

You are going to read an article about a woman who changes her life by going to live in Italy. 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.

A Change of Scenery

Sally Thwaite left behind her routine life and headed for the Italian hills.

If you walk into any bookstore there is an entire shelf dedicated to books about people who decide to change their lives by relocating to another country. This usually involves selling their house and car in the UK, buying a run-down old house abroad and renovating it, experiencing amusing cultural misunderstandings and meeting charming locals along the way. I used to sneer at those kinds of books and wonder why anyone would put themselves through the discomfort of going to live in a foreign country – all in pursuit of a simple life!

One day, instead of walking straight past this section, I found myself stopping to browse, and ended up selecting a book to read on the train. The cover showed a cluster of villages clinging to a steep cliff, surrounded by blue-green water. It was about an accountant who realised one day how boring her life was, so she bought a ticket to Italy. After reading the book, I started watching a reality TV show called *A New Home in Tuscany*, about a couple who leave London and move to the Italian hills. I became so hooked that if friends called on Tuesday nights I would make some excuse not to go out. Soon the idea of moving abroad had lodged itself in my mind and was turning into a magnificent possibility.

I resigned from the hospital where I worked, sold my apartment and moved to the region of Umbria in Italy. Once there, I rented an apartment and hired a little motorbike. I loved sampling the local cuisine and I even signed up for a short cooking course. A very charming local called Francesco ran the course. When he told me that I cooked like a local myself, I didn't care whether this was a little white lie or genuine praise. By the end of each lesson, not only had we learnt how to prepare an authentic Umbrian dish, we were also rolling around the floor in fits of laughter, since Francesco was a natural storyteller and we enjoyed his talent for imitating people.

I also took a three-month Italian language course. It is fair to say that my attempts at cooking

were more successful than my attempts, at this later stage in my life, to acquire a new language. I persevered, however, and after a few weeks of lessons I actually had a short conversation with a local – OK, I only asked for directions to the train station. In my mind, though, this was a triumph of communication and I was satisfied with my modest progress.

It was at one of these language classes that I heard a fellow student, John, mention that his neighbour, Sandro, was moving to Rome and selling his farmhouse for a song. John said he wished he had the money to purchase it himself, as the property was sure to be snapped up soon. I couldn't believe that it cost less than half the amount that I had sold my tiny apartment for. Would I dare to copy the writers of all those books, and the couple on the TV reality show? line 52

I had to go and have a look, of course. The farmhouse was located on the top of a lush hill, and although it was very run-down, it possessed charm. There were extensive orchards with well-kept trees, so I would have nature's bounty literally on my doorstep. I bought it straight away.

The project wasn't without its difficulties, though. The farmhouse was constructed entirely of stone and wood in 1857, and was collapsing in several places. My first priority, therefore, was to hire some local craftsmen to add supports to the building. I also strengthened the foundations, installed a new kitchen and renovated the rest of the property. In the end, all the cost and effort were worthwhile, because I felt I belonged here as much as I did anywhere in the world, and I was determined to make it my home. I must say I sometimes look at my collection of books on Italy and think I'd like to have a go at writing one myself! I'd like to share my experience and let other dreamers out there know that the difficulty is worth it. I didn't quite find the simple life, but I did find what the Italians call the sweet life – *la dolce vita*.



Don't choose options which sound likely but for which there is no evidence in the text.

- 1 What did the writer originally think of books about going to live in a foreign country?
 - A They took up too much space in bookstores.
 - B They contained many entertaining stories.
 - C They didn't interest her in any way.
 - D They included a lot of useful information.
- 2 The author didn't want to go out on Tuesday nights because
 - A she was busy making plans to move abroad.
 - B she was really interested in her book about Italy.
 - C she wanted to watch a television programme.
 - D she preferred not to see friends during the week.
- 3 The impression that the writer gives of Francesco is that
 - A he could only cook local food.
 - B he wasn't honest with his students.
 - C his cookery course was too short.
 - D his students found him amusing.
- 4 What did the writer realise about learning the Italian language?
 - A that she could learn Italian easily in spite of her age
 - B that a three-month course of lessons would be enough
 - C that it was harder than learning to cook local dishes
 - D that it would help her to get on better with the locals
- 5 The writer uses the phrase 'for a song' (line 52) to suggest the farmhouse was being sold
 - A as quickly as possible.
 - B for personal reasons.
 - C for reasons of pleasure.
 - D at a very low price.
- 6 When she first went to see the farmhouse, the writer
 - A believed it could be made into a charming home.
 - B mistakenly thought it would be easy to repair it.
 - C was surprised by how run-down the property was.
 - D thought the orchards were too close to the farmhouse.
- 7 What did the writer conclude about her decision to move to Italy?
 - A She felt that the unexpected difficulties had spoilt her dreams.
 - B She was disappointed that she couldn't find the simple life she wanted.
 - C She knew anywhere else in the world would feel just as much like home.
 - D She felt that, despite the problems, her decision had been a good one.
- 8 How did the writer's attitude change, during the time she writes about, towards books about moving to Italy?
 - A She began to understand why their authors write them.
 - B She now realised they made it seem easier than it really was.
 - C She began to rely on them for information on moving to Italy.
 - D She started to enjoy collecting them as a hobby.

