

like traditional forms of literature, they can be useful tools for helping students examine aspects of history, science, literature and art.

H. The idea that graphic novels are too simple to be regarded as serious reading is no longer valid. The excellent graphic novels available today demand many of the same skills that are needed to understand traditional works of fiction. Often they actually contain more sophisticated vocabulary than traditional books. Reading them can help students develop the skills that are necessary to read more challenging works.

Questions 1 -7:

The Reading passage has eight paragraphs, A-H.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

Write the correct letter, A-H.

NB You may use any letter more than once.

1. *people with negative attitudes towards graphic novels* _____
2. *a variety of school subjects where graphic novels can play an important role* _____
3. *why a graphic novel's visual element speeds up learning* _____
4. *a modern definition of graphic novels* _____
5. *graphic novels are as good as any other method of telling a story* _____
6. *graphic novels sometimes use advanced words* _____
7. *the historical use of pictures as a method of storytelling* _____

Passage 2:

The rain makers

Science and technology work with nature to bring rain when and where it is needed.

A. Wheat farmer Gang Liu is a worried man. The annual rains have not arrived, and there is a danger that unless there is substantial rainfall soon, his annual wheat crop will fail. As he looks anxiously at the clouds which promise rain but are failing to deliver it, there is a sudden loud roar, and from fields for miles around, hundreds of small rockets are fired into the clouds. Within twenty minutes, the farms around the eastern Chinese city of Luohe are experiencing their first rain for many weeks. Gang Liu's valuable wheat has been saved, thanks to a technique known as 'cloud seeding', in which the chemical silver iodide (AgI) is introduced into clouds. This causes the tiny drops of moisture in the clouds to turn to ice. These tiny ice particles join until they become heavy enough to fall from the sky, turning into rain as they melt.

B. But did cloud seeding really cause the rain in Luohe to fall, or was it just a coincidence? Experts often question whether cloud seeding actually works. It is hard to tell how effective cloud seeding actually is, they say, as it might have rained anyway, without human intervention. But this has not stopped many governments and organisations from trying. There are currently

150 weather-modifying projects taking place in more than 40 countries. Not all of them are aimed at creating rain. The Eastlund Scientific Enterprises Corporation in the USA, for example, is experimenting with firing microwaves into clouds to prevent the tornadoes which cause enormous damage to the country every year. In Russia, experiments have been carried out to make sure the sun shines during important national events.

C. However, it is rainmaking that dominates the research programmes. In many of these, researchers are using trials in which some clouds are 'seeded' while others are not, and both groups are monitored. Arlen Huggins of the Desert Research Institute is leading a research project in Australia. Weather-monitoring technology is so good nowadays, he says, that we can measure clouds much more effectively, even from the inside. As a result, we now know much more about the effect humans can have on the weather. What Huggins' team has discovered so far is promising. They believe that cloud seeding does work, although there are still two years of the six-year project left to go.

D. In China, where the majority of cloud-seeding operations take place, weather-modification authorities use army rockets to fire silver-iodide particles into the clouds. 39,000 staff working for the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) are equipped with 7,113 army cannons which, in 2006, were used to fire a million silver-iodide rockets into the atmosphere. This costs over \$100 million a year, although the CMA claims the results are worth the expense. Between 1999 and 2006, they say, cloud seeding produced 250 billion metric tonnes of rain and prevented thousands of farmers from losing their crops.

E. "We want to understand what makes clouds rain," says Philip Brown of the UK Meteorological office, explaining why so much time, effort and money are being invested. "But there is a more powerful economic reason. A lot of countries around the world are at risk from drought, and governments will try anything to make sure that doesn't happen, even if the scientific evidence is weak. The potential economic value is greater than the scientific value. Making it rain might allow you to keep agriculture going where, without human intervention, it might fail."

F. Some people are concerned, however, that altering the weather can have negative consequences. Leonard Barrie, director of the research department at the World Meteorological Organisation in Geneva, explains why. "All areas of weather modification are still very controversial. Some people think that diverting water for irrigation benefits some people, but is a disadvantage to others. Someone in one area will get more water, but as a result, someone somewhere else could get less." His fears may be justified. Recently, the town of Zhoukou in China's Henan province accused neighbouring town Pingdingshan of 'stealing' rain from clouds that were due to pass over its own farms, prompting what may be the world's very first documented incident of 'rain rage'.

Questions 1-6

Complete the sentences below.

Choose NO MORE THAN ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer.

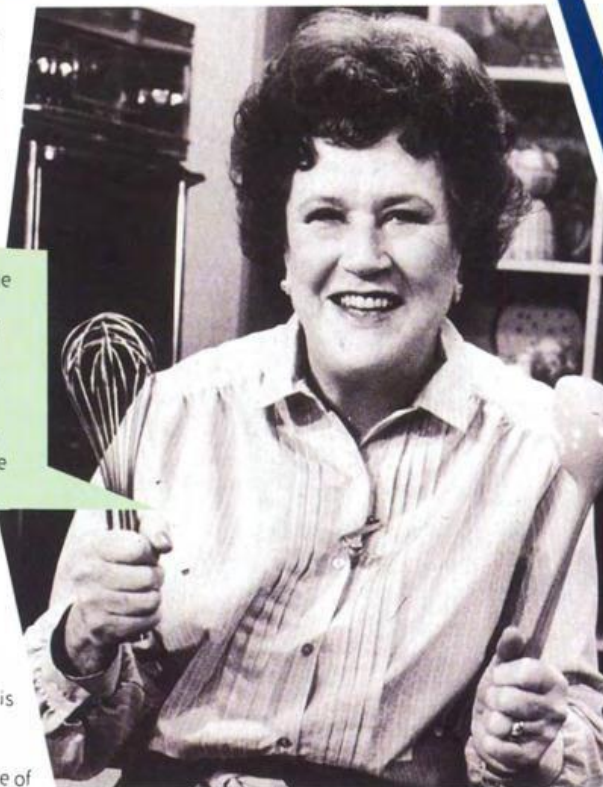
1. Experts are unsure if cloud seeding is _____ or not.
2. At the moment, there are over _____ where projects are being carried out to modify the weather.
3. Thanks to modern _____, it is now possible to get better results when clouds are monitored.
4. The Desert Research Institute project will finish in a couple of _____
5. The CMA gets the equipment they need from the _____
6. A large number of _____ benefited from cloud seeding carried out by the CMA.

FOOD TV: education or entertainment?

A Shows about cookery have become more and more popular all over the world. But what are the reasons for this, and does it make us cook more? In the UK, BBC viewers complained to the programme *Points of View* that there were too many cookery shows on TV. In one week, the BBC showed 21 hours of cookery. When shows on other channels were included, this came to an amazing 434.5 hours of food TV.

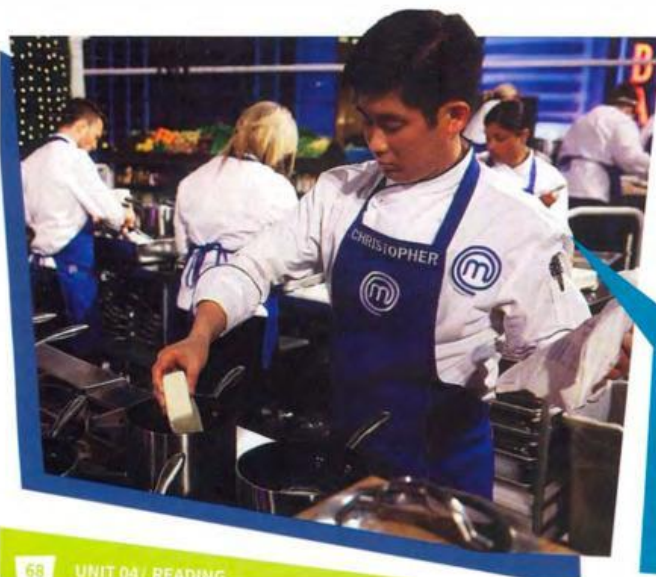
B In the past, TV cookery shows were there to teach people how to cook. One of the first famous TV cooks, Julia Child, was American. She began her career as a cook when, in 1948, she moved to Paris and learnt to cook sophisticated French cuisine because her husband loved good food. On her return home, she published a collection of French recipes made simple, for ordinary American housewives to use, which was an instant success. She was invited to do a TV show, where her humour and strong personality soon won her great fame.

C Nowadays TV chefs are famous for all sorts of different reasons. Gordon Ramsay, for example, is an interesting TV chef. He is famous for having a bad temper and using foul language. In his TV show, *Hell's Kitchen*, he shouts at his staff when they make mistakes because he wants all the food at his restaurants to be perfect. He has many restaurants in different countries. Jamie Oliver is a good-looking, working-class boy who made healthy eating fashionable. He believes children should eat healthy food and he worked with the government to make school meals healthier. His style of cooking is quick, easy and fun.



D There are some famous pairs of TV cooks as well. The Hairy Bikers are a pair of chefs who have beards and ride motorbikes. They travel around to different places and cook there. They were both fat but then did a series of shows on how to cook diet food and both lost weight. Another famous pair was the Two Fat Ladies. They cooked unhealthy food using lots of fat and they didn't care about healthy eating. They also rode a motorbike.

E The introduction of a competitive element to many cookery shows reminds us that food TV is more entertainment than education these days. Many of us love shows like *Masterchef*, where a contestant is eliminated on every show. The personalities of both the contestants and the judges are far more important than the cookery. In a popular competitive show called *The Great British Bake Off*, there was a 'nice judge', Mary Berry, and a 'nasty judge', Paul Hollywood.



F We know that cooking at home is better for us than eating ready-made or takeaway meals. However, the fact that there is more cookery on TV doesn't necessarily mean people cook more. Different studies have produced different results, but most agree that people generally spend less time cooking than they did in the past. Certain cookery shows influence viewers more than others. One study found that the most influential show was Jamie Oliver's *15 Minute Meals*, which influenced 21% of viewers. This may be because his method is to cook quick, simple, healthy meals rather than 'restaurant-style' food.

G It seems, though, that teaching children to cook at home and at school has much more influence on healthy eating than watching TV programmes on cooking. Grandparents have an important role to play because they may have more time – and experience – than parents. Cooking with family members on a regular basis and making food preparation part of the school curriculum is likely to ensure that children become adults who can and do cook.



09 ▶ Read the article about Food TV. Which paragraphs contain the following information? Write the correct letter, A–F.

[NB You may use any letter more than once.]

- 1 The cooking show that affects people most
- 2 A TV chef who was first famous as an author
- 3 The number of food shows on TV
- 4 The role of cookery shows for enjoyment rather than learning
- 5 Why children should be taught to cook at school
- 6 Research about the amount of time people cook
- 7 Examples of famous cookery partners

10 ▶ Look at the following descriptions (1–7) and the list of famous chefs. Match each description with the correct chef, A–F.

[NB You may use any letter more than once.]

- 1 Changed the style of cooking on some of their programmes
- 2 One of the first TV chefs
- 3 Helped to get children eating healthy food
- 4 The kinder of two judges
- 5 Cooked food that was not very good for you
- 6 Is very rude to the kitchen workers
- 7 Showed people that cooking foreign dishes need not be difficult

- A Mary Berry
- B Jamie Oliver
- C The Hairy Bikers
- D Gordon Ramsay
- E Julia Child
- F Two Fat Ladies