Reading PART 3

A. You are going to read a newspaper article. For questions 13—19, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

The Making of an Internet Sensation

We've all received those web links from friends 'you must watch this - it's brilliant!' Read how one such popular Internet video was made.

Line 3 It is a cold November evening and I am perched at the top of a tall stepladder in a village hall. On the floor, 16 golden retrievers stare up at me curiously. They are arranged in a square, four by four. I watch through the viewfinder of my video camera. This, I think to myself, could make me famous.

I hadn't thought up the idea myself - it all came about at the behest of my editor. We want you to write about viral videos, he had told me a couple of weeks earlier. Go and find out why some videos go viral. What makes people share them? It sounded straightforward enough. He sent me a link to Charlie Bit My Finger, a video of a baby biting his little brother. It is currently YouTube's most watched video of all time. "I want you to make your own viral and become internet famous," he said. "If this can get 135 million hits. you can do it too."

To better understand what makes people share videos, I turned to Judith Donath of MIT, who studies online social networks. She argues that the factors driving people to share stuff over the web are not that different from the reasons apes pick bugs out of each other's fur. it's a way of establishing social bonds. Other researchers have argued that in human societies, language - especially gossip - has taken
Line 16 on the social function of **such grooming**. Sharing videos via email or within social networks is just the next step. Donath argues. "Sharing online is equivalent to small talk," she says. "It's a little gift of information. It shows 'I'm thinking of you'."

Video sharing is also a way of making a statement. "In addition, people use videos as a way of showing their position in the 'information-technology ecology," Donath says. "A video reflects on the person who sends it." In other words, people will pass on a video if they think it's cool - because it makes them look cool too. I have friends and colleagues who are cool, so I quizzed them for inspiration. Eventually. we hit upon a winning idea. I called it Pets Teach Science. The aim is to demonstrate tricky concepts ranging from quantum physics to chemical structure with the help of man's best friend and other furry companions.

The next question was what to film for the first episode. For what I had in mind, a degree of canine discipline was required, so I contacted a group of dog trainers. They agreed to help, and last month we made a film using 16 of their dogs to illustrate the structure of the atom. Some of the animals acted as the protons and neutrons in the nucleus, while the rest circulated to mimic the electron cloud.

A few days of shamelessly begging all my friends and family to disseminate the video resulted in fewer than 1,000 hits. The big breakthrough came after a tip from Michael Wesch, an anthropologist who studies the behaviour of visitors to YouTube. One of the key bits of advice he gave me was to send the video to a so-called "sneezer"- a media outlet or blogger that can quickly disseminate your video to a large number of people. "Almost every viral has a catalyst moment at which it has a big leap of, say, 100,00 viewers at once," he says. For the massive videos, that sneeze can be anything from a TV appearance to a tweet by a popular Twitterer. This catapults the video onto YouTube's daily "most

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popular" lists, and the chain reaction begins. Even if only 1 in 10 people continue to share the video, you have succeeded.

It happened for me when I sent a link to the free London paper Metro. The paper gave Pets Teach Science an enthusiastic write-up, and the video's, views surged by about 8,000 within a few hours. It soon appeared on YouTube's "pets and animals" page. In the following days, it was referred to in a couple of influential blogs and that almost doubled my hits overnight to more than 50,000. The growth continues, proving that with a little cunning, and some cute pets, anyone can make a video go viral. I can reveal that Charlie's record remains intact. Still, despite my worst fears, my video turned out to be a surprising success. Next up on the channel is a sleepy fat cat which will demonstrate Einstein's general theory of relativity with a trampoline. Keep watching!

13 The writer is on a ladder at the beginning of the article because

- **A.** he is getting dogs ready for a video.
- **B.** someone is filming him with some animals.
- **C.** he is trying to make a special type of video.
- **D.** he is observing people making a film.

