

Name: _____



6TH YEAR - SKILLS TEST 2

LISTENING COMPREHENSION *(Unit 4 – PTA)*

Listen to an interview with a traveller and choose the correct answers.

1 How does the presenter describe Colin?

- A She says he's had a serious physical disability since birth.
- B She says he's confessed to problems with alcohol addiction.
- C She says he's shown more bravery than average travellers.
- D She says he's been held back by his disability.

2 How does Colin describe the place he is in when the presenter speaks to him?

- A He says it's not at all attractive.
- B He describes it in positive terms.
- C He says it has an unusual name.
- D He says it's situated near Alice Springs.

3 How does Colin describe his own personality?

- A He says that because of his limitations, he can lack confidence sometimes.
- B He says he's always felt that he should have a go at things despite what others say.
- C He says he's become more fearless as he's grown up and matured.
- D He says he now has a better understanding of what he can and can't do.

4 What does Colin say about the preparations he makes for his journeys?

- A He generally plans his holidays abroad with his mother and brothers.
- B He usually stays in hotels that are more accessible rather than in hostels.
- C He always has everything sorted out long before he sets off on a trip.
- D He never uses public transport, so has to organise his own vehicle in advance.

5 What does Colin say about next year's trip to Canada?

- A He will be travelling down the west coast.
- B He expects it will be cheaper than other people's holidays.
- C He'll book places to stay as he travels.
- D He won't be going on his own.

READING COMPREHENSION

You are going to read a magazine article about six different holidays. Answer the questions by choosing from the holidays A--F. The sections may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order. There is an example at the beginning (0).

On which of the holidays will you

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| have to get up early in the morning? | 0 <u>B</u> |
| be able to choose how much to spend on meals? | 1 _____ |
| find a fairly constant climate? | 2 _____ |
| find a good environment for creative work? | 3 _____ |
| get the chance to understand another culture better? | 4 _____ 5 _____ |
| have contact with wildlife? | 6 _____ 7 _____ |
| have a chance to take part in scientific research? | 8 _____ |
| have a number of planned activities to choose from? | 9 _____ 10 _____ |
| be offered rapid training in an activity? | 11 _____ |
| find it easy to get to know other holidaymakers? | 12 _____ 13 _____ |
| learn a skill that will be useful back home? | 14 _____ |

SIX of the BEST

Regina Newbold investigates six very different holiday options

A: DIVE INTO THE RED SEA This holiday is perfect if you and your friends are after a seriously undemanding break with sun, pools and the option of a little sporty diversion if you want it. This is a relaxing beach resort which enjoys year-round good weather, some of the best diving in the world and just enough nightlife to keep you amused. If you take the optional course, it only takes four days to pick up the basics of scuba diving. It's not for everybody though, so try it out in your local pool back home before you commit yourself. Even if you hate the scuba diving, you can always take yourself off for a swim with the local dolphin population, or go sunbathing on the beach.

B: BE AN ECOTOURIST If you have guilty feelings about what we're doing to the environment, you can lose them on this holiday. The work you do is as good for the world as it is for you. You can do your bit for the planet whilst enjoying some of the most beautiful sights of the natural world. Starting at daybreak, you'll be working from boats, albeit (=although) 67 in the sunshine, as you study the behaviour of some amazing sea mammals. You'll be taking photos to identify individual animals, collecting skin samples for analysis and monitoring the animals' movements. You don't have to be too serious to enjoy this sort of working holiday, but you do have to be fairly fit!

C: WALKING OFF THE CALORIES

This is an ideal compromise for the food lover with a guilt complex. You can enjoy some of the best of French cuisine in a series of small family-run hotels, the ten-mile walk from one to another cancelling out the calories. At least that's the theory! The walks are divided into easy, average and difficult and as long as you select wisely, it shouldn't be too taxing. What's more, there's plenty of time to gossip non-stop with your companions both along the way and over dinner. Could there be a better way to make new friends?

D: AN INSPIRED CHOICE If you feel there's a novel in you somewhere, try a fiction writing course at the Skyros Centre. If you're ever going to write, it will happen here. Skyros is a beautiful, tranquil setting in which to have a go at improving yourself and the courses are not confined to writing. The centre offers dozens of other self-improvement courses, including dance, music and theatre. If it all sounds a bit too arty, then you should leave your preconceptions behind you because these breaks are really what you make of them.

E: RECIPE FOR SUCCESS 'This holiday was sensational,' reported one person who'd signed up for two weeks in the ancient farmhouse in Italy. 'You meet people who all have something in common.' And that something is a love of good food and drink. Although there are opportunities to be on your own if you prefer, the long cooking sessions provide an ideal environment for getting to know your fellow guests whilst you gain an insight into the local way of life. The highlight of the course, naturally, is being able to eat the mouth-watering food you've prepared, and the knowledge that you'll be able to try your new-found expertise out on all your friends on your return.

F: CITY BREAK People go to Bilbao mostly for the city's artistic highlights and you can manage to pack quite a lot into even a short stay. There are, of course, fantastic shops and restaurants in the centre, but if you're prepared to stray just a short way off the beaten track, you'll find places that are much cheaper where the local people go to shop and eat. And those local people are exceptionally friendly, especially the café owners who are keen to tell you all the background to the sights and the local customs. Everyone who goes promises themselves that they'll soon be going back, and taking their friends along too.