Reading

Read this article about scientific explanations for ghosts and then answer the questions. Choose the best answer A, B, C or D.

Can science explain ghosts?

A surprising number of people in the UK believe in ghosts. About 42 per cent of Britons think ghosts actually exist. A survey by the National Opinion Poll found almost two-thirds of those in Scotland and northern England admitted to having seen or felt the presence of a ghost. Those in the south and older people had more doubts about the existence of ghosts. So what is it that makes people feel this way? Some scientists think they may have the answer.

One theory is that people are prepared to believe in ghosts because of their knowledge of a place. It is probable that the kind of stories they hear about a certain place encourage people to believe in ghosts. When they hear scary stories about a place, people are more likely to feel scared when they visit it. Some ancient castles and palaces have histories of murders and mysteries which feed the imaginations of people who believe in ghosts. No wonder visitors to these places often expect them to be haunted! Odd noises that would not worry visitors in their own homes suddenly appear quite spooky!

Scientists who carried out experiments with volunteers in Hampton Court Palace, England and the South Bridge Vaults in Edinburgh, Scotland – two of the most famous haunted places in Britain – reported some interesting results. They found that people's strange experiences usually happened in the same parts of the building. The scientists think that some people are affected by the environment of the 'haunted' building. It is the darkness, the cold, sudden drops in temperature and perhaps even some barely noticeable noise that affect their bodies, creating the feeling in their minds that something is not 'quite right'.

Research has also shown a possible connection between magnetic fields and the feelings that a place is haunted. Magnetic fields are areas that occur naturally, but vary from place to place. Although we cannot see the forces in these areas, it is possible that they have an effect on the human body. Tests in laboratories have shown that small changes in magnetic fields can cause people to experience odd feelings. This could explain why the places which volunteers felt were most haunted were also the areas where there were the greatest changes in magnetic fields.

What about the feeling that some people report of a ghostly presence in the comfort of their own home? Experts say many people's experiences of ghosts are easy to explain. People often have these experiences as they are falling asleep or waking up. In these situations people are half asleep, half awake and they see a face or a person near their bed. Sometimes these are people they recognise. These are quite common experiences, a little like visions, or a sort of waking dream. Unlike dreams, there has been little research into these experiences, so people often explain them as ghosts.

1 According to the first paragraph, which British people are most likely to believe in ghosts?
- A people who live in the south of England
- B old people from all over Britain
- C English scientists who study ghosts
- D people in Scotland and the north of England

2 According to the second paragraph, what causes visitors to find a place scary?
- A They have heard that it is haunted.
- B They hear loud sounds.
- C They have never visited it before.
- D They have studied ancient history.

3 What happened to the volunteers in the experiments?
- A They all saw ghosts.
- B They started believing in ghosts.
- C They found the same areas spooky.
- D They became afraid of the dark.

4 Why are magnetic fields mentioned?
- A They change when a ghost is near.
- B They only occur in haunted places.
- C They are weaker in ancient places.
- D They may explain people's odd experiences.

5 What is the main point of the text?
- A Scientists can show that ghosts exist.
- B There is not just one theory to explain ghosts.
- C People see ghosts when they are half asleep.
- D Imagination causes strange experiences.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary 1

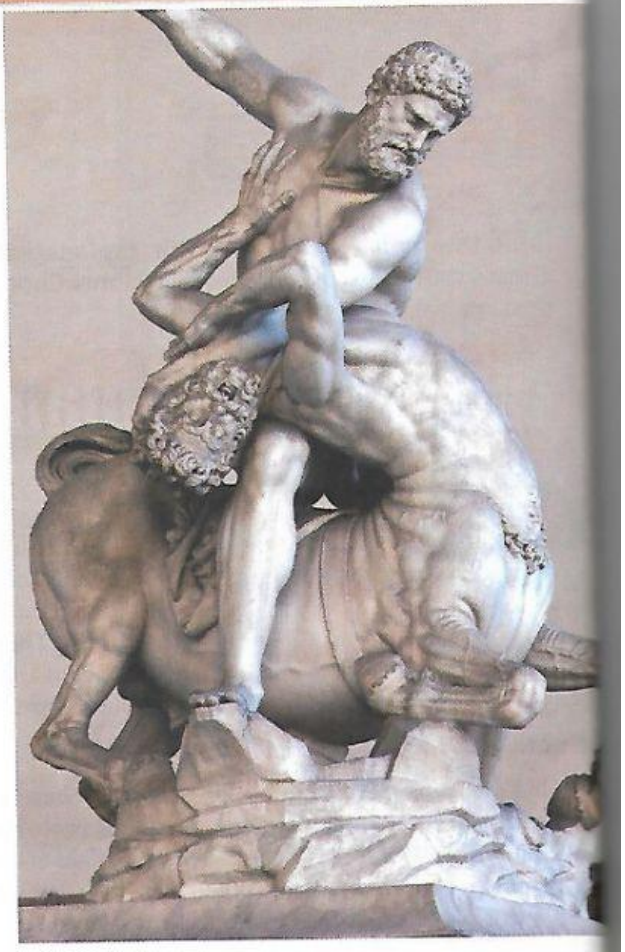
Complete the sentences. The first letter is given to help you.

