Reading

Task 1

Read the texts below. Match choices (A-H) to (1-5). There are three choices you do not need to use.

1

2

3

4

5

This advertisement is about _____?

A. maintenance
B. technological developments
C. entertainment
D. toy manufacturing
E. health care
F. medical service
G. eating out
H. job hunting

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								

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Task 2

Read the texts below. For questions (6 -10) choose the correct answers (A, B, C or D).

Amy Wyke, a successful second-hand clothes retailer, talks about the evolution of this industry.

Amy had told me that she mostly wore purely second-hand outfits these days, so when I first saw her in her sharp, red blazer and pleated skirt, I assumed this was one of the rare days when she'd decided to dress in brand-new clothes. Surely, if they were second-hand, the red would be faded, and the jacket would have lost its shape. However, Amy assured me that they were not. She admits, though, that she would ordinarily wear something far more comfortable and scruffy.

Asked whether she'd always been a fan of dressing second-hand, Amy said, 'As teenagers, we'd make fun of the kids who wore used clothes. It was a sign that you couldn't afford new things, and no one wanted to admit to coming from a poor family. Whenever my mum came home with something for me, I'd refuse to wear it, even if it looked quite trendy. I was convinced that someone would somehow know where it had come from. It might have belonged to one of my friend's siblings for all I knew!

'It's completely different now,' Amy continues. 'Teens these days will happily admit to wearing second-hand clothes. The fact that they are affordable is a benefit, but it's not their main motivation. After all, plenty of stores offer cheap, mass-produced clothes. Even with many high street shops closing, you can buy them online, and despite what is often said, these clothes can be well-designed and long-lasting. But there lies the problem. They produce mountains of polluting waste, and young people want to do their bit to prevent that.'

Now, Amy is one of many new entrepreneurs making the most of the trend in second-hand clothing. It's not all plain sailing, though. As Amy says, 'With so many competitors, you've got to find your edge. Some sellers specialise in designer labels, for example, or clothing from a particular era. Of course, you have the problem of sourcing the right clothes for your brand. Trends change as well, which could turn around and bite you. Selling a bit of everything, as I do, means I'm not putting all my eggs in one basket, but it means I have to find other ways to attract customers'.

'I've learned important lessons in my work, especially regarding money. I struggled working alone and earning a pittance for ages, thinking it was more cost-effective than taking on staff. I'm so glad I'm not doing that now, as I'm bringing in far more even while paying out for two people's wages. It's the same with the website. The one I designed was decent enough, but it has really paid off since I took the plunge

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and paid professionals to improve the design. It doesn't come easily to me, as I'm not naturally a spendthrift.'

I asked Amy her thoughts about the future of second-hand clothing. After all, a growing industry in second-hand clothes could hurt the industries that produce new clothes, so potentially, once all our second-hand ones are worn out, we might run out of clothes. Amy is more optimistic, however. 'The second-hand clothing market has brought in a new interest in adapting and redesigning old clothes or making them from scratch. That's something that really died out in the era of chain stores. So, in future, I think I'll be stocking more of those kinds of clothes, which is great.'

6. The clothes that Amy is wearing to the interview…

A were purchased brand new for the interview.

B are smart but visibly second-hand.

C are in better condition than the interviewer expected.

D are second-hand, casual clothes in good condition.

7. As a child, Amy…

A never wore the second-hand clothes she was given.

B wore second-hand clothes but didn't tell anyone.

C was made fun of for wearing second-hand clothes.

D made wearing second-hand clothes trendy among her peers.

8. According to Amy, what is the main reason why young people buy second-hand clothes?

A Second-hand clothes are better quality than most cheap, new clothes.

B Young people want to reduce the environmental issues of new clothes.

C Many of the high street shops that sell new clothes have closed.

D Buying second-hand clothes is cheaper than buying brand-new clothes.

9. The way Amy runs her business means that she…

A attracts more customers than her competitors.

B spends a lot of time looking for the right clothes to sell.

C avoids problems that some of her competitors experience.

D has recently lost trade due to growing competition.

10. Which idiom best reflects Amy's experience?

A An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.

B What is comfortable is rarely profitable.

C You've got to spend money to make money.

D A fool and his money are soon parted.

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Task 3

Read the texts below. Match choices (A-H) to (11 - 15). There are three choices you do not need to use.

