Reading PART 7

TASK INFORMATION

- Part 7 has one long text from which six paragraphs of roughly equal length have been removed. The six gaps are numbered 41–46. The extracted paragraphs are in jumbled order after the text, together with a seventh paragraph which does not fit any of the gaps. These seven paragraphs are A–G.
- You have to decide which paragraph (A–G) fits each of the gaps (41–46) in the base text.
- The task tests your understanding of the way the text as a whole is organised and structured, how ideas are developed within the text and the way paragraphs are connected.
- The text has a title and often some general information about the content of the text under the title.

FINDING THE LINKS BETWEEN THE PARAGRAPHS

1. Read the following two paragraphs from a text about bananas and answer questions a–c below them.

Some experts suggest the banana is in danger of extinction. A disease called fusarium wilt, more popularly known as Panama disease, is spreading, wiping out banana plantations that provide a staple food for hundreds of millions of people and a livelihood for hundreds of thousands more.	**a** Find and underline in the first paragraph: • a word that means people who know a lot about a specific subject • words relating to the idea that something is disappearing or being destroyed.
1	**b** Find and underline in the second paragraph: • a word that means sets of ideas.
So, which of the two theories should we believe? Can banana growers stay one step ahead of the disease, or is its further spread inevitable? And is this the first time that the banana has been under such a threat?	**c** Read the first sentence of the second paragraph again and decide what you think the topic of the removed paragraph might be.

2. Read paragraphs A, B and C below, and underline words and phrases that could link to a paragraph coming before or after them. In paragraph A, words in the first sentence are underlined as examples.

A

In fact, that last point is relatively easy to answer. An earlier form of the disease was reported in Australia, Costa Rica and Panama in the late 19th century. It spread across Latin America, devastating production of the Gros Michel, a sweet and creamy banana that dominated the export market. But what can we learn from this?

B

What followed was mass unemployment and huge economic losses. The banana industry took several decades to recover. By the 1960s, however, the Cavendish banana, which is resistant to the fungus, had replaced the previously successful Gros Michel banana. Today the Cavendish accounts for 99% of global exports.

C

Others say such talk of disaster is exaggerated, however. They point out that bananas are as cheap and abundant as ever in our shops. The fungus causing the disease has been advancing steadily for three decades, yet global production has continued to rise. Latin America — where some 80% of exported bananas are grown — has so far managed to keep the disease away.

TIP
The first sentence of a paragraph often links back to an idea or particular words in the previous paragraph.

TIP
The links between paragraphs might be: connected ideas; related vocabulary (e.g. cars and buses in one paragraph and vehicles in the other); reference words, e.g. this, she, her; linking words and phrases, therefore, on the other hand.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3. Which of the three paragraphs (A–C) fits best between paragraphs 1 and 2 in Exercise 1? Look for links with the words that you underlined in paragraphs 1 and 2.

4. Put words from the box into the appropriate group below.

moreover developments these question differences it on the other hand one of them similarly he later on interestingly issue there as a result

Reference words	Linkers	Content words / ideas
this	however	points

5. Read another part of the article about bananas. Choose from paragraphs D–G the one which fits each gap (2–4). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Use the underlined words and phrases to help you work out how the paragraphs are connected.

The new strain of the Panama disease, known as TR4, is particularly deadly. Apart from the Cavendish banana, it also affects other varieties that together make up 80% of bananas grown worldwide. While other major banana diseases can be controlled if enough pesticides are used, scientists have not come up with a chemical fix for TR4.

2 _____

That's how plant diseases often advance, but the particular fear in this case is that the frequent movement between continents of banana industry staff will cause TR4 to eventually reach South and Central America. 'It's only a matter of time,' says Dr Miguel Dita, a plant disease specialist in Brazil. 'Many banana companies have operations in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.'

3 _____

Either way, the implications are extremely serious. While bananas represent a cheap, nutritious snack or dessert in the West, more than 400 million people in Africa, Latin America and Asia rely on them as staple foods, and farming them provides employment for hundreds of thousands more. Clearly, something needs to be done to combat the disease.

4 _____

Another way to slow the spread of the disease could be to support and strengthen banana plants' natural resistance to disease. Certain bacteria and fungi that live inside banana plants can make them stronger, and scientists are currently investigating how they might be able to take advantage of these natural protection processes.