14 What does the writer's editor want him to do?

- **A.** make them both famous
- **B.** investigate the success of the YouTube website
- **C.** get a film of some golden retrievers
- **D.** discover the reasons for the popularity of some videos

15 What does 'such grooming' in line 16 refer to?

- **A.** using small talk
- **B.** sharing stuff on the web
- **C.** looking after each Other like animals do
- **D.** establishing social networks through gossiping

16 Which of these does Donath give as a further reason why people share videos?

- **A.** People enjoy entertaining their friends,
- **B.** People use videos as a statement of their ideas.
- **C.** People think it gives them a good image.
- **D.** People want to practise their technical skills.

17 What will the videos the writer is planning do?

- **A.** show dogs doing amusing things
- **B.** present animals being trained in a scientific way
- **C.** use animals to illustrate scientific ideas
- **D.** demonstrate some simple experiments

18 Who or What acted as a 'sneezer' for the writer's video?

- **A.** a local newspaper
- **B.** a popular online writer
- **C.** an anthropologist
- **D.** a specific website

19 In this article the writer's main aim is to

- **A.** demonstrate that viral videos are relatively easy to produce.
- **B.** examine why viral videos are successful.
- **C.** show that viral videos can have an educational purpose.
- **D.** educate his readers in the tricks used by viral video makers.

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B. You are going to read an article from a website. For questions 13—19, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

An interview with actor, John Malkovich

Journalist Lynn Barber reports on interviewing the actor John Malkovich for the second time in her career.

Amazingly, John Malkovich remembers that we met before, though it was 14 years ago, and greets me like an old friend. This is flattering but also embarrassing because I remember that interview in Chicago as one of the worst experiences of my journalistic life. I asked my first question; he stared at the ceiling for about 10 minutes and finally delivered a four-word answer. This happened with my second question and with my third, and I was calculating that at this rate I'd be stuck in Chicago until the icecap melted. He did speed up eventually but what I remember most clearly is how infuriating I found him for the first half hour.

Anyway, here he is now, sunny and chattering away. There are no long silences and he maintains eye contact throughout. We meet at the studios, where he is doing two days' work on a film called The Mutant Chronicles, based on a video game (he tried to explain the plot but I lost it after the first five minutes). He will do another day's filming before flying on to France. Is it normal to work on a film for just two days? 'I've done it a lot, yes. Sometimes you wish it lasted longer and sometimes you're quite glad it didn't.'

You get the impression he has made so many films (more than 60) he forgets them all. Luckily, he forgets the one he is meant to be promoting, Art School Confidential, which is a relief because it saves me trying to say anything nice about it. The New York Times described it as dull and full of self-pity. But there is another film, Colour Me Kubrick, in the pipeline in which he gives a hilarious performance as the English conman who went round pretending to be the film director Stanley Kubrick, which seems more hopeful.

He's made a few really good films but then some terrible turkeys. He nearly always gives a good performance, but you often think: how could he have read that script and decided to make it? He says he doesn't regret any of his films because he always learns something, even if only that he never wants to work with that director again.

Maybe the problem is the work he gets offered. He once said he got very few offers from the States — is that still true? 'It's pretty true still, although I'm doing a couple of big American films at the moment. But that was never meant as a complaint - it was more a factual statement. People have said it had a lot to do with the fact that I spent the better part of 15 years living in Europe — they just don't think of you. That's the way the business is, that's the way it always has been.

When I went to grab my bag at the airport today — and it was very heavy because after this I'm going back to our house in France for six weeks — I was thinking of how incredibly old and weak I am. And I suddenly thought, "It's funny, now I'm one of those guys I used to watch on television occasionally and you sort of know his face but you don't know from where." But I think that's the natural way of the business. I don't really worry about it.'

He talks as if he is incredibly old. In fact, he is 52, which many male actors regard as their prime. But obviously he feels old. He tells me one of his knees is shot, which means he can no longer garden, which he used to love doing, and he might have to have a knee replacement.

When he and his family moved back to the States from France recently, they chose Cambridge. Did he choose it because he wanted to be among the academics at the University of Harvard? 'No!' he laughs. 'That would be lost on me - I'm an actor!' Oh come. Whatever Malkovich is, he is not thick. He reads a lot, he follows international news, he speaks several languages. But you see the flash of his intelligence in throwaway remarks rather than sustained arguments; he has a great fear of seeming too serious.

