

Reading (2 semester)

Task 1

Read three texts about crime. Then choose the correct answers.

1

THE PAINTING

Very carefully, I cleaned the few things I had touched in the room. I did not want to leave fingerprints. I stood at the window and looked back one last time at the empty space on the wall. Of course, the wonderful Picasso painting wasn't there. When will they notice it has gone? I didn't care. It was going to pay for my new life far away from here. Paris or New York? I hadn't decided yet. The police in the village were not very clever and I was sure they would never find out the truth.

1 What is the narrator doing?

- ☐ Admiring the painting.
- ☐ Committing a theft.
- ☐ Solving a crime.

2

WANTED!

Police are looking for the man who robbed the MoneyBags Bank at ten o'clock this morning. He is described as short and thin with long, fair hair. At the time of the robbery he was wearing a Mickey Mouse mask, black trousers, a black shirt and black trainers. He escaped in a red sports car that was driven by a young woman. Police say he is very dangerous and they believe he has robbed other banks in the city, too. If you have any information about this man, please call the police immediately.

2 What do we learn from the text?

- ☐ The robber did not have any help when he got away.
- ☐ The bank employees saw the face of the robber.
- ☐ The police suspect the robber of committing other crimes.

3

SAFETY FIRST

- First, get a good burglar alarm for your home. Don't buy a cheap one because your safety is very important. An alarm will scare away any burglars who want to rob you.
- Remember to activate your alarm when you go out and to check the batteries regularly to make sure they are still working.
- Having a dog is a good idea, too, because it will bark at a stranger. Burglars usually avoid homes with dogs for this reason.
- Make sure you have good locks on your doors and windows. Homes that are difficult to get into are not usually robbed.

3 The author of this text wants to

- ☐ explain how to protect your home.
- ☐ describe how burglars think.
- ☐ advertise a burglar alarm.

Task 2

You are going to read a text about robots. For questions 1-4, mark the answer that fits best from options A, B, C or D.

The Future of Robotics

Who do you think will make the most use of robots in the future – teenagers or elderly people? Although we all know that in general younger people feel more comfortable with new technology than their parents and grandparents, robotics scientists are predicting that as robot technology advances, human-like machines will become something we associate with the older generation. That's both because people who are less mobile and independent are more likely to need machines to carry out their household chores, and because older people tend to feel more confident dealing with technology if it looks, sounds and behaves like a person. Although there are, of course, plenty of "silver surfers" who can browse the Internet as well as their grandchildren, there are probably many more over-60s who convince themselves that they can't use anything computerised.

In Japan there are already experimental robots in existence that can help people to get out of bed, to get back on their feet after they fall over and even to wash their hair. Robot designers are now close to creating robots that can not only remind people of when they need to take medication, but also administer the medication just as a nurse would if necessary, and even send video reports on patients to doctors. Before long, there could be robots that can act as all-round carers with the minimal of human input. They won't even need a human being to give them a power supply. Instead, they will know how to plug themselves in when they need to be charged up. One expert in artificial intelligence has said that these care assistant robots have the potential to revolutionise people's lives as much as the invention of reading glasses and the discovery of fire. People in need of constant care will have no problem finding it via robotic nurses, and human carers will benefit from more breaks.

Robots are also being designed to help elderly people who are in good health to maintain their wellbeing and improve their fitness. Researchers at the University of Southern California have created a robotic gym instructor which demonstrates the movements it asks people to make. The robot has a built-in video camera, which it uses to "watch" the movements of the person who's working out in front of it. If he or she does the exercises right, it praises them verbally. Perhaps surprisingly, when its designers tested the robotic gym instructor on people of all ages, and asked them whether they would prefer to take instructions from a gym instructor on a video screen or the gym robot, their creation was by far the most popular choice, and among people across the generations!

1. According to the text, who will benefit from the new technology in the future?
 - A teens with mobility problems
 - B people who have difficulty surfing the Internet
 - C older people who need help at home
 - D teens who are not confident around technology

2. The Japanese robots mentioned in the second paragraph
 - A have been designed by doctors.
 - B are still in a testing phase.
 - C are used in scientific experiments.
 - D are very human-like.
3. According to the artificial intelligence expert, the Japanese robots
 - A will help people with reading problems.
 - B will run on minimal energy.
 - C will completely replace human carers.
 - D will make a nurse's job easier.
4. The robotic gym instructor
 - A shows people how to do their exercises.
 - B isn't as popular as the video instructor.
 - C can suggest how people can improve their fitness.
 - D is mostly liked by young people.