1 All cultures have their own special m _____ about heroes and events from the past. We i _____ these stories from our parents and grandparents.

2 Terrified, Jason o _____ a strange white light floating in the house and concluded that it was the s _____ of the old man who had died there many years ago.

3 Professor Brane, your t _____ explaining how the ancient city was destroyed is very interesting, but how can you p _____ it?

4 Adam heard a very strange noise late last night and went outside to i _____. He says he saw a silver spaceship and an a _____ with red eyes in his garden!



Grammar 1

1 Complete the sentences. Use the past simple or the past continuous.

1 Last year, I _____ Loch Ness in Scotland when I _____ the monster! It _____ at the time and it _____ dark, but I'm sure it was Nessie! (visit, see, rain, get)

2 Our friends _____ us at eight o'clock, but we _____ to their house at ten. We _____ our way because we _____ a map with us. (expect, get, lose, not have)

3 Mark and Jim _____ to go for a midnight swim. While they _____ around in the water, Mark _____ something move across his leg! (decide, splash, feel)

4 Jack _____ coffee this morning when he _____ a strange noise. He _____ out of the kitchen window and _____ his cup in shock. (make, hear, look, drop)

5 Poor Lucy! She _____ a horror film on TV last week and _____ her brother. He _____ in behind her very quietly and _____ her half to death! (enjoy, not notice, walk, scare)

6 _____ Carol's story about the fairies in the local park? It _____ really weird. Honestly, what _____ when she _____ us that? (you/believe, sound, she/think, tell)

2 Find and correct the mistakes in the sentences.

1 Suddenly, I was hearing a loud scream and became very scared. _____

2 Bob and Sam were often watching horror films. _____

3 He walked in the forest when he saw a huge human-like beast. _____

4 I was finding out the truth about Santa Claus when I was nine. _____

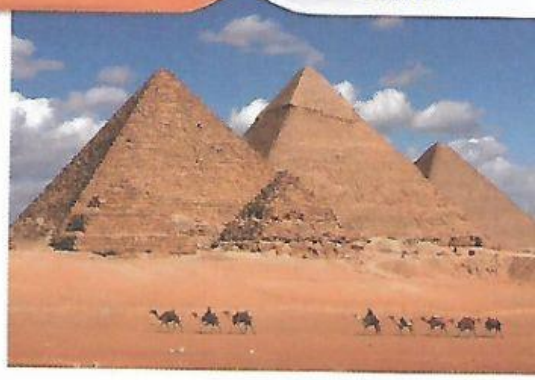
5 No one knows who was sending the letter; it wasn't signed. _____

6 Mark told me that he wasn't wanting to visit the mysterious cave. _____

7 Sarah made Halloween costumes while I was painting the masks. _____

8 Were you believing in ghosts when you were young? _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS



Use Your English 1

1 Read the text below and decide which answer (a, b, c or d) best fits each gap.

Fact or fiction?

The Pyramids of Giza in Egypt and many other ancient structures are incredible examples of engineering. We often wonder how our ancient ancestors built them without the technology we have today. How, for example, [1] ___ they lift the heavy stones that they used to form the pyramids? Some people believe that astronauts from another world [2] ___ ancient cultures about science, maths and engineering. This [3] ___ idea became very popular in the 20th century [4] ___ Erich von Daniken, a Swiss writer of fantasy and science fiction, published a book called *Chariots of the Gods?*. In it, he claimed that visitors from outer space [5] ___ responsible for our human achievements in the arts and sciences. He asked questions like these: Did ancient people [6] ___ the intelligence to develop their own technologies? How did they [7] ___ things like fire and the laws of mathematics?

They seem like reasonable questions, but what [8] ___ did von Daniken provide for his extraordinary claims? In one famous incident, he showed photographs of ancient pottery with pictures of spaceships on it. Investigators from a well-known television science programme thought the pottery was fake and managed to find the person who'd made the 'ancient pots'. This wasn't a [9] ___ joke by von Daniken, it was a lie he told in order to sell more books. He had presented science fiction as scientific fact and people believed him.

