

READING (20 MARKS TOTAL)

TASK 1 (10 MARKS)

You are going to read an article about how four young people spend Saturday morning. For the questions, choose from the people A–D. The people may be chosen more than once.

Which person/people:

- 1 thinks it is necessary to get some exercise on Saturday mornings? _____
- 2 would prefer not to get up early on Saturday mornings? _____
- 3 doesn't have the same free time as some of their friends? _____
- 4 always looks forward to Saturday mornings? _____
- 5 does an activity because of someone's advice? _____
- 6 doesn't get paid for the work they do on a Saturday morning? _____
- 7 enjoys being outside when it's quiet? _____
- 8 practises sports during the week? _____
- 9 was unhappy about starting their activity at first? _____
- 10 thinks they will benefit from their activity in the future? _____

The weekend starts here ...

Four teenagers tell us how they spend their Saturday mornings.

A Stuart

Unfortunately, I can't just do what I want because I have to go to school. It's not usual for children to have school on Saturdays, but mine does things differently. Tuesday and Thursday afternoons are free so we can play sports, but there are classes on Saturdays instead. We have four and a half hours of lessons and this year we've got History, Science and Maths. The classes are all right and the teachers make an effort to make them interesting. The problem is that we're all exhausted by Saturday and it's really hard to pay attention in class. All of us have got friends who go to 'normal' schools and we know that they're out having fun. If I had the choice, I would have extra classes during the week instead. I'm sure we would get more work done that way.

B Nadia

I can never wait for Saturdays to arrive. After a whole week of sitting at my school desk, I have to get out and use up some energy. For me, Saturday morning is all about sports and having fun with my friends. I usually get up around seven thirty and go for a jog around the park. I know it's early, but I love that part of the day. It's so peaceful because most people are still in bed at that time. After that, I go home and have some breakfast. I don't stay there long though because I usually play football with my mates. We play in a local league and we have matches most Saturdays. We don't take it too seriously, but we enjoy having a good run around and chasing after the ball. By lunchtime, I'm usually exhausted and I go home for a rest!



C Amelia

In general, I prefer to keep my Saturday mornings free. We're expected to work hard at school and we get a lot of homework. Therefore, it's important to relax at the weekend. My perfect Saturday would be staying in bed late and then playing computer games with my friends. However, I've been working as a volunteer on Saturdays for the last month so I don't have much free time. I'm helping out in an animal sanctuary where we rescue dogs and cats that haven't got a home. I have to do different jobs like cleaning the cages, feeding the animals and taking the dogs for walks. I must admit that I don't like getting up so early on Saturday. However, it's worth it because those poor animals need someone to care for them.

D Tom

I've been saving up for a holiday with my friends, but it hasn't been easy. My parents give me a little money every week, but I usually spend that in no time. When I asked my dad for more money, he encouraged me to earn the money instead. He said I could do little jobs for the neighbours on a Saturday morning. At the beginning, I was disappointed because I didn't want to lose my free time. Then I realised that if I didn't work, it would be impossible to save any money. Basically, I've started washing the neighbours' cars and cutting the grass in their gardens. It's not exactly hard work and it's not so bad really. I like talking to the neighbours and they pay me quite well. Although I've lost my Saturday mornings, at least I'll be able to go on holiday with my mates.

TASK 2 (10 MARKS)

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

1 Why do fewer people believe Nostradamus' predictions these days?

- A They were written by a doctor.
- B They only involved negative things.
- C They aren't easy to understand.
- D They don't predict enough events.

2 What was interesting about the disappearance of the aeroplanes in the Bermuda Triangle?

- A It was the only disappearance in the area.
- B Other strange things had happened there before.
- C There were problems with the communications equipment before it happened.
- D Nobody had any explanation for it.

3 What makes the writer think there is a natural explanation for the Bermuda Triangle?

- A There is no evidence that ghosts or aliens exist.
- B There is a great deal of bad weather in the area.
- C There are more accidents in other places.
- D There is evidence for kidnappings in the area.

4 How do historians think the Nazca Lines were created?

- A by aeroplanes flying over the area
- B by animals leaving trails on the ground
- C by the effect of the wind and rain
- D by the removal of objects from the surface of the earth

5 What does the writer say about the Loch Ness Monster?

- A No one had heard of it until the 1930s.
- B It's one of the reasons the area is so popular.
- C Scientists are no longer interested in finding it.
- D The footprints are good evidence that it exists.

Unexplained Mysteries?

When I was a kid, my grandparents had an awesome book full of unexplained mysteries. Whenever I went to their house, I couldn't wait to get that book out. It was like an encyclopaedia full of weird and wonderful stories. There were people who could talk to ghosts, alien visitors from outer space and strange symbols from the past. It was so hard to get my head around these stories, but that was what I loved about them! In this article, I'm going to briefly talk about my favourite unexplained mysteries from that wonderful book ...

1 Nostradamus

Nostradamus was a French doctor who lived in the first half of the sixteenth century. He became famous because people believed he could tell what would happen in the future. His predictions covered everything from diseases to inventions to the end of the world, but they were mostly negative! Although his predictions have been popular for hundreds of years, people tend to be more suspicious about them these days. The problem is that because they are poems, it's often unclear what Nostradamus actually meant. They were also written in French and some of the translations have been less than accurate. For those reasons, critics argue that Nostradamus' poems can in fact be used to predict almost any event.



2 The Bermuda Triangle

The Bermuda Triangle is a large area in the shape of a triangle which connects Bermuda, Florida and Puerto Rico. Strange stories appeared in the press in the 1940s after several aeroplanes went missing on a routine flight. One particular magazine article connected their disappearance with other unexplained mysteries in that area. Over the years, similar stories of missing ships and aircraft appeared in the news, talking about communications equipment which mysteriously stopped working and ships found without any sign of life. Some people claimed that the pilots and sailors had been kidnapped by aliens. No one knows the truth, but

it's important to remember that a lot of ships sail through the Bermuda Triangle so it's not surprising that there are more accidents than in other places. The area is also particularly affected by storms and hurricanes, so we should probably look for a more natural explanation before blaming aliens or ghosts.

3 Nazca Lines

This collection of lines and designs covers a large area in the south of Peru. Historians believed they were created by the Nazca civilization which lived there until about 1,500 years ago, although it is now thought that some of the lines may be even older. Due to their size, they cannot be seen easily from the ground. This meant that many of them were undiscovered until the 1920s when people started to use aeroplanes to investigate the area. What they discovered were straight lines stretching for tens of kilometres and designs of animals. They had all been built very carefully by removing stones and sand from the ground. The lack of wind and rain has meant that the lines have survived for many years. There are many theories about why people put some effort into making them. However, the strangest one has to be that they were runways for aliens. No one knows the real reason for the Nazca Lines, but it's unlikely they were constructed by aliens.

4 Loch Ness Monster

The story of the Loch Ness Monster is famous all over the world. It's especially popular with the hundreds of thousands of tourists to Loch Ness annually. Many hope to spot Nessie, the legendary creature said to live in the lake ('loch' is the Scottish word for 'lake'). Locals had been talking about a sea monster inhabiting the waters for hundreds of years. In fact, a sixth-century story talks about a man being attacked by a creature from the water. However, in the 1930s, newspaper articles about recent sightings of Nessie attracted global interest. Photographs of this mysterious animal were published and one investigator even claimed to find footprints. However, none of this was found to be true. Despite this, there are several reported sightings every year. Scientists haven't given up either. They've used all sorts of technology such as satellites and underwater sensors to try to locate Nessie. Sadly, however, there's still no evidence that she actually exists.