

## Questions 1 – 8

You are going to read an article about a Canadian singer called Lights. For questions 1 – 8, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text. Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

## Lights, Canadian singer

The tiny – but tough – girl behind the bright name of Lights sees herself as a fun-loving female who succeeds against things much larger than her. She sees a challenge where others may see a problem. A short form of her much longer surname, Poxleitner, 'Lights' came about originally as a stage name she gave herself which quickly became popular among friends and fans. 'It's kind of like an alias – superheroes get them!' she says of her new name. 'I think you create yourself more the way you want to be over the course of your life, and you shouldn't let the world do that for you.'

Lights grew up all over the world, living in countries from the Philippines to Jamaica. Because of her family's constant travels, up until her teenage years she and her younger sister were educated at home by their parents instead of going to school. 'One day out of every week my dad would take over the teaching, and that was the day we got to do music,' she remembers. 'It gave me a passion for music in my early days. I got a guitar when I was 11, and my dad taught me like three chords, and I immediately wrote the first song. I started writing constantly after that.' Realising that there was so much more to song writing than a few chords and some lyrics, Lights added music producing to her resume at 13, buying herself recording equipment which allowed her to include the sounds of drums and keyboards in her music.

While still trying to focus on what she loved, Lights suddenly found herself in unfamiliar territory: a public high school. 'I went to six different high schools when I was younger ... I would always be the one sitting by my locker, doing my homework,' Lights recalls, but seemingly without any regret. Apart from academic achievements (she 'always got good grades'), 'I never really fitted in; I just made some friends here and there, but focused on what I loved doing.'

Holding on to the solid relationship she had built with her family, Lights was able to handle the not-so-small stuff of

not fitting in. Voted 'most unique' in her last high school, Lights was surprised to have even been noticed at all. She had spent all her spare time in her attic, which she called 'Starry Night Studio', and had set herself on a track that had nothing to do with the influences of the institution.

Her philosophy for life – 'Get out there and try stuff' – seems simple, but that's the beauty of it: the world can sometimes appear a little scary, and you have to actively seek out a variety of things in your life in order to find your place and role in it. And that place may have nothing to do with your label in high school. 'I know, every time I thought about something I wanted to do, like rock climbing or snowboarding or be in a band or start playing a certain instrument, I would just up and make myself go do it. Like, I wanted to learn cello once, so I rented a cello for four months and taught myself how to play it ... If you do enough things, you're going to eventually narrow it down to the things that really make you happy.' Lights has refused to take a back seat in her journey, and you might say that's what makes her so different from most other people. From auditioning for plays when she hated acting, to trying out for cheerleading (apparently it was 'awful'), she has pushed her way onto the world stage.

As a result, her unique personality, music and sense of style shines through the masses of other young singers; it speaks to those of us who also aspire to welcome and take advantage of what makes us different, rather than hiding it. 'You have to be uncomfortable in order to be successful, in some ways. Because if you stay in your comfort zone, you will never do the things that you need to do.' Lights is clearly a girl who doesn't fit in – because she was born to stand out.



- 1 What do we learn about Lights in the first paragraph?
- A She thinks her new name reflects her abilities.
  - B She wants to be in control of her own development.
  - C She believes people like her better because of her new name.
  - D She hopes to improve her imagination in the future.
- 2 What does the writer tell us about Lights's education at home?
- A Her parents only had time to teach her once a week.
  - B Her father was not a very good teacher.
  - C Her parents kept her at home so she could work harder.
  - D Her father was responsible for introducing her to music.
- 3 When Lights went to high school, she was
- A unable to settle down in any particular school.
  - B lost because she didn't know her way around.
  - C unhappy because she had nowhere to study.
  - D lonely because she didn't get on with anybody.
- 4 What helped Lights to cope with her problems at high school?
- A going to school as rarely as possible
  - B ignoring everything that other people told her
  - C the fact that everyone at school knew who she was
  - D the fact that she got on well with her family
- 5 What does 'it' refer to in line 51?
- A the variety of things
  - B the world
  - C your place
  - D your life
- 6 In the fifth paragraph we are told that Lights believes she should
- A make sure she achieves more than other people.
  - B avoid doing things she dislikes.
  - C follow something up if it catches her interest.
  - D attempt to be different from everyone else.
- 7 What does 'aspire' mean in line 68?
- A expect other people
  - B feel unwilling
  - C have the ambition
  - D are afraid
- 8 In the text as a whole, what is the writer's attitude to Lights?
- A She is impressed by Lights's determination.
  - B She feels sorry about Lights's difficulties with other people.
  - C She knows that Lights will learn to believe in herself.
  - D She wishes Lights was not so unusual.

