Section 1: Vocabulary

1 Read the text and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

While my friend was on holiday, I kept an **1** _____ on her flat, so to say thank you she wanted to take me to the theatre. It was a new play by a writer I don't like and, a few hours before the play, I got **2** _____ feet and phoned my friend to cancel. She told me the **3** _____ had given the play extremely good reviews so I decided to go after all. The audience had all dressed **4** _____ and looked very smart and serious. I couldn't understand the play at all – I just don't **5** _____ these modern plays – and the people around me were concentrating so hard to understand it that finally I couldn't keep a **6** _____ face and burst out laughing. I'm just **7** _____ of taking this kind of performance seriously. My neighbours stared at me furiously until I stopped laughing. I tried to sit quietly but this turned **8** _____ to be impossible. Their disapproving looks just made me want to laugh even more. Finally I gave up. I couldn't **9** _____ watching any more of the play so I walked out. I explained to my friend that these kinds of play just aren't **10** _____ as far as I'm concerned, but she still won't talk to me.

1	**A** eye	**B** finger	**C** ear	**D** hand
2	**A** freezing	**B** icy	**C** itchy	**D** cold
3	**A** artists	**B** actors	**C** director	**D** critics
4	**A** down	**B** up	**C** for	**D** out
5	**A** put	**B** get	**C** take	**D** make
6	**A** tight	**B** straight	**C** smart	**D** tough
7	**A** incapable	**B** capable	**C** capability	**D** capably
8	**A** up	**B** out	**C** away	**D** into
9	**A** catch my eye	**B** face to face	**C** face	**D** see eye to eye
10	**A** entertain	**B** entertained	**C** entertainment	**D** entertainingly

/10

Section 2: Grammar

2 Complete the text. Use only one word for each gap.

People **1** _____ been living in the Amazon Basin for at least 10,000 years when it was 'first discovered' by **2** _____ Spaniard called Don Francisco de Orellana in 1542. He was looking for forests of cinnamon and, of course, gold. The Indians promised the Europeans that there was gold because they knew that as long as the Spaniards needed **3** _____ as guides, the Indians were safe. In fact it was nearly a year **4** _____ Orellana and his team finally reached the junction of the Napo and Amazon rivers. The new river was originally named Rio de Orellana after its European discoverer. Although the Spaniards didn't find **5** _____ gold, they did find **6** _____ greatest river in the world.

However, today we are destroying the wonderful Amazon rainforests and **7**_____ is believed that the last remaining rainforests could be destroyed in less **8** _____ 40 years. In addition, it seems certain that nearly half of the world's species of plants, animals and microorganisms **9** _____ be destroyed or severely threatened over the next 25 years due to rainforest deforestation. Furthermore, ten million indigenous people are thought to **10** _____ been living in the Amazonian rainforest 500 years ago, but today there are fewer than 200,000.

/10

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Section 3: Listening

3 ▶ 02 **Listen to an interview with Leo Stone reviewing a book called *Following in Shackleton's Footsteps* by Henry Worsley. Complete the sentences.**

1 Leo Stone has been on quite a few _____ to the Pole himself.

2 Henry Worsley, descended from Shackleton's captain, took Shackleton's compass and _____ with him on the trip.

3 The team had to undergo strict training, but they found the biggest challenge was the _____ one.

4 While Shackleton only had a compass to guide him, Henry's team had up-to-date _____ devices.

5 They had similar problems to Shackleton, for example strong _____ kept them inside their tents for a couple of days.

6 Despite the difficulties, Worsley was _____ about reaching the Pole.

7 On the Antarctic Plateau, the _____ caused them to be ill.

8 The team finally reached the point where Shackleton had had to turn back on the 100th _____.

/8

Section 4: Reading

4 **Read the text below and choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.**

1 In paragraph 1 we learn that Joe Swanberg's films are

A usually low-budget costume dramas.

B rarely seen in cinemas.

C often bought on DVD.

D made for young people in the city.

2 What impact has technology had on the movie business, according to paragraph 2?

A Small independent film-makers are struggling to find an audience.

B Audiences are still enjoying blockbuster films.

C Fewer young people are attracted to the industry.

D There is more choice available in the middle market area.

3 According to paragraph 3, blockbuster success is because people

A prefer to see famous actors in films.

B like watching and talking about reality shows.

C only watch films recommended to them by friends.

