

## Placement Exam

### LISTENING

**I. You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1-8, choose the best answer.**

1. You hear a boy talking about a road accident. Why did he crash?  
**A** The road conditions were unsafe  
**B** Another road user made a mistake  
**C** He was feeling angry about something
2. You hear two friends talking about a clothes shop. What does the boy think his friend will dislike about it?  
**A** the price of the clothes there  
**B** the people who work there  
**C** the music they play there
3. You hear a girl talking about how she broke her tooth. How does she feel about the accident?  
**A** disappointed by her own carelessness  
**B** annoyed at her brothers for distracting her  
**C** relieved that no permanent damage was done
4. You hear a man and a woman talking on the radio. What point is the man making about life in the 21st century?  
**A** People seldom relax properly.  
**B** People are too easily frightened.  
**C** People are lucky to have lots of things to do.
5. You hear a woman talking about a skiing accident she had. She believes she injured herself because  
**A** her instructor encouraged her to take a risk.  
**B** she lost concentration at the last moment.  
**C** she was overconfident about her skills.
6. You hear a boy and a girl talking about a trip on a boat. What does the boy say about the trip?  
**A** It was too expensive.  
**B** It was too scary.  
**C** It was too long.
7. You hear a girl talking on the phone to her father. What is the purpose of her call?  
**A** to request some help  
**B** to borrow some money  
**C** to apologise for being late
8. You hear a boy and a girl talking in a café. They agree that  
**A** the drinks are really good.  
**B** the place looks good.  
**C** it is expensive.

II. Listen to five people and choose from the list (A-H) what each speaker says about their best friend. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

My best friend....

- A. once helped me in a difficult situation
- B. sometimes has an attitude which annoys me
- C. can find humour in any situation
- D. is often judged unfairly by people
- E. has a talent which made him/her popular
- F. gets anxious very easily
- G. didn't use to be fond on me
- H. is frequently mean to other people

Speaker 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker 5 \_\_\_\_\_

### USE OF ENGLISH

I. For questions 1-8, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. USE ONLY CAPITAL LETTERS.

### Friends

The (0) majority of people have at least one friend – but how many people have given serious thought to the importance of friends and

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ in their lives? Recent research into social problems such as homelessness, divorce and obesity has found that much of the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ for these problems is down to loneliness. When you are in trouble, a good friend can offer (3) \_\_\_\_\_ support, giving you strength and confidence in your time of need. If they are able, they can also give you (4) \_\_\_\_\_ help.

But friends are not only for the hard times. When things are going well, true friends provide (5) \_\_\_\_\_. And, of course, it's not just a one-way street. Friends help each other to be the best they can be. Got exams coming up? Forming a study group among friends can make revising much more (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Training for a sports (7) \_\_\_\_\_? Train together!

Treasure your friends and they will treasure you. They are more (8) \_\_\_\_\_ than anything you can own.

MAJOR

FRIEND

RESPONSIBLE

EMOTION

PRACTICE

ENCOURAGE

EFFECT

COMPETE

VALUE

II. Read the first two paragraphs of an article and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

## SIX surprising results of climate change

- 1 Most people have a general idea about what global warming <sup>0</sup> *involves*. After all, the data that shows rising temperatures and <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ ice caps is there for all to see. Sea <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ are rising at a rate of about four millimetres per year. That may not sound like much, but the Earth's changing climate is already <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ problems.
- 2 Not <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ is global warming shrinking glaciers and creating more powerful hurricanes, but it also seems to be causing more forest fires than ever before. Recent wildfires in the western USA have both covered more ground and <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ for longer. Their increased size and frequency mean that firefighters have a much harder time putting them <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. What is more, there is a <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ relationship between the warmer temperatures and the early arrival of spring. When the snow disappears, forest <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ become drier and stay dry for longer, which increases the chance that they might catch fire.

- |   |            |              |             |              |
|---|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 0 | A includes | (B) involves | C requires  | D concerns   |
| 1 | A melting  | B dropping   | C fading    | D dissolving |
| 2 | A heights  | B measures   | C lengths   | D levels     |
| 3 | A causing  | B making     | C resulting | D proving    |
| 4 | A just     | B only       | C really    | D alone      |
| 5 | A stayed   | B taken      | C lasted    | D rested     |
| 6 | A off      | B out        | C over      | D down       |
| 7 | A clear    | B straight   | C simple    | D clean      |
| 8 | A fields   | B parts      | C places    | D areas      |



## READING

I. The opening sentence of each paragraph has been removed from the article. Choose from sentences A–F the one which fits each gap (1–6).

# ACCIDENT-PRONE

Everyone has accidents from time to time. A bump on the head, a slip on a wet floor – it's almost impossible to go through life without suffering such **minor** events once in a while. But why do some people seem to suffer accidents more often than others?

<sup>1</sup> \_\_\_ 'I seem to have more accidents when I'm feeling stressed, or thinking about something,' says the 19-year-old computer programmer. 'Once I slipped on a wet kitchen floor and broke my **wrist**, and three days later I tripped over a step and hurt my shoulder. Then, the following week, a guitar fell on my head when I was opening a wardrobe. I'm sure these things all happened because I wasn't paying attention.'

<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_ She believes that people who are stressed aren't 'living in the present'. They're thinking about the future or about something that's happened in the past. That's why they aren't paying attention to what's going on around them. 'If you're busy, you go from task to task, and while you're doing one thing, you're thinking about what your next job is going to be,' she says. 'Or you might be thinking about a conversation you had earlier in the day, and wishing you had said something different. Either way, you're not living in the present. You're somewhere else. And that's when accidents happen.'

