

B2.1 READING TEST

Read TEXT 1 – *The secret German village, in the middle of Argentina* – and choose the right line to complete each gap. There are TWO EXTRA ones which you do not need to use. Write your answers in the grid provided below, as shown in example 0. (10 points)

The secret German village, in the middle of Argentina

Walking through La Cumbrecita is a surreal experience. **--(0)--The street signs are in German.** The restaurants serve *schnitzel** and *goulash**, while the supermarkets sell Bavarian-style beer and jars of home-made *sauerkraut**. Surreal, that is, because this town is in the middle of Argentina.

Set in the hills a couple of hours from Córdoba, Argentina's second largest city, La Cumbrecita is a meticulously recreated Swiss-German village. Tourists come from across Argentina, and further away, **---(1)---**. They eat *apple strudel** at the café and buy typical souvenirs from the gift stores. The locals live in wooden cabins and some speak German. There's even a huge cuckoo clock that greets you as you enter the village.

It's certainly odd. But La Cumbrecita is more than a tourist magnet, as Ingrid Cabjolsky tells me while we drink coffee. Her grandparents were the original pioneers of the town. In 1932 they migrated from near Berlin to Buenos Aires, where Helmut Cabjolsky worked for Siemens. The family wanted a holiday home, and weren't impressed by the beaches near the Argentinian capital. **---(2)---**, in particular one town they'd regularly visited, Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Bavaria.

The Cabjolskys began searching for locations. Following a tip from a friend, they made the long journey (part of it on horseback) to the valley of Calamuchita, and to the spot that later would become La Cumbrecita. **---(3)---**: no roads, no vegetation, just rocky land and a waterfall leading to a small river. "My grandmother said, 'Look, if there is water, there is life: let's buy it,'" says Cabjolsky.

So in 1934 the family bought 500 hectares of land and **---(4)---**. They built Bavarian-style cottages and wooden Alpine chalets. They sold plots of land to friends, on the condition that anything built on the land would conform to this Swiss-German style. They constructed roads connecting the town to the wider region. The Cabjolskys even planted thousands of trees – many of them varieties of pines, **---(5)---** – so the surroundings would look like Bavaria.

When the war started, the Cabjolskys couldn't return to Germany; Ingrid's grandmother was half-Jewish. **---(6)---**, too. Helmut was forced to leave his job at the German-owned Siemens in that city, and the family came to live in La Cumbrecita permanently.

Today, around 1,500 people live in La Cumbrecita. Ingrid Cabjolsky manages *Helmut's*, the local bar and bistro. She's turned the place into a kind of memorial to her ancestors, **---(7)---**, documenting their unusual family history.

When I ask Cabjolsky why her family's legacy should be preserved, she says they sacrificed a lot to realise their vision. "It was very hard for them to build this, because there was really nothing here. It was a dream for them to build a town. For me it's very important to keep their vision alive. **---(8)---**."

Whether it's for the *leberwurst**, the waterfall hikes or just the unusual story, **---(9)---**: 300,000 tourists make the bus trip to La Cumbrecita each year. There's a little spa and plenty of chalet lodgings and hotels.

Christian Mayer, another resident, whose grandfather is Swiss, adds: "I think Argentina is a German-loving country. In the '50s our government loved the Nazis. **---(10)---**; it's not the truth, but they believe that and they want to experience this, experience 'Germany'. We are Argentinian, 100%."

*Typical Swiss/German dishes and specialties

(Adapted from: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk>)

- A.** *the street signs are in German (EXAMPLE)*
- B.** tourists believe we are all Germans here
- C.** they didn't manage to find a qualified architect
- D.** with faded photos and old documents hanging on the walls
- E.** they missed the mountains back home
- F.** began their curious mission of designing a German paradise in Argentina
- G.** there was very little there at that time
- H.** I think the tourists who come and hear their story also love it
- I.** actually, that caused them some problems in Buenos Aires
- J.** to experience this peculiar copy of 'little Germany'
- K.** in order to destroy what they had built so far
- L.** unusual for this part of South America
- M.** the town attracts a huge crowd for such a small place

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A										

TEXT 2: Read this article about school newspapers and do the task that follows.

Hands-On Experience Most Valuable Lesson

Three days to publication and the journalism classroom at Birmingham High School looks like the Los Angeles Times in miniature. Students write last-minute articles, proofread copy, examine, criticize and change layout, argue over headlines, debate front-page articles. When the dismissal bell rings at 3:05, no one leaves. Students know what has to be done to send everything to the printing company at 8 a.m. When the 3,000 papers arrive, we sort them out and stuff fliers advertising driving schools, beauty salons, bike rentals and pagers. Friday morning we distribute on campus and mail to high schools throughout the city.

Publishing a student newspaper is an authentic learning experience, not a textbook exercise to earn grades and accumulate credits toward graduation. The only blanks the journalism students come across are the 16 blank pages they have to fill every four weeks. There are no assigned vocabulary lists to memorize. When they are stuck for a word, they go to a reference book without being reminded. They know late work, no matter how much time and effort they put into it, doesn't get published. Deadlines mean just that.

On the newspaper staff, students find their own areas of interest. Danny seldom leaves the computer. Robert sells advertisements, \$300 to \$500 an issue. Student readers turn to Kim's horoscopes first. Jason is an expert when it comes to movie reviews. Milt covers new teachers, drama news and anything else he can get his hands on. He is a junior with plans of becoming senior editor next year. Student journalists--freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors, C-average to A, are dependent on one another. I don't have to push them to do their jobs. When one doesn't, it reflects on the rest. They either all win, or all lose.

We deal with questions of ethics every day. Are teachers and administrators, star athletes and club presidents public figures on campus? If an athlete is ineligible to play because his grades are too low, is that his business or is it news? It takes money to run the paper, so do we accept ads from anyone willing to pay? If students are not allowed to carry pagers, can we still advertise them in the school paper? Do we cover fights on campus? Drug? Theft? We don't want outsiders to think we have a bad school, but is not reporting self-imposed censorship?

I had a traditional education studying all the basics, yet I remember almost nothing I learned in high school. I was so busy earning high grades to get into college that I didn't take time for extras. But it's the extras, like drama, sports, band and cheerleading, debate and speech team, yearbook and journalism, to name a few, that make high school a worthwhile learning experience, not just another step to college or a place to mark time before getting a job. I look back over the years I've taught English and wonder how much of what I did remained, probably not much.

On the other hand, one thing is for sure: what my students do in journalism, without much help from me, will serve them well in the future. After all, everything my students need to know about getting along in the world, they're learning in journalism.

(Adapted from: <http://articles.latimes.com>)

TASK 2: Read the statements and choose the best answer according to the information in the article. Write the answer (A, B, or C) in the grid below as in example 0. Only ONE answer is possible. (6x1=6 points)

0. *The text portrays the activity going on in ...*

- A. *a press agency.*
- B. *a learning centre.*
- C. *a printing room.*

1. The students mentioned in the text...

- A. do their work within school time.
- B. meet at 8:00 a.m.
- C. have a busy agenda.

2. The school newspapers...

- A. are sent to Birmingham High School students by mail.
- B. can be found in several locations.
- C. are handed out only on location.

3. Publishing a newspaper ...

- A. is similar to any other school subject.
- B. implies working against the clock.
- C. requires no lexical consultation.

4. Student readers...

- A. look forward to reading the star sign section.
- B. can suggest new sections for the paper.
- C. can't read information about the school staff.

5. Student journalists...

- A. follow a teamwork pattern.
- B. can tell between right and wrong.
- C. do not write about moral aspects.

6. The writer thinks that...

- A. he wasn't offered enough extras in high school.
- B. your student's life isn't as important as your later work.
- C. extra school activities are important.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
B						

TEXT 3

What is Gaokao?

A look at China's most important exam

Every year in hundreds of cities in China, over 9 million students (0) the most important exam of their lives, known as the Gaokao. Also known as the "College Entrance Exam", it is administered around June 7th-9th in mainland China.

It tests a total of four subjects: three mandatory subjects – Chinese Language and Literature, Math and Foreign Language, usually English – and one elective, depending on the student's choice: (1) a Science or Humanities subject.

Think of it as a monster-scale SAT* exam, but (2) . For many Chinese students, it is the only way for them to get into universities. Students are ranked based on their combined Gaokao scores. In a country where getting a (3) is required to obtain a good job, the Gaokao (4) a vital opportunity. Those who achieve poor scores and do not get into their dream university often spend another year studying and take the exam (5) .

There is an extremely high pressure environment to obtain high scores. The higher the Gaokao score, (6) a student will be admitted into the most prestigious universities in China. Many students have spent the last two or three years specifically preparing for this exam.

Because of the high risk of the test, Gaokao has been criticized for multiple cheating incidences. Last year, education officials in Inner Mongolia had to disqualify over 1,400 students for "illegal Gaokao immigration." (7) this region is less populated, the passing grade for Gaokao is lower than it is in metropolitan cities, so crowds of urban students travelled to sit their tests there.

Cheating devices are also quite common, (8) the fact that the Gaokao is firmly watched over. Actually, some testing centers in China have even used drones to detect unusual radio frequencies.

What happens to those who fail their exams? Many cannot afford to repeat another year at high school, and choose to work. They often take low-paying working-class industry jobs that have little room for promotion. With this (9) future in mind, it's understandable why there is so much pressure on both students and their families.

Teachers are (10) a lot of stress to help their students gain admission into universities. Education reformers claim that teachers spend much of their time giving students practice exams and going over exam material, as opposed to teaching concepts and critical thinking.

At the same time, Gaokao supporters say that the current testing model is the fairest way to ensure that students of all backgrounds can have equal opportunity to get into universities.

At the end of the day, (11) agrees that the students going through Gaokao deserve support during this hard experience. Even world-renowned scientist Stephen Hawking posted words of (12) on his Weibo (Chinese version of Twitter). The post, which is in both English and Mandarin, has accumulated over 290,000 likes and 125,000 shares in 10 hours.

***SAT (Scholarship Aptitude Test):** an examination which is often taken by students who wish to enter a British college or university.

(Adapted from: <http://blog.tutorming.com>)

TASK 3: Read text 3 – *What is Gaokao? A look at China's most important exam.*
For items 1-12 choose the right option (A, B or C). Write your answers in the column on the right, as shown in example 0.

(12 points)

0.	<i>A. make</i>	<i>B. sit</i>	<i>C. pass</i>	B
1.	A. neither	B. both	C. either	
2.	A. much harder	B. not as hard	C. more hard	
3.	A. career	B. title	C. degree	
4.	A. isn't at all	B. is seen as	C. will never be	
5.	A. again	B. every month	C. off	
6.	A. the likely	B. the most likely	C. the more likely	
7.	A. Since	B. If only	C. However	
8.	A. because of	B. despite	C. as soon as	
9.	A. hopeless	B. keen	C. terrific	
10.	A. in	B. with	C. under	
11.	A. everyone	B. nobody	C. not anyone	
12.	A. disappointment	B. encouragement	C. indifference	