5th Intensive
Test 4

Student's name:

Book: Full Blast B1 - Unit:6 a & b

Reading

1- **A- You know all those people that told you video games were bad, they were wrong! Read this article and choose the best option: (6x2=18p.)**

The truth about video games

For many years video games have been criticized for making people more antisocial, overweight or depressed. But now researches are finding that games can actually change us for the better and improve both our body and mind.

Games can help to develop physical **skills**. Pre-school children who played interactive games such as the ones available on Wii have been shown to have improved motor skills, for example they can kick, catch and throw a ball better than children who don't play video games. A study of surgeons who do microsurgery in Boston found that those who played video games were 27% faster and made 37% fewer errors than those who didn't. Vision is also improved, particularly telling the difference between shades of grey. This is useful for driving at night, piloting a plane or reading X-rays.

Games also benefit a variety of brain functions, including decision-making. People who play action-based games make decisions 25% faster than others and are no less accurate, according to one study. It was also found that the best gamers can make choices and act on them up to six times a second, four times faster than most people. In another study by researchers from the University of Rochester in New York, experienced gamers were shown to be able to pay attention to more than six things at once without getting confused, compared with the four that most people can normally keep in mind. Additionally, video games can also reduce **gender** differences. Scientists have found that women who play games are better able to mentally manipulate 3D objects.

There is also evidence that gaming can help with psychological problems. At the University of Auckland in New Zealand, researchers asked 94 young people diagnosed with depression to play a 3D fantasy game called SPARX and in many cases, the game reduced symptoms of depression more than conventional treatment. Another **research** team at Oxford University found that playing TETRIS shortly after exposure to something very upsetting can actually prevent people having disturbing flashbacks.

However, the effects are not always so positive. Indiana University researchers carried out brain scans on young men and found evidence that violent games can **alter** brain function after as little as a week of play, affecting regions in the brain associated with emotional control and causing more aggressive behavior in the player. But Daphne Bavelier says that in the future we may see many **treatments** for physical and neurological problems which incorporate the playing of video games.

1- Only relatively recently have people started to realize _____.
   a- the harmful effects of video games
   b- the beneficial effects of video games
   c- how much video games affect the people that play them

2- Very young children show improved _____ after playing video games.
   a- muscle control and co-ordination
   b- social interaction
   c- ability to differentiate between different colors

3- Women who play video games demonstrate _____.

a- reduced stress levels b- better spatial awareness c- better multitasking ability

4- In one research study, the video game Tetris helped people to _____.

a- improve their concentration b- overcome depression c- forget disturbing experiences

5- Research shows that violent video games _____.

a- have no negative effects on players

b- affect players' brains after a week of play

b- only affect players' brains in beneficial ways

6- In the future, computer games may be used for _____.

a- treating a variety of medical problems

b- training doctors to deal with emotional pressure

c- helping parents to deal with difficult teenagers

B- Drag the underlined words to the definitions. (5x1=5)

the state of being male or female: _____

change:_____

investigation: _____

abilities: _____

medical or surgical care:_____

skills

gender

alter

treatment

research

Listening

2- What makes Candy Crush so addictive? Listen to a report explaining the science behind the addiction on Candy Crush, and complete the sentences with the words from the box (there's an extra word!): (12p.)

lives - multitask - weeks - master - minute - 97 - meetings wonders - days - hours - hands - sense - 544

a. _____ million people play this game every day.

b. Candy Crush follows the maxim: "a _____ to learn, a lifetime to _____"

c. The idea here is that Candy Crush gives players an immediate _____ of accomplishment.

d. It has _____ levels and a new level is added every two _____.

e. After you've used up all of your _____, Candy Crush can prevent you from playing again for up to 24 _____.

f. Most games require both _____ which means you can't do anything else.

g. Candy Crush lets you _____.

h. You can eat, talk and go to _____ and not pay attention while you play.

i. But the games industry is full of one-hit _____.

Grammar

3- **To know more about games read the following post about the evolution of gaming and fill in the gaps with the correct form of the PASSIVE.** (9x2=18 p.)

The evolution of gaming: computers, consoles, and arcade

Videogames have been around a lot longer than you think—at least since 1958. ...

