

Part 6

You are going to read a newspaper article about listening to birdsong. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A–G** the one which fits each gap (37–42). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

The importance of birdsong

Do you enjoy listening to birdsong and, if so, how often do you *really* listen to it? One of the pleasures I share with my grandfather is a love of birds, and in particular listening to their different songs. Some people who hear a bird singing say 'That sounds lovely', without feeling any need to identify the bird in question. Others, including dedicated bird-watchers, will hear the song and immediately set about trying to identify the bird. **37** After all, the next interesting species is sure to turn up soon. My grandfather takes yet another approach.

Recently we made a plan. We decided that once a week or so, we'd go down to the wetlands near where we live, take a hot drink and sit and listen to a species of bird called the sedge warbler. Out on empty wetlands, you can't help but hear these creatures. We don't concern ourselves with whether they're male or female, or what exactly they're doing. **38** Although they may not sing as beautifully as some other birds, they're still worth paying attention to.

In fact, if you look at a scientific analysis of their song, you find that they sing for an entire minute without stopping, and in that time, they will utter around 300 syllables. **39** They will introduce up to ten new syllables in that section. And some analysts say that the music they make is so intricate that they never sing the same song twice.

However, actually being able to hear birdsong is becoming more of a challenge these days as the air is increasingly filled with the noise of machines and traffic. **40** But then we also risk missing natural sounds, and those, it seems, are important for our well-being. Studies have shown that exposure to white noise negatively affects our concentration and stress levels.

Listening to birdsong is the perfect antidote. Recent research has shown what many of us have always thought. **41** There's also evidence that it can lead to a reduction in anxiety levels, particularly useful in hospital environments, for example. These benefits have also been recognised in locations such as airports. One airport has started to play birdsong to passengers in its quiet lounge, where people can unwind before flights, and so far, feedback has been very positive.

Birdsong is also a great reminder that despite human activity, much of which can severely affect their habitats, there are entire communities of birds that are thriving – and living independently alongside us. As birds go about their daily business of laying eggs, raising chicks and finding food, they aren't concerned with us in the least. We may be the centre of our own worlds, but we are most certainly not the centre of theirs. **42** Indeed, seeing the world from a non-human perspective helps us to reconnect with nature and enables us to see the bigger picture.

- A It provides physical relaxation as well as mental stimulation.
- B The objective is rather to listen to the song as another example of how amazing nature can be.
- C It can be a key indicator of the health of the bird population.
- D The only solution is to wear headphones and block it all out.
- E The middle of the song is the most complex.
- F That is something we should be more aware of.
- G Having done so to their satisfaction, they'll move on.

Part 7

You are going to read an article about some young film directors. For questions 43–52, choose from the people (A–D). The people may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Which person

describes the opportunity they were given to analyse challenging films?

43

admits their approach wasn't typical of the way new directors tend to behave?

44

believes that it is necessary to change the subject matter of their films regularly?

45

mentions the challenging environment they had to work in?

46

says that they don't want to criticise filmmakers in a different working environment?

47

admits they had difficulty mastering one skill required for their work?

48

describes a technique that they use to create a particular atmosphere in their films?

49

explains how they aren't limited by certain demands that other filmmakers have to meet?

50

enjoys writing about complex personalities that may not be easy to like?

51

mentions how the actors need to feel committed to what they are doing?

52

Young film directors

A Laurence Yuen

My main task is to come up with a narrative that everyone finds engaging. It's all down to the quality of that story because, if a director isn't working in Hollywood or somewhere like that, there might not be the budget to pay the cast what they deserve. This means they all need to believe passionately in the story that's being told and want to come to work every day despite the lack of financial reward. I'd never knock people employed by the big studios because some fantastic films are made there, but independent filmmakers like me have greater freedom, so we can tell more unusual stories without worrying too much about the need to make money or please huge audiences. For example, I like creating characters that are different from what you might typically see in big Hollywood movies and which don't always conform to stereotypes.

B Daisy Morgan

I didn't start out with an interest in making animated films, but I gradually realised there was potential in that field. I struggled initially and it took me a good six months to get the hang of it. When most directors make their first animated feature film, they keep things fairly modest. I didn't scale back or limit my ambition even though we ended up having to do the filming in a confined space – it was really cramped. A vital part of the process of writing a film is finding someone to do it with – someone who on a basic level you're compatible with, but doesn't have exactly the same way of doing things. What almost defeated me was the writing, actually. My first few drafts were too long and needed a huge amount of editing, which was hard to take because very promising material had to be cut.

C Antonio Rossi

As a teenager, I'd watch teen movies and then I'd get fed up and, with my parents' encouragement, would watch some of their movies as well and discuss them in detail. This exposed me to complex, sophisticated filmmaking at an early age. Some directors choose to limit themselves to particular themes because it brings them success and popularity. But I try to shake things up when I can – it's the only way to improve, I think. Attending film festivals is a great way of getting direct audience feedback on your work, but having said that, I try not to worry too much if people react negatively towards my films. If I do that, then it starts to block my creativity. I'd love to write a comedy and I thought at one time it might be an easy option. It's not difficult to write what you personally find funny, but trying to write something that everyone else will find equally amusing is a different thing completely.

D Anna Svensson

I prefer writing and directing drama because it gives me the opportunity to create characters full of contradictions – characters that audiences won't necessarily warm to. I often include scenes without dialogue, which adds to the tension and suspense. I love the opportunity to create strong emotional responses in people, particularly by unexpectedly changing the way the viewer feels about a character. Getting hold of the best cameras and lighting is a challenge when you haven't got a huge budget. Trying to decide on what camera to use is sometimes a bit tricky too. We've found that with an inexperienced cast bigger cameras can be off-putting and intrusive. Several top directors may have influenced my work, and I don't think you can hide that from anyone. In the early days I may have stolen some ideas from them, but I didn't see that I was doing it. Even so, it's a bit embarrassing when I look back at my first attempts at filmmaking.