'At school they expected me to be an enormous failure who might be able to find a career as a sort of quarrelsome academic somewhere but who would never amount to anything as a performer or a director.'

How awful, I tut-tutted, to be made to feel a failure at school. But he responds with unusual vehemence, 'I don't care! I don't care what other people think. I don't think it matters.' If true, this is an admission of extraordinary arrogance. Nothing that anybody says, no amount of negative criticism, can touch him or shake his extreme cool. I don't actually believe it is true, because he would be an insufferable person if it were, but it is interesting that he likes to believe he is opinion-proof. He will need to be when Art School Confidential comes out. At all events, he is by far the most interesting actor I have ever interviewed.

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13 How did the writer feel about her first interview with John Malkovich?

- **A.** embarrassed because she handled it so badly
- **B.** angry because he made it so difficult for her
- **C.** impatient because she was anxious to leave Chicago
- **D.** disappointed because he was so unfriendly

14 What does the reader leam about the film, The Mutant Chronicles?

- **A.** It is a very short film.
- **B.** It is to be used for a video game.
- **C.** It has a complicated storyline.
- **D.** John Malkovich has a small part in it.

15 The writer thinks that Art School Confidential is

- **A.** better than the New York Times said it was.
- **B.** more entertaining than Colour Me Kubrick.
- **C.** not a film she Will probably go to see.
- **D.** a film that it is hard to find something good in.

16 The writer expresses surprise that Malkovich

- **A.** got involved with some very bad films.
- **B.** manages to make even bad films seem good.
- **C.** has worked with some very poor directors.
- **D.** is sorry he made some of his films.

17 Malkovich says he is not concerned about the fact that

- **A.** he is getting Older and less healthy.
- **B.** people know his face but not his name,
- **C.** he is better known in Europe than the USA
- **D.** he may have to have an operation on his knee.

18 What impression does the writer give of Malkovich's intelligence?

- **A.** He would be out of place in a group of university academics.
- **B.** He likes talking about a range of interesting subjects.
- **C.** He is a good person to enjoy an argument with.
- **D.** He does not wish to appear too intellectual.

19 The writer is not convinced by Malkovich's claim that

- **A.** he was a failure at school.
- **B.** he is an arrogant person.
- **C.** he doesn't think his own work matters.
- **D.** he doesn't care what others think of him.

C. going to read an article about a rower. For questions 13—19, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Roz Savage— Rower and Campaigner

Kim Hampton keeps YachtPals readers up-to-date with news of rowing star Roz Savage.

We're happy to report that Roz Savage is back on the water, on the third and final stage of her epic and historic journey across the Pacific from California to Australia. The office worker turned environmental-advocate-rower still has a long way to go, but ever since her first leg — where she had considerable problems getting enough drinking water, and yet, to the astonishment of those who don't know her, waved off anyone going out of their way to assist we've had surprisingly little doubt that Roz will make it. It's funny, because even after all these miles, Roz tells YachtPals that she Still realty doesn't enjoy rowing: in fact she virtually cringes at the mention of the word.

If you don't know who Roz Savage maybe you should. Perhaps you've seen the abandoned drift nets offshore, or remote and formerly pristine beaches covered in garbage, or heard of the Pacific Garbage countries along well-worn lines, but it's hardly likely that you'll find anyone who says they're pro-litter. It is both a progressive and a conservative principle to use less — which is the primary advice given by Roz, and her international supporters who are metaphorically (and sometimes literally) jumping up and down, saying: "Look here!" about the plastic pollution that has spread over large portions of the Oceans. That's the message: just use less.

