

Part 3

Questions 11–15

For each question, choose the correct answer.

Challenge yourself!

15-year-old Kyle Washington writes about what he does in his free time.

I joined the National Youth Challenge (NYC) last year because I knew they went camping and sailing and taught skills like public speaking, and these were things I'd never done before. In the NYC you can do different activities to challenge yourself and you're always learning something. There are different levels, from beginner to advanced, run by adult volunteers called 'leaders'. When you complete each level you get a certificate.

When I first joined, my leader suggested that my first challenge should be helping to organise activities at a local children's club for two hours a week. I wasn't sure it was a good idea; I'd joined that same club when I was eight and I'd found it really difficult to make friends. I was quite shy then and all the other children already had their own friendship groups, so I'd stopped going after a couple of weeks. I decided to take up the challenge though, but only because I wanted my first NYC certificate.

Soon, however, I wanted to spend all my free time at the children's club. It meant a lot more to me than just getting the certificate. And when I finished the challenge, the NYC leader let me keep on volunteering at the club because I'd built up some great relationships with the children. Now I'm there for about four hours a week and I always really look forward to going.

Because of what I've learnt at the children's club, I've decided that when I finish school in three years' time I want to go to college to become a qualified youth worker – someone who works with children. It wasn't something I'd ever considered before starting at the club. In fact, I'd never thought about my future job, and the idea of youth work had never entered my mind. This has been my favourite part of the NYC so far and I've improved my own communication skills while at the same time helping others. I've got several other NYC certificates now and yes, one of them is for camping!

- 11 What was the main reason why Kyle joined the NYC?
- A to improve some of his skills
 - B to reach the advanced level
 - C to become a volunteer leader
 - D to try new experiences
- 12 Why didn't Kyle want to start helping at the children's club?
- A His memories of going there weren't very positive.
 - B He felt he was too shy to do a good job there.
 - C He didn't like the children there.
 - D None of his friends worked there.
- 13 Kyle still goes to the children's club because
- A he needs to earn his next certificate.
 - B he enjoys spending time with the children.
 - C his leader asked him to carry on.
 - D his challenge is not yet finished.
- 14 Working at the children's club has helped Kyle to
- A make a decision about his future career.
 - B go on his first camping expedition.
 - C get a place at college.
 - D achieve his dream of working with children.
- 15 What would Kyle's NYC leader say about him now?

A

Kyle's learnt so much since he started with NYC. Now he just needs to learn to communicate better with young children.

B

Even though Kyle's reduced the number of hours he works at the club, the work he does there is still extremely useful.

C

Kyle's a good example of why people shouldn't be afraid of trying new things, and how this can bring unexpected benefits.

D

Kyle's become a different person. He used to give up on his challenges but he doesn't do that any more.