

Skills Test Unit 8 Test B

Everyday English

1 Complete the dialogue with the phrases below.

Good luck Poor you Did you have Lucky you What about

Tim Hi James. ¹ _____ a good weekend?

James Not really. I lost my bag, with my laptop in it, in town on Saturday.

Tim Oh dear! ² _____! Did you find it?

James No, I didn't. I reported it to the police. ³ _____ your weekend?

Tim It was great! I went to see my favourite band in concert!

James ⁴ _____! Oh, I hope someone returns my laptop.

Tim ⁵ _____. I hope you get it back.

Mark: ___ / 5

Listening

2 Listen to an interview with Anita Mellows. Circle the correct answer.

Anita thinks your twenties are:

- A a time when you should get married.
- B time when you should take control of your life.
- C time when most of the big, important moments happen.

3 Listen again. Decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 *Youngsters* is a radio show for young children. _____
- 2 Anita says that the most important time in our lives is around the age of thirty-five. _____
- 3 Anita thinks people in their twenties aren't very creative. _____
- 4 Many people become independent in their teens. _____
- 5 According to Anita, many young people find it hard to be successful in their twenties. _____
- 6 Anita got married and had children in her thirties. _____
- 7 Anita's career began when her children were at school. _____
- 8 Our personalities change most in our teenage years. _____
- 9 Anita believes we need to be in control of our lives. _____

Mark: ___ / 10

Reading

Charles Dickens

The English writer Charles Dickens was born in 1812 in Portsmouth, England. He grew up in a large family with seven brothers and sisters. As a child he spent a lot of time reading and enjoyed being outdoors. He didn't get much formal education because he left school early and got a job in the same factory where his father worked as a clerk. His father had problems with money and had to go to prison because of his debts. Dickens tried very hard to raise some money to free his father, but he wasn't successful. His father only came out of prison when Dickens' grandmother died and left them some money.

Before Dickens became a political journalist, in 1831, he worked at the law office of Ellis and Blackmore in London as a junior clerk. He became famous in 1836, when he started writing *The Pickwick Papers*. He edited a weekly journal for twenty years, and also wrote fifteen novels, including *Oliver Twist* and *David Copperfield*. He also wrote hundreds of short stories and non-fiction articles. He wasn't just a writer, though; he also campaigned for children's rights and social reforms.

Dickens fell in love with Catherine Hogarth in 1835, and they got married a year later, in 1836. They had the first of their ten children, Charley, in 1837. This was also one of the saddest times of his life, because it was when his sister-in-law, Mary, who lived with them in London, died after a short illness. Dickens and his wife Catherine stayed together for twenty-two years, but got divorced in 1858, a year after Dickens fell madly in love with an actress, Ellen Ternan. His love for Ellen lasted until he died, in 1870.

At just twenty years old, Dickens already knew that he wanted to become famous. Later in his life, and after his death and the beginning of the 20th century, critics recognized him as a literary genius. Today, he is considered one of the most successful writers of all time.

4 Read the text about Charles Dickens and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Charles Dickens' parents had eight children. _____
- 2 As a child, Dickens wasn't interested in reading. _____
- 3 As a young man, Dickens wanted to help his father get out of prison. _____
- 4 Dickens was a clerk in an office before he started working as a political journalist. _____
- 5 He wrote two novels and hundreds of short stories. _____
- 6 He married Catherine in 1836. _____
- 7 Dickens was very sad when his sister died in 1837. _____
- 8 Dickens and Catherine were together for twenty-two years. _____
- 9 Dickens fell in love with an actress, Ellen Ternan. _____
- 10 Dickens became famous after he died. _____

Mark: ___ / 10

TOTAL MARKS: ___ / 25