Reading Practice || PART 1

For each question, choose the correct answer.

The people below all want to find a department store to visit in their city.
There are descriptions of eight department stores.
Decide which department store would be the most suitable for the people below.

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1 Jasmine would like to find a store where they can eat outside, and her dad wants somewhere known for its good-quality suits. They also want to buy a necklace for Jasmine's mum.

2 Peter wants to buy some special sweets for his grandma's birthday, and his older sister, Nell, wants to see the latest women's fashions. They also need to buy new tennis T-shirts, without spending a lot.

3 Maria wants a store selling clothes that use materials produced without damaging the environment. Her mum would like somewhere that has great customer service and is beautiful inside.

Shopping Guide Service

4 John enjoys cooking, and wants to buy some unusual ingredients. His parents like stores that have been in the same buildings since they were young, and that have great toys for John's young sister.

5 Samuel and Mark want to visit a store with a good selection of chess sets. They'd like to have some delicious ice creams and buy something made in the store to eat later.

Department stores

A Hallwick's

People often visit Hallwick's just for the displays of lights that make it so attractive to shop here. And it was the first to sell clothes made of pure, natural cotton, grown in conditions that avoid creating pollution. The assistants are polite and will help with any questions about goods.

B Crozier's

This store is in a beautiful new building. One floor is full of toys and board games like chess, and downstairs there's a huge variety of cakes, sweets and also fresh food that's perfect for making a meal! The roof garden is popular here in summer, and the friendly staff serve delicious lunches.

C Stafford's

This store is popular for its range of good-quality sportswear at very reasonable prices, which is hard to find elsewhere. And on the ground floor, you'll find displays of their famous handmade candies – great for

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celebrations! And Stafford's is always the first to offer new designs in men's and women's clothing, too!

D Barton's

Barton's has been here since it opened in 1930, and still has its huge glass door and beautiful windows. The first floor is fantastic for children, as it's packed with things to play with – at reasonable prices. And downstairs, you'll find a huge selection of amazing fresh food rarely found elsewhere.

E Gardener and Bell's

This store has been here since 1950, and is the place for cool clothes and jewellery, as it updates its items every few weeks – and many are made from environmentally-friendly materials. The sportswear section has clothes and equipment for almost any sport, although prices can be high.

F Davidson's

This traditional-looking store opened in 1860, and still offers high-class, fashionable goods at reasonable prices, with many made from natural materials. The men's clothes are particularly recommended, and there's also an area selling nothing but beautiful jewellery. And on fine days, try the rooftop restaurant – the food is fantastic.

G Ford and Madecroft's

The café here serves fantastic meals, but also has amazing chocolates and frozen desserts of all kind, and the bakers produce fantastic biscuits and cakes to take away. Upstairs, you'll find a display of toys and also a huge range of board games, together with instructions to help you play.

H Oldridge's

The customer service here is the best anywhere in the city, and staff will help you find what you're looking for, from jewellery to children's toys. And the café here, probably one of the most attractive you'll ever visit, serves the biggest ice creams anywhere, too – and the best cakes!

Reading Practice || PART 2

For each question, choose the correct answer.

Robert Taylor talks about his new art show

Like all children, I was always getting myself and the kitchen table in a mess when I first took an interest in painting. Unlike many kids, who give up activities like art for other subjects when they go through school, I continued painting throughout my childhood. Now, after years of enjoyment, I've finally taken the scary decision to show off some of my favourite pieces of work by holding an exhibition at Glebe Street library. Inviting people to see my work is a new idea and one which I'm looking forward to.

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I've never had any formal art training. When I was trying to decide what I should study at university, art as a subject never entered my head. I always thought my parents wanted me to follow a subject that would be useful when I was looking for a job, so I ended up taking a business course. Looking back, my parents would probably have supported me whatever my decision, but I decided to do what I thought was best for everyone.

And during my time at university, I rarely did much in the way of painting. It wouldn't have been easy to paint anyway as I lived in university accommodation and had very little space. I kept an interest in art though and visited local exhibitions whenever I could, but that was about it. It was later in my thirties while I was working that I discovered my love of the activity again. Since then I've made a point of spending at least one evening a week painting.

However, my works have only ever been seen by trusted friends and relatives. They've always given me plenty of support and encouraged me to continue with my art. But I've always wondered what people who I didn't know would think, people who could give me an honest opinion of my ability. The library have been very helpful and offered me a room for the show. They've asked me to supply questionnaires about the event and I've included a section for visitors· comments about the works. I'm very much looking forward to reading these opinions.

1 What does Robert say about art?

A Children usually continue doing it at school.

B He had to give it up to do other subjects.

C The thought of showing off his work is a little frightening.

D He has often thought about letting people see his work.

2 When deciding what to study at university

A Robert didn't consider doing art.

B his parents didn't want him to study art.

C he thought he would need a job while he was studying.

D Robert understood correctly what his parents wanted him to do.

3 What happened while Robert was at university?

A He didn't do any painting.

B He discovered his love of painting again.

C He was still keen on art.

D He painted at least one evening a week.

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4 Robert is holding the exhibition because

A his friends and relatives encouraged him to do this.

B the library asked him to.

C he is interested in getting opinions from friends and relatives.

D he wants to know what strangers think of his work.

5 What would be a good introduction to this article?

A Robert Taylor tells us how a love of art can lead to a change of career.

B If your child shows an interest in art, Robert Taylor will explain how to support this activity.

C After years in the shadows, Robert Taylor is about to face the public with his works.

D If you're keen on developing your artistic skills, Robert Taylor explains how to get support from friends and relatives.

Reading Practice || PART 3

Five sentences have been removed from the text below. For each question, choose the correct answer. There are three extra sentences which you do not need to use.

Computer game exhibition

Have you ever tried playing the kind of video games that your parents played? The Museum of Science in Manchester, in the UK, has held an exhibition for the last few years, which invites visitors to do exactly that. It offers them the chance to play games from the last 40 years, in various sessions throughout the day.

These video games sessions have now become one of the main attractions of the museum. They are full of people every day, playing a wide range of games.

(1)..... For parents, for example, these are usually the games they used to play in their childhood.

There's also an educational purpose to the games. For instance, some old types of computer, dating back 40 years, are also available in the sessions. They were originally used in classrooms to teach pupils to write their own computer programs.

(2)..... Now, the museum is holding workshops that encourage children to learn similar skills – and they're still very popular.

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The sessions are also seen as social events, as people discover how much fun it is to play video games with other family members. And there's also an area at Power Up! where a number of visitors can sit down together. **(3)**..... And nowadays, this is often how fans of video games are more likely to experience playing.

The exhibition also shows how much progress technology has made over the last 40 years. Parents can often remember playing very simple games. But the games that are played today are more complex. **(4)**..... And the players also have to use much more complicated techniques.

However, one serious side of the exhibition is that organisers also want to show that video gaming is an important industry, employing many skilled people.

(5)..... That way, people who enjoy gaming will also understand all the hard work, talent and imagination that goes into creating these amazing games.

A Visitors each pay for 90-minute sessions.

B And at the time, it helped lots of young people to do that.

C So they hope the exhibition will share this message.

D But not everyone thinks it's a lot of fun.

E However, visitors often choose the ones they're similar with.

F They have better storylines and animation, too.

G They also create the music to go with the game.

H Then they can all enjoy playing the same game.

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