Nobody likes the extra packaging anyway. Things that once came in a small cardboard box are now blister-packed to the point of frustrating absurdity. We've made a lot of great progress in the last three decades, but one of the mistakes has been to take the attitude that we could create and then discard something without limit. It's not like we all didn't know that. All you have to do is remember your grandparents or

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Patch, and thought "Why isn't somebody doing something about this?" Well, there are those trying, trying to get others who are so unlucky as to be trapped on dry land to pay attention to the fact that there's a problem out there - beyond the sight of land. One of the most devoted, tireless and effective at getting that message across has been Roz Savage, who has turned herself, her boat, and her amazing feat of stamina into a veritable one-woman bandwagon for the planet, or more accurately: for the people on it.

After the first leg of her journey (which she dedicated to ocean pollution), she met a good portion of the who's who list from the environmental movement, and did her best to make sure the issue of plastic pollution would not go unnoticed. After leg two (dedicated to climate change), she was asked to attend some extremely high profile events - including the most recent Summit on climate change - and not just as a participant, but as a speaker. As it turns out, it seems that Roz has got fans and supporters across a fairly broad political spectrum (with a few notable exceptions). She may have started out preaching to the choir, but now she's got the attention of the whole congregation, and then some.

Of course, the cause YachtPals is most supportive of is the reduction of ocean pollution, which isn't political. Offshore drilling and global warming legislation can all be argued over by political parties and by different others who lived through the Depression as you try to explain how it's OK to discard all of the things the way we do in today's society.

Roz Savage has an army of loyal fans who call themselves the "Rozlings, and who will likely make sure that the party goes on for some time after her arrival. Much of her travel accommodation involves couch surfing and house-sitting situations arranged by the Rozlings, who seem to be spread around the globe. They seem always eager to help out the vibrant and voluntarily homeless Brit, and maybe that's because her message strikes a chord with so many. See, Roz doesn't say she's out to save the planet. Rather, she's out to save us – the people. As Roz says (and most scientists agree), the planet will survive just fine in the long run, the question is: In a thousand years, will humans still be here to enjoy it?

So as you go about your life over the next few months, try to take a moment now and then to think about that poor woman out in the Pacific, counting every wretched pull on her oars, who asks only that you consider taking one simple measure to safeguard future generations - like using less disposable plastic. That's the message Roz Savage wanted us to pass along, and her only request. Well, that, and should any yachts or ships be transiting the area in the coming months, she'd love it if you'd swing by for a visit.

13 In the first paragraph the writer expresses surprise that Roz Savage

- **A.** refused help that was willingly offered.
- **B.** claims that she takes little pleasure in her sport.
- **C.** seems likely to achieve her goa! of rowing the Pacific.
- **D.** gave up a good job to devote herself to rowing.

14 The writer repeats the word *trying* in the second paragraph in order to

- **A.** stress that Roz's environmental goals are unlikely to be achieved.
- **B.** emphasise that it Will take a long time for everyone to know about the issue.
- **C.** imply that Roz has to repeat her message many times.
- **D.** suggest how hard people have to work to get others to listen.

17 What does the writer say that thinking of their grandparents will encourage people to do?

- **A.** give money to environmental causes
- **B.** remember their own good fortune
- **C.** use less packaging
- **D.** throw less away

18 The writer explains that Roz appeals to the Rozlings because of

- **A.** the scientific support for her views.
- **B.** her friendly personality.
- **C.** the human focus of her message.
- **D.** her obvious love of the planet.

19 In the last paragraph the writer makes a contrast between

- **A.** Roz's sense of purpose and other people's lack of involvement.
- **B.** Roz's difficult task and an easy step we could all take.

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15 What is the main point that the writer is making in the third paragraph?

- **A.** Roz has changed the focus of her campaigning as her journey progressed.
- **B.** Roz has been surprised that important people are prepared to listen to her.
- **C.** Roz has become increasingly influential as an environmental campaigner.
- **D.** Roz has become a more accomplished public speaker

16 Why does the writer say ocean pollution is not a political issue?

- **A.** Everyone agrees about What needs to be done.
- **B.** Political parties pay little attention to the issue.
- **C.** The problem cannot be solved by political action.
- **D.** The problem cannot be solved by one country alone.
- **C.** Roz's loneliness and our own more sociable lives.
- **D.** Roz's small message and the size of the plastics pollution problem.

