

**PART 1. READING****Task 1**

Read the text and the questions below. For questions 1-5, mark the correct letter (A, B, C or D).

**Jim Benson, pianist and songwriter**

People often ask me who I have to thank for my success as a pianist and a songwriter. They expect to hear that I was born into a musical family and had an excellent piano teacher. However, the truth is different. When I was little, nobody played an instrument at home. I learnt to play the piano and sing because there was a piano in my house and I just wanted to make music.

My parents allowed me to sit at the piano and sing for as long as I wanted. If they were afraid that I would break the old piano, they never mentioned it. They didn't suggest that I should take lessons, either. The songs just came to me when I had my hands on the piano. I suppose I had musical talent and that is all you need.

I started writing proper songs when I was a teenager. The music was mine, but the

words were from other song writers. It seemed so easy. When you start to compose, you do that, you copy other people's best songs. Then you start changing the melodies and the words and you develop your own style. That only happened later, when I had grown beyond my teenage years.

For a time, I thought music would be just a hobby. My parents had developed a strong belief that I would be able to make a living as a musician, but I had my doubts, so after school I took a job in radio advertising. Then one day one of my songs won a prize and that changed everything. I realized my happiness was in music. I have been a musician ever since that day.

- 1 What is Jim Benson's main purpose in writing the text?
  - A to suggest how children can be taught music
  - B to describe his life as a successful musician
  - C to explain how he became a musician
  - D to complain about his lack of musical training
  
- 2 When Jim Benson started making music on the piano, his parents
  - A seemed happy to let him play it.
  - B said the piano might get damaged.
  - C saw the need for a piano teacher.
  - D wanted him to play his own songs.
  
- 3 What does Jim Benson say about the songs he wrote as a teenager?
  - A They were not well-written.
  - B They took a lot of time to write.
  - C They were not very original.
  - D They showed his personal style.

- 4** Jim Benson took a job in advertising because
- A** his parents suggested it was a good career for him.
  - B** he thought he might not earn enough as a musician.
  - C** he had learnt about advertising jobs at school.
  - D** it offered him the opportunity to change his life.
- 5** Which advice would Jim Benson give talented young people?
- A** You need somebody in your family to guide you when you start.
  - B** It's OK to copy other people's songs when you are learning.
  - C** It is not a good idea to write songs when you are very young.
  - D** If you want to be successful, you must have good music teachers.

## Task 2

For questions **6-15**, look at the sentences below about an unusual race along a river. Read the text to decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect.

If it is correct, mark **A** on your answer sheet.

If it is not correct, mark **B** on your answer sheet.

- 6** Visitors come to Glen Nevis to enjoy outdoor activities all year round.
- 7** Parts of the course of the River Race are less rough than others.
- 8** Competitors are able to begin the race as soon as they are ready.
- 9** The depth of the water has an effect on how long the races last.
- 10** Some people return to do the race again and again.
- 11** Only certain types of lilo may be used in the race.
- 12** Competitors must use the safety clothing provided by race organisers.
- 13** The most frightening part of the race is in the second half of the course.
- 14** Members of the mountain rescue team are paid professionals.
- 15** There is a fixed charge for visitors who come to see the race.

## The Glen Nevis River Race

Glen Nevis is known as the 'outdoor capital' of Scotland. Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, rises above the area, while the waters of the River Nevis flow through the rocky valley below. The spectacular scenery attracts walkers and climbers all through the seasons, despite the cold weather in winter.

During the summer months, one of the most exciting activities is the annual Glen Nevis River Race, in which competitors race for three kilometres along the river,

but not in a boat. Instead, each competitor uses a lilo, a plastic bed filled with air normally used for camping or floating in the sea, or another kind of beach toy to race along the river. There are rocks, waterfalls and sections with scary names like Dead Dog Pool and the Leg Breaker for them to get through though there are areas of calmer water too.

Competitors set off at 30 seconds intervals by jumping with their lilos from a tiny shelf in a rock into the fast-flowing water

12 metres below. It can take anything from 20 minutes to over two hours to complete the course, depending on the level of the river and the abilities of the competitor.

There is much discussion amongst people who take part regularly about which type of lilo works best for the race. Some prefer short wide ones, while others say that a long narrow one is better. But since you can use anything that floats, all kinds of beach toys such as bananas, sharks and crocodiles can be seen floating down the river.