1	a were	b did	c do	d was
2	a taught	b teaches	c teach	d were teaching
3	a haunted	b ordinary	c spooky	d bizarre
4	a while	b during	c when	d as
5	a were	b be	c being	d was
6	a were having	b having	c have	d had
7	a confuse	b suffer	c prove	d discover
8	a evidence	b contact	c ghosts	d entrances
9	a wonderful	b practical	c normal	d narrow

2 Complete the text with the correct form of the words given.

Looking for the past

Carolina Stones enjoyed her job as a(n) [1] _____. She travelled around the world and studied some [2] _____ sites. **ARCHAEOLOGY** **REMARK**

Her love of history began back when she was nine and the ancient world became her obsession. She spent every spare moment she had in the local library where she read books by [3] _____. One place she read about was Chuchen Etza – a site that was important to the Aztecs, but which mysteriously [4] _____. **HISTORY** **APPEAR**

No one knew where it was exactly. Carolina hoped to find this place, and although it was a(n) [5] _____ ambition for a young child, she never gave up on her dream. Not even when her friends said her idea was [6] _____, and that she would never be able to [7] _____ the mystery of Chuchen Etza. Now, years later, here she was in a strange [8] _____ place, deep in a South American jungle. In front of her, covered by plants, were the ruins of a temple abandoned centuries ago. Carolina cut through the trees and entered the temple. It was dark and scary. She shivered in fear; the place felt [9] _____. Was this Chuchen Etza? Had she found it at last? **USUAL** **RIDICULE** **SOLUTION** **SPOOK** **HAUNT**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary

Choose the correct answers.

1 Dad did the ___ yesterday, so now the family has clean clothes.
a washing-up
b laundry
c housework
d chores

2 Ted bought new shoes when his old pair ___.
a fell into
b fell apart
c fell for
d fell out

3 This dish is so delicious that everyone will ___.
a dig up
b pile up
c pile on
d dig in

4 The cheese which Aunt Lee brought back from France is a bit ___.
a spooky
b filthy
c smelly
d dusty

5 Uncle Arthur went fishing and ___ a very big fish.
a brought about
b got by
c passed down
d brought back

6 Pippa is not wearing a hat to her niece's wedding because hats are ___.
a personal
b biological
c miserable
d optional

7 The younger brother often plays alone because the older children ___.
a get back at him
b get together with him
c read him out
d leave him out

8 Pam's costume was very ___; everyone thought she looked exactly like a witch.
a realistic
b apologetic
c odd
d rare

9 The parents ___ their small child for eating all his dinner.
a observed
b praised
c investigated
d grumbled

10 Dan's teenage son ___ with him about making his bed.
a discusses
b criticises
c argues
d advises

11 This is a family party and we are only inviting ___.
a strangers
b peers
c relatives
d enemies

12 If you have something to tell your parents, ___!
a time waits for no man
b there's no time like the present
c time and time again
d it is just like old times

13 Zara ___ a fortune when her grandmother passed away.
a disappeared
b gossiped
c confused
d inherited

14 Is there any ___ that ghosts exist?
a myth
b power
c evidence
d effect

15 Jack's classmates felt ___ when they made him cry, so they apologised.
a cheerful
b proud
c guilty
d bizarre

16 Some people believe that mediums can communicate with ___.
a colleagues
b aliens
c partners
d spirits

17 Sherlock Holmes is a detective with a ___ ability to solve crimes.
a calm
b remarkable
c ridiculous
d respectful

18 The detective ___ the mystery at the end of the novel.
a accuses
b solves
c discovers
d proves

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 Progress Review

Grammar

Choose the correct answers.

1 When Sue was six, she ___ to school every day.
a walks
b was walking
c walked
d is walking

2 Matt ___ scary films and watches them every weekend.
a likes
b is liking
c liked
d would like

3 'I visited the haunted castle yesterday.'
'Oh, ___ a ghost?'
a do you see
b did you see
c were you seeing
d would you see

4 Lucy's biological mother, ___ she met last week, lives in London.
a who
b which
c where
d that

5 'Do the brothers get along?'
'No, they are ___ falling out.'
a sometimes
b usually
c always
d often

6 Kevin has got five sisters, so he ___ living with girls.
a used to
b is used to
c gets used to
d would

7 'Does your dad like living alone?'
'No, but he ___ it.'
a is getting used to
b used to
c used to do
d gets used to

8 'Something ___ terrible in here! What is it?'
'Oh, sorry. It must be the rubbish bin.'
a smelt
b smells
c is smelling
d was smelling

9 'Mum, the phone's ringing!'
'Answer it please; I ___ a bath!'
a have
b was having
c am having
d had

10 The children ___ when a strange noise woke them.
a slept
b were sleeping
c would sleep
d used to sleep

11 Dad ___ the children stories every night when they were little.
a reads
b used to reading
c would read
d was reading

12 Our grandparents were young at a time ___ life was hard.
a where
b when
c which
d that

13 The old house in ___ they stayed was a bit frightening.
a that
b where
c which
d whom

14 These well-known books, ___ are popular with teenagers, are about vampires.
a who
b -
c which
d that

15 When the children were young, they ___ practical jokes on their parents.
a used to play
b were playing
c use to play
d are playing

16 While John was watching a horror film last night, his little sister ___ behind the sofa.
a used to hide
b is hiding
c was hiding
d would hide

17 That is the boy ___ father is a famous actor.
a who
b which
c that
d whose

18 'Do you know the reason ___ people enjoy visiting spooky places?'
'They like feeling scared.'
a which
b where
c who
d why

LIVEWORKSHEETS