Choosing a place to live involves exploring various types of accommodation, each with unique features and benefits. Whether you prefer the privacy of a detached house, the charm of a cottage, or the convenience of a city flat, understanding these options can help you find the best fit for your lifestyle. Below, we outline some common types of housing to give you a clearer picture of what each offers.

11. Detached House

A detached house is a single, stand-alone home that doesn't share any walls with other houses. It's often found on the outskirts of an urban area or in rural areas, providing more privacy and space compared to other types of homes. These houses usually come with a front and back garden, allowing for outdoor activities or gardening. Inside, a detached house typically has multiple rooms, including bedrooms, bathrooms, a kitchen, and a living area. Due to its large size, utility bills are often more expensive in a detached house than those in an apartment. Because it is not connected to any other house, you won't hear noise from neighbours through the walls.

12. Terraced House

A terraced house is one of a row of houses that are connected to each other by shared walls on both sides. These houses are often found in the older part of towns or cities because they were built many years ago. For this reason, it is important to check for signs of damp or mould on the walls. Each terraced house has its own entrance and small garden, but the space is usually smaller than in a detached house. Inside, a terraced house typically has two floors. Usually, the kitchen and the living area are downstairs, while the bedrooms are upstairs. The bathroom can be on either floor. These homes are popular because they are affordable for families and first-time homebuyers.

13. Cottage/Cabin

A cottage or cabin is a small, cosy house often located in rural areas or the countryside. These homes are usually made from wood or stone and have a traditional, charming appearance. Cottages are often used as vacation homes or weekend getaways, providing a peaceful retreat from the busy city. Inside, a cottage or cabin usually has a simple layout with a few bedrooms, a small kitchen, and a living area, often centred around a fireplace. The outdoor space might include a garden or forested area.

14. Bedsit

A bedsit is a small, single room that combines the functions of a bedroom and a living space, often including a kitchenette. It's typically found in city centres and is a very affordable option for people living alone. It is usually rented as temporary accommodation for students or professionals who commute long distances. The room might have a small area for cooking with a stove and sink, and its layout is simple and functional.

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15. Flat/Apartment

A flat – also known as an 'apartment' in the USA – is a self-contained living space within a larger building that has multiple units. Flats are common in cities and can vary in size from small studios to bigger multi-bedroom units – which can be quite expensive. Each flat typically includes a kitchen, living room, one or more bedrooms, and a bathroom. Some blocks of flats offer additional amenities like a parking area, a gym, or a garden for everyone to use. Flats are a popular choice for people who want to live in urban areas, close to work, shops, and public

Which accomodation _____?

A. has the luxury and prime location at a very high cost.

B. is a budget-friendly option for short-term tenants who live on their own.

C. is perfect for people who love nature and prefer a quiet, simple lifestyle.

D. can be booked free of charge

E. offers a good balance between cost and space for small families.

F. provides a room for every taste

G. for families who want more space and a quieter living environment

H. because of their convenient location has a large can be as high as that of a house.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								

Task 4

Read the text below. Choose from (A-H) the one which best fits each space (16 - 20). There are three choices you do not need to use.

The summer of 2022 has seen record-breaking heatwaves in countries as widespread as India, the UK, Brazil and Australia. The high temperatures have resulted in many serious problems. Wildfires have destroyed vast areas of vegetation across Europe and sometimes houses or entire towns. **16** __. First, scorching temperatures draw moisture from the ground, resulting in tinder-dry conditions. Then, lightning from storms, which also increase in hot weather, may supply the spark that sets the vegetation alight.

Meanwhile, in China, the heatwave resulted in power cuts. **17** __. The drought has affected crop production everywhere, which is forecast to be up to fifty per cent lower for some crops in Europe. This will result in food shortages and higher prices.

Increasing temperatures have also increased the incidence of floods, devastating New Zealand and Pakistan this year. **18** __. In Asia, the monsoon rains have become more unpredictable. Dry periods have occurred at critical planting times, while sudden

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downpours have destroyed homes and drowned out entire crops. Cyclones are also more common.

Human-induced climate change is now accepted as the reason behind these extreme weather events. Emissions caused by the burning of fossil fuels have been trapping heat in the atmosphere since the start of the industrial era. Climate experts say that extreme temperatures are now ten times more likely a result of climate change, and future temperatures may well be higher. **19** __. Whether or not we meet the emissions targets set by the Paris Agreement in 2015 will affect billions of people across the globe.