Gaming today (1) _____ (recognize - simple present) as part of our cultural landscape. But those of us over thirty are just old enough to remember a time before the arcades, our computers and our homes (2)_____ (invade - simple past) by digital entertainment. Gaming itself is as old as history. Artifacts from ancient Sumeria and Egypt (3)_____ (show - present perfect) that our ancestors enjoyed playing board games thousands of years ago. But electronic games required the invention of electronic computers. The first digital adventures (4) _____(create - simple past) by university students who became the first game programmers. The concept of connecting an electronic game system to a television set (5)_____ (invent - simple past) by Ralph Bauer in the early 1950s. The first popular home console system was the Atari 2600, which (6)_____ (release - past simple) in 1977. 66 games (7)_____ (review - simple future) in this post, I have personally played 50 of them, or 76 percent. However, if you count games that (8)_____ (port - present perfect) at some point to game consoles, 31 or 47 percent fall into that category. You will notice that game features (9)_____ (improve - present progressive)constantly at every level. But there's still place for innovation!

4- **Last night was terrible for you. Read what you wrote in your diary and circle the correct option.** (11p.)

Last night, I had **so / such** a terrible headache that I couldn't sleep. I didn't go to bed early **so as to / so that** watch a movie I really wanted to see. I ended up going to bed at 1am **in spite of / even though** I had to be up early for work. Anyway, I set the alarm for 6am. **in order to / so that** have some breakfast before I left, but something went wrong and it went off at 4am. I reset it and went to the kitchen **so as / to** get a glass of water, but accidentally dropped it on the floor.

Even though / In spite of the light was on, I didn't see a piece of glass, steeped on it and cut my foot. I was in terrible pain. My roommate was still asleep **despite / although** all the noise, so I went to his room and woke him up **so that / so as to** he could help me. **In order to / Although** he wasn't very happy, he helped me bandage my foot and clean up the mess.

I'll try to go to bed early tonight **so as to / so as not to** feel so tired tomorrow. This week I'm going to be **so / such** busy I need to stay focused.

Vocabulary

5- There is a talent show on TV tonight. You want to watch it. Complete the sentences with the expressions in the box. (6p)

have what it takes - take it easy - take part - take place - take some time off - take their time

1. Fifteen singers will ..... in the contest.
2. The finals will ..... at the Landmark Theater in Los Angeles.
3. One of the judges will ..... to go on holidays so he won't be at the ceremony.
4. The singers will have to prove that they ..... to become professional singers.
5. The singers only have ten minutes to get ready. They can't .....
6. I want to watch the finals. So, I'll stay home and ..... tonight. I'll order a pizza and relax.

6- Joe and a colleague are talking about their weekend. Read the conversation and complete it with the correct phrase from the box: (8x1,5=12p.)

take my mind off - made my day - had a whale of a time - overslept
a bit of a downer - overheard - take this the wrong - gets on my nerves

Gary: Hello! Did you go to the concert last Saturday?

Joe: Yes! It was amazing! I (1) _____ ! What about your trip to the countryside?

Gary: It rained all day, which was (2)_____. What did you do after the concert?

Joe: We went to have pizza but Roger really (3)_____ whenever we order a pizza and he doesn't pay his share.

Gary: You should talk to him about that.

Joe: You're right. I hope he doesn't (4) _____ way.

Gary: Why did you come late to work today?

Joe: I (5)_____, I forgot to set the alarm! I've been so tired lately. I need to (6) _____ things. I need to relax.

Gary: Yes, but vacations are near! I _____the boss saying we will have more free days this year!

Joe: Really? You (8)_____! I'm happy now!

Writing

7- **There is a writing contest at your school, you have to write about one of the following topics. (18p)**

1. My favorite movie

Follow the plan below:

Introduction: Give general information about the movie.

2nd paragraph: Give a brief summary of the plot

3rd paragraph: make comments about what you liked or didn't about the movie

Conclusion: State your general opinion about the movie and say whether you recommend it or not

2. My favorite place on Earth

Follow the plan below:

Introduction: Give general information about the place. Refer to what makes the place interesting

2nd paragraph: Describe the place, the sights and any other attractions. Give your impression of the place.

Conclusion: Sum up your opinion by making a general comment about the place or by expressing your feelings.