Part 3

Questions 11–15

For each question, choose the correct answer.

Ana Ronson

Singer-songwriter

Singer-songwriter Ana Ronson grew up in Ireland. Although her parents weren't musicians, there was always music in the house. Her grandfather played the guitar, and taught Ana and her brother to play.

The first time Ana tried singing in front of an audience was at school – she was so nervous that her teacher had to lead her off the stage. This teacher suggested that joining the school theatre club might make her more confident. After attending the club for a while, she happily sang with 50 other students at an end-of-term concert.

A year later, her brother, who was in a band, asked her to write a song for them, and so she wrote her first ever song, *Falling Stars*. Writing it took just three days and she enjoyed it so much that she enrolled on a songwriting course run by a professional songwriter. Despite being the youngest student, she already knew more about music than many of the others. But Ana says the teacher didn't listen to anything she said, and she wrote *Something to Say* about how annoyed this made her feel.

She posted this song online, and it became a huge success. She was delighted when people left comments saying that they loved it and found new meanings in the words each time they heard them. Joss Alton, the owner of a recording company called Isotope Music, flew from his office on the other side of Ireland to ask her to join Isotope. At first she wasn't sure; she didn't know anything about the company, and didn't want someone telling her what to sing. However, Joss persuaded her this wouldn't happen, and a short time later she performed at a concert in Dublin arranged by Isotope. They sold all the tickets very quickly and it was an amazing evening.

Ana says she's less interested in writing songs about when life's good; when it's not, there's more for her to say. One of her favourite songs is *Decision*, written about why her brother stopped singing for a while, and how unhappy it made him. While she hopes that fans will like her songs, her aim is to write about personal experiences that matter to her.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

11 What helped Ana stop being scared of singing to an audience?

A practising her singing with a band

B asking a teacher to stand on stage with her

C being in a drama group at school

D making sure she was not in the front row

12 How was the songwriting course useful for Ana?

A She was able to meet some well-known singers.

B The teacher's attitude gave her an idea for a song.

C She learnt a lot from other writers on the course.

D The teacher gave her advice about the music business.

13 Ana decided to work with Joss Alton because

A he promised to let her choose which songs to sing.

B he offered to help her put on a concert.

C she liked some other singers that he worked with.

D he owned a company in her home town.

14 Ana most enjoys writing songs that

A she is sure her fans will like.

B deal with difficult times.

C her brother can sing with his band.

D help people remember their own experiences.

15 What would Ana write to fans in her blog?

A

Listening to my parents playing music on their instruments really encouraged me to become a singer myself.

B

Writing songs just gets easier with practice. Nowadays it only takes a week or so – it wasn't like that when I started!

C

I loved playing the concert in Dublin. I hope that next time we'll sell all the tickets – it was a shame to have some empty seats!

D

I read what people write about me online – it means a lot to me that they like listening carefully to my songs.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The Robot Professionals

The robot revolution isn't a thing of the future – robots are taking over right now and the world of work is never going to be the same again.

THE EMERGENCY SERVICES

The next time you get into trouble when you're swimming in the sea, you will be glad that Emily is there to rescue you. Emily's not a lifeguard though. Emily is a remote-controlled robot that races through the water ten times faster than any human swimmer. She may not drag you back to shore, but she will keep you afloat until a lifeboat **picks you up**. Elsewhere, the US Navy is working on Octavia, a robot firefighter that never **gives up**. It battles through the smoke and flames to **put out** fires that would be far too dangerous for human firefighters.

HEALTHCARE

Even the best surgeon's hand sometimes shakes while operating on a patient. Soon though, patients will **wake up** after surgery knowing that the steadiest of robotic arms will have been operating on them. Meanwhile, in another part of the hospital, a robot nurse, the RP7, will be taking a patient's pulse and temperature then emailing their medical history to a specialist in another country. In the corridor, a fleet of robots will be hard at work day and night collecting dirty sheets, delivering clean ones and **handing out** food. These robots won't replace humans, but they will allow the human staff to **get on with** saving people's lives.

WAITERS

A robot waiter shows you to your table, takes your order and **heads for** the kitchen where the chef – another robot – cooks your steak. After a delicious main course, another robot provides entertainment until the dessert comes. It may sound like a sci-fi film, but actually this is the Haohai Robot Restaurant in China where all 18 members of staff are robots. Amazingly, this is the fourth robot restaurant in China. The good news for customers is that you don't need to give them a tip; the bad news for the restaurant manager is that they only work a five-hour shift before taking a two-hour break to recharge their batteries.

ROBOCOPS

Robocop will soon be patrolling your neighbourhood as police forces around the world take advantage of technological advances to fight crime. US police departments are getting their very own ex-army robots for situations that are too risky for a human being. The 'Throwbot' is a pocket-sized robot that police will throw around corners to **check out** who or what is waiting for them; the 'Packbot' and the 'Talon' can defuse a bomb just as well as any bomb disposal expert. The only thing the forces of law and order don't have is a robot judge ... yet!

3 **Read again and for questions 1-10, choose from the texts (A-D). The texts may be chosen more than once.**

Which text mentions:

a robot you will see on the streets?	1
a person not doing their job well?	2
a robot that will amuse you?	3
robots that need to stop working for a while?	4
a robot that tidies up?	5
a robot that you will be happy to see?	6
a very small robot?	7
a robot sending some information?	8
a robot that is quicker than a person?	9
a robot that does not stop?	10

LIVEWORKSHEETS