

1st MID-TERM MOCK EXAM  
Speak Out Intermediate: Units 1 - 4



b) READING PART

1. Read the text and complete the tasks on the right.

**FOREVER YOUNG:  
THE HOLLYWOOD HERO WHO DIED YOUNG**

*'Dream as if you'll live forever; live as if you'll die tomorrow.'*



- 1 The dream is the same for everyone: actors, dancers, singers, film-makers. They go to Hollywood looking for money, success, fame and power. And many come to Hollywood as young people, barely out of their teens. But Hollywood can be a dangerous place, and some of Hollywood's heroes even lose their lives because of it. But although they die young, they are heroes forever, immortalised in film history.
- 2 One such hero was James Dean. Dean once said 'Dream as if you'll live forever; live as if you'll die tomorrow'. Arriving in Hollywood as a young man, James Dean quickly became a star. In the film *Rebel Without a Cause*, Dean showed teenage angst at its best, and he captured the world with his casual style and rebellious attitude. It was an attitude that he held both on-screen and off, and teenagers everywhere found a hero they could both respect and admire. Soon, he was more popular than even his own screen idol, Marlon Brando, and he was nicknamed 'America's Rebel' by Ronald Reagan.
- 3 Always the rebel, Dean was afraid of nothing. Before becoming famous, he worked as a stuntman for a TV show. Dean loved his car, a silver Porsche 550 Spyder, and it was in this car that on September 30, 1955, Dean crashed and died from his injuries. He was just twenty-four years old. Even though his career in Hollywood was short, he only made three films, he made a lasting impression on everybody who watched him, and even on future generations. James Dean will be forever young.
- 4 There are many myths about James Dean, but only some of them are true. James Dean loved speed. When he was younger, he had a motorcycle accident and lost his two front teeth. People assumed that Dean was speeding at the time of his car crash – he had been stopped by police for speeding just two hours earlier. But experts now believe that Dean was travelling at 55 mph, and that the accident was just unlucky. As a young man, Dean was a rebel at home. He was thrown out of his father's house when they argued about Dean wanting an acting career, rather than a career in law. And finally, on-screen James Dean is shown getting into a fight after drinking whisky, but off-screen his favourite drink was coffee.

1. Read the text and say if these sentences are true or false.

- 1 James Dean became famous for his role in the film *Rebel Without a Cause*. **True - False**
- 2 He died in a car accident when he was just twenty-one years old. **True - False**
- 3 He was speeding in his car at the time of the accident. **True - False**
- 4 When he was younger, he nearly died in a motorcycle accident. **True - False**
- 5 His favourite drink was whisky. **True - False**

2. Circle the correct option

- 1 Why do people come to Hollywood?
  - a) Because it's dangerous.
  - b) To follow their dreams.
  - c) To meet other actors.
- 2 Why was James Dean nicknamed 'America's Rebel'?
  - a) He played a teenager in the film *Rebel Without a Cause*.
  - b) He was friends with another actor, Ronald Reagan.
  - c) Teenagers respected his rebellious attitude.
- 3 What did he do before he arrived in Hollywood?
  - a) He performed dangerous stunts on television.
  - b) He raced motorbikes.
  - c) He worked in a restaurant.
- 4 Why did Dean argue with his father?
  - a) His father caught him drinking whisky.
  - b) He crashed his father's car.
  - c) His father didn't want him to be an actor.

3. Find words or phrases in the text to match the definitions 1-5

- 1 still very young/in their early twenties (paragraph 1)
- 2 made famous for a long time (paragraph 1)
- 3 opinions or behaviour which are against authority (paragraph 2)
- 4 an opinion or feeling about someone/something that you have for a long time (paragraph 3)
- 5 thought something was true (paragraph 4)