

Text 1

Read the text. Answer the questions on your mark sheet.

Quality time with pets improves your health	1
	2
Spending quality time with your pet, whether it's your dog, cat or any other animal, can	3
have a positive impact on your mood and health. Pets can be calming, stress-fighters, in a	4
life that is full of_____.	5
	6
Research has been conducted by, Allen R McConnell, a professor of psychology at Miami	7
University. He found that the pet owners, on average, were better off than non-pet owners,	8
especially if they had a close, meaningful relationship with their pets. This clearly varies from	9
person to person.	10
	11
For active people, this could include, long country walks, playing frisbee in the park, or even	12
swimming in safe places with them. For the less active, who cannot get outside, just petting	13
your dog can help you feel connected.	14
	15
What other ways can pets help you? It is proven that dog owners, who walk more, have	16
lower blood pressure than people who don't have dogs, which means this may makes you	17
less likely to get heart disease. They are also good for you if you already have heart	18
problems. Studies show that heart attack survivors live longer, if they have dogs, than those	19
who don't.	20
	21
As well as heart and blood pressure benefits, pets, especially dogs, help you connect with	22
people, allowing you to interact with other people outside, which you might not normally	23
do, if you didn't have a pet. Wheelchair users say, they have more eye contact with people	24
when they have a pet with them and this leads to more social interaction and offers of help.	25
	26
When animals have been introduced into schools, children, especially autistic children,	27
related better with their classmates by getting involved with each other, enabling more	28
positivity and working better side by side.	29
	30
In general, people are usually happier, more trusting, less lonely and have a greater sense of	31
belonging, even visiting their doctors less for minor problems, when living with their	32
cherished pets.	33

1. **Research was conducted by whom?**
 - a. A professor of psychiatry.
 - b. A professor of petology.
 - c. A professor of psychology.
2. **If a person is less active, how can they feel connected with their pet?**
 - a. By walking with them.
 - b. By petting them.
 - c. By swimming with them.
3. **What is one of the health benefits of dog walking?**
 - a. Being happier.
 - b. Heart disease.
 - c. Lower blood pressure.
4. **What are other benefits of dog walking?**
 - a. More social interaction.
 - b. Less offers of help.
 - c. More lonely.
5. **According to the text, what is one of the positives of living with a pet?**
 - a. People are not happier.
 - b. People are more trusting.
 - c. People visit their doctor's more.
6. **The best word to replace "side by side" on line 29 is:**
 - a. Together.
 - b. Jointly.
 - c. Combined.
7. **The word "interaction" on line 25 means:**
 - a. To move about.
 - b. To communicate with others.
 - c. To be lively.
8. **The best word to fill the gap on line 5 is:**
 - a. Calm.
 - b. People.
 - c. Stress.
9. **There is a grammar mistake on:**
 - a. Line 17.
 - b. Line 22.
 - c. Line 32.
10. **There is a spelling mistake on:**
 - a. Line 13.
 - b. Line 18.
 - c. Line 23.

Text 2

Read the text. Answer the questions on your mark sheet.

Attractions along Route 66, USA	1
	2
There are many unusual landmarks and tourist attractions along Route 66, one of	3
the most famous and original highways in the USA, completed on November 11th	4
1926. It originally stretched from Chicago to California, covering 2,448 miles.	5
	6
One of those landmarks is Cadillac Ranch, in Texas. It is a sculpture, built in 1974,	7
of old junk Cadillac cars, positioned at a 45 degree angle. Over time, passers-by	8
have drawn, very colourful graffiti on the vehicles, creating quite a sight.	9
	10
Arizona, has the only remaining village of wigwams in the USA and _____ this	11
attraction is the Wigwam Hotel. This has fifteen very large, teepee-like structures,	12
each enclosing a motel suite. A sight to behold.	13
	14
If you are a film buff, you will enjoy passing through Kansas, to discover the	15
original, 'Tow Mater', the lead character in Pixar's movie, 'Cars'. The actual truck,	16
'Tow Tater', which still works, sits outside an old gas station, which has been	17
turned into a diner. Definitely an opportunity for a photo.	18
	19
Staying with old gas stations, the privately-owned, Shea's Gas Station Museum, is	20
an attraction in Illinois. Run by Bill Shea, a local celebrity. It is a collection of gas	21
station memorabilia that has been collected by him for over forty years. Bill is	22
always on hand to offer stories about days gone by.	23
	24
A recent addition to Route 66, is a 66 feet, tall tower, in the shape of a large soda	25
bottle outside Pop's Restaurant in Okla. Of course, you will find a huge selection	26
of soda pop in the restaurant.	27
	28
Lastly, if you need to stretch your legs after a long drive, stop off at the	29
magnificent, natural landmark in the Mojave Desert for a hike. The Amboy Crater	30
and Lava Field is located outside Amboy, measuring 250 feet high and estimated	31
to be 79,000 years old.	32

