Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

SKILLS TEST 6 Standard

READING

1 Read the article and match the parts of the sentences.

How did he do it?

Magicians have been with us for thousands of years, but it was perhaps Harry Houdini who invented magic as a form of entertainment. He began his career in the USA in the 1890s, focusing originally on simple card tricks. It wasn't long, however, before he started practising a form of entertainment known as the 'escape act'. This involved Houdini being locked or tied up in various ways, and trying to escape in front of an audience.

Houdini's acts were relatively simple at first. He would first ask to be handcuffed (locking his hands together in the same way that criminals are when they are arrested) and then he would then free himself within minutes. Audiences found this amazing, especially members of the police, who had no idea how the trick was done.

Houdini quickly became known as the 'handcuff king', and his escape acts became increasingly fantastic. For example, he would ask to be locked inside prisons or trucks, perhaps with extra ropes around his hands and feet, or even ask for a bag to be put over his head. Each time, he would manage to escape these terrifying situations, in front of delighted audiences.

His most famous act, however, was introduced in 1913. Houdini would have his arms and legs tied up, and then asked to be placed upside down inside a clear glass tank of water. Audiences were shocked. He had very little room to even move inside the water, and couldn't breathe. Of course, Houdini would escape every single time.

This became his most famous trick, which he would perform throughout his life. Every time he did, the trick became more complicated. On one occasion, he was locked inside a heavy metal box, which was then thrown into the New York East River.

Houdini did explain some of his tricks in a book called *Handcuff Secrets*, which was written in 1909. He revealed that he sometimes had special tools made which he could hide on his person. But, he also explained that many locks can be opened just by using the body in a special way, with just the right amount of strength used in the right place. The real secret was that Houdini had developed his brilliant skills after years of practice and hard work.

0 The article is about [c]
1 Houdini was one of the first people to [ ]
2 He could [ ]
3 He sometimes [ ]
4 His most famous act involved a situation where he could not [ ]
5 The audience could [ ]
6 Houdini's tricks never [ ]
7 He often told people [ ]

a asked to be placed inside vehicles before escaping.
b see him trying to escape.
c ~~a magician.~~
d escape from handcuffs in a short amount of time.
e remained the same.
f use escape acts to entertain people.
g how the tricks were performed.
h breathe at all.

[ ] 7

2 Read the article again. Mark the sentences T (true), F (false) or DS (the article doesn't say).

0 Houdini was one of the first ever magicians. [F]
1 He performed in front of other people. [ ]
2 'Handcuffs' are usually used by the police. [ ]
3 The police asked Houdini not to tell people how to escape from handcuffs. [ ]
4 Houdini often had difficulty escaping from things. [ ]
5 In his most famous trick, Houdini stood inside a tank of water. [ ]
6 Each time he performed it, it became more dangerous. [ ]
7 Houdini wrote his book because he was tired of explaining how the tricks were done. [ ]
8 Houdini's magic can be performed by anyone if they have the right tools. [ ]

[ ] 8

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

SKILLS TEST 6 Standard

LISTENING

3 Listen to a conversation between Laura and Finn. Choose the correct words.

1 Finn's tattoo is *a picture / writing*.

2 Laura *wants / doesn't want* a tattoo.

3 Laura wants very *short / long* hair.

4 Finn *likes / doesn't like* Laura's idea.

5 Laura once had *green / blue* hair.

6 Laura *has / hasn't had* her ears pierced.

7 Laura says her hair will grow again in a few *weeks / months*.

8 Finn might *shave / grow* his hair.

8

4 Listen again and choose the correct answers.

1 Finn likes his tattoo because
A it's big. B other people like it. C it says something interesting.

2 Laura doesn't like his tattoo because
A no-one wants to read it. B it's too small. C no-one can understand it.

3 Laura says she spends too much
A time on her hair. B money having her hair cut. C money on her hair.

4 First, Finn thinks Laura will look
A hilarious with short hair. B wonderful with short hair. C bad with short hair.

5 Laura thinks her parents won't be angry because she
A used to have green hair. B had her ears pierced. C isn't a boy.

6 If Laura doesn't like her hair, she knows
A she can wear hats for a few months. B she can change the colour. C it can grow again quickly.

7 Laura says Finn ought to grow his hair long because
A it will look better than short hair. B it won't be possible later. C he's never done it before.

7

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Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

SKILLS TEST 6 Standard

WRITING

5 You have seen this advert on a website. Write an article (150–180 words).

Articles wanted

How is it done?

We are looking for people to write articles for our website, explaining how things are done. For example, how to cook something, or how to make something. What are you good at? Write us a short article, explaining how other people can do it.

All you need to do is write:

- *what you need to do first*
- *what happens after that and next*
- *finally, what you need to do.*

20

SPEAKING

6 In pairs, you are going to explain to each other how one of the things in the list below is done. Remember to include phrases about sequence.

- How to make your favourite food recipe (What's the procedure?)
- How to play a musical instrument (Is there a theory?)
- How to play a game (What are the important parts of the game?)

First, you have to … *After that, you should …* *Next, …* *Finally, …*

20

TOTAL SCORE 70

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