You are going to read an article about a top female stunt performer. 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**.

Lights, Camera, ACTION!

Annie Fielding talks about her journey to becoming a successful female stunt performer.

Falling face first through a plate of glass, being thrown from a moving car, diving off a tall building and being beaten up – this could all be the material from people's nightmares, but for me it's all in a day's work.

Having trained as a professional dancer, I started out by choreographing dance routines in music videos and films. I was working on the set of a musical, overseeing a particularly complex dance sequence, when I was introduced to Dan Pullman, who was the senior stunt coordinator on the movie. We hit it off straight away. **9** ☐ We enjoyed each other's company and gradually grew very close. Then we decided to get married.

At first I had absolutely no interest in stunt work, but just for fun Dan started showing me a few basic stunts, such as falling and landing safely. **10** ☐ Apparently, I was a natural. I didn't find these stunts too difficult, because my dance background had equipped me with a certain amount of physical strength and flexibility. Compared to dancing around a studio, I found it exhilarating because there were more risks involved. It prompted me to rethink my own career.

So then Dan started training me seriously. I learnt the martial art of judo and how to fight, and to ride horses and motorbikes. I remember the pain that I suffered in this short space of time. **11** ☐ By the time I was hired for my first stunt job, I felt ready. I know that within the stunt community there was some talk that my connection with Dan had helped me to land jobs. Well, that may have been the case at first, but since then I believe I have proved myself on my own merit. I keep getting hired to do further jobs so I must be quite good at what I do.

I only entered the stunt industry four years ago and now I have built up a fairly impressive list of stunt work experience. I have worked in music videos, television and major motion pictures. **12** ☐ It isn't easy to get regular work in this field, especially if you are a woman. There are many unemployed stunt performers out there. The longest I have gone without a project is a month, so I consider myself really lucky.

It's great work if you can get it. You might get asked to do a stair fall or a car knock-down. **13** ☐ Last week I was strapped to a moving truck as it caught fire. The days tend to be long and, depending on what is being made, a job can last from a few hours to several months. Sometimes you get to travel. My last job – doubling for an actress in a horror film – involved spending three whole weeks in Mexico.

If I'm not working, I'm training. I take karate lessons and always find time to ride, as horse stunts are my speciality. I also make sure I rehearse driving stunts in deserted areas. Doing long falls is a common thing asked of stunt people but it is not something you can practice regularly. **14** ☐ That way I am prepared for anything that is asked of me.

On the surface, my profession seems glamorous and daring, but I take every opportunity to tell young people that they must be prepared to work incredibly hard. **15** ☐ Yes, you do get to live out your action fantasies and have the chance to work with top celebrities, but there is always the possibility that you may get injured in spite of all the safety precautions taken. It is, in my opinion, important to have a realistic idea about the profession.

A I also point out how physically demanding and dangerous it is.

B I like it when we work on a film together, because can see each other every day.

C I think even he was surprised by what I could do.

D I didn't know then that he would inspire me to follow a different path in life.

E You never know what to expect, and no two stunt jobs will ever be exactly the same.

F People in the industry say that such success so early in your career is very unusual.

G I just need to keep my body lean and in peak physical condition.

H I would go to bed every night covered in bruises, but I remained extremely focused.



If you cannot fit a sentence into a gap, move on to the next one. Don't waste time on it. You can always go back to the gap later.

PART 3

You are going to read a magazine article in which four people describe their shopping experience. For questions **16-30**, choose from the people (**A-D**). The people may be chosen more than once. Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.



Make sure you select all the options at least once.

Which person

goes to the supermarket every two or three days?

16

avoids buying the most popular brands of products?

17

doesn't like to spend a lot of time in the supermarket?

18

is pleased with a new service that has been provided?

19

uses public transport when they go shopping?

20

doesn't like company when they go to the supermarket?

21

looks out for bargain prices?

22

criticises the behaviour of some other shoppers?

23

appreciates the opening hours of supermarkets?

24

is sometimes in an uncomfortable situation while shopping?

25

sometimes has a meal while shopping?

26

had a frightening experience in the supermarket?

27

dislikes shopping less now than they used to?

28

organises their shopping carefully?

29

enjoys supermarket shopping despite how tiring it can be?

