**Text A:**

People who enjoy skiing dream of skiing in exotic places. These days they don’t have to limit themselves to just the Rocky Mountains or the Swiss Alps. Now they can ski in Dubai as well! That’s right. Dubai, the most populated city in the United Arab Emirates, has a ski resort. Ski Dubai opened for business in 2005. Other than being the world’s third largest indoor ski facility, Ski Dubai has a number of things to amaze visitors. First and foremost, this ski facility was built in a place where there are no natural hills and it never snows. While the desert outdoors can reach 45° C in the summer, the slopes of Ski Dubai are kept at a cool -2° C all year round.

Like any other ski resort, Ski Dubai has a chairlift and ski instructors. It also boasts a Swiss style café on the slopes where skiers can rest and warm up. However, that’s not all. Along with being able to enjoy the five indoor slopes, including a black diamond slope, visitors are welcome to build snowmen in a designated area. Children can also enjoy snowball fights in the snowball throwing gallery, or they can explore a snow cavern filled with amazing things for kids to see and do.

As if all of that were not enough, it is also possible for guests to experience falling snow from time to time. When it is time to make new snow inside the facility, the temperature drops to -8° C. Then snow guns shoot out chilled water to make a cloud near the ceiling. Tiny particles of ice are shot into the cloud to form snow crystals. This man-made snow falls from the ceiling on excited guests below. When Raed Al Yousofi, a guest at Ski Dubai, experienced his first snowfall, he said, “It’s very strange but wonderful.” That is certainly an apt description of Ski Dubai as well.

**1.1.1. Indicate whether the following statements are true or false (T/F) according to the text. Copy that part (and ONLY that part) of the text which justifies your answer. (1.5 points)**

a. In Dubai ski enthusiasts cannot practise this sport in the open air.

b. Ski Dubai has been built in a winter landscape area.

c. Users have to bring their own drinks.

d. Kids don’t often complain about being bored.

e. Unusually low temperatures are not needed to produce snow.

f. People love it when snowflakes fall on their heads.

**1.1.2. Find words or phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here. (1 point)**

a. apart from

b. proudly possesses

c. building

d. icy

e. artificial

**1.2.1 Complete the second sentence of each pair so that it has the same meaning as the first one. You must use the word or expression in italics. (2 points)**

a. It’s a pity I can’t ski.

I wish

b. We last went on holiday last August.

since

c. Although she didn’t speak Arabic, she decided to go to Dubai.

spite

d. You’d better save if you want to spend your holiday there, said her mother.

suggested

e. When it gets colder, it is much more enjoyable.

The colder

**1.2.2. Pronunciation (0.50 points)**

a. In which word does the letter “i” sound differently? sit, killer, ship, file

b. In which two words is the ending “ed” pronounced /t/ as in “attached”? connected, answered, discussed, divided, translated, finished, travelled, lived

c. Which pair of words does not rhyme? case - phase, die - cry, beer - bear, shower - flour

d. In which word are the vowel sounds pronounced differently? coat, doubt, coast, own.

**Text B:**

What do Einstein, Leonardo da Vinci, Julius Caesar, and Napoleon have in common? They were all left-handed! Beginning early in history, southpaws were feared, neglected, and punished because use of the left hand was considered evil. In fact, the Latin word for “left” is “sinister.” Due to this prejudice against the left, left-handed people were forced to switch hands. This change caused many problems for lefties in school, which resulted in frustration, bad behaviour, and high dropout rates. Maybe that is why lefties were stereotyped as unintelligent, an idea that could not be further from the truth.

Researchers studying the brain have found differences in the left side and right side of the brain. Researchers believe that people who use more of the left side of their brain tend to be more intelligent. They also tend to use language better and solve problems faster. However, one study also showed that left-brain people tend to have worse memories.

So, which side of the brain do lefties use? Actually, both. Right-handed people use the left side of the brain more, whereas left-handed people use both sides of the brain almost equally. The part connecting the two halves of the brain is usually larger in left-handed people. Therefore, information can pass more efficiently from one side of the brain to the other. The left hemisphere of the brain controls speech, language, writing, logic, mathematics, and science. The right hemisphere controls music, art, creativity, perception, and emotion. Since lefties use both sides, they are often both creative and scientific.