D are reluctant to see films they've never heard of.

4 Paragraph 5 indicates that people may

A be confused by the choice presented to them.

B choose niche films because of their availability.

C not understand all the different formats available.

D prefer to listen to music than watch films these days.

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5 What does 'they' refer to in paragraph 6?

A consumers

B media companies

C television programmes

D movie industry decision-makers

6 What does paragraph 7 say about the situation nowadays?

A Consumers are benefiting from it.

B There is hardly anything good on television.

C Making programmes is easier than before.

D Better films and TV programmes are being made.

The future of entertainment

More than ever, media is separating into mass market blockbusters on the one hand and 'niche' products – attracting small groups of people with similar interests – on the other. Everything else is struggling to compete.

Joe Swanberg makes films about the romantic lives of young people in the city. He shoots quickly with a digital camera and asks actors to wear their own clothes. His low-budget films are hardly ever shown in cinemas. By keeping his costs down and distributing digitally, Mr Swanberg is making a living.

Technology was expected to help young people like him. A few years ago it was predicted that the internet would vastly increase the supply of small independent films and other niche media products and increase their audiences. That has certainly happened. However, so has the opposite. Blockbusters are also tightening their grip on audiences, whether it's in the area of film, music, television or books. The growth of both niche products and huge sell-out successes has been at the expense of the things in the middle, which are just quite popular – the near-misses.

There are several reasons why big hits still do so well. As in the past, people still want to have something to talk about with their friends. Which is why talent shows such as *American Idol* do pretty much as well as they did ten years ago, and why the latest blockbuster still breaks new records at the box office. Research shows that people still choose blockbusters more often than less well-known books and films. This is probably because people tend to try only things they have heard of – which for many people means media-hyped blockbusters.

Furthermore, all the technology that has made niche content so much more accessible has also proved handy for pushing blockbusters. Missed the last popular film? Don't worry, because there will be other chances to see it, in a wide variety of formats.

Blockbusters are doing well not in spite of the fact that people have more choice in entertainment, but because of it. Imagine walking into a music shop which has more than 10 million songs, as iTunes does, all of them arranged alphabetically. Making up your mind would be impossible! So, rather than having to decide, it's much easier to just grab what everybody is talking about.

Is this increasingly more common separation into blockbusters and niches good or bad? It certainly makes life harder for media companies. In a world where entertainment choices are growing, it is more important than ever to make a big impact with your product. If it isn't a hit, it will have to fight for attention together with thousands – perhaps millions – of other offerings. The possibility of failing can make people anxious and more conservative. Television programmes must be successful quickly or they will be cancelled. It is becoming even harder to talk the decision-makers in the movie industry into approving films if ***they*** are not confident there is a demand for them.

These days, with so many options, there is rarely nothing good on television. So the media industry must raise its game. Intelligent people naturally wish that more money were available to produce the kind of music, films and television programmes they like. The problem is that everybody has different ideas about exactly what they want to watch. Some may love watching a programme about the history of dance; others may want to spend an hour being told how to look after pet snakes. But not many want to do either of these things, which explains why such programmes are niche products. There are only a few things that can be guaranteed to delight large numbers of people. They are known as blockbusters.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

/6

Extract adapted from "The future of entertainment Middle-class struggle", *The Economist,* 26/11/2009, copyright © The Economist Newspaper Limited, London 2009

Section 5: Writing

5 Complete the report with the phrases in the box. There are five words you do not need to use.

despite	disadvantages	findings	for this reason	however	in order to	in summary	introduction
since	was agreed	was made	were opened	were raised			

Report on suggestion for a school art gallery

1 _____

The aims of this report are to outline advantages and potential problems of investing money in a small art gallery, and to make recommendations. **2** _____ do this, both students and staff were consulted.

Advantages

In general, it **3** _____ that an art gallery in the school would offer many advantages for students and teachers. It was proposed that students studying art could display their work in the gallery, and that local artists could be invited to the gallery to give talks. The gallery might also be used as a quiet study room for students preparing for exams.

4 _____

The main concerns that **5** _____ are as follows:

6 _____ only 15 percent of students study art, not all students would be interested in the gallery.

There is limited free space in the school, and it may be difficult to find a suitable room.

Conclusion

A school art gallery may not appeal to all, and might take up valuable free space in the school.

7 _____, I believe the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. **8** _____ I would recommend going ahead with the project.

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