D. going to read a magazine article. For questions 13—19, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mary McCartney, Photographer

Roya Nikkhah interviews the photographer daughter of famous pop star Paul McCartney.

Mary McCartney literally started life in front of the camera. The firstborn child of pop musician Paul and his photographer wife Linda was introduced to the world when a baby. Mary appeared peeking out from inside her father's jacket on the cover of his first solo album, McCartney, in 1970. But since then, she has, in her own words, 'used the camera to hide behind' and, surprisingly for the daughter of a Beatle, is far more comfortable putting others in the limelight than standing in it herself. For the child of a pop legend, her unstarry approach is arresting — no sooner am I up the stairs to her studio, than she rushes down them to make me tea. 'I like blending into the background,' she says on her return, holding out my mug. 'It's my job. Though I can be quite noisy and direct sometimes. I think the book shows my character — it has more reflective, quiet moments and then some in-your-face bits. That's me.'

We meet in her large, airy studio in north London, where McCartney is flicking through her new book, *From Where I Stand*, a retrospective of her work from the past 15 years. It is exactly as she just described it - a collection of intimate personal photographs of her

McCartney smiles when recalling the shoot, 'He [Hatton] didn't even turn up for the first day because I think his football team had lost the night before, and at the gym they were like: "Um, he's not very well." Then next day it was like, will he turn up? It became a little adventure. But I love those situations — you can't go in and take over.'

McCartney has spoken of her regret that her mother's work hasn't attracted more attention. 'The thing about her is that she never blew her own trumpet and hence was pigeonholed as a celebrity who dabbled in photography, which isn't how it was at all,' she has said. The McCartney name made it possible for people to miss, or ignore, just how good she consistently was.'

I wonder if the fear of being similarly pigeonholed made McCartney reticent to embark on photography as a career in the mid-Nineties, which followed a stint working as a researcher in a music-publishing company? 'It took me a while to get the confidence to do it as a career,' she says. 'Obviously my name would open a door or two, but people won't just book you because of your name, so in a way it's even more

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family and friends, together with bolder, sometimes surprising portraits of celebrities and lesser-known sitters. What is striking about all the images is their naturalness. There is minimal lighting and little of the high gloss associated with other leading portrait photographers.

The artist Sir Peter Blake, a close family friend of the McCartneys, told me recently about a project he and Mary worked on for the charity Sport Relief, which involved her photographing the boxer Ricky Hatton for a portrait that Blake would paint from. 'We turned up there in this gym on the Harrow Road, all big boxers, an almost hostile environment, and Mary just got to it, so quietly, no fuss, figuring out who did what. Within minutes they were eating out of her hand. It was just like watching her mother at work.'

embarrassing, because if people meet me and then nobody wants to book me, that would be really humiliating. So I had to make sure I was OK before I stepped into it.'

While McCartney frequently shoots catwalk shows and campaigns for fashion's biggest names, Chrissie Hynde, the singer and close friend, describes her thus: 'I think you could say, at the expense of possibly losing her a job or two, that Mary is the opposite of a fashion photographer.' It is clearly meant as a compliment, but what does Hynde mean? McCartney explains that she just isn't a very on-trend kind of person. It's a surprising statement from the sister of one of Britain's leading designers, but a quick glance at her outfit of striped cashmere sweater, grey skinny jeans and flat black pumps reveals it to be true. It's an understated look, with just one tiny adornment – a gold heart-shaped locket and 'M' pendant hanging from her neck.

13 In the first paragraph the writer draws attention to Mary McCartney's

- **A.** A pride in her parents.
- **B.** B self-effacing attitude.
- **C.** C initial awkwardness.
- **D.** D simple lifestyle.

14 The writer is impressed by the way Mary McCartney

- **A.** makes unusual use of lighting in her photographs.
- **B.** chooses both friends and celebrities as subjects.
- **C.** takes characteristically simple portraits.
- **D.** has included many intimate pictures in her book.