Approximately ten percent of the world is left-handed, and the ratio of left-handed males to left-handed females is two to one. Thankfully, parents and teachers no longer treat left-handedness as a problem to be cured. It may actually contribute to a child’s excellence! If allowed to learn and develop in their own way, lefties will excel in school. Perhaps one of these lefties might turn out to be the next Einstein or da Vinci.

**2.1.1. Indicate whether the following statements are true or false (T/F) according to the text. Copy that part (and ONLY that part) of the text which justifies your answer. (1.5 points)**

a. In the past nobody thought well of left-handed people.

b. The word left-handed has a positive meaning.

c. Left-handed people were obliged to change some habits.

d. I has been proved that left-handed people use the right side of their brain while right-handed individuals use the left part.

e. If someone is right-handed, she or he is probably creative and artistic.

d. There are more left -handed women than men.

**2.1.2. Find words or phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here. (1 point)**

a. obliged

b. early school leaving

c. in fact

e. fortunately

f. do very well

**3.1.1. Complete the second sentence of each pair so that it has the same meaning as the first one. You must use the word or expression in italics. (2 points)**

a. Although she took a taxi, Anne still arrived late for the concert

Despite

b. The weather was so bad that we couldn’t go out.

such

c. I don’t visit you very often because you live very far away.

If

d. People never use this classroom for exams.

This

e. Christine to us: “Please, don’t be late!”

asked

**3.1.2. Pronunciation (0.50 points)**

a. In which word is the letter “l” not pronounced? calculate, call, calm, calorie

b. In which two words is the stress on the first syllable as in “benefit”? imperfect, technician, imitate, accurate, deliver, opinion, occasion, collection

c. In which word is the vowel sound not pronounced as in “fun”? mud, cup, cute, hut

d. In which word is the ending “-ed” pronounced /d/ as in “answered”? relaxed, reported, played, asked

**2.2. WRITE A COMPOSITION ANSWERING THIS QUESTION (2.5 points)**

Does being different mean being unpopular? (Approximately 120 words)

**3.2. WRITE A COMPOSITION ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS (2.5 points)**

How do you imagine your perfect winter holidays? Why? (Approximately 120 words)

**Text A:**

There’s something special about the cinema. Sitting in the dark with the surround sound speakers, the larger-than-life screen and a big group of people all sharing the same experience. It’s magical… but the illusion is easily broken. We asked a few people what they find most annoying about the cinema. Here are some of their responses.

“I hate the way they overcharge for everything in the cinema. I mean, the popcorn and the drinks are at least twice as expensive as normal. Also, talking about popcorn, I hate it when they fill the container so high that the popcorn falls out and you drop it everywhere.”

“I can’t stand noise in the cinema. Screaming babies, non-stop talking about the film and noisy eaters, but worst of all, the sound of someone unwrapping a sweet – particularly when they’re trying not to make too much noise, so they open it really slowly, but that makes it even noisier”.

“I hate it when people use their mobile phone in the cinema. The bright light from the mobile screen goes right into your eyes and ruins the experience. I also hate the sound of a message beep (why can’t people turn their mobile phones off!), but worst of all, people who answer a phone call, or even make one!”

“For me, the cinema loudspeakers are usually way too loud. Also, I hate it when people get up to go to the toilet in the middle of the film (can’t they go beforehand?) or when someone (usually a child) kicks the back of your chair or taps the back of your seat with their feet or hands. It also annoys me when people arrive late and make you stand up as they need to get to their seat.”

**1.1.1. Indicate whether the following statements are true or false (T/F) according to the text. Copy that part (and ONLY that part) of the text which justifies your answer. (1.5 points)**

a. They wanted to discover what people liked most about the cinema.

b. One thing that people hate is that food and drink are not as cheap as outside the cinema.

c. It’s better when people who open a sweet try to do so quietly.

d. The worst problem with mobile phones is the bright light that interferes with the visual experience of the film

e. The film sound is never loud enough

f. It is sometimes irritating when a child is sitting behind you.

**1.1.2. Find words or phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here: (1 point)**

a. irritating

b. ask an unreasonable price

c. let it fall

d. especially

e. spoils

**1.2.1. Complete the second sentence of each pair so that it has the same meaning as the first one. You must use the word or expression in italics. (2 points)**

a. They asked a few people what they find most annoying about the cinema.