D One approach is to introduce measures restricting the movement of people, equipment and plant material. These have helped in some places such as Australia, as have practices including treating shoes, farm vehicles, machinery and tools with disinfectants.

E Dr Charles Staver, an agricultural scientist based in Montpellier, France, agrees: 'It could be a tourist that brings in an ornamental plant. Banana industry technicians travel around the world, so there's also a high risk of them bringing it in.'

F What researchers have discovered is it gets into the banana plant's roots and blocks the supply of water and nutrients, eventually killing it. It is thought to spread through infected plant parts and soil attached to shoes, tools, vehicles, planting materials and water.

G None of the options tried so far, however, look likely to eradicate the new destructive variety of the fungus. Research published last year, nevertheless, suggests a scientific solution is close.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

ACTION PLAN

1. Read the instructions at the top of the page, the title and the sub-heading (if there is one). These will tell you what the subject of the text is.
2. Read the main text quickly to get a general idea of what it is about.
3. Read the extracted paragraphs A–G to get a sense of what each one is about.
4. Look at the words before and after the gaps in the main text. Look for links between these words and words at the start and end of each of the paragraphs A–G. Remember that one paragraph will not be used.
5. If you can't find the paragraph for one gap, move on to the other gaps.
6. Don't leave any gaps blank.
7. When you have finished, read through the completed text to make sure that the paragraphs all connect logically and naturally.

A. You are going to read a magazine article about skating on frozen lakes. Six paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose from the paragraphs A–G the one which fits each gap (41–46). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Wild skating in Sweden

The setting sun was reflected on the frozen lake as we skated under the watchful gaze of our guides, Björn and Jan. The profound silence was only interrupted by the noise of our skates gliding and scratching across Östjuten Lake. Even animal sightings were rare in this isolated landscape, though we passed tree trunks gnawed by beavers.

41 _____

Over four days and 125 km of 'wild' skating in south-east Sweden, I learned that skating on natural ice is full of contradictions of this kind. I learned to be attentive, not so much to the setting — the forested shores of the lakes didn't vary much — but to noises coming from the ice, and its colour and texture. One day it was covered in a layer of water; the next it had a light dusting of snow.

42 _____

On the first day, my group were briefed on safety precautions like this, and then skated 10 km for practice. On the subsequent days, we covered up to 40 km, in two-hour spurts, before stopping to refuel with bread, cheese and salami. As dusk fell, we returned to our two minibuses, parked by what in summer are wild swimming areas. The region has hundreds of lakes and every day we drove out from our base in search of the best ice.

43 _____

Not that skating is an inherently unsociable activity. Our guides were very friendly, as were the other people in my group. These included Singaporean ice-hockey enthusiasts, a Spanish fan of figure skating, seasoned German and English skiers and a French roller-blader. There was also an Australian who'd only been skating on a public ice rink.

44 _____

This is difficult to imagine nowadays. Warmer temperatures mean that rivers in Britain, France and Germany rarely freeze solidly enough for wild skating to be feasible on them, and it's only in the Scandinavian countries that it's possible to skate regularly on natural ice.

45 _____

In Sweden, these are a legal requirement: if you fall through into the water, you drive them into the ice and haul yourself out. Fortunately, no one in my group ever had to do that. In fact, probably the trickiest part of being on the ice was bending down to clip the blades on to the boots without falling over. I must admit I needed help with this at first.

46 _____

The trip ended with me having one more lesson on what you can do on ice. As the sun went down, our guides built and lit a fire and started roasting marshmallows. The heat from the fire rises, so it doesn't burn a hole in the ice. As I sat on the frozen lake with my muscles aching, I felt oddly cosy and relaxed; yet another intriguing contradiction in that icy setting.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Skating has evolved in other ways as well. While skaters were once advised to carry a fireman's ladder and a rope in case of emergency, we were kitted out with a rope in a bag, a rucksack that doubled as a floatation device, and two safety 'ice nails'.

B I'd expected to come across other skaters who would tell us where to find it. However, it was only on the third day, a Saturday, when we finally saw any other skaters out on the lakes. They were weekend day-trippers and we just glided past crying 'Hej hej!'.

