Name: .....

Test: Unit 1 and 2

Write to Freedom

Caspar Walsh knows a lot about youth crime. He spent his own youth committing offences such as fraud and robbery and was in and out of institutions for young offenders during his teens. At the age of 18, he decided that he didn't want to end up spending the rest of his life in prison. He turned away from the life he used to lead, finding comfort in writing about his experiences. Now over a **decade** later, he is dedicating his life to helping other young people in a similar situation through a project which encourages self-expression through the written word and through connecting with nature.

The Write to Freedom **charity**, which began in 2007, runs a '**wilderness** and writing' course created by Caspar during which young men in prison spend four weekends camping out in Dartmoor National Park. Caspar believes that through spending time in nature, troubled youngsters will have the opportunity to reflect on their lives. Putting their feelings down on paper will help this process. The hope is that, with the support of mentors to guide them, they will be able to make positive changes to their lives. After completing the course, students can apply to become **mentors** on the same project.

But how do angry young men react when they suddenly find themselves surrounded by nature after spending most of their lives in an urban environment? Fear and mistrust are often the first feelings. Some of them want to challenge the new set of rules that they aren't used to, refusing to switch off their mobile phones, for example, when asked to. However, after spending the weekend walking in the fresh air, making fires, and sleeping under the stars, these feelings are usually replaced by more positive ones. While some participants simply appreciate the chance to get away from prison life, others feel they acquire some useful life skills and learn more about themselves during the course.

Writing is an **unfamiliar** activity for the students, many of whom have limited **literacy** skills as a result of missing classes and a general lack of interest in school. However, they are often surprised to find that once they start writing, whether about themselves, their own dreams, or fictional stories, they find it enjoyable and **rewarding**. Putting their ideas and thoughts down on paper gives them the feeling that they are capable of achieving their aims.

Organisations like Write to Freedom are growing in number, but many more are needed. Apart from the huge financial cost of imprisoning a young person, which is about £55,000 a year in the UK, prison is often not the answer for young offenders. In many cases, young people who have committed crimes are, with the right help and guidance, capable of living **productive** lives in society. The Write to Freedom project is one small step towards making that happen.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 **Find these words and phrases (1–6) in the article above. Then choose a synonym (A–H) for each one. They are extra options**

1 decade ____
2 charity ____
3 wilderness ____
4 literacy ____
5 rewarding ____

A an organisation that raises money to help people
B strange
C 10 years
D people who help or teach others
E the ability to read and write
F nature, far from where people live
G useful
H satisfying

/8

4 **Read the article again. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.**

1 What caused Caspar Walsh to stop committing crimes?

.....

.....

2 The main purpose of the 'wilderness and writing' course is to

A give teenage prisoners a holiday.
B provide jobs for young men who have been in prison.
C help young criminals understand themselves better.
D improve young prisoners' writing skills.

3 How do the participants feel during the course?

.....

.....

4 Why do many of the prisoners lack literacy skills?

.....

.....

5 The writer believes that

A giving prisons more money is not the best way to help young offenders.
B young offenders need more programmes to help them turn away from crime.
C the Write to Freedom project's success has been too small.
D Projects like Write to Freedom are effective, but often costly.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5 **Choose the correct word or phrase to fill each gap.**

Spelling gets worse

A recent survey has shown that many British adults find English spelling difficult. The words that people find the (**1**) ____ to spell include 'accommodate', 'occasionally' and 'necessary'. Researchers found that over half of the 2,000 people they questioned (**2**) ____ problems spelling these and other frequently used words. What's more, (**3**) ____ them said that a spelling mistake had caused them embarrassment at work on at least one occasion.

Many people blame technology for their bad spelling skills, saying that having a spellchecker on their computer makes them lazy. Others say they (**4**) ____ how to spell because they hardly ever write things by hand anymore. As one participant in the survey commented, 'If you (**5**) ____ it, you lose it.' The fact that many schoolchildren now do nearly all their writing on a screen means it is likely the problem (**6**) ____ even worse in the future.

1	**A** difficult	**B** more difficult	**C** most difficult	**D** much difficult
2	**A** has	**B** had	**C** having	**D** are having
3	**A** a number of	**B** an amount of	**C** any of	**D** all
4	**A** forgot	**B** have forgotten	**C** had forgotten	**D** are forgetting
5	**A** aren't using	**B** not use	**C** won't use	**D** don't use
6	**A** is getting	**B** gets	**C** will get	**D** going to get

Present Simple or Present Continuous

1) Can you answer the front door? I . ..... (do) the washing up
2) My best friend ..... (sometimes/spend) Saturdays afternoon at the pool
3) I didn't finish the essay last night. I ..... (write) the conclusion at the moment
4) Teenagers ..... (always/ enjoy) challenges
5) My brother ..... (study) French right now

Past Simple, Past Continuous or Past Perfect

1) They .....(spend) three hours in the car by the time they (arrive) ..... at their destination
2) Something .....(happen) to the plane engine before it (take) .....off
3) They ..... (have) some money problems when they (win) ..... the lottery
4) I (see) ..... Tom after he (go) .....back from New York
5) While Susan ..... (travel), her car (break) ..... Down

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Complete with USED TO or WOULD. In which sentences is it possible to use both?

1) I ..... (play) golf when I was a teenager
2) My father ..... (not drive)
3) We ..... (go) to the beach on holidays when we were children
4) My mother ..... (have) an old car
5) He ..... (be) a very happy person before his health problem

Vocabulary

1) I bought a ..... ticket because I am going to Europe in July and I will return in September
2) When does the next train ..... the station?
3) He is an ..... person. He always shows off his good deeds
4) Have a great holidays. I will see you when you .....
5) She is a very ..... She always makes people laugh with her stories

LIVEWORKSHEETS