

TASK 6. (0–4)

Read the text. For questions 6.1.–6.4., choose the appropriate paragraph and write the corresponding letter (A–E) in the table. One paragraph does not match any of the questions.

In which paragraph does the author		Answer
6.1.	mention a legal requirement which applies to couples from overseas?	
6.2.	show how a law implemented elsewhere prompted elopements to Scotland?	
6.3.	refer to someone’s adverse opinion on the act of elopement?	
6.4.	point to Gretna Green’s improved accessibility as a reason for its increased popularity?	

GRETNA GREEN

- A.** The Scottish village of Gretna Green – population 2,700 – hosts around 5,000 weddings per year, that is almost two weddings per resident, and has been a hotspot for tying the knot since the 18th century. Gretna’s fame began in 1754, when Lord Hardwicke’s Marriage Act came into force in England. Under the Act, if the parents of a child under 21 objected to the marriage, they could legally veto the union. The Act tightened the requirements for marrying in England and Wales but did not apply in Scotland, where marriage without parental consent was permitted for girls from the age of 12, and boys from the age of 14. This gave impetus to marriage ceremonies in the village that was located just over the Scottish border.
- B.** There were two factors that made Gretna tempting for runaway sweethearts. Firstly, the construction of a toll road passing through the hitherto obscure village made Gretna Green the first easily reachable place over the border. Secondly, Scottish law allowed for “irregular marriages”, meaning that it was enough for a couple to make a declaration before two witnesses in order for a marriage to be valid. Enterprising blacksmiths set themselves up as “anvil priests” to conduct such “irregular marriage” ceremonies. The record-holder, Richard Rennison, is claimed to have performed 5,147 of them.
- C.** Several attempts were made to curb the runaway marriages – which the MP for Newcastle described in 1855 as “lowering the habits, injuring the character, and destroying the morality of the people of the northern counties of England”. A year later new legislation was introduced which required a cooling-off spell of 21 days’ residency in the parish in which a couple wished to marry. The institution of “marriage by declaration” was outlawed in Scotland in 1940, and from 1977 couples in England could finally get married without parental consent at 18. But despite the whittling away of the legal factors that made Gretna Green a marriage capital, it still retains its romantic allure.

- D.** “Running away to Gretna Green” remains a commonly used phrase. And couples still choose to walk down its many aisles. They just don’t tend to be teenagers these days. Mark and Sarah Miles, 52 and 49, “eloped” from Bognor Regis on the English south coast without telling their families. “We’ve both been married before and we didn’t want any fuss,” they explained. However, like the 24-hour wedding chapels of Las Vegas, the commercial element of a Gretna wedding is not to everyone’s taste. “Either you love all the fanfare or you see it as a bit tacky,” the local shopkeeper says.
- E.** As the law stands, if the future bride and groom are domiciled in another country, they should provide a certificate of no impediment to marriage, issued by the competent authority. Current residents in the UK who have lived in Great Britain for the last 2 years do not need to submit such papers. And regardless of where you come from, think twice before “getting hitched” in Gretna Green as marriage annulment or release from matrimony are not that easy. “It’s not what we’re famous for,” comment indigenous entrepreneurs.

adapted from www.gretnagreen.com; www.bbc.com

TASK 7. (0–5)

Read the text. For questions 7.1.–7.5., choose the word or phrase which fits best in each gap. Circle the appropriate letter (A, B, C or D).

LEGO HEADS FOR THE GALLERY

Monet was an oils man, Michelangelo was set on stone, Moore was a gentleman who preferred bronze. For an 7.1. _____ American artist on his way to Britain, only plastic will do. His medium: a million Lego bricks.

Nathan Sawaya has built an impressive exhibition of works crafted out of the blocks that have inspired generations of children. He represents the artistic end of a growing movement among adults for whom Lego is 7.2. _____ a toy. His giant sculptures, many of them human figures, include *Yellow*, a man ripping open his own chest and spilling out Lego innards, as well as interpretations of a number of masterpieces including the *Mona Lisa*. Each of them is 7.3. _____ thousands of pieces.