15 Sir Peter Blake's anecdote illustrates the fact that Mary McCartney

- **A.** has worked on a variety of different artistic
- **B.** does a great deal of work for charitable causes.
- **C.** enjoys working with all sorts of people.
- **D.** is good at establishing friendly relationships.

16 How did Mary feel about the shoot with Sir Peter Blake?

- **A.** She enjoyed not knowing quite what to expect.
- **B.** She liked his adventurous approach to his work.
- **C.** It gave her a sense of achievement.
- **D.** It was a valuable learning experience.

17 Mary says that her mother

- **A.** put her husband and family first.
- **B.** deserves more recognition for her work.
- **C.** saw photography mainly as a hobby.
- **D.** got more exposure because of her name.

18 Mary did not start a career in photography immediately because

- **A.** she was not sure she was good enough to succeed.
- **B.** she was initially attracted to the music industry.
- **C.** she knew it was a difficult time for aspiring photographers.
- **D.** she thought her name might actually be an obstacle.

19 The writer suggests that the way Mary McCartney is dressed shows

- **A.** she dresses in a way that suits her work
- **B.** her taste for unusual clothes.
- **C.** she has little interest in fashion.
- **D.** her enjoyment of modern fashion.

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E. You are going to read a website article. For questions 13—19, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Taking a Gap Year

Journalist Lucy Tobin considers whether taking time out university makes sense in the current economic climate.

Once upon a time the gap year was the preserve of rucksack-schlepping, sandal-wearing teenagers who would doss around South America or Asia for a few months before uni. No longer. Today's competitive job market means gappers must ensure a year out will leave behind a sprinkling of CV fairy dust.

That doesn't mean it has to be boring. Whether you're considering a gap year before or after uni, or much later on in life, there are plenty of ways to make it boost your employability while having fun. Spend a few months doing work experience and making contacts in a field that interests you before jumping on that plane to Thailand. Test out different industries. Turn that business idea you've been talking about into reality. If it takes off, it could lower your student loan, or save the need to find a "real job". If not, it will show future employers your initiative.

Don't be put off if you haven't been incubating a gap-year dream since birth: there's still time to arrange a year out at very little notice. My gap year, for example, was a last-minute rush. I had applied for politics at uni, decided very late on that I wanted to Change to English, and when I called up the university to enquire about this, I was told I'd have to take a gap year. I'd spent the summer celebrating finishing with friends, so when September rolled around, I had no plan or job, or, consequently, any cash to travel with. Eventually, after a month sending a blitz of ignored emails. I managed to wangle a job in publishing, then a journalism position at a prominent daily newspaper. It was there I decided on my future career all because Id suddenly had to take a gap year.

Ask people about their year-out experiences and it will become dear how many options there are (although don't ask too many questions: gappers tend to go on a bit). While I was commuting into London every day, my friends were doing radically diverse things. One sold make-up at Harrods before saving vultures in Africa; another promoted classical music to kids, yet another was an intern in parliament, and two travelled around Asia for a year.

But as your family and friends Will undoubtedly remind you when you mention a gap year — these are tough economic times. Graduate employment is down: a quarter of graduate job vacancies have disappeared and the competition for each job has grown, according to the Association of Graduate Recruiters. The job market doesn't look like it Will improve overnight, so a gap year to help yourself stand out.

You don't need to give up ideas of travelling - a year is a long time, and you might not have the chance to go away for that long again. But think about combining a trip with six months' work — or study. If there's something you've always wanted to do but been held back by a lack of time, a gap year is the time to do it. Learn to drive, type or cook. Go to hairdressing school and build up a side business in cutting friends' hair. Or take a distance-learning course in your spare time.

Voluntary work abroad Will benefit you and your CV, as well as the community or project you're helping. You may well be able to improve your language skills too — employers love linguists. Make sure you choose a reputable company, do plenty of research, and ask any friends for personal recommendations. A good starting is the Year Out Group, whose members sign up to a code of practice. It lists gap-year companies and the locations of gap-year fairs, which many firms attend.

If you're staying at home, there are lots of rewarding and enjoyable charity work options.