30

SUPERMARKET SHOPPERS

A MELANIE ROGERS

For a mother of two young children, supermarket shopping can be an absolute nightmare. They get bored and restless and start to play up. It can be really embarrassing when everyone stares at you because both your kids are sobbing their hearts out! And if you're not watching them, they can take goods off the shelves without you noticing. Once I even managed to briefly lose my two-year-old son. He'd wandered off down another aisle while I was comparing the prices on some items. I was frantic when I realised he wasn't by my side. Luckily one of the assistants saw him and picked him up, but it was a scary five minutes until I got him back. I'm glad to say that things have improved in my shopping centre recently, as they've opened a supervised play area where I can drop the kids off while I shop, and pick them up when I've finished. It really makes life much easier.

C BOB CARTER

My wife and I retired ten years ago and we recently gave up the car as it was too expensive to run on our pensions. We get the bus into town once a week to do our shopping. We're not as fast on our feet as we once were, and some young people can be very inconsiderate, pushing you out of the way at the counters or losing their patience when you are not moving down the aisles as fast as they'd like. Others, of course, are very helpful and will give you a hand when they see you need it. Even though it can wear you out carrying all the bags, we try to make a nice outing of it. We'll treat ourselves to a bit of lunch at one of the cafes, or we'll go for tea and sandwiches at one of the nice tea rooms in the centre. We actually look forward to our shopping trips!

B JULIAN KENT

I'm not keen on shopping with other people, because it always seems to take much longer, so I usually go on my own. Nowadays big British supermarkets are open all night, which is very convenient for me. I prefer to go as late as possible, when there are no queues at the checkout and I can get all my shopping done very quickly. I usually only go once a month and make sure I stock up on everything I'm likely to need. It means you have to plan all your meals, and you need to have a big freezer, but at least I don't waste my all-too-precious time going to the shops every couple of days. If I do run out of something, or realise I've forgotten something I need, then I'll grab it from the local mini-market. I try to make sure I don't have to do this too often, as small local shops are much more expensive.

D SALLY WALKER

I suppose I'm a bit of a scatterbrain, as I never seem to have what I need when I need it. This means that I end up popping out to the supermarket at least three times a week to get in more supplies. I don't mind, though, because unlike most people, I find supermarkets to be quite relaxing places. I enjoy wandering slowly down all the aisles, checking out any new products or searching for special offers. I always take a calculator with me, as I like to know how much I'm spending, and I prefer to buy the shop's own-brand products, because they cost a lot less than the big name brands. My kids complain that we never have the "proper" breakfast cereal or the "really nice" baked beans, but I just point out that it leaves us with more money to do the really fun things. I'm sure they know I'm right.

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

- 1** You have received an email from your English-speaking penfriend, Robert, who is designing a website about different countries around the world. Read Robert's email and the notes you have made. Then write an email to Robert, using **all** your notes.

Tip

Use the information in the rubric to write an introductory remark in the first paragraph, rather than going straight into the notes.

email

From: Robert Best
Sent: 8 October
Subject: Website

Hello!

As part of my ICT course, I have to design a website. I've decided to do a site about various countries, including your country, through the eyes of young people living there. I've got lots of general information, but I need your personal comments and ideas.

First of all, do you think it's a good idea? Would you be interested in visiting a site like this?

Give opinion and say why

I'd also like you to tell me:

- what you think makes your country and its people special
- what you would recommend for visitors to your country to see/do

Explain

Give some examples

Finally, I want to include local music that young people in each country enjoy listening to. Could you send me some? It will have to be in a format I can use on the website, of course.

Yes, but ask for more information

Please reply soon!

Robert

Write your **email**. 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.

Tip

In order to write a report you need to use straightforward, formal language and write in an impersonal style. Organise the information under appropriate headings which are usually included in the rubric.

- 2** You are studying English at a language school with students from several countries. You have been asked by the school principal to find out what students think about your school and if they would like to see any changes. Write a report making recommendations about lessons, the facilities, the food at the canteen and anything else you would like to see changed.

Write your **report**.

- 3** You see the following notice in an international magazine.

How and why did you start learning English?

Do you want to share your experience with other language learners? Tell us how and why you started and what you think is the best way to learn English.

The best articles will be published in the next issue.

Write an **article** based on your own experience.

- 4** Your English class has just had a discussion on whether money is a good or bad thing. Your teacher has now asked you to write an essay giving your opinion on the following statement:

Having too much money is as much of a problem as not having enough.

Write your **essay**.

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 period B moment C point D time

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



Be aware of any prepositions that follow gaps, as this will often determine the correct option.

Music Television

At 12:01 on 1 August 1981, a new American cable TV channel broadcast the video of a song by The Buggles called *Video Killed the Radio Star*. This was the (0) MTV was born. Before this, pop and rock artists relied on radio to (1) their audiences, but now audiences could actually see their favourite bands (2) their greatest hits on a TV channel entirely (3) to music.

