

## NMT Task 4 practice (1)

Read the text below. Choose from (A-H) the one which best fits each space (1-6). There two choices you don't need.

# SHERLOCK HOLMES' HOME - FACT or FICTION?

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) was a Scottish writer and physician well known for his crime stories featuring the characters of Sherlock Holmes, a detective, and Dr Watson, Holmes' assistant. Sherlock Holmes uses his observation skills and deduction (1) \_\_\_\_\_ and is a highly **skilled** detective. He lives in a flat at 221B Baker Street, in a Georgian terrace in London, England. This fictional residence of Sherlock Holmes was created by Doyle in his first book in 1887.

Little did Sir Arthur Conan Doyle know when he decided on Holmes' residence that the address would be taken as a fact or create controversy. There is actually a Baker Street, (2) \_\_\_\_\_, probably because of the Sherlock Holmes crime stories, but the street numbers went up to 100 at the time Holmes' home was created. Therefore, there was no number 221B until the street was extended in 1932. Then the Abbey National Building Society took residence at 219-229 Baker Street and soon afterwards started receiving mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes. Indeed, a secretary was employed (3) \_\_\_\_\_ and an answer was sent to all correspondents. These letters required Holmes' help and his **deductive** skills, and the response was (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

In 1990, the Sherlock Holmes Museum was opened at 239 Baker Street, a Georgian townhouse similar to the one described by Conan Doyle as Holmes' home. As a result, the issue of who would receive and reply to Sherlock Holmes' letters became a **controversial** issue between the museum and the Abbey National. This argument would last more than ten years, after which the Abbey National moved from the premises, and consequently, the mail addressed to 221 Baker Street (5) \_\_\_\_\_. The Sherlock Holmes Museum later requested permission, which was granted, to use 221 Baker Street as their address even though the building is still between 237 and 241 Baker Street.

Another **fascinating** point is that there is a replica of Holmes' flat in the museum, (6) \_\_\_\_\_. Collectors have managed to reproduce a flat furnished with Holmes' armchair and anything they believe one would find in Holmes' home. The most amazing thing is that a **non-existent** flat has been made a reality at a non-existent address in a real place not far from the **original** non-existent address.



- A. was sent to the museum at 239 Baker Street
- B. which is a well-known street in London
- C. that Sherlock Holmes did not solve
- D. to deal solely with this mail
- E. which is furnished according to Doyle's descriptions in his novels
- F. to solve his cases
- G. was inspired by the character of Sherlock Holmes
- H. that the detective had retired and become a beekeeper in Sussex