<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_ Recent research indicates that accident-**prone** people really do exist. Scientists in the Netherlands studied the accidents of nearly 150,000 people from different countries, and found that one out of every 29 people has a 50% or higher chance of having an accident than the rest of the population. So, does that suggest that these people are more stressed than the other 28 in every 29?

<sup>4</sup> \_\_\_ The scientists concluded that stress wasn't the main factor in causing accidents. 'Stress and **anxiety** don't help,' says Professor Kurt Knopf, 'but the biggest problem seems to be multitasking – trying to do more than one thing at a time. If you're chopping onions with a sharp knife, you have to concentrate on it. You can't let things like shouting children or a ringing telephone distract you, or you'll cut yourself.'

<sup>5</sup> \_\_\_ Take the sad case of Trevor Cookson. His life started badly, and it never got any better. He was accident-prone before he was even born, as his mother nearly lost him when she was pregnant. Then he suffered a lot of serious accidents as a child. He broke bones in the playground, and had to have a **major** operation when he was hurt playing rugby.

<sup>6</sup> \_\_\_ That didn't stop him going to university and studying law, though. After he graduated, he worked in a law firm where he had to travel a lot, and as a consequence, broke his back once in a car accident. However, he always managed to fight back to health. What's more, he never seemed to be particularly stressed or anxious about anything. In fact, he's now married to a nurse he met when in hospital after breaking his back. 'At least I'm there to look after him when he has another accident', says Simone, his wife, though he's managed the last few years without any accidents at all!



So next time you have an accident, think about Trevor Cookson. He never complained!

- A Danielle Mamby, author of *Stress and Health* agrees.
- B As a teenager, he fell from a high wall, then he had a bad bicycle crash just before he started university.
- C Take Kirsty Ball, for example, who considers herself to be particularly accident-prone.
- D No, not necessarily
- E Science seems to agree with Danielle.
- F That said, when it comes to accidents, some people seem to be genuinely unlucky.

II. For questions 1-10, choose from the texts (A-D). Some texts can be used more than once.

## FROM RAGS

## TO RICHES

Four people who overcame challenges to become big successes in their field.

**A** OPRAH WINFREY



Born in **rural** Mississippi to an unmarried teenage mother, Oprah Winfrey did not have the easiest start in life. Until the age of six, she was looked after by her grandmother while her mother worked as a maid in another town. Throughout her childhood, she and her younger sister were moved around from relative to relative until, as a teenager, Oprah settled with her father. He made sure she got an education and Oprah shone in her lessons, even winning prizes for public speaking. This attracted the attention of a local radio station, where she worked as a news reader during her senior year. This was her first break into media. In 1983, she got a job hosting a TV talk show in Chicago which soon became the most successful talk-show in the USA because her kindness and humour **appealed** to audiences. Since then, Winfrey has become the first black female billionaire, authored five books, and had roles in several Hollywood films.

**C** PEP GUARDIOLA



Josep 'Pep' Guardiola, probably the most famous football coach in the world, had humble beginnings. Born in the village of Santpedor in Catalonia, Spain, his father was a builder and his mother a salesperson. He has two older sisters, and a younger brother, Pere, who is now one of the world's top football agents. Pep signed for Barcelona FC youth academy at the age of 13, and he became a member of the senior squad when he was 20. He won many titles with the club. At one point, he was coached by someone with whom he would later compete for 'most famous coach' **status**, José Mourinho. Pep played for Spain in two World Cups, and finished his playing career for a team in Mexico before returning to Barcelona as a coach – and his fame has continued to grow since then. He is well known not only for his tactical genius, but also for his style – he often appears in perfectly cut suits.

**B** J. K. ROWLING



The first person to become a billionaire through writing books, J. K. Rowling rose from poverty in a way that seems almost as magical as her most famous creation, Harry Potter. Although she was born into a family that was financially comfortable, as an adult Rowling went through difficult periods when she says she was very poor, but not quite **homeless**. In 1990, on a delayed train journey to her job in London, Rowling dreamt up the story of a young boy attending a school of wizardry. From that day on, she worked on the first *Harry Potter* book wherever she was, including Manchester, where she was a researcher, Portugal, where she taught English for 18 months, and Edinburgh, where she did a teacher training course. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was finished in 1995, published in 1997 – and the rest is history.

**D** JAY-Z



American rapper Jay-Z had a tough start in life, but with a combination of passion, drive and talent he has become one of the most successful rap artists in the world. He was born Shawn Corey Carter in Brooklyn, New York, the last of four children. For him, rapping was an escape from the violence and **poverty** of his surroundings, but his journey to success was a long one. It wasn't until he was in his 30s that he started to get really big, with his own record label and several multi-million selling albums. Always a very private individual, he seldom discusses his personal relationships, and his small wedding in 2008 to the singer Beyoncé was held in secret in his New York apartment. Jay-Z has used his money for charitable purposes, as well as investing in several businesses, including his own popular urban clothing brand.

Which person:

- 1 has a brother or sister in the same field of business?
- 2 was successful at school?
- 3 got their biggest idea when on a journey?
- 4 was the youngest child in their family?
- 5 worked abroad before becoming famous?
- 6 has also worked as an actor?
- 7 was raised in several different households?
- 8 makes money in the fashion industry?
- 9 was trained by someone who later became an opponent?
- 10 was the first in their profession to become a billionaire?