

READING

Task 4

Read the text below. Match choices (A–H) to (17–21). There are three choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

HOW TO LIVE HAPPY TODAY

17 _____
Many people worry excessively about the future. But the future is uncertain. Often, what we worry about never materializes. But we stew and fret about what essentially amounts to nothing. We waste today for a future that never comes. To find peace you need to realize that there's little use in wasting away today to try to live for tomorrow.

18 _____
How much do you really appreciate what you already have? Do you appreciate the home you live in, your family, your job and the investments you have? Unfortunately, most people concentrate only on what they lack. They struggle to get more, never thinking that they already possess the things that can make them happy.

19 _____
Activity prevents worry. It alleviates frustration. To live happy means to enjoy what you are doing right now. People find joy in gardening, others enjoy social activities. Others love to take walks with their spouse and children. Activity gets your mind away from your worries and on something that occupies your time.

20 _____
The world today is in a miserable state. While you can't change the world for the better all by yourself, there are things you can do today, no matter how small, to alleviate the pain and suffering of someone. Rather than stew in your own problems, focus your attention outward. Doing something for someone without expecting a reward brings happiness.

21 _____
Living today means enjoying the company of your circle of friends. Go bowling or play bridge. Good company and laughter help elevate the soul and dispels worry, fear and anxiety. Take every opportunity to find new friends.

- A Get involved
- B Get active
- C Show thankfulness
- D Seek for companionship
- E Stop worrying
- F Have a positive attitude
- G Concentrating on what you need
- H Be appreciative

Task 5

Read the text below. For each empty space (22–26) choose the correct variant (A, B, C, D). Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

A ROARING GOOD TIME IN DISNEY'S ANIMAL KINGDOM

Family travel expert Kate Pocock discovers this theme park.

It was only after I'd strolled through the Safari Village, that I realized that Disney's Animal Kingdom in the USA really did have the sounds, the smells and even the look of Africa.

If you arrive early, just after the gates open at 7 a.m., head for the Kilimanjaro Safaris before the heat lays low the animals who roam the 100 acres of African savannah. It's the highlight for many visitors. During one 20-minute safari ride, we came so close to a white rhino that passengers could reach out and touch its very un-Oil of Olay-treated skin. One word of caution — because the sides of the trucks are open and the ride very jerky, younger children should not ride on the outside.

Another sure hit with kids is the 'It's Tough to be a Bug' film in the impressive Tree of Life. The audience shrieks with delight as the Stinkbug lets loose. And if you've got too-cool teens along, the terrifying Countdown to Extinction ride should shake their attitudes. Tired parents who want to park themselves under a shady tree should guide their offspring to the Boneyard in DinoLand U.S.A., where the kids can enjoy some downtime unearthing dinosaur bones from a large sand pit.

After hours of excitement, it's time to travel on the Wildlife Express train, with a steam whistle right out of a British mystery movie, to the very heart of Animal Kingdom — the Conservation Station. Here, the keepers, dieticians and hospital veterinarians both entertain and educate. Through large glass windows, kids can watch a wounded bird being fed with an eyedropper, a chinchilla rolling herself in a volcanic ash dust bath to clean herself, or someone's misplaced key chain being surgically removed from the stomach of an unfortunate parrot.

Last year, the park added two new attractions: Maharajah Jungle Trek, where tigers, gibbons and other animals roam freely without apparent barriers, and Kali River Rapids, a high-speed, white-water raft trip down a raging river through the rain forest. Next year, visitors will also be able to see animals from their hotel windows. The new Animal Kingdom Lodge will recreate the feel of a South African game reserve lodge and offer views of some 100 grazing animals and 130 birds on the property's private savannah.

- 22 The Animal Kingdom situated _____.
A in African safari
B in Kilimanjaro
C on the Galapagos Islands
D in North America
- 23 Visitors can extend their knowledge about the ancient animals of the earth _____.
A digging in the Boneyard
B travelling on the wildlife express train
C heading for Kilimanjaro Safaris
D watching 'It's Tough to be a Bug' film
- 24 Safari Ride is usually _____.
A boring
B relaxing
C terrific
D safe
- 25 Animals roam safely without barriers _____.
A in Kali River Rapids
B in the Boneyard in DinoLand
C in the Maharajah Jungle Trek
D at the Conservation Station
- 26 The park attracts a great number of tourists because _____.
A they are provided with comfortable accommodation.
B they have a chance to trace the animals in the wild.
C have an opportunity to make their own series of film shootings.
D it offers a great deal of true-to-life adventures for kids and adults.

