UNIT 5 READING QUIZ

Read the article. Then answer the questions that follow.

Brian Wilson: A Beach Boy's Struggles

1 Brian Wilson was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1942. His childhood was difficult, marked by emotional and physical abuse from his father, Murry, but the Wilsons were a musical family, and Brian showed talent even as a boy. As kids, Brian and his brothers Dennis and Carl would sing together and practice vocal harmonies. They used music to escape their painful home life. Soon the brothers, along with their cousin Mike Love, were performing rock and roll music in public. In the early 1960s, they were joined by their high school friend Al Jardine and began calling themselves The Beach Boys. They recorded a single called "Surfin'," which became a radio hit in 1961.

2 With Brian Wilson as their main songwriter and vocal arranger, The Beach Boys recorded many records and appeared in concerts, in movies, and on television during the mid-1960s. They became one of the most successful rock groups of their generation. Wherever you went in the U.S. during the mid-1960s, you were sure to hear The Beach Boys' music on the radio – songs like "Surfin' U.SA.," "California Girls," and "I Get Around." Brian married his girlfriend Marilyn in 1964, and they had two daughters. In 1966 Brian and The Beach Boys created a more sophisticated musical sound with their album *Pet Sounds*. This album is ranked by many music critics among the greatest rock music records ever recorded, and many writers labeled him a genius. Unfortunately, around this time, Brian starting experiment with hallucinogenic drugs, to which he would eventually become addicted.

3 After the release of *Pet Sounds*, Brian began work on another project that he hoped would be an even bigger success. Eventually titled *SMiLE*, he described this album as a "teenage symphony to God." During this time, however, his mental health started to deteriorate. This problem was likely worsened by his drug abuse. Brian was eventually diagnosed with schizophrenia, a very serious mental illness. During this period, he suffered numerous nervous breakdowns, refused to leave his house, and told people he could hear voices in his head. He finished the *SMiLE* album, but both his band and his record company rejected it because they thought it was too strange sounding to release.

4 In the 1980s, Wilson began seeing psychologists and working hard to improve his mental health. He stopped using illegal drugs, tried different therapies, and slowly began to improve. By the mid-1990s he had returned to releasing albums and performing live music regularly. In 2004, *SMiLE* was finally released. In 2012, Brian toured the world with The Beach Boys to celebrate their 50th anniversary as a band. In 2015, he became the subject of a biographical film titled *Love & Mercy*.

5 What had triggered Brian's mental illness? He contends it was probably a combination of genetic factors, the abuse that he suffered as a child, and his drug abuse. Today, although he continues to live with mental illness, he is able to have a productive and busy life. He has said, "I think in terms of emotions. And feelings. So sometimes what I say may not always be clear. But creatively, there's a lot to be said for that way of thinking."

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PART A: GENERAL SKILLS

1 Choose the best answer to each question.

1 Why do you think the group called themselves The Beach Boys?
   a because they met at the beach
   b because California is famous for its beach culture
   c because they wanted to escape from their home life
2 What does the adjective *sophisticated* mean in paragraph 2?
   a easy to sing
   b complex and detailed
   c difficult to understand
3 What does the verb *deteriorate* mean in paragraph 3?
   a to worsen
   b to become stable
   c to improve
4 Which factor is cited as contributing to Brian Wilson's mental illness?
   a a bad marriage
   b stress
   c drug abuse
   d musical disagreements with his band
5 How would you characterize the final paragraph of the article?
   a giving a warning
   b expressing optimism
   c making a prediction

PART B: KEY SKILLS

2 USING GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS TO TAKE NOTES Complete the notes with details from the article.

Brian Wilson's successes	Brian Wilson's struggles
- (1) 1st hit song:	- (8) father:
- (2) mid-1960s:	- (9) addiction:
- (3) Pet Sounds:	- (10) mental illness:
- (4) family:	- (11) SMiLE:
- (5) 1990s:	
- (6) 2004:	
- (7) 2012:	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 INTERPRETING QUOTES Read the quotations and choose the better interpretation.