The only rules are that competitors must be at least 16 years old, and should provide their own crash helmet, a rubber wet suit and a life jacket. Gloves and old trainers are recommended to protect against knocks and bumps. The most important qualification, however, is a sense of fun.

The race is full of exciting moments, and the greatest of these is at the Lower Falls Leap, where terrified competitors have to jump over a ten-metre waterfall not far from the finish. More than 3,000 athletes have taken part in the race during its 30-year history. Their £30 entry fee helps to raise money for the mountain rescue team, whose members provide an essential service in the region for free. The race is a popular afternoon out for visitors and it costs nothing to watch, although any money given is gratefully accepted.

The prizes may not be fantastic, but everyone receives a certificate of completion and the winner gets the title River Race Champion and all agree that it has been worth it for the satisfying feeling of reaching the end safely.

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### TRANSFER YOUR ANSWERS TO YOUR ANSWER SHEET

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## PART 2. USE OF ENGLISH

### Task 1

For questions 1-10, read the text below and choose the correct word **A**, **B**, **C** or **D** for each space.

#### Example:

**O**    **A** retired                    **B** left                    **C** gone                    **D** moved

**Answer: B**

### FROM SCHOOLBOY TO CLOWN

Gareth Ellis is the youngest of Alan and Kath's sons. His two older brothers have already (0) ..... their parents' home. (1) ..... he is only twelve, Gareth is sure that he will be a clown. When Gareth was three, his parents (2) ..... him to see Zippo's circus and he (3) ..... remembers that visit today. All Gareth (4) ..... for as birthday presents was to go back to Zippo's, his father (5) .....

Then, in 1996, Alan (6) ..... his job, so, together with Kath, they decided to try and find full-time jobs in a circus (7) ..... Gareth would have a chance to learn clown skills. (8) ..... of them got jobs with the Moscow State Circus. Alan (9) ..... a lights operator and Kath was in the box office. After two years there,

the director of Zippo's offered them jobs and training for Gareth. One day Gareth (10) ..... to be the best clown in the world.

- |    |   |          |   |           |   |         |   |         |
|----|---|----------|---|-----------|---|---------|---|---------|
| 1  | A | However  | B | Although  | C | Even    | D | So      |
| 2  | A | went     | B | travelled | C | carried | D | took    |
| 3  | A | since    | B | already   | C | still   | D | yet     |
| 4  | A | demanded | B | requested | C | asked   | D | wanted  |
| 5  | A | says     | B | speaks    | C | informs | D | tells   |
| 6  | A | missed   | B | lost      | C | gave    | D | threw   |
| 7  | A | when     | B | where     | C | which   | D | who     |
| 8  | A | Any      | B | Some      | C | Either  | D | Both    |
| 9  | A | became   | B | turned    | C | worked  | D | applied |
| 10 | A | believes | B | hopes     | C | thinks  | D | dreams  |

## Task 2

For questions 11-20, 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.

I've booked my working holiday and I can't wait to leave.

It starts

- |    |   |         |
|----|---|---------|
| 11 | on July 15 and is for three weeks in Africa. It's _____ !   | THRILL  |
| 12 | I've always thought Africa was _____ and now I'm going to see it. It's going to be a very long journey though -   | AWE     |
| 13 | eight hours on a plane. I'm a bit _____ about flying, but I'm sure it will be OK.   | SCARE   |
| 14 | I got a lot of _____ about the place I'm going to on  | INFORM  |
| 15 | the Internet. I thought the climate would be _____ with lots of rain, but it's more like a semi-desert, and everything is very dry.                                     | EQUATOR |
|    | The day I start working, my group and I are going to go sky   |         |
| 16 | _____ . It'll be amazing. I've never taken part in  | DIVE    |
| 17 | anything as fun or as _____ before. I'll try to be brave,   | FRIGHT  |
| 18 | of course, and even if I'm _____ , I'll try not to show it.   | TERRIFY |
|    | I'm going to be working in a local village. The people there  |         |
| 19 | want to use _____ energy, but they can't do it all themselves, so we'll be there to help them. We're going to build a wind turbine. Because there are very few cars and | RENEW   |
| 20 | no factories in the village, there is no air _____ , and I'm looking forward to spending time in such a clean place.  | POLLUTE |

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