. Read the part of Aaron's letter shown below, and the notes you have made. Then write a letter to Aaron, using **all** your notes.

**Tip**

Remember to organise the four content points presented in Part 1 in clear, easy-to-follow paragraphs.

Anyway, thanks again to you and your family for making me feel welcome during my stay. I had a great time, and I hope I wasn't a difficult guest!

*Accept thanks*

I posted my photos of the holiday as soon as they were developed. Have you received them yet? What do you think of them?

*Yes – thank him and give opinion*

What have you been doing since I left? I want to know all about it!

*Give details*

I hope that on my next visit we will have time to travel around your country. Where do you think we should go, and what is the best time of year for me to come?

*Make suggestions and explain why*

I also hope you will be able to come here soon and stay with me.

Write back soon!

Aaron

Write your **letter**. Do not write any postal addresses. You must use grammatically correct sentences with accurate spelling and punctuation in a style appropriate for the situation.



## PART 2

Write an answer to **one** of the questions **2-4** in this part. Write your answer in **120-180** words in an appropriate style.



If you choose the essay option, make sure you identify the essay type. Do you have to write an essay giving your opinion, a balanced for-and-against essay, or an essay discussing problems together with their causes and/or solutions?

- 2** Your English teacher has asked you to describe some of the ways in which the place where you live has changed in your lifetime. Write an essay describing these changes, and say whether you think these changes are good or bad, giving reasons.

Write your **essay**.

- 3** You have seen this announcement in an English language newspaper.

### MY FAVOURITE SONG

Tell us about a song you love. What are the words about? What feelings are expressed in the song? Why do you like it so much?

We will publish the most interesting articles next month.

Write your **article**.

- 4** A local English-language paper is running a short-story competition. Readers are asked to write a story entitled 'My big mistake'. Write a story describing how and why you made a mistake, and what the consequences were.

Write your **story**.



For questions 1-12, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0). Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Example:

0 A ago

B before

C past

D earlier

0	A	B	C	D
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Be prepared for the 4 options to all be different from a word you might usually expect in the context. Only one option is correct.

### The Man in the Iron Mask

The 'Man in the Iron Mask' lived three hundred years (0) ..... in the Bastille, a prison in Paris notorious for its bad conditions. He was (1) ..... to the prison in 1698 and (2) ..... the rest of his life there, dying at the age of 60 in 1703. To this day we are still not (3) ..... of his true identity. The famous writer Voltaire was the first to write about this mysterious prisoner, who was never actually seen (4) ..... when his face was hidden by an iron mask.

In 1789, when angry citizens forced their (5) ..... into the Bastille, they came (6) ..... an unusual iron mask. The Bastille record books showed the mask belonged to prisoner number 64389000 - 'Man in the Iron Mask'. Anyone who had read Voltaire's story would already have (7) ..... about this mysterious prisoner. After further investigation, it was found that he had been buried under the name of Marchioli.

The question has often been (8) ..... as to the man's identity. Some say he was a French Duke or perhaps an Italian diplomat. Voltaire himself (9) ..... the idea that the prisoner was the older brother of King Louis XIV, son of Louis' mother but not of his father, and that the king did not want the (10) ..... to learn of this. Voltaire's theory could (11) ..... the man's separation from other prisoners, the mask used to hide his face and why his guards (12) ..... him with such respect.

- |                 |                |              |               |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 A transferred | B removed      | C replaced   | D put         |
| 2 A settled     | B passed       | C spent      | D finished    |
| 3 A certain     | B secure       | C definite   | D right       |
| 4 A unless      | B except       | C beside     | D apart       |
| 5 A path        | B road         | C route      | D way         |
| 6 A against     | B across       | C over       | D by          |
| 7 A known       | B understood   | C believed   | D recognised  |
| 8 A mentioned   | B raised       | C demanded   | D requested   |
| 9 A put forward | B brought down | C gave up    | D let through |
| 10 A community  | B society      | C population | D public      |
| 11 A describe   | B explain      | C reason     | D express     |
| 12 A cared      | B acted        | C treated    | D dealt       |



## PART 2

For questions 13-24, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only **one** word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

Example:

0

W

E

R

E



Make sure that your answer fits grammatically and makes sense.

