

TEST 8

READING

Task 1

Read the text below. Match choices (A-G) to (1-5). There are two choices you do not need to use.

MEETING BY CHANCE

1 _____

Noel Coward wrote a famous play in the 1950s called 'Brief Encounter'. It tells of a couple who fell in love when they kept meeting in the waiting room of a railway station during wartime. For many people, a railway station or train must seem the most unromantic of places and yet there are plenty of examples of meeting by chance on trains or stations and falling in love.

2 _____

David, a keen football fan, was a person who found romance on the train. Twenty years ago he was travelling to work every day on a train from Liverpool. He usually found himself sitting opposite a young woman called Lora. They would often talk to each other and then, after about five or six months, they decided to go out together one evening. David was to decide where to go but Lora told him to keep the destination a secret – they went to see a football match.

3 _____

'Lora had never been to a football match in her life', said David, 'but our relationship took off from there. The problem came when I was offered a full-time job – as a football reporter – in Australia. Fortunately, Lora followed me, we got married and have been together now for over twenty years.'

4 _____

Another example of a couple being brought together by the railways is Jack and Debbie. Jack was in the army during the Second World War and would sometimes have to wait for a connecting train at the station in Newcastle where Debbie lived.

If he could let Debbie know that he would be on the station, she would come and meet him there and they would be able to spend a little time together.

5 _____

'Our romance nearly finished very early,' said Jack. 'On one of the first occasions we met, we walked out of the station and lost track of time. When we got back, the last train had gone and I had to take Debbie home. It was very late when we got there and her father was so angry that it seemed our friendship would be finished before it had really begun. Fortunately, Debbie managed to convince her father that I was not so bad and we went on to have many happy years together.'

A The romance was not ended by a problem early in the relationship

B A man feeling very tired got on a crowded train

C Taking a job overseas failed to end the relationship

D Being in a bad mood for talking to other people in a train

E Brief meeting during changing trains at the station

F Travelling on the same train before they went out together

G One would not normally expect people fall in love on trains or stations

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							

Task 2

Read the text below. For assignments (6–10) choose the correct answer (A, B, C, D).

THE POET

William waited patiently in the slow-moving queue. A big man, with large muscles on his arms and a face full of scars from the amateur boxing competitions he liked to enter, William was the type of man that you couldn't help noticing. He spoke with a lower-class accent and, when with his

friends, loved to use Cockney rhyming slang — a way of speaking that had developed among the working classes in one of London's poorest districts. This would often mislead strangers into thinking that William was an uneducated man. But the truth was very different.

A graduate of London's best law school, William was regarded by many in his field as one of the best lawyers in London — a reputation that had taken him just ten years to build. People joked that he was a lawyer who was as tough in the courtroom as he was in the boxing ring. His knowledge and skills were considered so good that other lawyers, as well as clients, would beat down a path to his door to get his advice.

Because of all this, few people would have guessed that William loved to write poetry in his spare time. William's passion for this hobby had begun when, one day in a bookshop, he had come across a small book of poems that had mistakenly been put in the law section. Reading it, William remembered admiring how the author had expressed so much with just a few carefully selected words and then finding himself wondering if he himself could develop a similar talent.

From childhood, William had always thrown himself into things. So he had soon read the major works of all the great British poets and become familiar with many of Europe's most famous poets, too. He had a particular admiration for Shakespeare and the German poet Goethe, but his favourite poet was the Irish W. B. Yeats — the man that he had been named after, his mother proudly reminded him.

So, almost from the day that he had first been inspired, William had begun writing poems of his own. He didn't know if he had any real talent, but he did know that the words flowed both easily and quickly from his pen. He enjoyed putting words together in a way that suggested different meanings — partly because this was exactly the opposite of what he was required to do as a lawyer.

He had no name for the collection of poems that he had written and collected over the years. He simply referred to them all as 'The Book'. The name, of course, clearly revealed his subconscious desire that his poems would one day be published. But he had neither the confidence, nor the desire to read a bad review if the critics did not like his work.

William's wife would often remind him, in that gentle way of hers, that he as old enough now not to care what others thought of him or to avoid doing something simply because he thought he might fail. It was these words that were running through William's mind when the conversation of the two women in front of him moved from small talk to work. 'So,' he heard the younger one say to her friend, 'How exactly is your search for new writing talent going?'

6. People often thought William was uneducated because ...
A of the job he did B of the way he spoke
C of the friends he had D of the area he lived in.
7. When the writer says that people 'would beat down a path to his door' it means that they ...
A knew that it wasn't easy to get advice from William.
B found it difficult to get an appointment with William.
C were very eager to get William's opinions on things.
D knew that William liked people who were tough like him.
8. William appreciated the poetry in the library because ...
A it reminded him of a forgotten passion. B his own poetry was similar.
C he liked what the poet had achieved D it gave him a break from studying law.
9. William read the works of all the great poets because ...
A he was a man who did things with a lot of energy.
B he had wanted to since he was a child.
C his mother had encouraged him to.
D he wanted to discover who his favourite poet was.
10. William enjoyed writing poems because ...

A of his talent for it.

B of the variety it added to his life.

C of the new meaning it gave his life. D of the new challenge it offered.