An art critic at *The New York Times* said of his exhibition in the city last year, “It is difficult to pass a version of Rodin’s *Thinker* or the life-size piece *Blue Guy Sitting* and not smile in amazement 7.4. _____ the ambition. Bricks, once designed for children to build play towns and buildings, are now used to evoke human shapes and brush strokes.”

Richard Hayes launched the *Brick Fanatics* website in 2010. “Since then we 7.5. _____ the community almost triple,” said Mr Hayes. “Adults are a growing market for Lego. This year alone half a dozen sets aimed at grown-ups have been launched.” But can Lego really be art? “I’ll leave that to the critics to decide. But when I started, galleries were slamming their doors in my face. Now they’re knocking on my door,” Mr Sawaya said.

adapted from www.independent.co.uk

7.1.

- A. acclaimed
- B. enforceable
- C. abounding
- D. envisaged

7.2.

- A. nothing else than
- B. anything but
- C. none the less
- D. something more to

7.3.

- A. pulled out of
- B. brought up with
- C. set out from
- D. made up of

7.4.

- A. with
- B. for
- C. at
- D. from

7.5.

- A. had to see
- B. have seen
- C. used to see
- D. would have seen

TASK 8. (0–5)

Read the text and fill in each gap (8.1.–8.5.) with one word only. The text must be logical and correct in both grammar and spelling. Write the missing word in the space provided.

LIVE LIKE F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

If you've got \$625,000, you can acquire a piece of literary history. Fans of F. Scott Fitzgerald now have the **8.1.** _____ to purchase a Minnesota row house where he wrote one of his first and most famous novels.

The novel **8.2.** _____ question is *This Side of Paradise*. When it was published in 1920, it launched the young author into superstardom. Fitzgerald wrote this debut novel while holed up in his parents' home in St. Paul, Minnesota, in tense circumstances. He'd broken up with his girlfriend Zelda and hoped that **8.3.** _____ he finished and sold the book, he could win her back.

Fitzgerald's parents moved into a residence in Summit Terrace, a collection of Victorian row houses, in 1918. With its historic features, like a "dramatic 3-storey staircase", it was an appropriate setting for book writing. *This Side of Paradise* is a story of a young man who loses the love of his life in a post-World War I setting – a premise that was pretty similar to the situation Fitzgerald **8.4.** _____ himself in after he moved back home. Fitzgerald transformed a familiar coming-of-age story into a modern novel of disaffected youth and postwar wealth and corruption. Critics loved Fitzgerald's book, and he became an immediate literary sensation. When the book was published, Zelda accepted his hand in marriage.

There's **8.5.** _____ telling whether you'll write your next bestseller in the house Fitzgerald once occupied, but if you can afford it, you can move into this house of history for way less than a million.

adapted from www.smithsonianmag.com

TASK 9. (0–5)

For questions 9.1.–9.5., complete the second sentence so that it is as similar in meaning as possible to the first sentence and it is correct in both grammar and spelling. Use the word given. Do not change the word given. Use up to six words including the word given.

9.1. Should you have the time, please carry these boxes up to the attic.

HAPPEN

Please carry these boxes up to the attic if _____
the time.

9.2. There is no doubt that hybrid car prices will fall in the coming years.

BOUND

Hybrid car prices _____ in the coming years.

9.3. It came as an unpleasant surprise to everybody that the chairman reacted so angrily to our proposal.

ABACK

Everybody _____ by the chairman's angry
reaction to our proposal.

9.4. The actress did her best not to let the media discover that she had got married.

DARK

The actress did her best to _____ about her marriage.

9.5. Carol should have worked harder if she wanted to be promoted.

SUCCEDED

Had Carol worked harder, she _____ being promoted.