Test 1

READING AND USE OF ENGLISH (1 hour 30 minutes)

Part 1

For questions **1–8**, read the text below and decide which answer (**A**, **B**, **C** or **D**) best fits each gap.
There is an example at the beginning (**0**).
Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

Example:

0 **A** earns **B** gains **C** wins **D** obtained

	A	B	C	D
0	▭	▬	▭	▭

Time and the rotation of the Earth

As all school children know, there are 60 seconds in a minute. But every so often, our planet **(0)** ..... a second. The addition of what's called a 'leap second' is **(1)** ..... to allow the Earth's rotation, which is gradually **(2)** ..... to catch up with atomic clocks – the world's most accurate time-keepers. This sounds simple, but according to scientists, because they only get six months' **(3)** ..... of the need to add a leap second, it's difficult to insert it into computers without mistakes being made, **(4)** ..... systems to fail temporarily. In 2012, a leap second was added on a weekend but it resulted in over 400 flights in one country being grounded as the check-in system **(5)** ..... down.

Some countries are in favour of abolishing leap seconds while others **(6)** ..... that the technical challenges are **(7)** ..... if everyone adds the second in the same way and at the same time. They say that we have always taken the Earth's rotation as the ultimate reference for timekeeping and we shouldn't break this **(8)** ..... without considering the consequences.

LIVEWORKSHEETS