## The Brontë Sisters

The Brontë sisters, Charlotte, Emily and Anne, (0) ..... born and brought up in a lonely village high on the Yorkshire moors, yet all three became famous novelists. (13) ..... father, Patrick Brontë, was the parish priest of Haworth in Yorkshire. He was very strict (14) ..... his children, and also a little eccentric. After his wife died, the girls and their brother, Branwell, were looked (15) ..... by their aunt.

When they were still very young, the sisters were (16) ..... to boarding school. They received a better education there than was usual for girls at that time, but lived (17) ..... conditions which encouraged the spread of disease. The girls did (18) ..... get enough food and the buildings were cold and damp.

There were no jobs available (19) ..... women at that time, and the sisters, except for occasional jobs as governesses or school teachers, lived their whole lives (20) ..... home. They occupied their time with music, drawing, reading and, above (21) ..... , writing.

Charlotte Brontë's famous novel, *Jane Eyre*, recounts the boarding school life Charlotte hated and her experiences (22) ..... a governess. Emily Brontë wrote only one novel, *Wuthering Heights*, (23) ..... is considered a romantic masterpiece. Anne was the mildest and (24) ..... patient of the sisters; both her novels can be regarded as softer versions of *Jane Eyre*.



## PART 3

For questions 25-34, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap **in the same line**. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

Example: 0 P R O D U C T I V E



When changing the given word into an adjective or noun, more than one form may be possible. Check the sentence carefully to see which form is required.

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Every year on 1st January, millions of people decide that they will finally become the wonderful, (0) ....., healthy, happy person they've always wanted to be. The (25) ..... that an individual makes, at the beginning of the year, to achieving a (26) ..... lifestyle change is called a New Year's resolution.

In the Western world, popular resolutions include improving one's appearance or physical (27) ....., or reducing one's intake of alcohol or cigarettes. Losing weight, by eating more (28) ..... and exercising more, is (29) ..... the most common resolution.

A student may wish to focus more in class. Other people may make the (30) ..... to donate money to the poor. Some may want to be more (31) ..... with their spending, and there are those who choose to become more (32) ..... responsible.

The trouble is that the (33) ..... to make changes, especially concerning exercise and diet, tends to fade as soon as we come to the (34) ..... that we can't change everything overnight. Many New Year's resolutions are broken long before the end of January.

PRODUCE  
COMMIT  
BENEFIT

FIT  
SENSIBLE  
POSSIBLE

DECIDE  
ECONOMY  
ENVIRONMENT

EAGER

REALISE



## PART 4

For questions 35-42, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. **Do not change the word given.** You must use between **two** and **five** words, including the word given. Here is an example (0).

**Example:**

- 0 Greg has been unemployed for almost two years.  
**OUT**  
Greg has .....  
for almost two years.

**Tip**

If the first part of the second sentence includes a proper noun or pronoun, pay special attention to it as the answer often requires a pronoun that agrees with it.

**Example:**

0

**BEEN OUT OF WORK**

Write **only** the missing words **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

- 35 Andre was too worried to sleep.  
**THAT**  
Andre was ..... not sleep.
- 36 We've missed the last bus, so there is no point in waiting.  
**WORTH**  
It ..... , because we've missed the last bus.
- 37 "Is washing the car now really necessary?"  
**HAVE**  
"Does the car ..... now?"
- 38 You shouldn't take a dictionary into the examination room.  
**SUPPOSED**  
You ..... a dictionary into the examination room.
- 39 Lisa's aunt is teaching her German.  
**TAUGHT**  
Lisa ..... her aunt.
- 40 He said he would only do the job if we paid him first.  
**NOT**  
He said he would ..... we paid him first.
- 41 "Could you help me move this heavy wardrobe?"  
**HAND**  
"Could you ..... this heavy wardrobe?"
- 42 She was smiling, so I'm sure she was happy.  
**MUST**  
She was smiling, so ..... happy.