Task 6

Read the text below. Match choices (A–H) to (27–32). There are two choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

BRIAN SKERRY

Brian Skerry — a name known throughout the world of underwater photography. He is chatting about what it takes to be an underwater photographer.

27

It's not just about making beautiful pictures or being a good diver; it's about being able to see the whole story — the whole visual narrative from start to finish — and being able to execute it completely on your own. I have to stay in touch with the ocean world and I have to write proposals and tell them why the story I'm doing is important.

28

Well, before I even write my proposal, I will do lots of research on a subject. Sometimes it might take six months, sometimes a year or even more, so before determining what exactly it is that I'm going to write about, I read a lot of papers and scientific literature. Then I proceed to think about locations, the story angle, and how I'm going to get the pictures I need.

29

One experience that really tops my list is when I was in New Zealand doing a story on southern right whales. I ended up going to the subantarctic islands to try and photograph this newly discovered population. The researchers I was working with said these whales had never seen humans underwater before so it was one of those unknown, speculative trips for me.

30

The species or subject I seem to always enjoy returning back to is sharks. As a photographer, sharks represent this fantastic blend of grace and power. They move very elegantly through the water and yet they exude this great confidence. I never get tired of shooting them. As a journalist, I feel a real sense of urgency and responsibility to try and give sharks a makeover. I want readers to respect them, not fear them.

31

Being lost under the ice while doing a story on harp seals in Canada's Gulf of Saint Lawrence years ago. With the wind and tide, the ice up there is always moving so you could enter the water through a hole in the ice but that hole might close.

32

New Zealand! I've done four different stories there and I've always had great luck. I think part of that has to do with the nation's great conservation efforts. It's not perfect, but they do have a pretty robust group of marine protected areas and reserves. I love being in Fiordland, South Island, Poor Knights, and in these places I've photographed whales, sharks, seals, kelp... such great biodiversity.

- A As an explorer, what are three things you never leave home without?
- B Tell us about your most frightening experience underwater.
- C And how about the most underrated dive destination?
- D Name your favourite dive destination ever.
- E What does it take to be an underwater photojournalist?
- F When you write a story, what's your process like in terms of getting prepared?
- G Tell us about your most memorable underwater shoot or assignment.
- H Is there a particular marine animal you love shooting?

Task 7

Read the text below. Choose from (A–H) the one which best fits each space (33–38). There are two choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

NASA has announced there's evidence of frozen water on Mars and the moon, raising hopes humans will eventually explore and colonize those and other neighbours in our solar system and beyond. Already, astronauts live for long periods aboard the International Space Station. And, (33) _____, those space travellers need good nutrition — especially when you consider they are faced with the extra stresses of cramped living conditions and exposure to excessive radiation.

Now new research just published in the Institute of Food Technologists Journal of Food Science has provided a way astronauts (34) _____, starting with carrots, aboard their spacecraft.

So why should carrots in particular be such an important part of astronauts' diets? Carrots are loaded with phytochemicals in the carotenoid family. Alpha, gamma and beta carotene, (35) _____, are antioxidants that are transformed within the body into an active form of vitamin A. Researchers believe adding unprocessed, carotene-rich carrots to astronauts' diets (36) _____ of excess radiation which include an elevated risk of cancer.

In fact, as previously reported, scientists have associated the high carotenoid content of carrots with protection against not only cancer but also cardiovascular diseases, cataracts and macular degeneration.

In order to investigate ways to incorporate natural and fresh antioxidants into the diets of astronauts, researchers from Tuskegee University in Alabama grew carrots using hydroponics, a technology for growing plants in nutrient-enriched water instead of in soil. In all, the scientists grew 18 different varieties of carrots (37) _____. In one, called the nutrient film technique (NFT), roots were exposed to a nutrient solution held inside a plastic film trough. The second method, known as the microporous tube membrane system (MTMS), involved planting carrots in nutrient tubes embedded into a material dubbed surface which is similar to crushed clay.

Seventy days after planting, all the carrots were harvested and tested for moisture, fat and carotene content (38) _____. The researchers also had consumer volunteers test the hydroponically grown carrots. The group evaluated the colour, crunchiness, sweetness, fibrousness and blandness of each of the 18 different carrot types grown using NFT and MTMS. The volunteers also told the scientists which carrot they preferred overall.

- A like their earth-bound counterparts
- B which is particularly plentiful in carrots
- C can help protect space travellers from the negative effects
- D using two different hydroponic approaches
- E as well as for colour and texture
- F because of their better colour
- G and more carrot-like appearance
- H can grow their own gardens of health-enhancing fresh veggies