Task 3

Read the text below. Match choices (A-H) to (11-16). There are two choices you do not need to use.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN GREAT BRITAIN

There are only six public holidays a year in Great Britain, that is, the days on which people need not go to work. They are: Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Spring Bank Holiday and Late Summer Bank Holiday. Most of these holidays are of religious origin. All the public holidays, except Christmas Day and Boxing Day, are movable, they do not fall on the same day each year.

11 _____

Christmas Day is observed on the 25th of December. On Christmas Eve there is a great air of expectation in British homes. Children decorate the fir-tree with tinsel, coloured lights and toys. The houses are decorated with holly and a bunch of mistletoe. The Christmas bird, nowadays usually a turkey, is cooked and stuffed then followed by Christmas pudding, which is made with dried fruit and brandy. Sometimes a coin is put in the pudding as a surprise.

12 _____

Boxing Day is celebrated on the 26th of December and this is the time to visit friends and relatives or to be a spectator at one of the many sporting events. There are two explanations for the origin of this holiday. One is that it was the day on which landowners would present their servants with gifts in boxes, another is that it was the day on which the collecting boxes in churches were opened and the contents distributed to the poor.

13 _____

Easter is also a time when certain old traditions are observed. It is the time of giving presents, and the British celebrate the idea of new birth by giving each other chocolate Easter eggs which are opened and eaten on Easter Sunday. Easter involves a four-day "weekend" starting from Good Friday. **Good Friday** is the name of the day commemorating Christ's crucifixion. On Good Friday bakers sell hot cross buns, which are toasted and eaten with butter.

14 _____

Easter Monday is celebrated on the day after Easter Sunday. It is a public holiday and many people travel to the seaside for the day or go and watch such sporting events as football or horse-racing.

15 _____

Spring Bank Holiday is celebrated on the last Monday in May. There used to be a holiday on "Whit Monday" celebrating the Christian feast of Pentecost. Because this is seven weeks after Easter, the date varied. This fixed holiday has replaced it.

16 _____

Late Summer Bank Holiday is celebrated on the last Monday in August. The townsfolk usually flock into the country and to the coast. If the weather is fine, many families take a picnic-lunch or tea with them and enjoy their meal in the open air. It is also an occasion for big sports meetings.

What holiday is celebrated _____

A on the 26th of December?

B twice a year?

C two days before Easter Sunday?

D on the last Monday in August?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
11								
12								
13								

- E on the 25th of December?
 F on the day after Easter Sunday?
 G on the 31st of December?
 H on the last Monday in May?

14								
15								
16								

Task 4

Read the text below. Choose from (A–H) the one which best fits each space (17–22). There are two choices you do not need to use.

ASPIRIN

A bitter powder from the bark of willow tree was first used by Hippocrates in the 5th century B.C., (17) _____ and pains. Many centuries later, Felix Hoffman, an industrial chemist, synthesized the substance salicylic acid, and in 1893 he developed a commercial process for its production. In 1897, Hoffmans' superiors at Bayer and Company named this product Aspirin. Now, about 20 billion tablets of aspirin (18) _____ in Britain each year.

Aspirin works by reducing the body's production of prostaglandins. Prostaglandins are enzymes that influence the rate and direction of a chemical reaction. In trying to protect the body when cells have been damaged, prostaglandins trigger fever (by acting on brain centres) and swelling, prevent blood vessel dilation and (19) _____ of pain receptors.

Taking aspirin (20) _____ many of the effects of prostaglandins. It (21) _____ temporary headache relief, muscular aches and pains, toothaches and arthritis. It is also effective in the treatment of fever and inflammation, and is known to (22) _____ strokes and heart attacks.

- A circulatory system
 B can relieve
 C to treat aches
 D chemical reaction
 E increase the sensitivity
 F search for
 G is used for
 H reduce the risk of

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								

USE OF ENGLISH

Task 5

Read and complete the text below. For each of the empty space (23–27) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

OXFORD (Part 1)

Some people say that Oxford is the most attractive city in England. Whether this is (23) _____ or not, it is certainly worth a visit. It is also ideal for a day (24) _____ from London, as there are regular trains and buses at fifteen-minute (25) _____ which only take about an hour to get there.

You should (26) _____ plenty of time to visit Oxford's unique and varied range of historic attractions. What is probably of most (27) _____ to the visitor is the famous University with its different colleges.

- | | | | | |
|----|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 23 | A real | B genuine | C honest | D true |
| 24 | A trip | B travel | C journey | D voyage |
| 25 | A gaps | B breaks | C intervals | D spaces |
| 26 | A allow | B permit | C agree | D let |
| 27 | A attention | B notice | C interest | D curiosity |

Task 6

Read and complete the text below. For each of the empty space (28–32) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

OXFORD (Part 2)

You can (28) _____ several of these elegant historic buildings in a day, as the majority of them are (29) _____ walking distance of one another. Many of the oldest and most remarkable colleges are certainly (30) _____, and most are open to visitors in the afternoon. It is a good idea to check before visiting, (31) _____, as opening days and times vary.

The two rivers that (32) _____ through the city are another major attraction for residents and tourists alike. Both the Thames and the Cherwell rivers are lined with lush green vegetation, and a stroll along their banks or a leisurely boat ride is the perfect way to round off a day of sightseeing.

- | | | | | |
|----|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 28 | A look around | B see through | C find out | D check up |
| 29 | A inside | B under | C within | D beneath |
| 30 | A placed | B located | C addressed | D positioned |
| 31 | A yet | B despite | C however | D although |
| 32 | A flow | B move | C pour | D lead |