C All that physical exercise also gave us an appetite. Although the cost of food was included in the trip, we decided to visit a nearby supermarket to gather cuts of reindeer meat, fish fillets and other ingredients. We cooked together, and packed our daily lunches.

D That was the extent of my experience too. The idea for the trip had come when I was doing some research on the late 18th century. I'd read how the Industrial Revolution led to the development of steel skates, and how wild skating had been popular all over northern Europe.

E This strange peace was suddenly broken by what sounded like thunder beneath our feet. I tensed, and the skaters behind me shrieked. But, as we'd been told, a loud 'boom' isn't necessarily bad: it can tell you the ice is thick. It's the beautiful-sounding 'singing' ice that's the thin, scary stuff.

F By the fourth day, however, I had the hang of it, along with basic wild skating techniques. The skates are longer than those for figure skating or hockey, extending beyond the front and back of the foot. Also, you push sideways more, and with fewer movements, than in other skating.

G Such changes affect your speed and route. We snaked across large lakes, looking out for cracks, small ridges and water holes. Our guides stabbed their sticks into the ice, testing its depth. We stuck to ice that was between 10 cm and 15 cm thick, though 5 cm would still be adequate.

ADVICE

41 In the first sentence after the gap, the writer says: 'I learned that skating on natural ice is full of contradictions of this kind.' The words 'contradictions of this kind' must refer back to something in the missing paragraph.
42 In the first sentence after the gap, the writer says: 'my group were briefed on safety precautions like this.' The words 'safety precautions like this' must refer back to something in the missing paragraph.
43 In the first sentence after the gap, the writer says: 'Not that skating is an inherently unsociable activity.' This suggests that the missing paragraph refers to something that might be considered unsociable.
44 In the first sentence after the gap, the writer says: 'This is difficult to imagine nowadays.' This suggests that the missing paragraph probably refers to something in the past.
45 In the first sentence after the gap, the writer says: 'In Sweden, these are a legal requirement.' What might 'these' refer back to?
46 The paragraph after gap 46 doesn't have an obvious link backwards. So, do the ideas in the paragraph before the gap — e.g. the difficulty of clipping blades onto boots — connect with an idea in any of the paragraphs A–G?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Review

Read the following statements about dealing with Part 7. Do you agree with each one? Why or why not? If you need help, read the Task Information on page 33.

1. It's a good idea to start by quickly reading the main text with the gaps in it.
2. Then you should quickly read through the options A–G.
3. It's useful to underline all the words in the text that you don't know.
4. For an option (A–G) to fit into a gap, there must always be a clear link with the text before and after the gap.
5. The main links to look for are words and phrases like *however*, *in addition* and *as a result*.
6. If you can't find a suitable option for one of the gaps, try completing the other gaps and come back to it later.

USING VOCABULARY TO LINK IDEAS

1. One way to link sentences and paragraphs is through related vocabulary and paraphrasing. Underline the vocabulary links in the following sentences.

The thick frames of fatbikes look rather like those of mountain bikes. Fatbike tyres, though, are wider and have lower air pressure.
These features allow them to grip snow and ice better.

2. Use suitable words from the box to complete the links in the following sentences. Three of the words in the box are not needed.

misconceptions – reassurances – skills – conditions – structures – conclusions – agreements – attempts – facilities

1. The resort where I stayed has a comfortable new hostel and a restaurant which offers healthy but affordable meals.
   Such _____ are likely to attract more visitors, of course.
2. The snow on the higher fatbiking tracks was extremely soft, but then turned icy.
   These sorts of _____ can be very challenging.
3. When you start riding a fatbike, you need to learn how to lean in a certain way and lift your handlebars as you move forward.
   These _____ take some time to develop.
4. My instructor told me about an experienced road cyclist he knew who had wrongly assumed that fatbiking was very similar to mountain biking.
   Apparently, _____ of this type are very common.
5. The second part of the route was very steep and icy. "You'll find this hard," my instructor said. "But give it a go."
   After three unsuccessful _____, I got off my bike and pushed it up the track.
6. "Don't worry," my instructor said. "It's normal for beginners like you to fall off."
   These _____ made me feel less embarrassed.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B. You are going to read an article about beekeeping in Slovenia. Six paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose from the paragraphs A–G the one which fits each gap (41–46). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

The Country That Loves Bees

The door opens and we emerge onto the flat roof. It is a sparse, unfurnished space. To the north-west are mountains, still slightly frosted in the late spring sunshine. Below, bathed in the same glow, is Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, with the River Ljubljanica running through its centre. And there, in a corner, is the hotel's current use for its upper level.

