English File Intermediate

Name Class

File Test 1
Reading and Writing A

READING

1 Read the article and tick (✓) A, B, or C.

Business experts disagree about the benefits of working as a family. Some say that family businesses are more likely to succeed. Others say that family businesses do not create new ideas and are likely to fail over time. Here, one family explains how it works for them.

Elena – mother

I was really pleased when my father asked for some help in his restaurant. The business needs a reliable manager and I'm good with money. Unlike the rest of the family, I'm quite shy, so working in the office suits me very well. In fact, working here really suits us all. Agustin welcomes the customers and organizes the tables. Mariana is an imaginative chef, and very confident. She thinks she's the leader, but, of course, I disagree. My father is planning to retire next year, but even when he has left the kitchen, the restaurant will still be his 'baby'.

Vincente – grandfather

Elena is a great manager. She's good with money and very patient, which is important when there are creative people around. I'm the head chef and my eldest grandchild, Mariana, works with me in the kitchen. We are very different personalities who share a love of food! I don't like to plan meals ahead of time. I go to the market early in the morning and see what is good. Then I go back to the kitchen and decide the menu for the day. Mariana says I'm disorganized and that our menu is too traditional, but I say this is the best way to cook. If something is working, why change it?

Mariana – Elena's oldest child

I love working with my grandfather. He knows everything about the traditional food from this region of Spain. But he isn't very interested in new ideas. Right now, I'm developing some new meals which are low in salt and sugar. Grandad doesn't think that's a very good idea, and I don't want to upset him, so I try not to talk about it all the time. Agustin agrees with me, though. He's a great 'maître d' — he knows all about the menu, including the wine, and he is so sociable and outgoing. It's the perfect job for him!

Agustin – Elena's youngest child

I was worried because I can be bossy, but actually, we haven't had any family arguments. Mariana has big plans for the restaurant and I know we will succeed. At the moment, our customers are mostly people from our city. I know that because I talk a lot to them. But when Mariana changes the menu, we will have customers from all over the region. The worst thing about this business is the long days. We work until late, and I stand up for hours and hours. Sometimes, I don't want to smile anymore!

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

English File Intermediate

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Example: Some business experts think family businesses are unimaginative.
A True ☑ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

1 Elena doesn't enjoy talking to people she doesn't know well.
A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐
2 Elena says that Agustin is the baby of the family.
A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐
3 Vincente thinks his way of planning a menu is the correct way.
A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐
4 Vincente sometimes asks Mariana to decide the menu for the day.
A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐
5 Mariana is an ambitious chef.
A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐
6 When she's head chef, Mariana wants to stop using food from the market.
A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐
7 Agustin doesn't think the new menu will bring new customers.
A True ☐ B False ☐ C Doesn't say ☐

☐ 7

2 Write *E* for Elena, *V* for Vincente, *M* for Mariana, and *A* for Agustin.

Example: I was very happy to start working here. *E*

1 I want to cook more modern food. _____
2 My daughter doesn't get angry when there are problems. _____
3 I enjoy being with the customers. _____
4 The leader of the business is my father. _____
5 I'm planning to leave the business next year. _____
6 I'm quite bossy but I'm learning to be sensitive. _____
7 I like to be imaginative without planning very much. _____
8 I agree with the plans to change the menu. _____

☐ 8

Reading total ☐ 15

WRITING

Write about two people in your family or extended family (140–180 words). Answer the questions.

- What is he / she like?
- What does he / she like or not like doing?
- What is he / she doing at the moment?
- How do you get on?

Writing total ☐ 10

Reading and Writing total ☐ 25

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