It's worth thinking but What you want to get out of your gap year. At the start of mine, a fellow gapper and I listed things we wanted to do: big plans, like achieving at least three months' relevant work experience, but also things like making our way through a list of 50 films to see before you die, and partying with friends at local unis to make sure we had the chance to meet lots of new people. Try to have fun on your gap year, whatever you do. It's an incredible opportunity to see the world, work out what you want to do with your life, and help you on your way to achieving it. Good luck — and have a great time.

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13 What point is the writer making in the first paragraph?

- **A.** Young people gain a great deal from the experience of travelling.
- **B.** Teenagers on gap years increasingly look for work abroad.
- **C.** Gap years today have to be about more than just pleasure.
- **D.** Fewer Young people are currently able to afford gap years.

14 What does the writer say about trying out your business idea during a gap year?

- **A.** It might cover the costs of your higher education.
- **B.** You can benefit even if the idea does not succeed.
- **C.** You are unlikely to get a similar opportunity at another time.
- **D.** It could provide you with future contacts when you are looking for work

15 What is the main reason why the writer gives the example of her own gap year experience?

- **A.** to show that your gap year can have important consequences
- **B.** to emphasise that planning a gap year often takes longer than is really necessary
- **C.** to explain that you need to save money if you want to travel in your gap year
- **D.** to stress that gap year activities can be forced on you by unexpected circumstances

16 Why does the writer say you should avoid asking a lot of questions in lines 31—32?

- **A.** because you need to make up your own mind about what's best for you
- **B.** because it may become confusing if 'gappers' tell you too much
- **C.** because it is not necessary to learn about all the different options
- **D.** because you may hear about more of their experiences than you want to

17 The writer says a gap year can make young people stand out because

- **A.** their confidence increases as they work or travel.
- **B.** it can provide skills other job applicants may lack.
- **C.** it helps them develop into mature adults,
- **D.** they see places few people their own age have seen.

18 The writer recommends that people wishing to do voluntary work overseas should

- **A.** learn the language of their destination before they go there.
- **B.** find out as much as possible about their destination.
- **C.** make arrangements to go with a friend.
- **D.** make informed choices about what to do.

19 What is the main point the writer is suggesting about a gap year in the last paragraph?

- **A.** If you plan it carefully there will be time for fun too.
- **B.** You need to make plans because the year Will pass very quickly.
- **C.** It provides a chance to develop different sides of your life.
- **D.** It offers excellent opportunities to meet new people.

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F. You are going to read a newspaper article. For questions 13—19, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

A New Approach to Cooking

Popular TV presenter and journalist James May shares his unusual ideas on eating habits with readers.

For some time, I've been campaigning for a new departure in airline food.

The gist of it is this. The problem with airline food is that they try to do something a bit posh, with several courses drizzled with extra words, but then give it all to you on a tray the size of a mouse mat. Even at the pointy end of the aeroplane it's a bit of an elbows-in affair, but if you want to butter a bread roll in the cheap seats your neighbours will have to get up and stand in the aisle.

So what I'd like to see is healthy, balanced and nutritious food that can be eaten one-handed from one item of crockery. Every nation on earth can provide a 'signature dish' for its own airline: stews, hot-pots, casseroles, stir-fries, pasta, bowls of noodles, wraps and the cheeseburger are a few that spring to mind.

Everybody benefits from this scheme. The food is simpler to eat, and, above all, it's more straightforward to prepare and serve. There's more space on the little table for drink, and less packaging to fall on the floor. As there's less equipment involved, there can be more actual food, and clearing up will take no time at all.

But now I wonder if I haven't been, as usual, a bit unambitious.

How often do most people fly? Twice a year maybe, perhaps less. My mate Cookie has never been abroad, and is relatively unfamiliar with the pressurised carton of UHT milk. The idea needs wider social application for it to work. Now, as I have argued in previous articles, the reason cooking has become so popular, especially amongst blokes, is because the kitchen is the new workshop. Deprived of the requirement to hone his innate craft skills in wood or metal, the modern man turns to the formica worktop instead - previously this was more likely to be the woman's domain and makes an intricate prawn cocktail. It involves tools, process and planning, and satisfies a natural desire to produce something.

