1 Read the text and the questions, but don't answer the questions yet. One question tests your understanding of the whole text. Which question is it?

1 What is the writer doing in this text?
- **A** giving advice to teenage builders
- **B** describing an interesting project
- **C** saying why small houses are popular

2 Why did Luke decide to build a little house?
- **A** He needed something to do.
- **B** He liked the one his neighbour had.
- **C** It was a way to meet new people.

3 Luke's dad was happy to
- **A** do most of the building work.
- **B** lend Luke money for the house.
- **C** show Luke how to do things.

4 What does Luke say about building the house?
- **A** He was surprised it was so easy.
- **B** He learned a lot while he was doing it.
- **C** He broke some things at the beginning.

5 What would Luke like to do next?
- **A** make another little house
- **B** build houses for his friends
- **C** move out of the family home

EXAM TIPS

- One or two questions will test your understanding of the text as a whole.
- The other questions will test details, opinions or feelings in the text.
- The detail questions will follow the order of information in the text.
- Don't just match words in the options with words in the text. Think carefully about the meaning.

Luke Thill

When he was 12, Luke Thill was at home during the school holidays. He was bored and looking for a fun activity, but he didn't want to play computer games or ride his bike. Then, he heard about people who build, and live in, very small wooden houses. 'I decided that I wanted to build one in my garden,' he said. 'I thought if I made enough money doing jobs for my neighbours, it might be possible.'

Luke's dad agreed to help, but he had a few rules. Luke had to pay for everything himself and had to do most of the work. Luke describes his dad as his 'coach' and says that working as a team brought them closer together. It took them a year and a half to finish the house and it cost $1,500.

The house is three metres long and two metres wide. Downstairs, it has a kitchen and sitting area with a TV, and upstairs there's a little bedroom. When he began, Luke was already quite good at repairing things, but there was a lot he didn't know. 'It all seems very simple to me now,' he said. 'But at the time, I had no idea what to do.'

Luke sleeps in his house about twice a week, does homework there after school and invites friends round. He enjoyed building his little house so much that he plans to build a second, bigger one soon, and in a few years' time he'd like to live in it full time.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

READING

Brooklyn Free School

1 Read the blog quickly. Is this school the same as your school or is it different?



Brooklyn Free School has one part for students aged 11–18 and one for students aged 4–11. Students in both parts choose the subjects they take, never do homework and don't have to take exams or tests. And if they're not enjoying a chemistry lesson, for example, they can walk out, or go to the students' room and read a book. Three younger kids were doing this when I went in there on my visit. Other examples of subjects on the timetable are writing films and building design – a very popular subject.

Some people think this kind of school is a bad idea. They don't think it teaches students the things they'll need when they grow up. They also think the school's only for people who have lots of money. But actually, only 20% of the students pay the whole cost of being at the school.

So what do the students think? One student, Marlon, says in his favourite class he watched a TV show about city life. It taught him a lot. In another, students discussed how people decide about things or vote. They then ate at local restaurants and decided which one they liked the best. Marlon also enjoyed making models of other students in a design class.

But Marlon found it hard when he started at the school. It took more than a year for him to feel comfortable there. He played computer games in the students' room for most of that first year. Now he enjoys classes and says he wouldn't like to go to school anywhere else.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PREPARE FOR THE EXAM

Reading Part 3

2 **For each question, choose the correct answer.**

1 What does the first paragraph tell us about Brooklyn Free School?
- A Only students aged 11–18 can decide to go to a class or not.
- B Both older and younger students can choose their subjects.
- C The older students have lessons with the younger students.

2 The writer saw some children at the school
- A leaving a chemistry lesson.
- B reading books instead of going to lessons.
- C enjoying a building design lesson.

3 The writer explains why it is not true to say that
- A there are too few students at the school.
- B the school doesn't teach students useful things.
- C only rich students can go to the school.

4 What did Marlon enjoy doing the most?
- A learning about city life
- B going to restaurants
- C making models of people

5 How does Marlon feel about the school?
- A He is happier there now than he was.
- B He likes it because he can play computer games there.
- C He wants to try another type of school.

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But Marlon found it hard when he started at the school. It took more than a year for him to feel comfortable there. He played computer games in the students' room for most of that first year. Now he enjoys classes and says he wouldn't like to go to school anywhere else.

EXAM TIPS

- Read the text once before you answer the questions.
- After you choose your answer, look at the text to check that the other answers are wrong.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

WRITING A description of your perfect school

1 **Read the text about someone's perfect school. Then match the parts of the text A–G to the questions below.**

0 What homework do you have? *E*
1 How long are the holidays? .....
2 What lessons do you have? .....
3 Who are the teachers? .....
4 Where is the school? .....
5 What do you wear to school? .....
6 How many students are there at the school? .....

My PERFECT school

(A) I love animals so my perfect school is in a zoo. **(B)** There are only three students at the school: me and my two best friends, Carla and Monica. They love animals, too. **(C)** Our teachers are the zoo keepers*. They teach us everything they know about their animals. **(D)** We don't have subjects like maths or history at my perfect school. The only subjects we take are geography and biology. We learn about different kinds of animals from different countries, and we learn about animal biology and medicine. **(E)** We have homework, but it's not reading or writing. It is doing things with the animals, like taking baby animals home and giving them food during the night, for example. **(F)** We have a uniform. It is green trousers and shirts, and boots. **(G)** We don't need holidays because we love going to our school.

* zoo keepers are people that work in a zoo and look after the animals

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Write about your perfect school. Answer the questions in Exercise 1 and add anything else you want to say.

0 What homework do you have?
1 How long are the holidays?
2 What lessons do you have?
3 Who are the teachers?
4 Where is the school?
5 What do you wear to school?
6 How many students are there at the school?

LIVEWORKSHEETS