A few people

b. He said, “It goes right into your eyes and ruins the experience”.

He said that

c. I hate screaming babies and non-stop talking.

I hate it when

d. It is far more interesting to go to the cinema on your own.

is far more interesting.

e. Last Saturday we went to the cinema. We went in my brother’s car.

The car

**1.2.2. Pronunciation (0.50 points)**

a. Which word has the same vowel sound as in the word “dark”? larger, sharing, arrive, particularly.

b. In which word is the underlined letter pronounced differently? open, mobile, phone, gone.

c. In which two words is the underlined letter pronounced as in “high”? bingo, bird, flight, birth, sir, file, click, flint

d. In which word is the letter “l” silent (not pronounced)? cold, sale, calm, help

**Text B:**

According to a report by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), nine coastlines have been identified as the places in the Mediterranean most polluted with plastic. They include top tourist spots such as Barcelona, Marseilles, TelAviv and the Venice coast near the Po River. The report stated that all Mediterranean countries had not been good at managing plastic contamination, and that 570,000 tons of plastic went into the sea each year - the equivalent of 33,800 plastic bottles every minute. Italy, for example, is apparently the largest consumer of bottled water in the world, with about 178 litres sold in plastic bottles per person, per year, while Egypt is highlighted as the biggest source of plastic waste in the Mediterranean, followed by Turkey.

In 2015 Spanish researchers warned that in the Mediterranean area plastic was being found in the stomachs of fish, birds, turtles and whales and that tiny pieces of plastic - microplastics - had also been found in oysters and mussels. In the words of the WWF, "plastic production is far too cheap, while its waste management and pollution costs are largely discharged on societies and nature. All countries must improve their whole supply chain. This is the only way we can keep plastic out of the Mediterranean Sea." In its recommendations, the report said that all Mediterranean governments should set targets to reuse and recycle 100% of plastic items, thus creating zero waste. It also called for single-use plastic items to be eliminated gradually.

**2.1.1. Indicate whether the following statements are true or false (T/F) according to the text. Copy that part (and ONLY that part) of the text which justifies your answer. (1.5 points)**

a. Barcelona, Marseilles, Tel-Aviv and Venice are among the most polluted cities in Europe.

b. Mediterranean countries, in general, do not tackle plastic pollution very effectively.

c. Egypt is the country that best combats plastic pollution in the Mediterranean.

d. Luckily molluscs due to their small size cannot eat plastic.

e. In order to avoid plastic pollution in the Mediterranean Sea, governments have to change and improve the ways in which they move products from manufacturers to customers.

f. The WWF recommends forbidding the use of plastic in Mediterranean countries.

**2.1.2. Find words or phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here. (1 point)**

a. controlling

b. seemingly

c. rubbish

d. goals

e. disposable

**3.1.1. Complete the second sentence of each pair so that it has the same meaning as the first one. You must use the word or expression in italics. (2 points)**

a. The WWF’s report wasn’t welcomed by Mediterranean governments. The report was about plastic pollution in the sea.

which

b. A teacher: “Children, is there anything we can do about plastic pollution?”

A teacher asked

c. Despite environmentalists’ hard fight against pollution, they haven’t managed to solve the problem.

No matter how

d. Someone should finish the climate report as soon as possible.

The climate report

e. Mediterranean countries sell too much bottled water. Plastic pollution does not improve.

If

**3.1.2. Pronunciation (0.50 points)**

a. In which word is -ed pronounced /id/ as in counted? learned, changed, explained, decided

b. In which word is the letter “o” pronounced differently? Monday, consequence, company, mother

c. In which word are the underlined letters pronounced as in “sheep”? seat, hip, fir, ear

d. Which two pairs do not rhyme? fall - shawl, hat - hard, feel - meal, turn - stern, sweet - suite, tall – roll, pun -done, boy – joy

**2.2. WRITE A COMPOSITION ANSWERING THIS QUESTION (2.5 points)**

Is there anything you can do against plastic pollution? (Approximately 120 words)

**3.2. WRITE A COMPOSITION ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS (2.5 points):**

Which do you prefer, going to the cinema or watching films and series at home on television/ your computer/ your mobile phone? Why? (Approximately 120 words)