Task 3

Read the texts below. Match choices (1-6) to answers (A-H). There are two choices you do not need to use.

Weather, Climate, and Disasters

1

The unexpected heatwave last summer broke all previous records for July. For weeks, temperatures soared well above average, leading to widespread drought conditions and impacting agricultural yields significantly. Authorities issued numerous health warnings, urging people to stay hydrated and avoid strenuous activity during the hottest parts of the day.

2

Climate change is causing a gradual increase in global average temperatures. This warming trend has a knock-on effect on weather patterns, leading to more frequent and intense extreme weather events. Scientists predict that without significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, these changes will become even more pronounced in the future.

3

Hurricane Zeta, which made landfall last autumn, brought torrential rainfall and destructive winds to coastal regions. The storm surge caused significant flooding in low-lying areas, and many homes and businesses suffered extensive damage. Emergency services worked tirelessly to evacuate residents and provide aid in the aftermath.

4

A prolonged period of unusually low rainfall in the region has resulted in a severe drought. Water reservoirs are at critically low levels, and farmers are struggling to irrigate their crops. The dry conditions have also increased the risk of wildfires in forested areas.

5

Tornadoes are powerful rotating columns of air that can cause immense destruction in a short period. These violent storms are often associated with severe thunderstorms and can produce incredibly high wind speeds, capable of lifting cars and tearing apart buildings.

6

Earthquakes are natural disasters caused by the sudden movement of tectonic plates beneath the Earth's surface. The intensity of an earthquake is measured on the Richter scale, and even moderate tremors can cause significant damage in densely populated areas.

Which text _____ ?

- A. describes the devastating impact of a coastal storm
- B. highlights the dangers associated with rotating wind systems
- C. focuses on the long-term effects of rising global temperatures
- D. explores the advancements in early warning systems for natural disasters
- E. explains the geological causes and potential damage of ground shaking
- F. discusses the challenges posed by a lack of precipitation over an extended time
- G. examines the economic benefits of renewable energy sources
- H. details the consequences of an unusually warm summer period

Task 4

Read the text below. Choose from (A-H) the one which best fits each gap (1-8). There are two choices you do not need to use.

So many extreme sports _____ (1) popular in recent decades that it seems that danger and adrenaline are addictive, and people are constantly looking for new and more exciting ways to experience them. One of the latest extreme sports to become established is a combination of two sports which lots of people consider to be risky in themselves – skiing and paragliding. Speed riding involves _____ (2) at high speed while attached to a parachute-like wing. Using this, the rider can fly over any steep, rocky or otherwise difficult terrain. There are no rules as to when you use your skis and when you pull the cords on your harness and take to the sky, and neither are there any official speed riding routes. In fact, speed riders are generally not allowed _____ (3) hobby alongside skiers on the pistes at ski resorts. They need _____ (4) instead to the highest, wildest places that nature can offer. Even so, the sport has spread from its birthplace in the French Alps as far as Japan, New Zealand and Argentina, with thousands of people taking part in it and dozens of organisations around the world offering instruction in it.

The sport is well-named, as speed riders can reach speeds of 100km per hour on their way down the mountains. But don't think they go so fast purely for thrills; strange as it may seem, on the most demanding mountains it's vital to maintain a high speed for safety reasons. That's because _____ (5), their wings fall down and become useless – leaving them with nothing but their skis for getting past whatever obstacles lie ahead, from cliffs to avalanches.

Obviously, experience of both paragliding and skiing is an advantage if you want _____ (6). You can try speed riding if you've never paraglided, but you're unlikely to find someone willing to teach you speed riding if you're not a competent skier. You need enough skill _____ (7) after being airborne.

Unfortunately around 30 speed riders – all of them highly experienced ----- (8) doing the sport since it became popular in the early 2000s. Several of the fatal accidents were due to sudden poor site conditions – such as fierce winds – or equipment failure, but most of the riders simply lost control of their descent.

Options:

- A. to make their way
 - B. if speed riders slow down too much
 - C. to be flown
 - D. to pursue their hobby
 - E. have become popular
 - F. descending a mountain on skis
 - G. having involved
 - H. to land smoothly and safely
 - I. to take up this growing sport
 - J. have lost their lives
-