41 _____

Going under the title 'President of the Urban Beekeeping Association', Gorazd Trusnovec is particularly proud of these twin outposts of his empire—which stretches to 24 hives, rented to keen beekeepers across the city. He installed them here last year, despite certain doubts he had about the idea.

42 _____

In fact, they've been the basis of a sweet deal. The hotel gets to serve its own honey while Trusnovec has an experimental location for his business. It's not hugely profitable, but he says that 'Working with bees brings me peace of mind. My grandmother had a hive. The smell of honey extraction was incredible. I forgot it for 30 years—then it came back to me, this aroma from my childhood. I started to look at raising bees in the city. And now I couldn't imagine doing anything else.'

43 _____

This national affection flickers at the pretty heart of Ljubljana. It is visible on Medarska Ulica—'Honeysellers Street'. Admittedly, this thin lane is no longer devoted to the honey business, but the adjacent square of Pogacarjev Trg has stalls selling jars and bottles of gold-amber.

The honey theme can be seen in other parts of the capital too: on the early 20th-century Mestna Hranilnica bank building, there is a wrought-iron canopy featuring a bee, and at the National Museum, a bee motif floats over the entrance.

44 _____

Less global in ambition, but another great champion of bees, is Blaz Ambrozic. He has turned his farm into a temple to bees, giving tours and advice to would-be beekeepers, as well as to visitors who want to buy his honey. He throws me a net-veil protective hat as soon as I arrive, so that I can stand closer to his main hive—and even encourages me to place tentative fingers inside.

45 _____

The rather pessimistic mood lifts as he starts to tell me about his venture into 'apitherapy'. Across Slovenia, beekeepers have recently been modifying their hives to make them more interactive. In Ambrozic's case, he has expanded his largest hive into an L-shape, with a padded bed in the added corner.

46 _____

Some have taken this concept of the bee as a purveyor of relaxation even further. I later stay in the picture-book town of Mozirje, where a quartet of holiday chalets can be rented. Looking out through the window of one, I see wildflowers swaying in the breeze. It is difficult to say whether bees or tourists will appreciate this panorama more—but both can surely draw inspiration from it.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A 20 kilometres north-east of the capital, in the village of Lukovica, the focus on bees is more scientific than decorative. This is where the headquarters of the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association has its laboratory for testing the quality of independent producers' honey. The association is also an impressive advocate for bees, as an official explains when I visit: in 2017, it managed to persuade the United Nations to launch World Bee Day as a way of raising awareness internationally of the importance of bees for ecosystems.

B Lie down on it, and you can peer through glass and watch the bees as they buzz in and out. Ten minutes gazing at these tireless creatures as they flit in and out of their base has an almost hypnotically calming effect.

C 'I was sceptical about whether you could put hives at this height,' he muses. 'But it didn't take long before it became my best site, in terms of honey. The bees don't actually seem to struggle to reach this elevation.'

D Slovenian beehives look different from the hives I'm familiar with, however. They are smaller, bees enter via narrow grooves at the front, and the frames are removed horizontally and from behind. This, apparently, is less stressful for bees and less likely to result in stings for keepers.

E Its busy residents are unmoved as I do so. 'Every bee has a specific role,' their keeper tells me. 'Some are collectors, others are guard dogs or kindergarten nurses.' Their importance, he stresses, cannot be underestimated. 'Bees are under threat. If bees are not here, then there is less pollination, and less food and then starvation. It's that simple.'

F It takes the form of a pair of short beehives. A cloud of bees shakes and shimmers in front of the access slits into the hives. This causes the stocky man next to me to smile.