## Questions 9 – 15

You are going to read an article about a bird of prey which is used to frighten away pigeons at a tennis tournament. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A – H the one which fills each gap (9 – 15). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

## Rufus the hawk is back!



*Rufus, the bird that keeps pigeons away from tennis matches, once disappeared for a few days but was eventually found safe and sound.*

Rufus the hawk is a famous bird of prey, or hunting bird. Every year, Rufus turns up for the two weeks of the Wimbledon Tennis Tournament in London

to frighten away the pigeons which can disturb the spectators and even interrupt tennis matches. And patrolling Wimbledon isn't Rufus's only job – he also works at historical buildings, as well as at various hospitals.

In fact, specially trained hawks like Rufus have become a popular means of pigeon control. **9** So such hawks are often employed by groups of residents in city streets, as well as at sports events like football and tennis championships.

It therefore caused great concern when Rufus was stolen from a parked car during the first week of the Wimbledon tournament one year. The vehicle's rear window had been left open for ventilation and this allowed the thief easy access to the four-year-old hawk. His owners, the Davis family, were extremely upset. **10** 'He's the head hawk,' said Imogen Davis. 'The chief. He is very tolerant and attentive, and is great around people. At Wimbledon, he has become such a familiar sight that people now think it's traditional for a hawk to fly over the tennis courts every morning before play starts.'

Consequently, when he vanished, the Davis family had a very anxious weekend. 'We felt helpless. We didn't know where to look for him.' Only once before had Rufus gone missing. Fortunately they had managed to track him down quite quickly then, thanks to the tiny radio transmitter he wears. **11**

Rufus's disappearance therefore became a great mystery. The local police put their best inspectors on the case. Did he have any enemies? Another hawk-owner, perhaps, jealous of Rufus's fame and fortune? But Imogen said she had no knowledge of any ill-feeling towards her beloved bird. 'He doesn't kill pigeons,' she said.

**12**

Then after a few stressful days, a breakthrough occurred. The family received a phone call telling them that Rufus might have been found. A hawk matching his description – feathery, with a 1.2 m wingspan – had been discovered near their home and handed in. They knew it was probably Rufus. **13** Sure enough, several hours later the family was reunited with him.

Rufus soon recovered from his adventure. He had a sore leg for a while, but was otherwise well. He went to the tennis tournament to meet his adoring public, not to mention the press. **14** 'We wanted to rest him for a bit,' explained Imogen. 'We just thought he needed to chill out.' So Rufus enjoyed baths (they cool him down when the weather is warm). He was also given lots of his favourite treats. 'He has very refined, expensive tastes,' laughed Imogen. 'Only the best for Rufus.'

After Rufus' return, the family needed to think about tightening security measures. 'We looked at ways to protect him more,' said Imogen. He was working at Wimbledon again a few weeks later during the Olympics. **15** In the meantime, they made sure that they never let him out of their sight!

**A** But they take it off at night, so on this occasion they had no idea where to look.

**B** It didn't happen very often, so she wasn't sure what to do.

**C** He wasn't allowed to do any flying, though.

**D** That meant the family had to have something in place very quickly.

**E** He just frightens them away.

**F** They have five other birds, but Rufus is special to them.

**G** After all, how many lost birds of prey could there be in one small area?

**H** That's because they don't hurt them, but they do stop them from building nests in buildings.

**Questions 16 – 30**

You are going to read an article in which four teenagers talk about the extreme sports they do. For questions 16 – 30, choose from the people (A – D). The people may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

**Which person**

|                                                                                |                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| does not like to analyse what they do too closely?                             | 16 <input type="text"/> |
| never assumes that they will succeed in a competition?                         | 17 <input type="text"/> |
| would like to ensure that others can do their sport in the future?             | 18 <input type="text"/> |
| wishes that certain people did not disapprove of their sport?                  | 19 <input type="text"/> |
| enjoys facing up to the challenges of doing their sport?                       | 20 <input type="text"/> |
| has adapted to different weather conditions when doing their sport?            | 21 <input type="text"/> |
| hopes they will be able to do their sport as a career?                         | 22 <input type="text"/> |
| enjoys competing with people they know?                                        | 23 <input type="text"/> |
| is pleased to get away from their everyday life?                               | 24 <input type="text"/> |
| points out that some people don't understand what their sport involves?        | 25 <input type="text"/> |
| has gained confidence through doing their sport?                               | 26 <input type="text"/> |
| recognises that not everyone can practise their sport regularly?               | 27 <input type="text"/> |
| occasionally feels left out by people they know?                               | 28 <input type="text"/> |
| confesses that they sometimes feel like giving up?                             | 29 <input type="text"/> |
| sometimes forgets all about their surroundings when they're doing their sport? | 30 <input type="text"/> |

## Extreme sports

### A Ann – mountain biker



I've been mountain biking since I was eleven. My parents still don't like me doing it, which is a pity, but I started with my cousins, who are a bit older than me, and I just love it. Even though I still can't go as fast as my cousins, I've improved a lot, and I'm no longer as scared as I used

to be. That applies to other aspects of my life too, because I used to be quite shy when I was younger. My friends sometimes join us in the summer after school, and it's great when we race each other going downhill so fast I think I'm flying! When I feel like that, it's so exciting that everything around me disappears from my mind and I just go faster and faster until my cousins have to yell at me to stop. When I finally do, it's like waking up from a fantastic dream. I hope that whatever I do in the future, I'll still have time to do this!

### B Jane – snowboarder



I started snowboarding with my friends a few years ago. We went to an indoor slope with artificial snow and had a few lessons. I never bothered to try skiing, as I've only ever wanted to snowboard. When I went on my first trip to the mountains with school, a group of us

went snowboarding. Being outdoors brought a number of challenges we hadn't faced on the indoor slope, like wind and the occasional rock to avoid! Before that, my school had only ever taken people skiing, not snowboarding, so I hope our successful trip means that this opportunity is offered to students every year. I've written an article for our school magazine about how great it was, so I hope that helps. Most of my friends go skiing, and I sometimes wish I could join in when they're talking about amazing things they've done together that day, and the competitions they've taken part in. But I wouldn't ever want to give up snowboarding!

### C Richard – surfer



The thing about surfing is that it's a totally incredible feeling when you get it right and catch that perfect wave. I first tried it when my family moved to Australia, and now I surf whenever I can. I'm lucky, I know, because you can only do it if you live somewhere by the sea, or can get to

a suitable beach – otherwise it's just something you do while you're on holiday. I've won a few prizes for surfing now, but each time I put my name down for an event, I wonder if I'm really good enough. I have to say that there are days when I wonder why I bother, when there are no decent waves or the wind is too strong. Then I think I should do a different sport instead and forget about surfing altogether. But those moments pass and I'm soon back in the water, glad to be doing something different from school and all the boring stuff I do most of the time. I'm sure I won't have as much time to do this in the future, when I leave school and have to get a job.

### D Sam – skateboarder



When I'm skateboarding well, I feel as if I could carry on for ever, I don't get tired. Sometimes, though, it's tough, and I actually quite like that – I just have to keep on trying hard to improve. I don't do it to be better than other people, but for myself. My family think it's easy, just

balancing on a board, but of course it isn't as simple as that. Anyone can try it, but not everyone is good at it. When I'm skateboarding I don't think about it too much, because that can make me lose my balance! Instead I listen to music on my MP3 player, and empty my brain – though I watch out for other skateboarders, of course! My friends do other things, but I'd really like to spend my whole life on a skateboard. And if I find a sponsor, someone might even pay me to skateboard full-time! But of course I can't be sure of that, there are so many other people wanting to do the same thing too.