20 __. However, even in this case, the heat index is forecast to reach dangerous levels ten times more often. When this happens, the effects of heat on the body make it increasingly difficult for humans to maintain a safe body temperature. The conditions will be unprecedented for people working outdoors in countries where it is already as hot as this, such as Sub-Saharan African farmers.

Poorer countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, experiencing increasingly extreme weather events, are looking to richer countries for more finance. With limited means themselves, they are forced to choose between rebuilding or developing ways to cope with future climate crises.

A. The best-case scenario is that countries manage to keep global temperatures to less than 2ºC above preindustrial levels.
B. How much so depends hugely on our ability to reduce carbon emissions in the next few years.
C. The weather across the globe has always been variable, but those variations are becoming more extreme.
D. This event is due to the lakes that supply the hydroelectric power stations drying up.
E. Although humans sometimes are the cause of these fires, climate plays a large part in the extent of their damage.
correct
F. This is because more moisture evaporates into the atmosphere, resulting in more and heavier drops that fall in a shorter space of time.
G. These countries claim they are bearing the brunt of climate change caused by richer nations.
H. Richer countries have promised funding, but developing countries still need to receive it or receive it in the form of loans they cannot repay.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								

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Use of English

Task 5

Read the text below. For questions (21-26) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

We all love a good laugh, but have you ever tried to explain why something is funny? It's **(21)** …… difficult. The moment you start analysing a joke, it dies on the spot - like a frog in biology class. Still, humour fascinates us because it sits somewhere between logic and madness: there's order in the chaos, sense in the silliness. And when a joke really lands, we **(22)** …….. out laughing, unable to stop ourselves.

According to psychologists, most laughter begins when our brain spots something unanticipated - a twist, a mismatch, a sudden change of direction. It's that instant when we think, 'Wait, what just happened?' and then realise everything still makes sense. The surprise releases tension, and boom - we laugh. A punchline is basically a friendly ambush.

But the science only tells half the story. Laughter isn't a solo sport; it's **(23)** …….. We are thirty times more likely to laugh when we're with other people than when we're alone. You can sit through a comedy special in silent amusement, but stick you in a crowd and suddenly you're snorting like a donkey. Laughter connects us - it's a social signal that says, 'We're getting each other.'

And, of course, humour is deeply **(24)** …… . British people love irony, understatement - playing down the importance of something - and self-deprecation, making themselves the **(25)** …….. of the joke. Americans, on the other hand, prefer stories, anecdotes and exaggeration. Then there's sarcasm, wordplay and absurdity - a full menu of comedy styles. The problem is, jokes don't always **(26)** …….. well. A pun that brings the house down in London might leave a room in Lisbon completely silent, making even the comedian cringe at the awkward silence.

	A	**B**	**C**	**D**
21	definitely	surprisingly	unexpectedly	strangely
22	start	find	burst	open
23	contagious	dangerous	funny	courageous
24	national	local	continental	cultural
25	butt	button	sense	part
26	runs	jumps	travels	drives

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Task 6

Read the text below. For questions (27-32) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

I work in the HR department at a large multinational company, Trevex, and part of my role is to review the **(27)** ……. employee benefits programme. As you can imagine, the benefits we offer have changed hugely since the Covid pandemic.

Pre-pandemic, Trevex was always touted as having great perks. We had nap rooms, a relaxed work environment with lots of different options for where you worked, free meals, child care facilities, an on-site doctor's surgery and free health checks. There was even subsidised accommodation **(28)** ……. campus. Basically, we had everything available to allow our employees to work without interference or distraction from the outside world. That's not to say that it **(29)** ……. an all-work-and-no-play sort of place. We offered excellent vacation time with the option to buy extra days, and lots of people took advantage of our gym, spa and subsidised excursions.

It wasn't everyone's cup of tea, **(30)** ……. . We did get considerable criticism from those who thought we were a sort of cult that enticed young, talented men and women and turned them into machines, **(31)** ……. them everything they could possibly need in return for their undivided attention and work. I don't think that is entirely fair. After all, I don't think there's **(32)** ……. wrong with a company wanting to get the most out of the workers it is paying to employ.

	A	**B**	**C**	**D**
27	company's	companys	companys'	company
28	at	in	of	on
29	has been	is	was	be
30	also	though	nevertheless	instead of
31	to give	gave	has given	giving
32	anything	nothing	something	everything

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