Some critics (4) the channel would fail, and some musicians felt annoyed about having to act and dance in videos to win over fans. Other artists, (5) as Madonna and Michael Jackson, took (6) of the coverage, and it helped to make them into cultural icons. MTV both influenced and was influenced by the young generation, and the channel had an (7) on style, fashion and trends.

Over the following years, MTV (8) globally, bringing music television to Europe in 1987 and Asia ten years later. Nowadays there are few people in the world who have not (9) of MTV. Since the channel's humble beginnings, the first MTV viewers have grown older and now themselves have children who (10) the channel. Today's audience (11) continents and generations.

Today, there is no longer an emphasis on music alone, and the channel also has quiz shows, reality shows and films. The original idea of music television is a distant (12)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| 1 A touch | B stretch | C catch | D reach |
| 2 A perform | B act | C show | D display |
| 3 A specialised | B interested | C devoted | D closed |
| 4 A checked | B confirmed | C proved | D believed |
| 5 A such | B like | C just | D same |
| 6 A benefit | B advantage | C profit | D assistance |
| 7 A impression | B improvement | C impact | D inspiration |
| 8 A expanded | B heightened | C enlarged | D increased |
| 9 A known | B noticed | C listened | D heard |
| 10 A see | B watch | C look | D view |
| 11 A jumps | B crosses | C meets | D matches |
| 12 A reminder | B memory | C history | D past |

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	H	I	S																
---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



There may be more than one correct answer, but do not write more than one word in each gap.

Mary Shelley's Story

In 1816, English poet Percy Bysshe Shelley and (0) future wife, Mary, visited another famous poet, Lord Byron, at his house near Lake Geneva in Switzerland. It rained (13) snowed constantly during their stay, forcing the group to (14) most of their holiday indoors. One night, Byron challenged the Shelleys and his doctor, Polidori, to each make up a ghost story. He said that the person who wrote the most terrifying tale (15) be the winner.

Mary, who was only nineteen (16) the time, came up with the idea for her story after having a nightmare in (17) she saw a pale student of science kneeling beside 'the thing he had put together'. This ultimately lead her to write one of the greatest horror novels of all time – *Frankenstein*. In the finished novel, a mad scientist (18) Victor Frankenstein brings a monster to life. It is really a warning against man's dangerous relationship (19) science.

The book was first published (20) 1818, although for several years the writer's identity was not revealed. (21) then her story has become extremely popular and many films have been based (22) it. It is astonishing to think that it was (23) by a 19-year-old who set about writing the story in a simple attempt (24) scare her close circle of friends.

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

DEVELOPMENT



Look out for negative meaning in particular – the word may fit grammatically but you might need the opposite meaning.

Early Clocks

The (0) of the clock is an interesting story, although there is some (25) about the way in which clocks came about. The word 'clock' originated from the Latin word 'clocca', which means 'bell', and it was first coined about 700 years ago.

Before the (26) of the modern-day clock, there were several ways that a person could tell the time. People first told the time by looking at the sun in the sky. When the sun was (27) overhead, it was noon, and when it was close to the horizon, it was either sunrise or sunset. But time could not be told (28) using this method.

(29) believe that the sundial was used around 3,500 BC and was probably the (30) clock. On the sundial, the shadow of the sun points to a number on a disc which shows you the time. However, since sundials are (31) on the sun, they can only be used to tell time during the day.

Water clocks, or *clepsydra*, were an Egyptian invention and were also (32) in Greece. Water dripped slowly out of a hole in a clay (33) , which had a series of marks on it that indicated the time. The Greeks made several (34) on the design over the years. Water clocks had the advantage over sundials that they could also be used at night.

DEVELOP
AGREE

INVENT

DIRECT

ACCURATE

HISTORY
EARLY

DEPEND

FASHION
CONTAIN
IMPROVE

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 The school I studied at last year was better than this one.

GOOD

This school
my last one.

Tip

Don't forget to use the word in bold and make sure that you do not change this word in any way.

Example:

0

IS NOT AS GOOD AS

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

- 35 I cannot afford to buy a train ticket.

HAVE

I to buy a train ticket.

- 36 There is no more petrol in the car.

RUN

The car petrol.

- 37 It is useless to worry about what has already happened.

POINT

There is what has already happened.

- 38 "Have you had anything to eat?" Mum asked Liam.

WHETHER

Mum asked anything to eat.

- 39 Did you mean to kick him, or did it happen by accident?

PURPOSE

Did you kick him an accident?

- 40 If you don't know how to spell the word, why don't you check in the dictionary?

UP

If you don't know how to spell the word, you in the dictionary.

- 41 The senior managers are interviewing the candidates.

INTERVIEWED

The candidates the senior managers.

- 42 It's too cold to go for a walk today.

IF

We could go for a walk cold today.