I like fooling about in the kitchen, to be honest. I know you like it, too, because by far the biggest forum response I've ever had to a column (apart from the time you all fell out) was when I instigated a debate about the best way to make cheese sauce. The trouble, though, is that I'm really not very good at it. Last night, spurred on by too many visits to over-priced restaurants where I've eaten over-intellectualised dinners, I tried to do something a bit clever with liver, a selection of vegetables and some clever chemistry involving oils, herbs and spices. It was all right, I suppose. I mean, my guest and I both ate it, but in a slightly ashen-faced and awkward sort of way- It was all a bit brown.

More to the point, it took hours and hours that could have been better spent on something more constructive, such as mending the cooker, the door of which has dropped off. There are also three dead motorcycles in the garage, and they're not going to repair themselves. I have therefore revised my original scheme and yoked it to a new mantra in a "Strength Through Simplicity" Style: one burner, one utensil, one implement. And the new arena of culinary progress shall be the garage.

I'm hoping to incorporate the notion of garage cooking in a forthcoming series and, as usual, would welcome any suggestions; anything suitable for consumption by a tuan who has one reasonably clean hand and one coated with something so toxic he'd rather not put it near his faces This is not, in fact, without precedent. I've been in a die-casting factory in India where the blokes baked exotic breads on the tops of hot machines, and they somehow tasted better for being a by-product of industrial endeavour. In former times, the foundry or the footplate of the steam locomotive afforded working men the opportunity to cook with the beat front the raging furnaces they attended. There is a great legacy of one-course, one-handed meals for us to draw on.

I imagine the garage café experiment would be very appealing to production engineers in car companies. It might also dispel the myth of men's inability to multi-task. What's the point of waiting for something to boil? In the garage, you can be stripping something down while that's going on. This way, the artificial division between the kitchen and the garage — both workshops, after all — will be demolished, although 'her in the main bit of the house' might not be so keen on the idea.

I've made a start already. Tonight I've had an oil and filter Change with a side of chain adjustment accompanied by beans 'n' sausages.

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13 The writer's main objection to airline food is that it
- **A.** does not taste as good as it should.
- **B.** is described in over-complicated language.
- **C.** comes in too small portions.
- **D.** is presented in an inappropriate way.

14 The writer's main argument for his airline food suggestion is that
- **A.** airlines could serve food typical of their own country.
- **B.** airline meals would better for passengers' health
- **C.** it would make things easier for the crew.
- **D.** there would be benefits for the environment.

15 The writer argues that men are increasingly interested in because
- **A.** they find it more enjoyable than making things with wood or metal.
- **B.** They have fewer opportunities to create things than used to be the case.
- **C.** itis now more socially acceptable for men to spend time in the kitchen.
- **D.** women are generally spending less time cooking than they used to.

16 What do we leam about the meal the writer prepared?
- **A.** He used a recipe for a dish he had eaten in an expensive restaurant.
- **B.** His meals are usually much more successful than this one was.
- **C.** It looked considerably than it tasted.
- **D.** It was a waste of time that he could have spent more usefully.

17 Why does the writer refer to 'Strength through Simplicity'?
- **A.** It is the principle he intends to apply to cooking.
- **B.** It suggests a masculine approach to cookery.
- **C.** It reflects the simplicity and strength of his
- **D.** it is the name of his future TV series.

18 The writer uses the example from India to illustrate that
- **A.** skills learnt in a factory can be applied to cooking a meal.
- **B.** meals have previously been prepared in unusual workplace settings.
- **C.** food cooked in this way tastes as delicious as that from a kitchen.
- **D.** his inspiration came from a country well-known for its tasty food.

19 One reason why the writer says he likes his idea of garage cooking is that it will
- **A.** show that men can do two things at the same time.
- **B.** please his wife that he is helping with the cooking.
- **C.** give him opportunities to improve his cooking skills
- **D.** enable him to spend more time in his garage.

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