GE9 FIRST MID-TERM REVISION 3

A. LISTENING

You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about leaving school. For questions **19-23**, choose from the list **A-H** how each speaker says they felt on their last day at school. Use the letters only once. Please click on the link: _____ and scroll down to listening PART 3.

A surprised by one teacher's comments	
B proud to have gained a particular qualification	
C relieved not to have to study further	19 Speaker 1
D excited about starting work	20 Speaker 2
E sad to be leaving friends behind	21 Speaker 3
F impatient to start their next course of study	22 Speaker 4
G uncertain about what to do next	23 Speaker 5
H upset to have missed a special ceremony	

B. USE OF ENGLISH

1. Rewrite the sentence using the word given.

Without regular practice, students cannot solve complex problems as easily as before. (**able**)
Students _____ without regular practice.

People say that the younger generation doesn't obey rules of behaviour. (**said**)
The younger generation _____

People say that Lucy worked hard. (**is**)
Lucy _____

It's impossible that she's driven to work. Her car keys are still here. (**have**)
Lucy _____

Meeting Jack 97 in an elevator was surprising. (**expect**)

We_____

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C. READING: Read and write T (TRUE)- F (FALSE)- NG (NOT GIVEN) next to the statement:

The megafires of California

Wildfires are becoming an increasing menace in the western United States, with Southern California being the hardest hit area. There's a reason fire squads battling more frequent blazes in Southern California are having such difficulty containing the flames, despite better preparedness than ever and decades of experience fighting fires fanned by the 'Santa Ana Winds'. The wildfires themselves, experts say, are generally hotter, faster, and spread more erratically than in the past.	
Megafires, also called 'siege fires', are the increasingly frequent blazes that burn 500,000 acres or more – 10 times the size of the average forest fire of 20 years ago. Some recent wildfires are among the biggest ever in California in terms of acreage burned, according to state figures and news reports.	*The amount of open space in California has reduced over the last ten years.*
One explanation for the trend to more superhot fires is that the region, which usually has dry summers, has had significantly below normal precipitation in many recent years. Another reason, experts say, is related to the century- long policy of the US Forest Service to stop wildfires as quickly as possible.	
The unintentional consequence has been to halt the natural eradication of underbrush, now the primary fuel for megafires.	*Many experts believe California has made little progress in readying itself to fight fires.*
Three other factors contribute to the trend, they add. First is climate change, marked by a 1-degree Fahrenheit rise in average yearly temperature across the western states. Second is fire seasons that on average are 78 days longer than they were 20 years ago. Third is increased construction of homes in wooded areas.	
'We are increasingly building our homes in fire-prone ecosystems,' says Dominik Kulakowski, adjunct professor of biology at Clark University Graduate School of Geography in Worcester, Massachusetts. 'Doing that in many of the forests of the western US is like building homes on the side of an active volcano.'	*Personnel in the past have been criticised for mishandling fire containment.*
In California, where population growth has averaged more than 600,000 a year for at least a decade, more residential housing is being built. 'What once was open space is now residential homes providing fuel to make fires burn with greater intensity,' says Terry McHale of the California Department of Forestry firefighters' union. 'With so much dryness, so many communities to catch fire, so many fronts to fight, it becomes an almost incredible job.'	
That said, many experts give California high marks for making progress on preparedness in recent years, after some of the largest fires in state history scorched thousands of acres, burned thousands of homes, and killed numerous people. Stung in the past by criticism of bungling that allowed fires to spread when they might have been contained, personnel are meeting the peculiar challenges of neighborhood – and canyon- hopping fires better than previously, observers say.	*California has replaced a range of firefighting tools.*

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State promises to provide more up-to-date engines, planes, and helicopters to fight fires have been fulfilled. Firefighters' unions that in the past complained of dilapidated equipment, old fire engines, and insufficient blueprints for fire safety are now praising the state's commitment, noting that funding for firefighting has increased, despite huge cuts in many other programs. 'We are pleased that the current state administration has been very proactive in its support of us, and [has] come through with budgetary support of the infrastructure needs we have long sought,' says Mr. McHale of the firefighters' union.	*More firefighters have been hired to improve fire-fighting capacity.*
Besides providing money to upgrade the fire engines that must traverse the mammoth state and wind along serpentine canyon roads, the state has invested in better command-and-control facilities as well as in the strategies to run them. 'In the fire sieges of earlier years, we found that other jurisdictions and states were willing to offer mutual-aid help, but we were not able to communicate adequately with them,' says Kim Zagaris, chief of the state's Office of Emergency Services Fire and Rescue Branch.	*Citizens and government groups disapprove of the efforts of different states and agencies working together.*
After a commission examined and revamped communications procedures, the statewide response 'has become far more professional and responsive,' he says. There is a sense among both government officials and residents that the speed, dedication, and coordination of firefighters from several states and jurisdictions are resulting in greater efficiency than in past 'siege fire' situations.	
In recent years, the Southern California region has improved building codes, evacuation procedures, and procurement of new technology. 'I am extraordinarily impressed by the improvements we have witnessed,' says Randy Jacobs, a Southern California- based lawyer who has had to evacuate both his home and business to escape wildfires. 'Despite all the damage that will continue to be caused by wildfires, we will no longer suffer the loss of life endured in the past because of the fire prevention and firefighting measures that have been put in place,' he says.	*Randy Jacobs believes that loss of life from fires will continue at the same levels, despite changes made.*

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D. WRITING

Read the description of the picture:

Computer scientists OF THE FUTURE

The students in the photo are working hard on a computer project. It doesn't look like a normal classroom. It might be some kind of computer science lab. Three students are looking at a computer screen. They are highly focused on their task, while the teacher is watching and observing their work carefully. The students seem to be really excited about the task. It looks like two of the girls are laughing. They might have just solved a problem, or they may have just learned how to use some new kind of computer program. Perhaps they will become highly skilled computer scientists in the future.



Look at the following picture. Describe it following the structure of the description above.

1A



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