G Such feelings are not unusual in Slovenia, where there are around 90,000 beekeepers in a population of just two million. Much of the country is forested, and bees thrive there. It even has a distinct strain of the insect—Carniolan bees, which are valued for their non-aggressive nature and team ethic.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C. You are going to read a magazine article about volunteering at an orangutan research centre in Borneo. Six paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose from the paragraphs A–G the one which fits each gap (41–46). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Helping Out with Orangutans – A Holiday with a Difference

I've got a hammer in my hand when the cry goes up. 'Orangutan in the camp.' Nine people down tools and grab their cameras. This is a chance to snap one of the critically endangered primates that we are here to help at the Pondok Ambung research post run by the Orangutan Foundation in Indonesian Borneo.

41 _____

It's not the first time it's happened since our arrival at the research centre, which is surrounded by towering ironwood trees forming a canopy 50 metres above our heads, blocking out sunshine, but trapping moisture and heat. We reached it after a long drive and a four-hour boat ride along the Buluh Kecil river in central Borneo.

42 _____

That said, we know we are privileged to be here. The volunteer programme runs every summer, attracting adventurers to spend three weeks sleeping in basic accommodation and building infrastructure for the full-time Indonesian research staff. Over the past 15 years, volunteers have built facilities in Tanjung Puting National Park, further south in Borneo, and the Lamandau Wildlife Reserve to the east.

43 _____

Others have previously given time elsewhere in animal welfare and environmental programmes. We are a part of volunteer tourism, a global business estimated to be worth up to $2bn a year. It's also highly controversial: many volunteer placements are not much more than 'expensive holidays', providing healthy returns to travel companies while doing little for the causes they are meant to benefit.

44 _____

The rebuilding of the main building housing the laboratory and offices is an example of this. Our work enables researchers to study the wildlife of this protected area and to educate people about the risk of extinction faced by the apes and other animals. It's a delicate mission: the palm oil industry is destroying animal habitats; on the other hand, it has dramatically raised the standard of living in the region.

45 _____

It may not be too long before they start coming to the site we are working on. It's certainly popular with orangutans. In the three weeks I am there, we get several visits from the fascinating animals as they forage for food and good nesting sites. Proboscis monkeys and macaques also regularly hang around in the trees opposite our jetty.

46 _____

What we don't get used to is the mosquitoes, the one thing I am glad to escape when my stay ends. On the final day, the centre director tells us we have surpassed his expectations for this year's programme. We know we haven't solved the socio-economic problems that are driving orangutans to extinction, but we have made a difference to people who are working to save them.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Given that most of the work is done by people like me who know little about construction, these are impressive achievements. The main motivation is to do something positive for the beleaguered orangutans, although, naturally, we all want to actually see some. Two people in my group are so committed that they have come back for a second year.

B The centre staff make sure we are aware of the difficult issue. They also take us on trips upriver to a long-established primatology site. Daily feeding time there draws a crowd of orangutans. It also attracts day-tripping eco-tourists on boats from the regional capital, Pangkalan Bun.

C A fellow participant has personal experience of such dubious schemes elsewhere. He says it's hard to find programmes with the high standards of the Orangutan Foundation: 'Finding eco-trips where you can make a real difference isn't simple. But with this one, you've got a clear, physical outcome at the end of it.'

D Apparently, every volunteer group is different. Ours ranges from 18 to 60 years old, with eight women and four men when we begin. Despite the supportive atmosphere, the basic conditions are hard to cope with: one volunteer takes a boat back to civilisation within a day of arrival, and two more return home after a week.

E And that's just in the daytime. At night we go on walks to spot tarantulas, civets and tiny, huge-eyed tarsier primates, and we take boat rides at dusk to look for saltwater crocodiles. We become accustomed to the low-riding, wobbly motorised canoes that ferry everything along the rivers.

F It's Rimba, a 17-year-old male, and he doesn't disappoint. He circles the camp, going from tree to tree just a few metres above our heads for almost 30 minutes. The spectacle is a well-earned reward after a week of hard physical work in the 32°C heat and extreme humidity of the jungle.

G So remote is it that there's no mobile signal. Our luxuries are rationed biscuits, sliced watermelon and oranges, and the conditions are so draining that by the end of the first week we feel as though we've sweated out more toxins than in a year of hot yoga.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D. You are going to read an article about a rafting trip along the Colorado River in the USA. Six paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose from the paragraphs A–G the one which fits each gap (41–46). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Rafting Through the Grand Canyon and Beyond

The fierce sun had little effect on the freezing-cold water of the Colorado River as it splashed over the sides of our raft. Ahead lay a rapid called Bedrock. The four of us on our inflatable raft had already conquered numerous cascades in the Grand Canyon, but I was very nervous about this one. 'Go right,' we shouted at Rick, our pilot for the day, who was desperately trying to steer against the powerful current.

41

'Go for the channel!' I yelled, pointing towards a narrow opening. Our guides had said this way was 'un-runnable', and we were about to find out. I felt the boat twisting into a whirlpool and knew we were about to flip.

42

Bearing in mind our inexperience, I'm not sure how we did. As we had prepared to leave from Lees Ferry on the banks of the Colorado in Arizona, our lead guide had asked: 'How many of you have done anything like this before?' Two of the group raised their hands. Our guide explained that ahead of us lay 450 km of white water through one of the most formidable environments on Earth—and no phone signal for 17 days.

43

For the next two and a half weeks, we'd see few other humans; the Canyon may be one of the world's biggest attractions, but it's also one of the most inaccessible places in the US and is usually only seen from above. We negotiated nearly 90 major rapids in all, and only flipped once, although several of us ended up in the water on different occasions.

44

Humans hadn't been there as long, of course, but well before tourists came, it was the land of the Navajo and Hualapai American Indians. Their ancestors left buildings carved into the cliff faces, and prehistoric stone engravings in the warren of caves and gorges accessible only from the river. Some of these were filled with luscious palms and others were so narrow you could touch both sides.

45

As a result, we had no idea what was going on in the rest of the world, not that we cared. There, on the river, we were completely focused on the here and now and extra vigilant every time we encountered a significant rapid. Even the guides were nervous as we approached the infamous Lava Falls, which has a terrifying 9/10 difficulty rating. Before attempting Lava, we stopped and scrambled up a nearby cliff. From the top, we looked down anxiously at the crashing roar of white water and tried to work out our route.

46

Then, as soon as it had begun, it was over. There were whoops of joy and relieved high fives. We were soaked—but we'd all got through it safely. There were still a couple more days to go, but after Lava nothing could defeat us. We were a team, united by a river and a great sense of accomplishment.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A We'd been made aware of this when we booked the trip. But 16 of us had eagerly signed up for the adventure of a lifetime, renting four rafts, with all the necessary provisions included.

B Piercing winds threatening to blow our rafts backwards and vicious sandstorms driving grit into our eyes, nostrils and cameras were two of the worst. Our hands, feet and lips were soon cracked from the constant exposure to water and the dry desert air.

C It was no use. We were quickly drawn towards a rock the size of a bus. Then the raft was sucked around the wrong side of the boulder and into an eddy. Our paddles were now being bashed against the rock.

D Eventually, we just had to go for it. Nervously, we let the waters pull us towards the boiling foam, and one by one the four rafts entered the fray. Our raft rocked and creaked and smashed through waves the size of a car; at one point it was almost vertical. There were 20 seconds of sheer terror.

E In the quieter stretches of this magical setting, we'd fish off the rafts, and at night on the river bank, there were jokes and storytelling before we fell asleep under the stars. The internet became a distant memory as the Canyon closed in and the signal disappeared. It was a digital detox to the extreme.

F I wondered if I could hold my breath long enough to survive underwater, and then saw my friend John being hurled off the raft and into the crashing waves. Suddenly, I too was flung headfirst into the freezing water. Bad thoughts filled my mind. But somehow we all survived.

G As we progressed, the Canyon grew grander in scale, cutting a deep gorge, over a kilometre deep in places. It's a geologist's dream, with layers of rock dating back almost two billion years and ancient lava fields that are some of the oldest exposed rock on Earth.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

E. You are going to read an article about an architect, called Victor Gruen, who designed one of the first shopping malls in the USA. Six paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose from the paragraphs A–G the one which fits each gap (41–46). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Victor Gruen and the Southdale Shopping Mall

According to its critics, the shopping mall is central to the mindless, car-bound consumerism of suburban USA. Yet Southdale Center, the first fully enclosed, climate-controlled mall from which so many other malls descend, came from the mind of an anti-car European idealist. In 1938, Victor Gruen arrived in America from Vienna in Austria with high architectural aims. He soon launched a career designing storefronts in New York City, but in 1952 he was commissioned to design something else entirely: a shopping centre 15 kilometres outside the city of Minneapolis.

