Task 1. **You are going to read about the British society. Seven sentences have been removed from the text. For questions 36–41, choose from the sentences A–I the one which best fits each gap. There are two sentences which you do not need to use. An example (0) has been done for you.**

'Big society'

It is this government's ambition to build a stronger society – a 'big society'. (0) I The vital ingredient of the big society is personal and social responsibility: people playing their part to make a difference. This means devolving power to neighbourhoods so they can take control of what's happening in their area – from new housing developments to policing and it means opening up the delivery of public services to charities, social enterprises and private companies. (36) _____ It means social action: people giving their time – and, yes, their money – to support good causes and help make life better.

This is a new approach. Of course, in one way it's easier for those in government to say 'pay your taxes and leave the problem-solving to us; don't worry about what's going on outside your front door because we'll sort everything out'. (37) _____ Government has spent years trying to micro-manage everything from the centre – taking away local choice and control, only to realise it is ineffective, cuts the bonds of community and locks out creativity and innovation. What's more, this approach underestimates people's ability and desire to get involved.

One of the great things about Britain today is that so many people are already playing their part and being generous with their time and money. Charitable donations rose last year, and a quarter of the population regularly volunteer – but we could do more. Britain lags behind other countries, especially the US, in terms of its rates of charitable giving and volunteering. (38) _____

Raising these levels requires a massive change in culture, and it won't happen overnight. But it won't happen at all unless government plays its part. We will take a lead by continuing to fund charities ourselves. And we are not just going to exhort people to volunteer more of their time or money – we are going to make it easier, too.

At the moment we are looking at the ways we can encourage people to give more. Our proposals will be published by next spring. (39) _____ One idea is to publish high-profile donations to cultural bodies, publicly recognising the donors' contribution. The thinking behind this is simple: it's human nature that if people see how much others are giving, they are inspired and encouraged to give more themselves. There are other sensible steps we can take, too. At the moment people are often frustrated in their efforts because, while they want to help out, they simply don't have the hours to spare. (40) _____ That might be a short after-school slot for teenagers, or a lunch-hour slot close to work for professionals.

We're not expecting people to volunteer all their waking hours or give most of their income to charity. (41) _____ The benefits could be huge – greater support to tackle our social problems, more diversity in our arts and culture, bigger endowments to our universities and a stronger sense of community all over the country as more people come together in common purpose and feel they have a stake in the causes they care about. If we harness the widespread desire to do good, we can have a better future.

Adapted from The Guardian

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A But let's be clear about what it also means.

B The British are generous not only with time but with money, too.

C But this is a drab, pessimistic, transactional way of running a country, and it doesn't work.

D The majority of people felt responsible for themselves and for one another.

E As part of that process we will be asking the public to contribute their thoughts.

F We simply want to tap into the philanthropic and voluntary instincts that are already out there.

G That's why we're looking at micro-volunteering – volunteering that fits the patterns of modern life.

H And it's startling that the richest third of donors in Britain give less, as a proportion of their income, to charity than the poorest third.

I But we can't do it alone

Task 2. **You are going to read a text about the e-book. For questions 42–46, choose from statements A–H the one which best summarises each paragraph. There are two statements which you do not need to use. An example (0) has been done for you. For questions 47–50, find words in the text to complete the sentences. An example (00) has been done for you.**

Why e-books are a weight off my mind

A Giving up ideals for convenience

B Airline regulations spoil traditional holidays

C The best preference is comfort and ease

D A necessity to seek for a way out

E Holidays combining business and pleasure

F Solution to the problem G Violation of intellectual property rights

H Airlines encourage the sales rate of the e-book

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0. H

When the history of e-reading technology comes to be written, an Irishman named Michael O'Leary will be assigned a small but significant role in the story. This is not because the chief executive of Ryanair airlines has a secret life as a geek, but simply because he has perfected a system for squeezing his customers until their pips squeak. And therein lies the tale.

42. _____

Every summer, my family and I go to Provence for a few weeks. We go for all the usual reasons – the light, the sunshine, the wine, the forests and hills, the slower pace of life. But most of all, we go to read. In the old days, we all brought piles of books, heaped them on the hall table and read our way through everything. But then Mr O'Leary took a hand in things, levying a swingeing charge on checked-in bags, and topping that with fierce restrictions on cabin baggage – one bag of a specified size and shape and weighing no more than 10kg. And if you don't like it, then you can lump it.

43. _____

Before setting off this year, several books were published that I really wanted to read, chief among them Lord Mandelson's memoirs. All were sizable hardbacks and when I checked them out in the bookshop, it was clear that collectively they would account for a significant chunk of the O'Leary allowance. And so I crossed one of the thresholds that determine how consumer technology evolves.

44. _____

It suddenly occurred to me that Amazon had – many moons ago – released a free Kindle app for the iPad (and related Apple idevices) which enabled their owners to buy books from the Kindle store. So I downloaded the app, purchased the books and suddenly had the desired texts in my pocket without having to choose between them and my shaving kit.

45. _____

I felt ambivalent about this, because a part of me loathes the intellectual property tyranny that goes with e-books – the fact that you can't lend them to your friends, for example. And, of course, the fact that Amazon could, at a whim, remotely delete the book from one's iPad. These 'digital restrictions management' provisions are examples of the kind of intellectual property extremism that is the bane of the digital world. My unease stemmed from the fact that, when faced with a conflict between principle and exigency, I caved in.

46. _____

What all this suggests is that, with consumer technology at least, convenience trumps everything. That's why the Apple iPhone sells like hot cakes, even to geeks who despise the company's control freakery. The printed book is a wonderful thing, but it doesn't fit well with Ryanair's baggage allowance. And it takes time and effort to transport a physical book, whereas its digital embodiment can be transferred from bookstore to Kindle instantly.

Adapted from The Guardian

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For questions 47–50, find words in the text to complete the sentences. Write no more than TWO words. An example (00) has been done for you.

00 What feature of M. O'Leary's character is less known to people?

He is known as a geek .

47. How were the author's books kept during his holidays?

They were _____.

48. Why did the books chosen for holiday reading cause problems to the author?

They were _____.

49. What is the author's attitude towards restrictions on the lending of e-books?

The author _____ the lack of personal control over the ownership.

50. What do most people carry around instead of a physical book?

They carry around its _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS