You yre going to read extracts from four autobiographies.

For questions 1 – 10, choose from the extracts A–D. The extracts can be used more than once.

Who says

one of their parents can be unnecessarily protective?	1
they have changed during the course of their working life?	2
their parents never imagined the consequences of something they said?	3
they discovered the job they wanted in an unlikely place?	4
one parent saw the project as an opportunity for both the parents?	5
they gain satisfaction from the way their work affects others?	6
they thought the future promised them surprising experiences?	7
their upbringing was unusual?	8
they were enthusiastic but nervous about the job they were going for?	9
they achieved promotion by staying in the job longer than other people?	10

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A Linda Greenlaw

I am a woman. I am a fisherman. Neither abused nor neglected, I am the product of a blissful and unique childhood, a rare claim these days. Like all young children, I believed wholeheartedly in the words of my mother and father. It was only natural that I took seriously the assertions of my parents that I could do whatever I liked with my life, become anything I wanted. Although the advice they gave was well intentioned, my parents never dreamed that it might come back to haunt them when I decided that what I liked and wanted to become was a fisherman.

Fishing my way through college, I made my first deep-sea trip at the age of nineteen aboard the *Walter Leeman*. By the time I graduated from college I had outlasted the original crew members I had started with, most of whom moved on to boats of their own, and became captain of the boat by attrition. Promising my parents that I would postpone law school for just one year, I became a full-time fisherman.

B Eric Idle

When you make an audience laugh, they really do love you, and that's one of the nicest things about being a comedian. Usually you've touched them at a time when they needed some kind of reassurance or they wanted something or they were feeling depressed and then you made them feel better. So there is a sort of healing thing to it.

But you don't sit and think, 'I'm going to have a career now.' Things just happen. I stumbled into performing at Cambridge University. I think there's something very seductive about the glamour of dressing up and playing someone else, and that comes from a sadness. I think I only became any good eventually through Monty Python* by being disguised and by being other people and it was only latterly in my life that I have been able to be funny as myself or be confident. I don't have to put on a disguise or wear a wig now but that's what I used to do.

**Monty Python's Flying Circus* was a comedy series broadcast between 1969 and 1974.
Adapted from *The Pythons Autobiography*

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C Emma Richards

It had been only a few short months before that I'd made a flying visit to Scotland to tell my parents I was going to sail around the world. Dad had picked me up from Glasgow airport. He'd asked if I was up for a wedding or a party, the kind of occasions for which I'd normally make a flying visit.

'No,' I said. 'I've got something to tell you. I'm going to sail around the world alone.'

My mum often doesn't sleep when I'm at sea. She's the kind of mum who still instinctively goes to grab your hand when you cross the road, even though all four of us children left home at least ten years ago. She said it was a great idea, that she and Dad would travel round the world to visit me at the stopovers. She said it'd be great to see all those places, they'd be there to support me. She just kept talking.

D Kate Adie

Then, in a very odd act of serendipity, I read the local paper – the *Sunderland Echo* was no one under eighty's preferred reading, but I wasn't very busy; and there in the classifieds was an advertisement, headed *BBC Radio Durham*. I can still remember the jump it gave me, as the small private thought woke up at the back of my mind and leaped around shouting silently: this is it, this is it.

I didn't dare tell anyone, not my parents, nor my friends, and I realised with some trepidation that I wanted it very much indeed. Somehow the life with the BBC might satisfy a lot of unarticulated longing for . . . I wasn't sure what; just something to do with bigger events, the wider stage, the unexpected.

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