41 _____

A somewhat extreme view, perhaps, but it's important to understand the historical background. When Gruen first came up with the concept of the shopping mall, it seemed very radical. He first publicly submitted such a design in 1943 to a competition run by an architectural magazine, which had called upon architects to imagine the city of the future.

42 _____

The next decade saw a shift in thinking. The 1952 commission that brought the Southdale Center into the world came from the Dayton family, a name synonymous with department stores in 1950s Minneapolis. They wanted a shopping centre to house a new store planned for the growing suburb of Edina. When it opened in 1956, Southdale contained that new branch of Dayton's, another large department store, and space for more than 70 smaller shops in between.

43 _____

But where the open-air design of those projects left them exposed to the elements, Southdale sealed off the outside environment in order to better create its own world within. Southdale's vast, blank walls turned their backs to the street, enclosing stores, cafés, pedestrian boulevards and a courtyard, through whose skylight the sun shone on a fishpond, foliage and a centrepiece cage filled with songbirds.

44 _____

But the utter controllability of the enclosed shopping mall had to do with much more than the climate. It both appealed to Gruen's design philosophy and played straight into the fears of many Americans. They didn't just want protection from the heat, rain, snow and traffic encountered downtown; they also wanted protection from the people encountered there.

45 _____

To this end, he designed Southdale as one element of a masterplan, including hundreds of hectares of residential, commercial, medical, office and mixed-use projects around a lake and public park. The developers, however, ignored most of this wider vision and, instead, set the precedent for all the huge, unimaginative-looking malls surrounded by enormous car parks—1,500 of which appeared across America in the half-century after Southdale's unveiling.

46 _____

Hence the nostalgia that often accompanies the 21st century's desertions, or even demolitions, of some of the United States' enclosed malls. But suburban Americans now have a host of revitalised genuine downtowns to choose from, as well as a new wave of high-design, urban-flavoured, outward-looking shopping malls. Time has moved on for the mall.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A By then, the concept had some precedents around America. These included the Northgate Mall in Seattle, which opened in 1950, Valley Fair Mall in Appleton, Wisconsin, which opened in 1954, and Gruen's own Northland Mall outside Detroit.

B Despite this, when the renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright visited Southdale, he was sceptical. He believed that Gruen's notion of moving 'downtown' to the suburbs was unrealistic. Victor Gruen's real aim, however, was to build a new kind of city, not just a shopping centre, and he later claimed that his conception of the shopping mall never came into being.

C Those social concerns were somewhat at odds with Gruen's own. He was interested in creating not just a 'gigantic shopping machine', but a community centre where, free from 'the terror of the automobile', people could stroll, congregate, debate and enjoy the human experience.

D Unfortunately, Gruen's entry, with its full enclosure and lack of a central square, struck even the most forward-thinking judges as a bit much, so Gruen went back to the drawing board.

E Gruen would eventually criticise, even disown, this form that the US shopping mall took. Local residents, however, loved Southdale, and across the country, subsequent generations growing up far from a genuine city centre turned to places like Southdale for the closest thing to an urban experience they could find.

F The writer James Lileks says of that early Southdale aesthetic: 'You have no idea what an innovation it was in the 1950s; there wasn't any place where you could sit "outside" in your shirt-sleeves in the middle of winter'—least of all in a place where it gets as cold as it does in Minneapolis.

G This was Gruen's opportunity to realise his long-imagined vision of an indoor city centre that would import the urbanity of his native Vienna into his fast-growing adopted homeland. Southdale itself was constructed. Nothing else went as he'd envisaged, however, and by the 1970s, Gruen had returned to Austria, having concluded that he'd created a monster.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

F. You are going to read an article about an architect, called Victor Gruen, who designed one of the first shopping malls in the USA. Six paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose from the paragraphs A–G the one which fits each gap (41–46). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

What Does a Smile Mean?

'The curve that sets everything straight' was how the comedian Phyllis Diller once described the smile. And it's true that there's something charming, trustworthy and disarming about a smile—but this can be misleading. Dig a little deeper and you will find a less wholesome side, because the smile is actually one of the biggest fakes going.

41

Psychologists, in fact, have given it a name: the Duchenne smile, in honour of the French neurologist Guillaume-Benjamin-Amand Duchenne. This smile utilises the muscles around the eyes to lift the cheeks, producing wrinkles around the eyes, and has long been held as an inimitable sign of true human emotion. Or at least it was until 2013, when psychologists from Boston, USA, destroyed that myth.

42

These findings indicate that even the supposedly genuine Duchenne smile can be convincingly simulated. So much for smiling being an inimitable sign of true human emotion. But why are some people so good at this kind of simulation? The answer isn't necessarily sinister. In fact, some research has demonstrated that you can actually smile yourself into a better mood.

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This indicates that smiling can actually improve your mood, as opposed to the usual idea of it being an outward sign of what you are already feeling. Taking this one step further, researchers from the University of Kansas asked volunteers to bite on a pair of chopsticks: either biting one end, with the lips closed to produce no smile; or the same but with lips apart in a standard smile; or biting along the length of the chopstick, producing a Duchenne smile. The volunteers were then made to feel stressed by having them submerge one hand in ice water for one minute.

44

But though there may be times when it is advantageous for us to smile when we don't feel particularly cheerful, there is a flipside. Researchers in California wondered whether professional fighters' smiles during the face-off before a bout might predict who the victor would be. They obtained face-off photographs of 152 Ultimate Fighting Championships competitors and rated them for smile intensity. Interestingly, winning fighters displayed less intense smiles in pre-fight face-offs than losers did, and fighters winning by a knock-out displayed the least intense smiles of all.

45

What seems to have happened is that the fighters who smiled were unintentionally leaking information about their own sense of weakness, so passing a psychological advantage to their opponent. The message from this is that taking control of your emotional state, avoiding smiling, and showing that you have the upper hand, even where that is not felt, is a good strategy in competitive environments.

46

But, as the saying goes, if you can't beat them, join them. Next time you're having your photograph taken, don't say 'cheese'; say 'cheeks'. Saying 'cheeks' will not only shape your mouth nicely, but will also remind you to squeeze your cheeks upwards into a visually satisfying, genuine-looking Duchenne smile.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A The main point of interest was how smiling would affect their ability to cope with the discomfort. The full, Duchenne smile was shown to be superior to the other facial expressions in this respect. So, fake or not, putting on a Duchenne smile may be just the tonic to combat physical and psychological difficulties.

B In a straightforward study, one group of volunteers was asked to reproduce smiles shown in photographs, and another group to evaluate whether the first group's smiles were authentic. Some of the photographs depicted mouth-only smiles, but others showed smiles using both mouth and eye muscles. Two-thirds of individuals turned out to be able to fake a supposedly authentic smile, and they were also able to do this well in their everyday lives.

C Culturally, smiling resonates across human history, from the grinning Greek kouros sculptures of 2,500 years ago to modern-day emojis. The most popular emoji of all is the face with tears of joy. Just as this emoji expresses more than mere happiness—tears adding an ironic twist—smiles themselves convey so much more.

D The smile, then, can be a false friend. People smile—or not—for all kinds of reasons beyond simply how happy they are feeling.

E I know what you're thinking: we all put on a smile now and again to placate our fellow humans and avoid unnecessary conflict. We all suppose, however, that a genuine smile of true enjoyment is something very different.

F What does this tell us? It suggests that in a context where physical dominance is important, smiling can be a sign of appeasement—possibly some kind of peace offering—and subordinate status.

G Participants were asked to hold a pen in the mouth by its tip. Some held it with the teeth, creating a smile without the person concerned realising it, while others held the pen with the lips, producing a pout rather than a smile. Pens in mouths, the participants then rated the humour in some cartoons. Intriguingly, the cartoons were rated as funnier when the pen was held with the teeth than when held with the lips.

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