

READING COMPREHENSION

1) Read about favourite toys and games. Tick (✓) A, B, or C. (10 marks)

Shriyan

When I was growing up my favourite toy was my bike. Luckily, because of where I lived and because my parents let me have a lot of freedom, I could ride it a lot. I remember coming home from school and going out on my bike to the park, or just around the streets. Now I'm a parent myself, and I worry that children can't play outside in the same way I used to. There is so much more traffic — it just isn't safe for them to cycle by themselves. I decided to start a 'Playing Out' session in my street. We close the road for three hours once each fortnight. Then the children can play in the road, like I used to. They ride bikes, they skip, they draw on the road with chalk. It's amazing. Some local residents weren't sure about it at first, but now they can clearly see the benefits. Even people who don't have children come into the street and join in. 'Playing Out' is quite difficult to organize because you need permission from local government to close the road, and you need at least four adults to be responsible for the children, but it's definitely worth the trouble.

Alison

You could always tell I was going to be an engineer. I loved construction bricks, even when I was very small. That's one of the best things about the toy, of course. It doesn't matter if you've got tiny hands, you can still build a castle, or a car, or a robot ... and then you can make something completely different with the same pieces. Some boxes of bricks come with a set of instructions to help you build a particular plane or building. I used to build that once, and then all the pieces went into a big plastic tub in my bedroom. I spent many hours building my own creations. I think construction bricks have changed since I was little. There are more specialized pieces, like different wheels and connectors. And I really don't think there should be 'pinkified' boxes of bricks 'for girls', where the colours are different and the specialized pieces are flowers and pets. They should be banned!

Frank

I'm the youngest child in my family. Perhaps I'm a little bit bossy and a little bit spoilt. Anyway my favourite games always involved telling people what to do! I used to make my parents and my older sisters hide my soft toys around the house. I used to pretend the toys were in trouble and my sisters were the 'baddies'. Then I'd dress up as a superhero and run



around rescuing them. Or, if my family were busy, I would play hospitals with the soft toys. I was the doctor, of course, and the soft animals used to have lots of injuries and illnesses. I used to put bandages on them and put them in bed. I really loved those toys and I even took one special bear with me to university.

Example: When he was young, Shriyan regularly rode his bike without his parents.

A True ☒ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

1 Shriyan was worried about his children's weight before he started the 'Playing out' sessions.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

2 People in Shriyan's street have got used to the 'Playing Out' sessions.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

3 Shriyan didn't have to ask permission to close the road.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

4 Shriyan doesn't look after the children by himself during the sessions.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

5 Alison thinks even very young children can use construction bricks.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

6 Alison didn't use to build anything using the instructions.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

7 Alison doesn't think boxes of bricks should have so many specialized pieces.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

8 Frank used to make his sisters play with him.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

9 Frank's parents knew he was going to be a doctor when he grew up.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

10 Frank's games show that he was an imaginative and caring child.

A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐



2) Write S for Shriyan, A for Alison, F for Frank. (10 marks)

Example: My family used to hide my toys so I could 'rescue' them. F

- 1 I don't think there should be a girls' version of my favourite toy. _____
- 2 I think children have less independence these days. _____
- 3 I used to pretend my toys were my patients. _____
- 4 My favourite toy matches my choice of job. _____
- 5 I worked hard so my children can play the games I used to play. _____