11. **The purpose of this text is to:**
 - a. Inform tourists.
 - b. Entertain tourists.
 - c. Instruct tourists.
12. **According to the text, how long was Rout 66 originally?**
 - a. 1,926 miles.
 - b. 2,448 miles.
 - c. 1,974 miles.
13. **Where can you find the Wigwam Hotel?**
 - a. Arizona.
 - b. Kansas.
 - c. Okla.
14. **According to the text, which landmark is a photo opportunity?**
 - a. The Gas Station Museum.
 - b. The Mojave Desert.
 - c. The 'Tow Tater' truck.
15. **According to the text, who is a local celebrity?**
 - a. Tom Mater.
 - b. Santa Monica.
 - c. Bill Shea.
16. **Which line has a spelling error?**
 - a. Line 9.
 - b. Line 20.
 - c. Line 25.
17. **In the text, which expression means, 'amazing to see'.**
 - a. 'unusual landmarks', line 3.
 - b. 'a sight to behold', line 13.
 - c. 'magnificent', line 30.
18. **The word that best fills the gap on line 11, is:**
 - a. Far away from.
 - b. Below.
 - c. Alongside.
19. **The word definitely on line 18 is spelt incorrectly, what is the correct spelling?**
 - a. Defanately.
 - b. Definitely.
 - c. Difenitely.
20. **In the text, what is the meaning of 'days gone by' on line 23?**
 - a. In the daytime
 - b. Lost
 - c. Times in the past.

Text 3

Read the text. Answer the questions on your mark sheet.

Grace Darling

Grace Darling is a heroine of the North East of England. She was born on 24th November 1815, in Bamburgh, Northumberland. She lived between two lighthouses, the Brownsman and Longstone on the Farne Islands, off the coast of Bamburgh with her father, the lighthouse keeper, her mother, brother and sister.

On 7th September 1838, in the early hours of the morning, Grace was looking out of the Longstone, lighthouse window, when she spotted a shipwreck on the rocks. The ship was the Forfarshire and it had grounded on the rocks, broken in half, with one half sinking to the bottom of the sea, leaving survivors clinging to the rock.

After waking her father up, they looked through the telescope at the rock, but saw no movement, until the light of day, when the survivors could be seen. Her father, William, thought the sea was too rough for the lifeboat, but Grace insisted that they take the 20 feet coble boat out to rescue them.

They had to go the long way round, five miles, which sheltered them from the violent storm. Approaching the rock, they could now see that there were at least nine or ten survivors, too many for the coble boat, so two trips were needed to rescue them in the dangerous sea. It took two hours, between seven and nine o'clock in the morning, to get all the survivors to safety.

After the rescue, Grace's bravery ensured her name became famous across the world. Newspapers reported the story and as photography was still a new thing, artists came from miles around to paint her portrait. She received many letters, presents and even money off people, as a thank you for her brave actions.

21. According to the text, Grace Darling was:

- a. A lighthouse keeper.
- b. A heroine.
- c. A survivor.

22. In the text, which word means 'crashed'?

- a. Clinging.
- b. Grounded.
- c. Shipwreck.

23. In the text, the word 'dangerous' has the same meaning as:

- a. Nasty.
- b. Unpleasant.
- c. Unsafe.

24. According to the text, why did they go the long way round?

- a. To shelter from the storm.
- b. There were too many rocks.
- c. Their boat was sinking.

25. Which word in the text is used to mean 'heroics'?

- a. Bravery.
- b. Famous.
- c. Survivor.

Text 4

Read the text. Answer the questions on your mark sheet.

Pay as you go away

Holiday giant, Thomas Cook is poised to unveil exciting new services for travellers that include pay-as-you-go travel insurance and a prepaid card for lots of different currencies. The new products will be introduced as part of a restart of its financial services under a new department called Thomas Cook Money. The new travel insurance, called Roam, allows customers to buy holiday cover at short notice using a smartphone app.

Anth Mooney, former director at Virgin Money and managing director of the division, said:
'Customers can spend more than 30 minutes in the shop or online buying insurance, but this can be set up in just two minutes, it costs around £2 a day and can be switched on and off via the app.

'If your holiday is cancelled or cut short, you can switch off the insurance, so you only pay for the days you're away – and if you go on another holiday that year then you can just switch the insurance back on. About 20 per cent of people go on holiday without travel insurance, so we wanted to make it as easy as possible for them to buy it. It will allow customers to load about ten different currencies on to the card and let them switch between them without paying an additional charge. The new products will firstly be advertised online before being promoted in stores in the New Year. Mooney said the new **ideas** would make paying for holidays more 'simple' and 'efficient'.

He added: 'After housing and food, our customers say their holiday is the most important spend for them and one they wish to _____.'

26. According to the text, Thomas Cook is unveiling:

- a. A new travel insurance.
- b. A new smart phone.
- c. A new currency.

27. How long will the insurance take to set up?

- a. Thirty minutes.
- b. Twenty minutes.
- c. Two minutes.

28. According to the text, when will they be promoted in stores?

- a. In the school holidays.
- b. In the New Year.
- c. In the Autumn.

29. In the text, the words 'additional charge' means:

- a. Credit.
- b. Too much.
- c. A fee.

30. Which word could best replace 'ideas' in bold.

- a. Inventions.
- b. Additions.
- c. Reductions.

31. Which word would best fill the gap in the last paragraph?

- a. Resist.
- b. Forget.
- c. Protect.