1 "Be the change you want to see in the world." – *Mahatma Gandhi*

a The world has always changed and will continue to do so, no matter what we do.

b It is best to try and improve what you feel needs to change yourself.

2 "Bad times make good art." – *anonymous*

a When life is difficult, it can stimulate creative people to respond with especially interesting art.

b When life is difficult, it can help us to see beautiful art and feel better.

3 "Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it." – *Helen Keller*

a Suffering in this world can take many forms, such as physical pain, emotional pain, and poverty, but if you are patient, all suffering will end.

b When bad things in the world upset you, you can choose to focus on the good things happening as well, such as the arts or advances in medicine.

4 "I think in terms of emotions. And feelings. So sometimes what I say may not always be clear. But creatively, there's a lot to be said for that way of thinking." – *Brian Wilson*

a We don't always have to understand great art in order to have an emotional response to it.

b Some artists concentrate on emotions and feelings in their art, while others do not.

5 "The goal of life is living in agreement with nature." – *Zeno, ancient Greek philosopher*

a In everything we do we must maintain respect for the earth.

b Humans are responsible for environmental problems like climate change and pollution.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

UNIT 5 LANGUAGE QUIZ

PART A: KEY VOCABULARY

1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in the box.

breakthrough	confirm	label	notion	procrastinator	pursue	suppress	trigger

1 Some people think that having a woman change her last name when she gets married is an old-fashioned _____ .
2 Sadly, in the past, autistic children were often _____ as untreatable and were locked away in mental hospitals.
3 We called the hotel to _____ our reservation for next week.
4 The significant reduction of state health funding to medical clinics _____ the worst outbreak of flu in the state's history.
5 Parents should encourage creativity in their children and never _____ it, since it is an important part of intellectual growth.
6 Jim should be finishing his assignment tonight, but he's such a _____ that he will probably go out with his friends instead.
7 The scientist's discovery proved to be an important medical _____ that led to a new cancer treatment and saved many lives.
8 My sister plans to _____ a career as an attorney, so she is applying to law school.

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in the box.

innovative	intriguing	norm	reject	resourceful	seek	skeptical	stimulation

1 Although I was _____ at first about her qualifications for the job, she quickly established herself as the most important member of our team.
2 After so much mental and physical _____ at the amusement park, the children could hardly stay awake for dinner.
3 In Japan, bowing and presenting business cards to one another is the _____ .
4 Although the musician initially _____ the doctor's diagnosis of depression, his family convinced him that he had a problem and needed treatment.
5 That artist makes _____ use of materials not traditionally associated with art.
6 When you have very little money, you have to be _____ and figure out how to make things last.
7 If you notice unusual discoloring or growths on your skin, you should _____ treatment as soon as possible.
8 The plot of the new movie sounds unusual and _____ . I can't wait to see it this weekend.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PART B: LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

3 EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCE TERMINOLOGY Complete the paragraph with the correct form of the words and phrases in the box.

conduct a study	contend	establish a causal link	implication	research subject

It has long been a common practice to use animals such as mice as (1) _____ in order to test the effects of new foods and medicines before administering anything to humans. For example, several decades ago, food scientists (2) _____ on the effects of eating an artificial sweetener called cyclamate. They wanted to see if they could (3) _____ between cyclamate and cancer. In other words, they suspected that eating cyclamate might lead to cancer. In fact, they found that large amounts of cyclamate did cause cancer in the mice. In their report, the scientists (4) _____ that their results had serious (5) _____ for the health of humans as well.

4 COMPLEX NOUN PHRASES WITH *WHAT* Rewrite the sentences so that they contain a complex noun phrase with *what*. Make sure to use the correct form of the verb after *what*.

1 The things that are considered to comprise creativity can differ from person to person.

_____

_____

2 People often do not realize that mental illness can be treated with effective medication.

_____

_____

3 The aspect of this museum that I like most is the wonderful collection of 20th-century art.

_____

_____

4 The thing that we need to realize is that it can be tough to make a living as an artist.

_____

_____

5 One of the reasons many people like Vincent Van Gogh's paintings is the way that he used color.

_____

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS