

HIGHLANDS SCHOOL

SECTION B: READING COMPREHENSION

TOTAL MARKS: 25

I_ Read the following text about postcard collecting, and say if the sentences below are correct (A) or incorrect (B).

COLLECTING PICTURE POSTCARDS

It is thought to be second only to stamp collecting as a collector's interest, and each year in August the biggest show of its kind worldwide takes place in London. Collecting postcards is a growing market, with fans all around the world, thousands of whom will be in England for this year's Picture Postcard Show. There will be exhibitions of a wide range of postcards and many will be on sale from the 120 UK and international traders who will also be there.

"Postcard collecting is growing very fast," says Harry Taylor, who collects postcards of ships and, as chairman of the Postcard Traders' Association, has been one of the organisers of the London show for the last ten years. The price is one of the reasons why collectors are attracted to postcards. Although the special cards cost more, you can spend anything between 5p and £30 for the typical cards on the market. "This means you can put a wonderful collection together for very little," he says.



Sports, transport, buildings and animals are the most popular, but there are other less well-known subjects as well. One American collector recently started a website showing his collection of postcards

on the early history of cotton. The site has already had more than 1,000 visitors.

Postcards that appeared between 1900 and 1918 are the ones that attract the most attention.

"At that time, the cost of sending a letter of postcard was less than a penny- They emptied the boxes every hour in London and the post would sometimes be delivered seven times a day," says Paul Marshall, who works at Asquith's Auctioneers, which holds three postcard sales a year. Picture postcards, as opposed to blank cards, came to Britain from other European countries, but it was not until the 1890s that they were accepted by the Post Office. In 1902, Mr Marshall says, the rules were changed again, allowing both message and address to be put on the same side. Before that, the message had to be written beside the picture.

Just because a postcard is old it does not mean it is valuable. For example, seaside views produced in large quantities at the beginning of the last century are not likely to be worth very much. Whatever the subject of the postcard, the condition is very important. The value of the postcard also increases if there is a message, which then gives it more social or historical value.



- 1) Collecting postcards is generally believed to be more popular than collecting stamps.
- 2) Visitors will be able to buy postcards from 120 different traders at the Picture Postcard Show.
- 3) Harry Taylor has helped to run the Picture Postcard Show for ten years.
- 4) People choose to collect postcards partly because they are economical.
- 5) Collectors expect to pay a maximum of £30 for an unusual postcard.
- 6) Collectors are particularly interested in postcards that were printed between 1900 and 1918.
- 7) It was possible to receive mail seven times a day in London between 1900 and 1918.
- 8) Before 1902, the Post Office only accepted postcards with senders messages written next to the picture.
- 9) Postcards of popular seaside towns that were printed in the early 1900s are valuable.
- 10) A card without a message is worth more than the same card with writing on it.

1 each
10 marks



II_ The people below all want to find a radio programme they could enjoy listening to this week. Read the descriptions of eight radio programmes and decide which one (A-H) would be the most suitable for each person (1-5)

RADIO PROGRAMMES WE RECOMMEND THIS WEEK

A BEFORE OUR TIME

On Saturday, this weekly programme includes the first part of a documentary series about the discovery of the site of a 15th century village. Professor John Frost and his team will talk about what life was like for the villagers.

C GOOD MORNING

This programme has regular reports on current affairs and news stories as they happen at home and abroad, plus discussions every morning about the background to world news. All this week, the programme features interviews with ordinary people around the world who talk about the recent history of their country.

E SPOTLIGHT

This Thursday, writer Kate Dyer talks about the relationship between her poetry and her work as a history teacher. Kate will perform her latest poem, "Sunshine". Listeners can then phone in and talk to Kate about her work. Dramatist David Fry will also talk about his latest book on historical drama from 19th century.

G OUT AND ABOUT

Hear all the latest in the world of pop and rock, including a week of major concerts as they happen every evening, coming direct from Birmingham. After each concert, listeners can also hear members of the band answering questions about their music.

B POP REVIEW

This Saturday's programme discusses the very latest CD releases, so there will be a great mix of music from all over the world. This week's special report comes from Senegal.

D HISTORY TEAM

This Wednesday, a local team tries to prove that people lived in the rocky hills of their area thousands of years ago. Specialist presenter Dr Clive Sparky describes what they find. Listeners can ring in and ask him questions, and discuss their own interest and local discoveries.

F OPINION

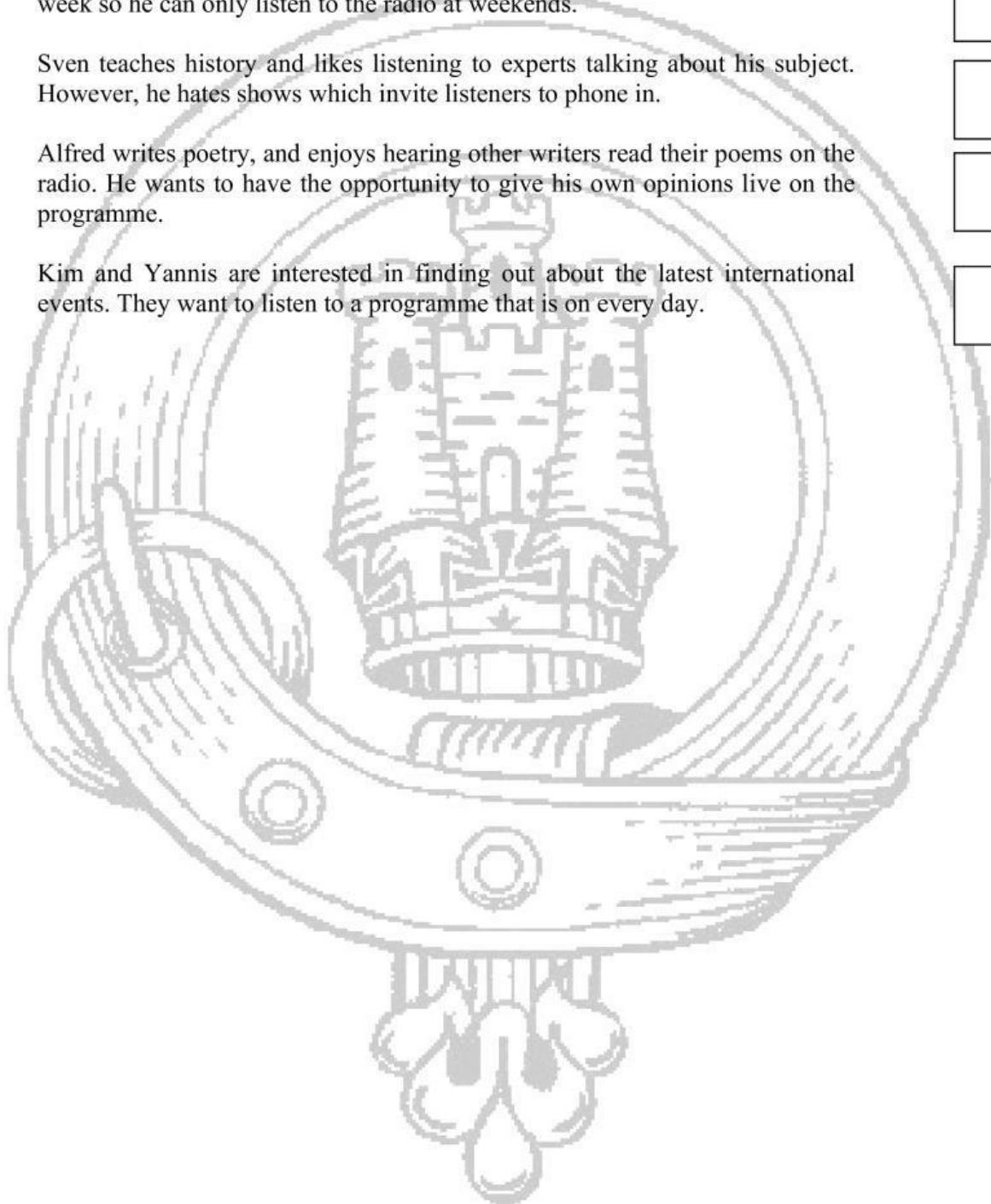
Find out about the news on this regular Wednesday morning programme, with a team of journalists discussing the major events of the week around the world. This week, the programme also visits the new National Library's collection of original documents from the world of literature, including internationally famous drama and poetry, with readings of some of the poems.

H SHOWTIME

This is a perfect programme for lovers of new plays, music and poetry. On Saturday, listeners have the chance to hear the prize-winning play "Machines". Poet Roger Brookes will also read from his new collection "Rainbow" and composer Jack Williams will play his latest piece for classical guitar.

- 1) Roberta and Alice are interested in pop music. They want to listen to a live performance, and would also enjoy hearing interviews with some of the performers.
- 2) Paul enjoys listening to good modern drama. He works long hours during the week so he can only listen to the radio at weekends.
- 3) Sven teaches history and likes listening to experts talking about his subject. However, he hates shows which invite listeners to phone in.
- 4) Alfred writes poetry, and enjoys hearing other writers read their poems on the radio. He wants to have the opportunity to give his own opinions live on the programme.
- 5) Kim and Yannis are interested in finding out about the latest international events. They want to listen to a programme that is on every day.

1 each
5 marks



III_ Read the text and choose the correct option: a, b, c, or d.



NEW TV STAR

Carolina Benson talks about her first TV role

“I never expected to spend some of my first year at university filming *The Finnegans*. I’d only ever acted at school, but I’d loved the book since I was eleven. My grandmother used to say I was just like Polly Finnegan and I always imagined myself playing her.

I’d taken a year off to go travelling before university. While I was in Chile, my mother emailed me to say there were plans to turn the book into a TV drama. I knew I had to go for the part. She was surprised at first, but sent my photograph to the director and persuaded him to meet me. I flew back and got the part.

The outdoor filming started a week into term, so I got permission from the university to be away for three weeks. Once I was back at university, I got up at 6.00 am to write the essays I’d missed. I didn’t tell my university friends, but they found out and thought it was great.

It was an amazing experience – I’m so lucky. After university, I definitely want to make acting my career. I’m not from an acting family, though my grandfather was an opera singer. I’ve tried for other TV parts but haven’t received any offers yet.

I don’t know how I managed it all, because I had a full social life too. When filming finished, I hardly knew what to do. I’ve since appeared in two college plays. Unfortunately, I haven’t been home much and now my first year at university is over, I’m off to Greece for the summer with friends.”

- 1) In this text, Caroline Benson is
- a) advising students to finish studying before taking up acting.
 - b) describing how pleased she was about this opportunity to act.
 - c) warning other young people that acting is a difficult career.
 - d) explaining why she has always wanted to be an actor.
- 2) Why did Caroline decide to try for a part in *The Finnegans*?
- a) She thought the book would make a great TV drama.
 - b) She agreed with her grandmother that she should apply.
 - c) She felt she was perfect for the part of Polly.
 - d) She was anxious about starting university.
- 3) What does Caroline say about her mother?
- a) She encouraged Caroline to keep travelling.
 - b) She felt Caroline would be a good actor.
 - c) She was sorry she had emailed Caroline.
 - d) She helped Caroline to get the part.

4) How did Caroline manage to find time to do the filming?

- a) She missed lectures and hoped nobody would notice.
- b) She delayed going to university until filming was over.
- c) She took time off and did her college work later.
- d) She asked her friends to help with her essays.

5) Which of the following would Caroline write to a penfriend?

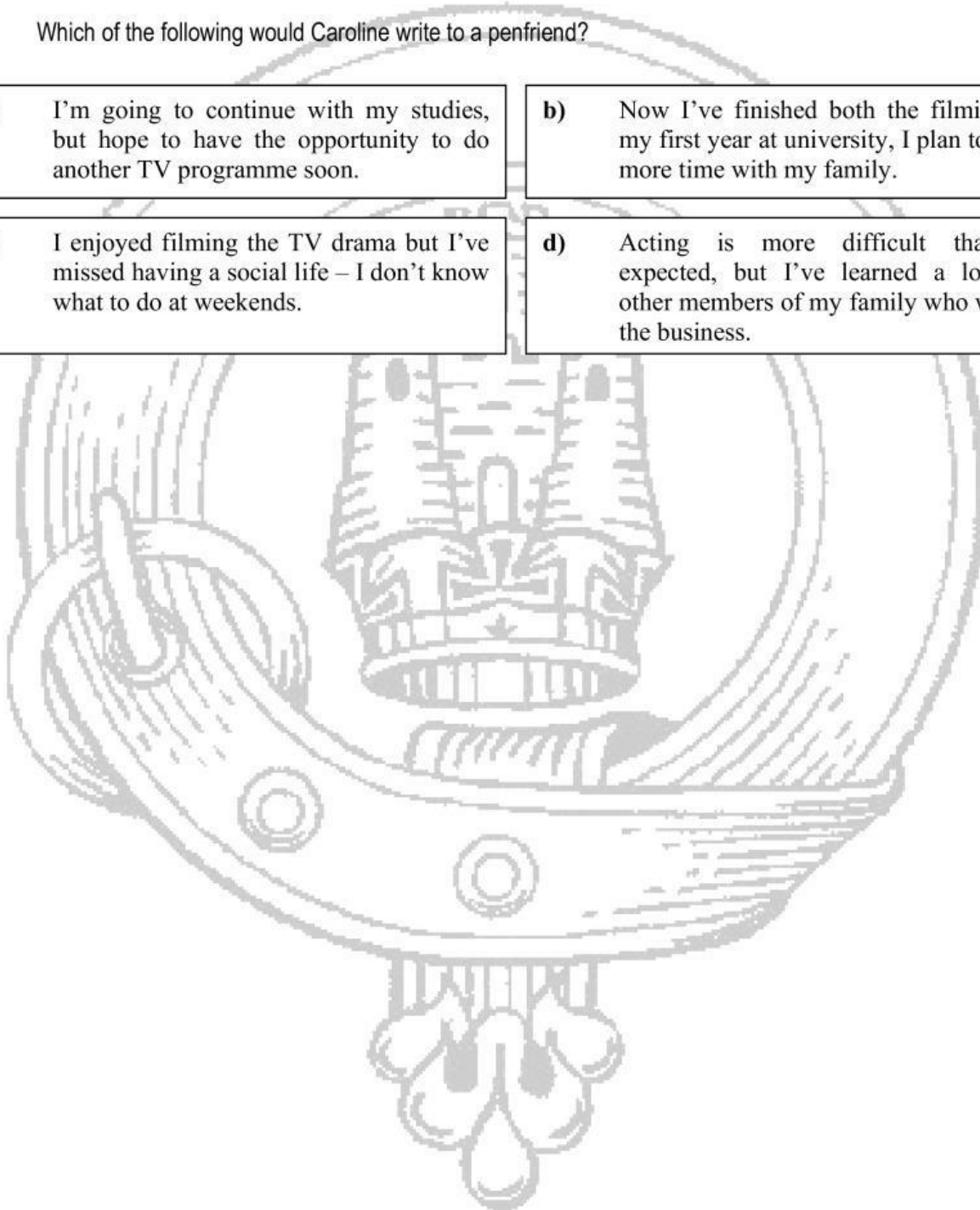
a) I'm going to continue with my studies, but hope to have the opportunity to do another TV programme soon.

b) Now I've finished both the filming and my first year at university, I plan to spend more time with my family.

c) I enjoyed filming the TV drama but I've missed having a social life – I don't know what to do at weekends.

d) Acting is more difficult than I'd expected, but I've learned a lot from other members of my family who work in the business.

1 each
5 marks



IV_ Look at these signs. Someone asks you what they mean. Choose the best explanation for each one a, b, c or d.

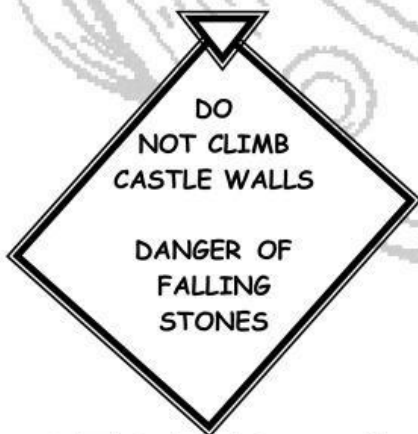


- 1) a) The shop will need extra staff when it opens.
 b) The shop will open late because of job interviews.
 c) The shop has just opened and jobs are available.
 d) The shop is opening for longer and needs extra staff.



- 2) a) You must show a receipt if you want to remove luggage.
 b) You must pay if you want to remove your luggage.
 c) When you remove your luggage you are given a receipt.
 d) You can leave your luggage here for a long time.

- 3) a) A new shopping mall will open shortly.
 b) Do not park in front of this shopping mall.
 c) The shopping mall has another parking area.
 d) It's better to park behind the shopping mall.



- 4) a) Check for loose stones before you climb.
 b) Do not climb the walls as they are dangerous.
 c) There is a danger of falling on to the stones.
 d) Do not climb the wall as you may fall.

- 5) a) Only children are allowed in the park.
 b) Some of the sculptures are unsuitable for children.
 c) Children must not climb on the sculptures.
 d) Families can only watch sport events in this park.



1 each
5 marks