Instituto Modelo Almafuerte

Student's full name:_____ Date:_____

Course: 5° SOC

English Diagnostic Exercises

The future is far away!

Alyssa Carson is a teenager and she already has big ambitions for her future. If her dreams come true, she'll fly into space. But she doesn't want to orbit the Earth on the space station or go to the moon. Alyssa wants to travel to Mars, the red planet.

So, is this just a dream? No. Alyssa made the decision when she was three years old because the idea was exciting and 'no one's been there!' After that she read lots of books on Mars and attended her first space camp when she was seven. Since then she's learned a lot about travel to other planets. It's an expensive trip, which requires many years of training. This is a problem for Alyssa's family, but they try to support her. As her father explains, 'If you see the passion she has, you have to be there for her.' Alyssa believes we are 'the Mars generation' and that the mission to Mars will help us get to know the planet better.

More than 100,000 people have already applied for a journey to Mars. If they pass the tests, like Alyssa, they will start a training programme. It's also important to speak several languages if you want to be an astronaut. Alyssa speaks Spanish, French, Chinese and some Turkish, so this should be enough! She also has a certificate in scuba diving and is already working on her pilot's licence. Both these things, as well as a certificate in skydiving, are important for an astronaut's training.

Only a few people can go on the first Mars mission. The flight to Mars won't be easy. They will spend hundreds of days together in a very tight space! So, if you were an astronaut on Mars, what would life be like? You would live in an extremely small space called a 'pod' and you would wear a space suit all the time. If you made a phone call home, it would take half an hour for the sound to reach Earth! Also, if you got ill, there wouldn't be any hospitals. Life wouldn't be as easy, that's for sure! But it would be really exciting.

READING COMPREHENSION COMPREHENSION

Read the article and choose the correct answer.

1 Alyssa decided to go to Mars because she
   a read about it in a book.
   b liked the idea of doing something different.
   c went to space camp.
   d enjoyed travelling and exploring.

2 What is Alyssa's parents' opinion of her ambition?
   a They think it's too expensive and try to discourage her.
   b They want to help her fulfill her dream because they are also 'Mars generation'.
   c They don't mind because they have a lot of money to spend.
   d They find it difficult because of the expense, but they try to help her.

3 Which of these things is *not* important for an astronaut's training?
   a learning to fly a plane
   b learning to dive
   c attending a space camp
   d speaking foreign languages

4 If you lived on Mars, what would life be like?
   a It would be possible to phone your friends and family.
   b There would be plenty of people to talk to.
   c You would wear your own clothes at the station.
   d Homes would be similar to large houses on Earth.

Explain in your own words these expressions in **bold.**

a) If her dreams **come true**…: _____

b) **Attended** her first space camp: _____

c) They try to **support** her: _____

d) It is also important to speak **several** languages: _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS